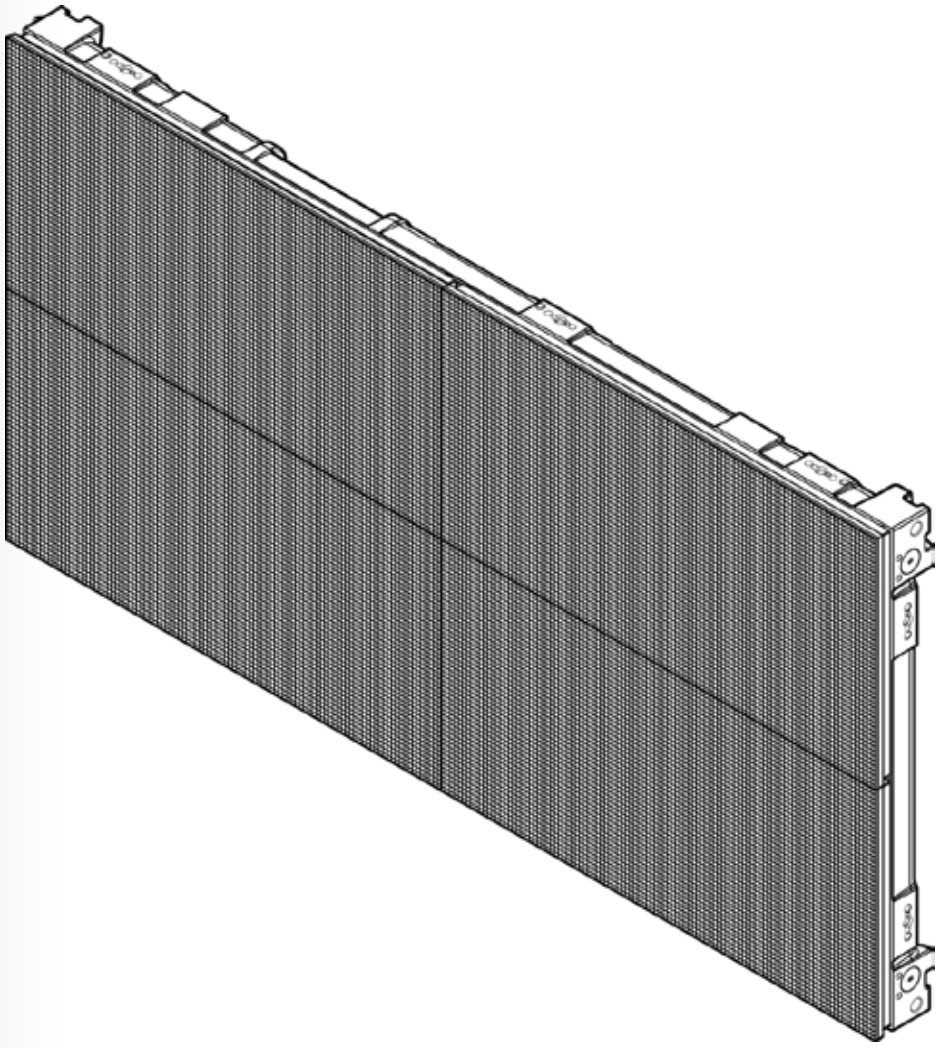
User Manual



CHAUVET PROFESSIONAL

Edition Notes

The F4 User Manual Rev. 2 covers the description, safety precautions, setup, installation, operation, and maintenance of the F4. Chauvet released this edition of the F4 User Manual in November 2016.

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Document Printing

For better results, print this document in color, on letter size paper (8.5 x 11 in), double-sided. If using A4 paper (210 x 297 mm), configure your printer to scale the content accordingly.

Intended Audience

Any person in charge of installing, operating, and/or maintaining this product should completely read through the guide that shipped with the product, as well as this manual, before installing, operating, or maintaining this product.

Disclaimer

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Document Revision

The F4 User Manual is the 2nd edition of this document. Go to www.chauvetprofessional.com for the latest version.

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1. Before You Begin

What Is Included

- 4 F4
- 4 Carrying Handles
- 1 Neutrik® powerCON® Power Cord
- 4 Neutrik® powerCON® Power Linking Cords
- 4 Neutrik® etherCON® Signal Linking Cords
- Warranty Card
- User Manual

Unpacking Instructions

Immediately upon receiving this product, carefully unpack and check the container. Make sure you have received all the parts indicated above in good condition.

Claims

Upon receipt, if the container or the contents (the product and included accessories) appear damaged from shipping, or show signs of mishandling, notify the carrier immediately, not Chauvet. Failure to do so in a timely manner may invalidate your claim with the carrier. In addition, keep the container and all the packing material for inspection.

For other issues such as missing components or parts, damage not related to shipping, or concealed damage, file a claim with Chauvet within 7 days of receiving the merchandise.

Manual Conventions

Convention	Meaning
1–512	A range of values in the text
50/60	A set of mutually exclusive values in the text
<SET>	A button on the product's control panel
Settings	A product function or a menu option

Symbols

Symbols	Meaning
	Critical installation, configuration, or operation information. Failure to comply with this information may cause the product not to work, damage third-party equipment, or cause harm to the operator.
	Important installation or configuration information. Failure to comply with this information may keep the product from working.
	Useful information.

Safety Notes

Read all the following Safety Notes before working with this product. These notes include important information about the installation, usage, and maintenance of this product.

This product contains no user-serviceable parts. Any reference to servicing in this User Manual will only apply to properly trained Chauvet certified technicians. Do not open the housing or attempt any repairs.

All applicable local codes and regulations apply to proper installation of this product.

Personal Safety

- Avoid direct eye exposure to the light source while the product is on.
- Always disconnect this product from its power source before servicing.
- Always connect this product to a grounded circuit to avoid the risk of electrocution.
- Do not touch this product's housing during operation because it may be very hot.

Mounting And Rigging

- This product is not intended for permanent installation.
- This product is for indoor use only! To prevent risk of fire or shock, do not expose this product to rain or moisture. (IP20)
- CAUTION: When transferring product from extreme temperature environments, (e.g. cold truck to warm humid ballroom) condensation may form on the internal electronics of the product. To avoid causing a failure, allow product to fully acclimate to the surrounding environment before connecting it to power.
- Mount this product in a location with adequate ventilation, at least 20 in (50 cm) from adjacent surfaces.
- Make sure there are no flammable materials close to this product while it is operating.
- When hanging this product, always secure to a fastening device using a safety cable.
- Never carry the product by the power cord or any moving part.

Power And Wiring

- Make sure the power cord is not crimped or damaged.
- Always make sure you are connecting this product to the proper voltage in accordance with the specifications in this manual or on the product's specification label.
- To eliminate unnecessary wear and improve its lifespan, during periods of non-use completely disconnect the product from power via breaker or by unplugging it.
- Never connect this product to a dimmer pack or rheostat.
- Make sure to replace the fuse with another of the same type and rating.
- Never disconnect this product by pulling or tugging on the power cable.

Operation

- Do not operate this product if you see damage on the housing, lenses, or cables. Have the damaged parts replaced by an authorized technician at once.
- Do not cover the ventilation slots when operating to avoid internal overheating.
- The maximum ambient temperature is 113 °F (45 °C). Do not operate this product at a higher temperature.
- In case of a serious operating problem, stop using this product immediately!

In the unlikely event that your Chauvet product may require service, contact Chauvet Technical Support.

Expected LED Lifespan

LEDs gradually decline in brightness over time, mostly because of heat. Packaged in clusters, LEDs exhibit higher operating temperatures than in ideal, single-LED conditions. For this reason, using clustered LEDs at their fullest intensity significantly reduces the LEDs' lifespan. Under normal conditions, this lifespan can be 40,000 to 50,000 hours. If extending this lifespan is vital, lower the operating temperature by improving the ventilation around the product and reducing the ambient temperature to an optimal operating range. In addition, limiting the overall projection intensity may also help to extend the LEDs' lifespan.

2. Introduction

Product Description

The F4 is a 1 meter by 50 centimeter LED video panel that is ideal for both the installation and rental markets. It runs on the Novastar control protocol and is fully front & rear serviceable with the magnetic LED modules. This product may be mounted directly on a flat wall, due to the front-service option.

Features

- 4.8 mm pitch video panel using Novastar control protocol
- Black body LEDs produce optimal black levels and high contrast video quality
- 1000 x 500 mm magnesium die-cast housing makes this product among the lightest
- in the market
- Optimized for fully front & rear service for the LED modules and control box
- Magnetic LED modules make service fast and easy

Additional Products

- VIP Drive 43Nova (required)

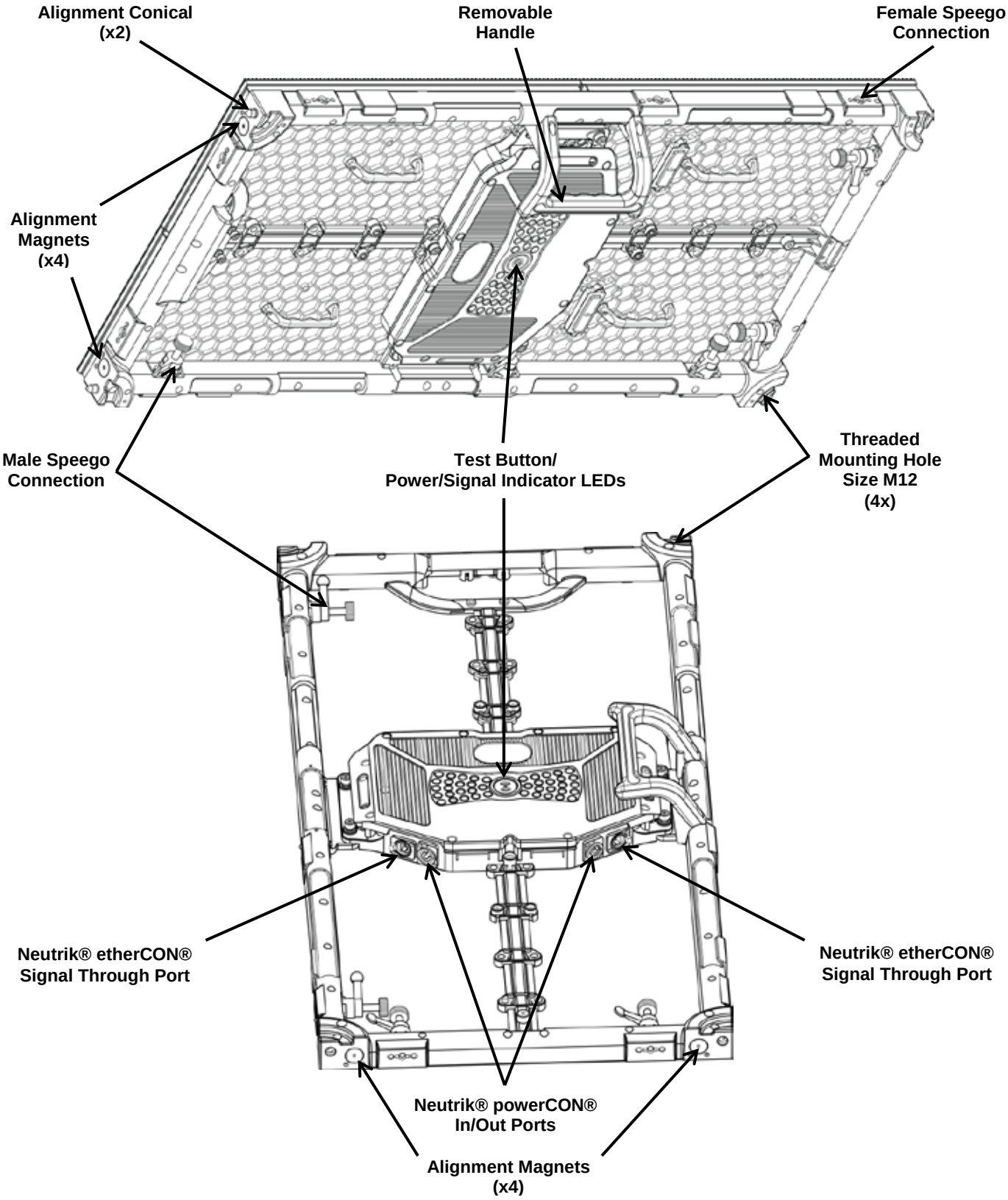
Optional Accessories

- VIP Media Server
- ArKaos Media Master Express + KN software
- MT-03 LED Module Removal Tool
- F-Series Rig Bar (RB-F50CM, RB F100CM)

Available Signal and Power Cables (optional)

- Signal cables (Neutrik® etherCON® CAT6 Signal Extensions)
  - ETHERCONEXT18IN
  - ETHERCONEXT5FT
  - ETHERCONEXT10FT
  - ETHERCONEXT25FT
  - ETHERCONEXT50FT
- Power cables (Neutrik® powerCON® Power Extensions)
  - POWERCONEXT18IN
  - POWERCONEXT5FT
  - POWERCONEXT10FT
  - POWERCONEXT25FT
  - POWERCONEXT50FT

Product Overview



Pixels Per Panel

Each pixel is 1 tri-color LED. The following table provides the pixels per panel in each F4. For detailed specifications, refer to the Technical Specifications table at the end of this User Manual.

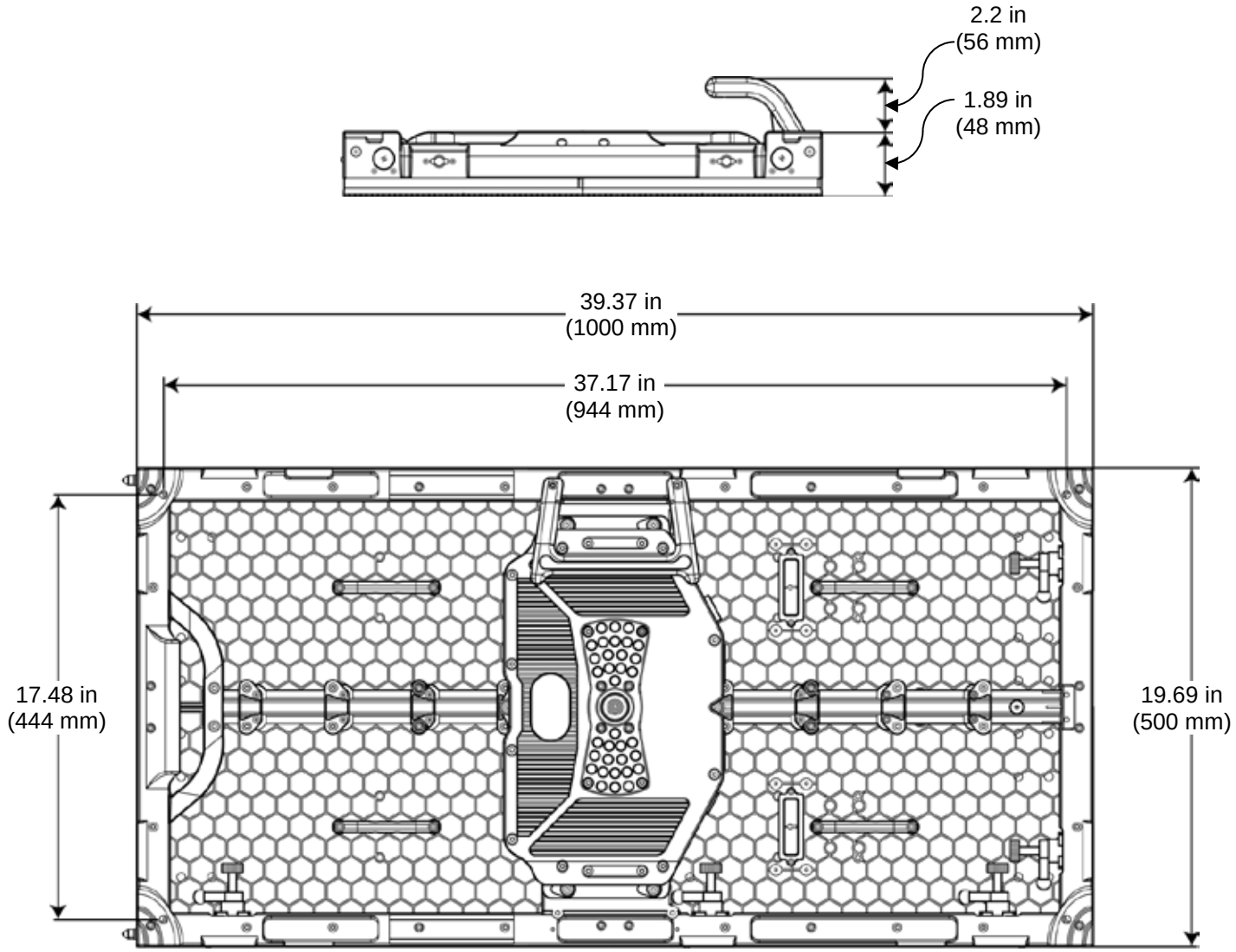
	F4
Pixels per Panel	104 x 208
Total Pixels per Panel	21,632
Pixels per LED Module	52 x 104
Total Pixels LED Module	5,408
LED Module Dimensions	250 x 500 mm

To calculate the number of panels, horizontally and vertically, supported by a single VIP Drive 43Nova, you will use :

- **The number of pixels per panel.**
- **The screen resolution you would like to use for your video wall display.**

The VIP Drive 43Nova is required to operate an F4 video wall system. Diagrams of how the F4 panels and the VIP Drive 43Nova connect follow later in this manual. For detailed information about the VIP Drive 43Nova and panel calculation examples, refer to the VIP Drive 43Nova Quick Reference Guide.

Product Dimensions



3. Setup

AC Power

Each F4 has an auto-ranging power supply that works with an input voltage range of 100–240 VAC, 50/60 Hz. To determine the power requirements for each F4, refer to the label affixed to the product. You can also refer to the Technical Specifications chart in this manual.

The listed current rating indicates the maximum current draw during normal operation. For more information, you may download Sizing Circuit Breakers from the Chauvet website: www.chauvetprofessional.com.

- **Always connect this product to a protected circuit with an appropriate electrical ground to avoid the risk of electrocution or fire.**
- **To eliminate unnecessary wear and improve its lifespan, during periods of non-use completely disconnect the product from power via breaker or by unplugging it.**

Never connect this product to a rheostat (variable resistor) or dimmer circuit, even if the rheostat or dimmer channel serves only as a 0 to 100% switch.

AC Plug

Each F4 comes with a power linking cord to connect power between panels and a power input cord.

This cable has a Neutrik® powerCON® connector to connect to the F4 and an Edison plug for power input. Use the table below as a reference to wire a new plug.

Connection	Wire (U.S.)	Wire (Europe)	Screw Color
AC Live	Black	Brown	Yellow or Brass
AC Neutral	White	Blue	Silver
AC Ground	Green/Yellow	Green/Yellow	Green

Power Linking

All F4 panels support power linking. Refer to the following table for specifications on each panel.

Voltage	F4 Products
@ 120 V, 60 Hz	**7**
@ 208 V, 60 Hz	**12**
@ 230 V, 50 Hz	**13**

Please refer to all applicable local codes and regulations for the proper installation of this product.

4. Mounting

Orientation

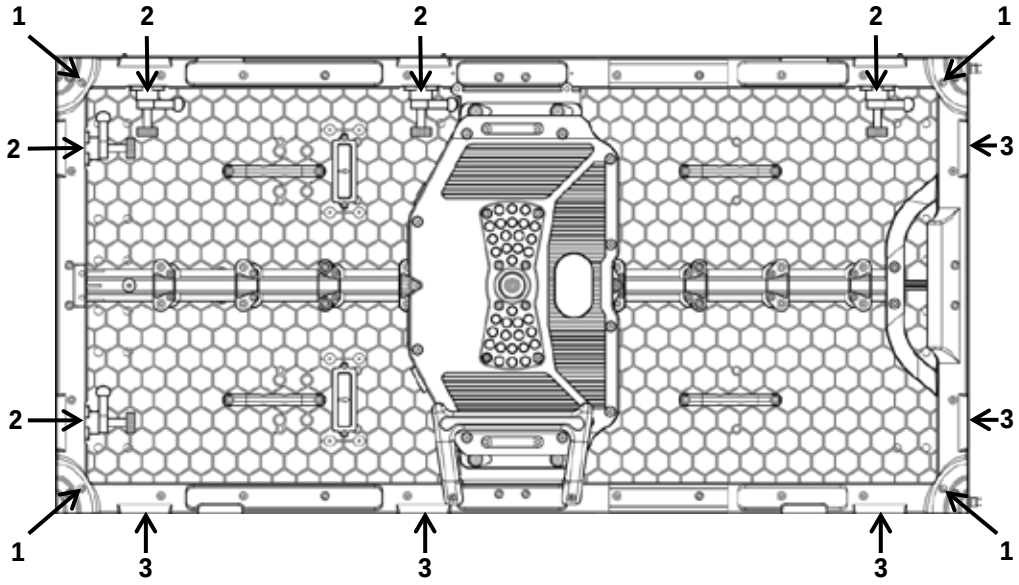
Each F4 is constructed of aluminum die-cast. This ensures each panel is stable and easy to install. Each panel also has a convenient built-in handle located on the top, backside of the panel along with an alignment nipple on the top. This combination enables you to easily pick up and securely hold each panel while mounting and working with the panels.

The F4 can be assembled to provide any number of modular designs. The panels on the top can be securely hung from a truss or other stable surface. Always hang in a safe position with adequate space for ventilation, configuration, and maintenance.

Chauvet recommends following the general guidelines below.

- When selecting an installation location, consider ease of access for operation and routine maintenance.
- Make sure to hang away from any flammable material, as indicated in the Safety Notes section.
- Never mount in places where rain, extreme temperature changes, or restricted ventilation may affect it.
- Make sure that the structure and attachment points to which you are hanging the panels can support the weight.
- Make sure that all load-bearing hardware used can support the weight.
- See the Technical Specifications for the weight requirement of each F4.

Mounting Points



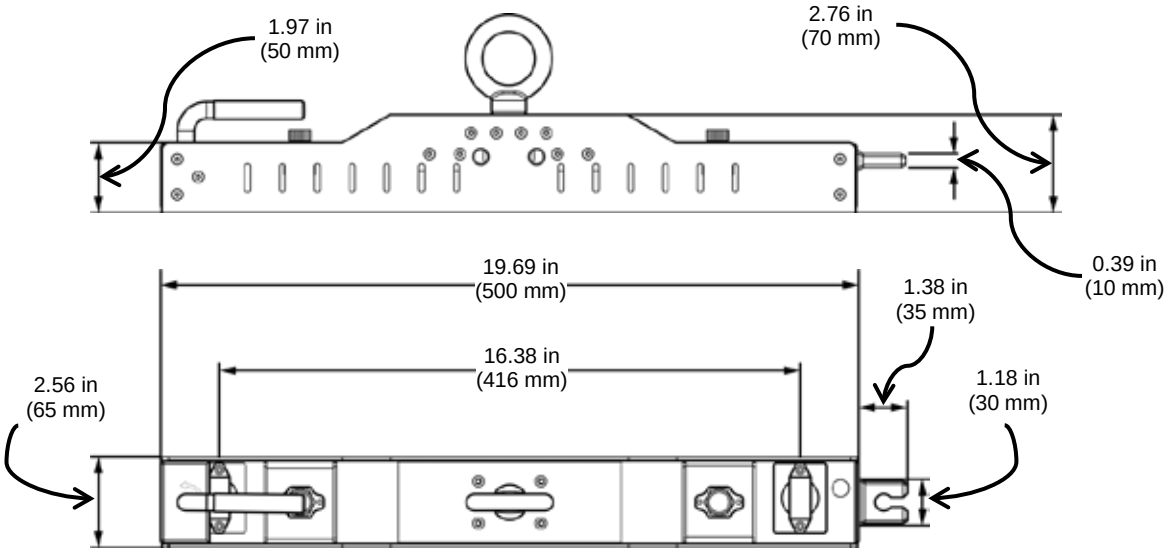
1. Threaded Mounting Holes Size M12 (4x)

2. Male Speego Connection

3. Female Speego Connection

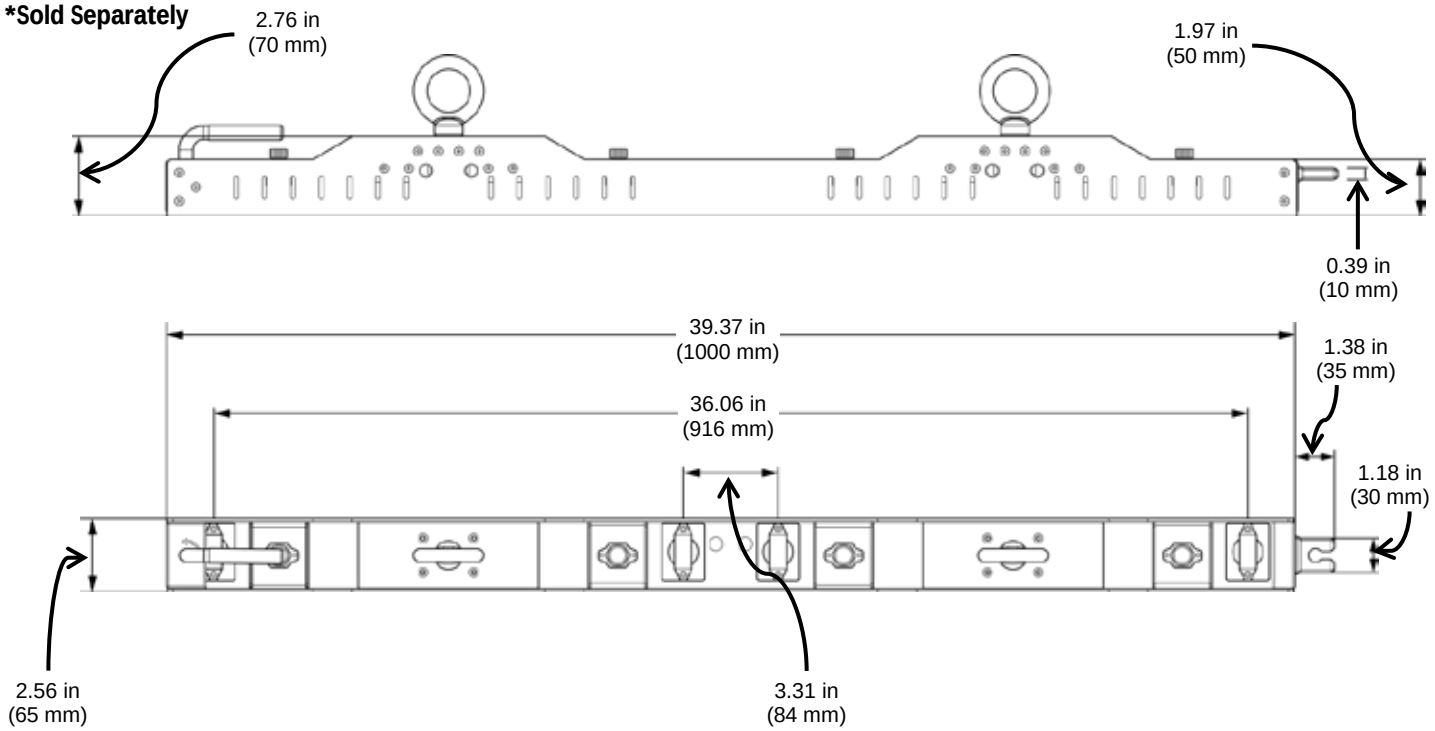
RB-F50CM Rig Bar Dimensions

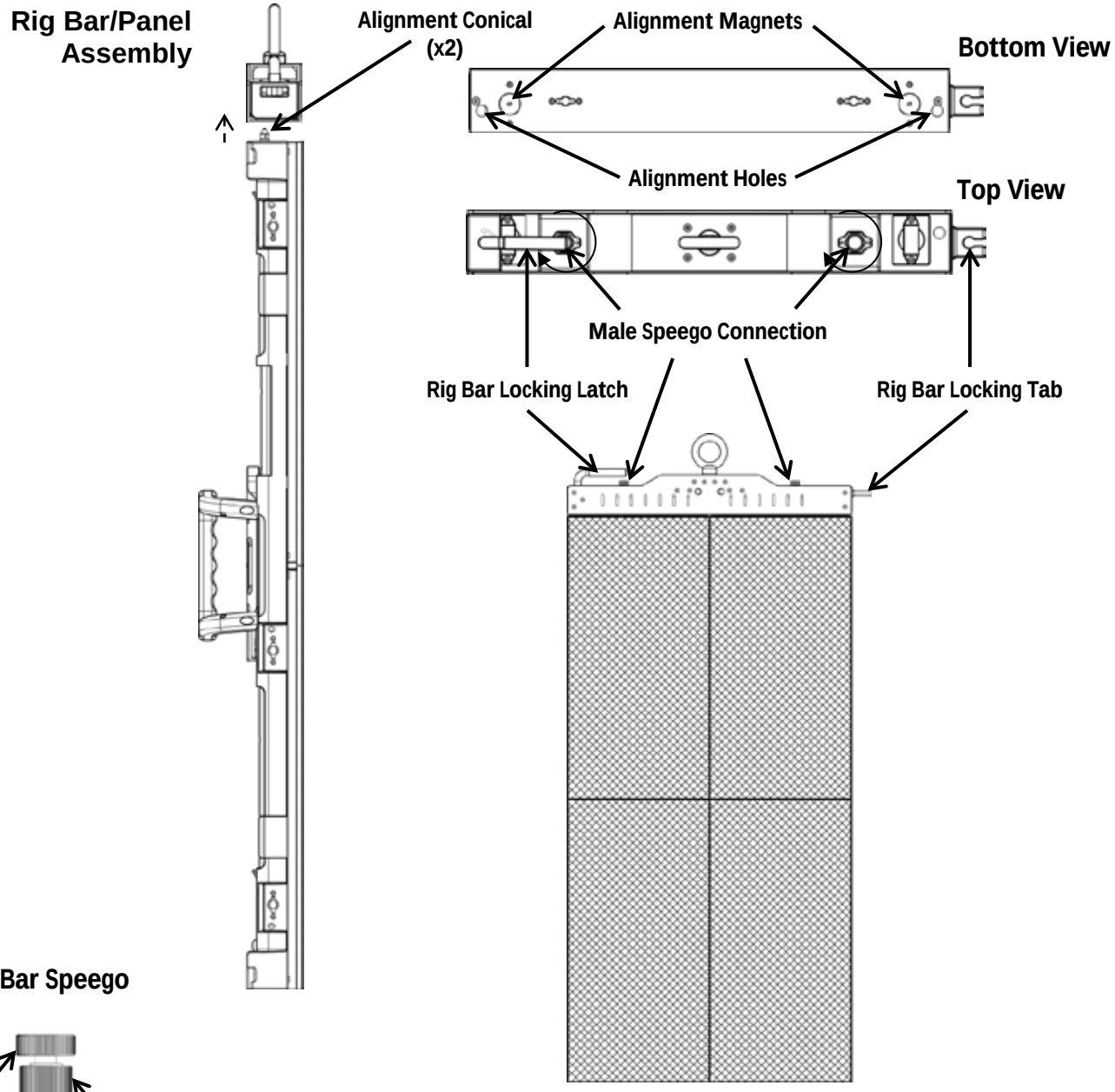
***Sold Separately**



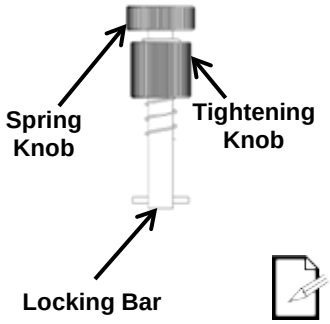
RB-F100CM Rig Bar Dimensions

***Sold Separately**





Rig Bar Speego



1. Insert alignment conicals into the alignment holes and allow magnets to connect.
2. Insert the Rig Bar Speego locking bars into the female Speego connections on the F4.
3. Twist the spring knob on the Rig Bar Speego by 90°, until it locks into place.
4. Twist the tightening knob clockwise until F4 is secure to Rig Bar.
5. To detach the Rig Bar from the F4, reverse the previous steps.

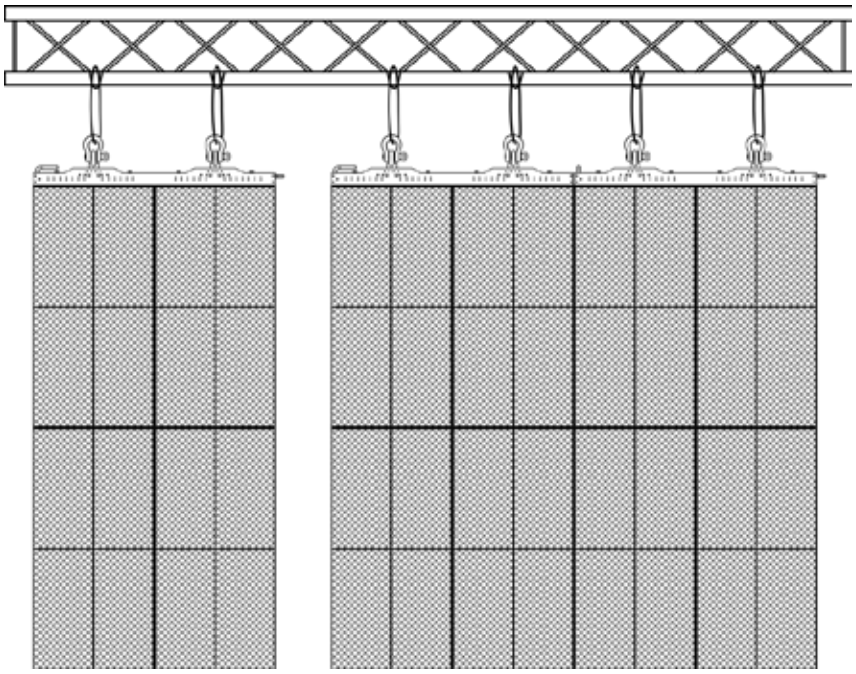
- **The alignment magnets on the F4 and F-Series Rig Bar are designed to temporarily hold the weight of the panel to allow the user to properly align and tighten the panel into place.**
- **Either side of the F4 with female Speego connections can attach to the F-Series Rig Bar, but only the short side has alignment conicals and magnets. When attaching the long side of the F4 to the Rig Bar, take care to ensure that the pixels across the video assembly are aligned properly.**

Warning! The magnetic attachments are not load-bearing, and are intended for alignment assistance only. Do not release panel until the hanging hardware has been fully secured.

Truss Installation

Refer to the following diagram for truss installation. Chauvet offers the F-Series Rig Bar (sold separately) specifically designed for hanging the panels.

Attach to Truss using optional F-Series Rig Bar



The M12 and M10 mounting points are not intended for hanging or suspending from a truss or other overhead structure.

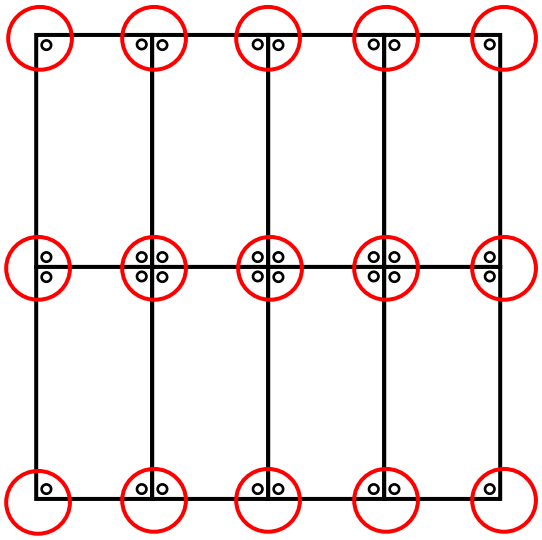
In order to suspend/hang the panels from a truss or other overhead structure, use the F-series Rig Bars (RB-F50CM or -F100CM, sold separately).

The illustrations above are examples only. Please refer to all applicable local codes and regulations for the proper installation of the product.

Flat Wall Installation

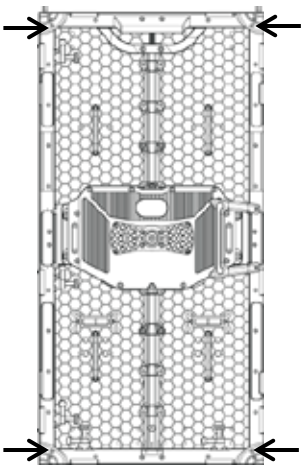
Refer to the following diagram for flat wall installation.

Mounting Points on a Flat Wall



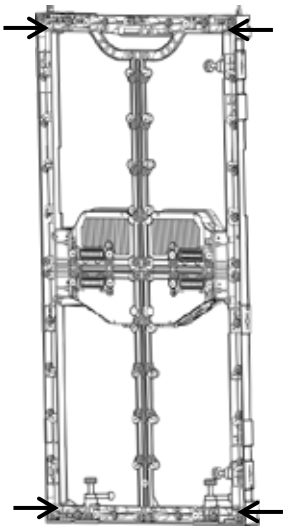
At least 1 mounting point for every junction (circled above) must be secured, including outside edges and corners.

Rear
Threaded Mounting Holes
Size M12 (4x)



M12 bolts must be used for rear mounting applications

Front
Mounting Holes
Size M10 (4x)

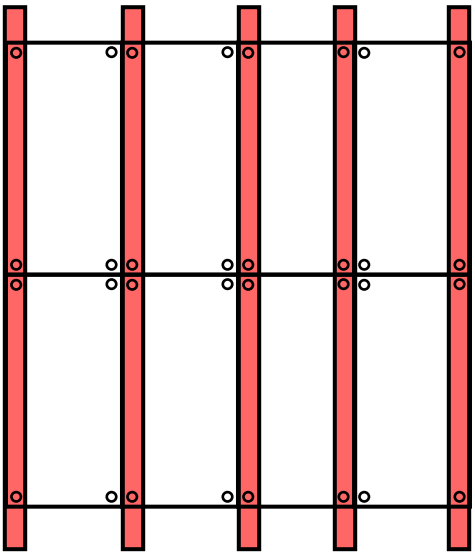


SAE 3/8 or M10 bolts are compatible for front mounting applications

The 4 rear and front mounting holes are intended for flush mount installation to a flat surface against the video panels. 1 mounting point for every junction, including outside edges and corners, must be used in order to maintain structural integrity. The mounting points are not intended for hanging or suspending from a truss or other overhead structure.

Chauvet recommends using a VERTICAL steel strut for each column of panels, plus 1, as in the following diagram:

4 columns + 1
= 5 steel struts

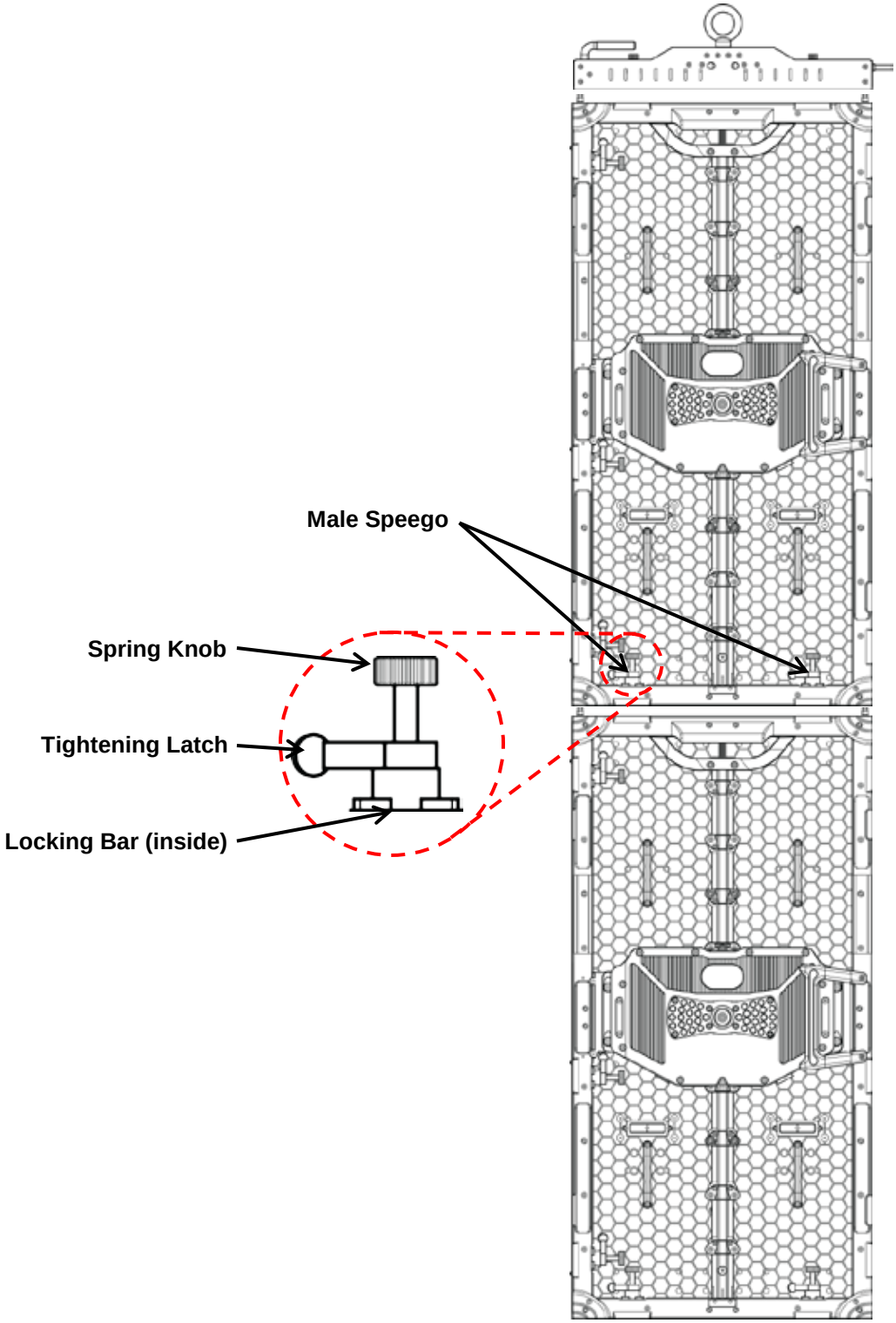


The illustrations above are examples only. Please refer to all applicable local codes and regulations for the proper installation of the product.

5. Joining Each F4 (Creating a Modular Design)

Vertically Joining the Panels

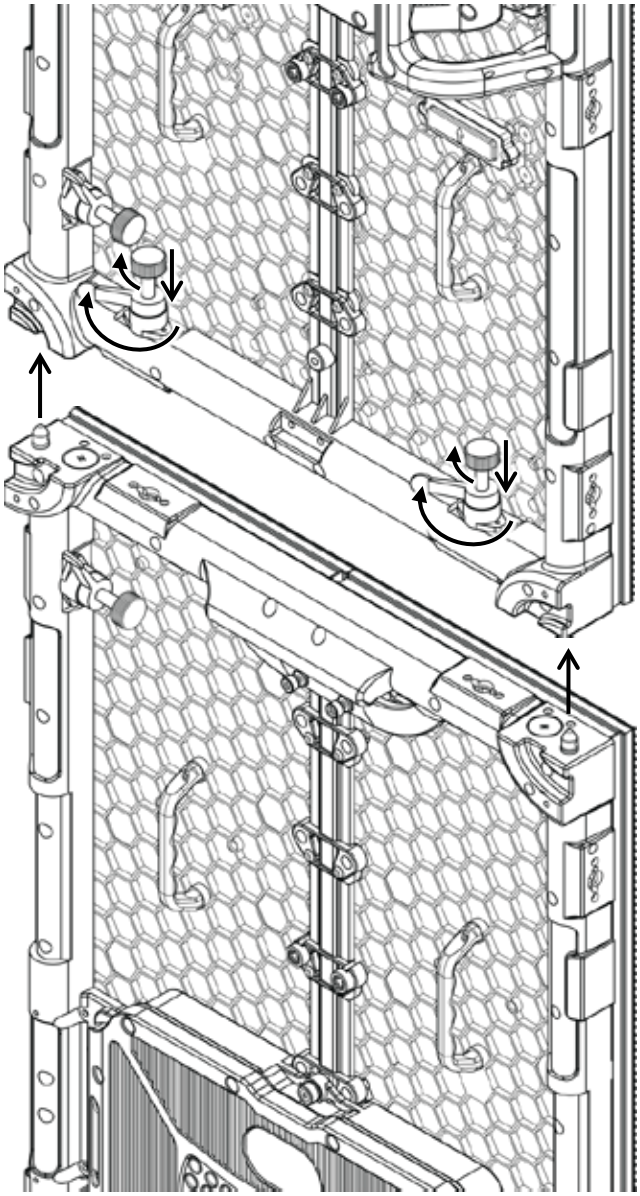
Each F4 can be easily joined vertically to a truss using an optional rig bar and the 2 female Speego connections located at the top corners of each panel. Use the male Speego connections at the bottom of each panel to connect additional panels. These connectors stay recessed when not being used.



Vertical Panel Connection

Use the following instructions to join panels vertically:

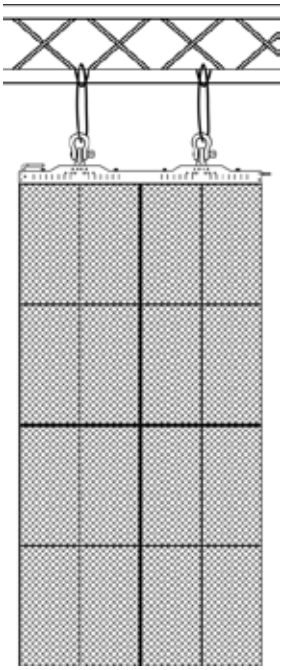
1. Line up the alignment conicals at the top of each panel, and the alignment magnets at the top and bottom of each panel.
2. Push male Speego connections into female Speego connections.
3. Turn the spring knobs clockwise 90°.
4. Turn the tightening latches clockwise 180°, until secure.



Warning! The magnetic attachments are not load-bearing, and are intended for alignment assistance only. Do not release panel until the hanging hardware has been fully secured.

Horizontally Joining Panels

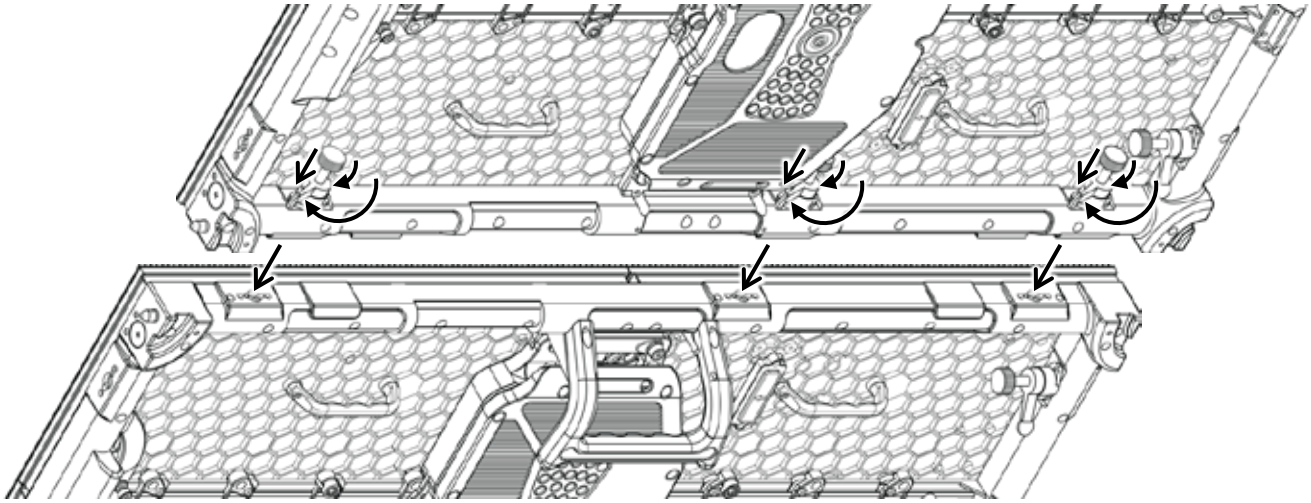
Each F4 can be easily joined horizontally using the Speego connections on the inside, upper and lower left sides of each panel.



Horizontal Panel Connection

Use the following instructions to join panels horizontally:

1. Align each of the panels' male Speego connections with the corresponding female connections on the panels being added.
2. Push male Speego connections into female Speego connections.
3. Turn the spring knobs clockwise 90°.
4. Turn the tightening latches clockwise 180°, until secure.



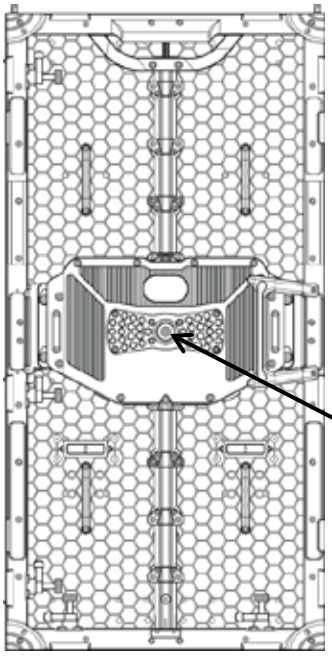
6. Connecting (Cabling) Each F4

Testing Signal and Power Connections

Each F4 has 2 power sockets and 2 signal ports.

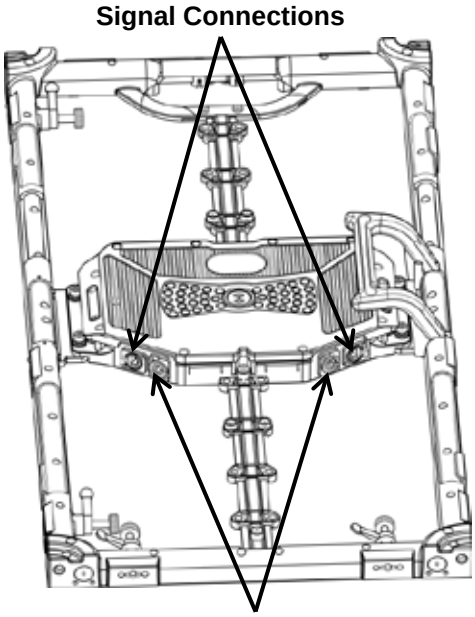
- The Power and Signal connections are located on the underside of the service module of each panel.
- The Signal ports may be used interchangeably.
- Each F4 has LED indicator lights on the test button in the center of the panel.
- Each panel indicates a successful power connection when the Power indicator light remains red.
- Each panel indicates the presence of a successful signal when the Signal LED indicator light blinks green quickly. When the LED blinks green slowly, there is no signal.

Rear Panel View



Test Button/
Power/Signal Indicator LEDs

Underside of Service Access View



Using the F4 Test button

Each F4 also has a Test button, used to ensure all LEDs are functional. Use the Test button on each panel to perform a self-test. If self-testing, you must perform the test individually for each F4. You do not need to connect to a signal or use software.

When using the Test button, make sure the F4 is NOT connected to the VIP Drive 43Nova.

To use the Test button, you must connect the power, but **do not** connect the signal cables. Press the Test button to toggle through various LED light display configurations.

Connecting Power and Signal Cables

The following sections provide information and diagrams on connecting signal and power between panels.

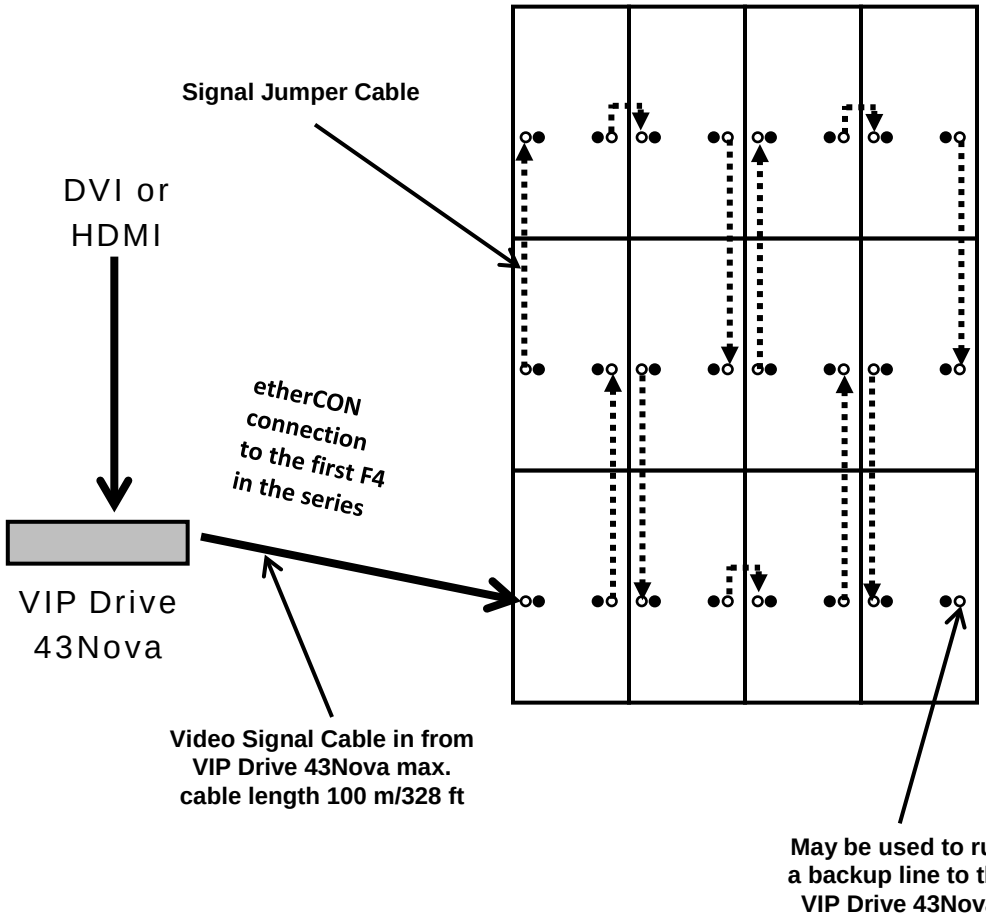
Refer to the Introduction or Operation sections in this User Manual for available cables and item numbers.

Connecting the Signal Between Joined Panels

Signal cable panel connections can use several different configurations. The basic configuration to connect the signal from one panel to the next is as follows.

1. The source signal is connected to the first panel.
2. A signal cable is then connected from the first panel.
3. The connections continue to daisy-chain until all panels are connected.
4. The route of the cables used to make the signal connections can vary.

The following diagram is a recommended suggestion for simple signal connections between panels.



Connecting the Power Between Joined Panels

Power cable panel connections can also use different configurations. The basic configuration to connect the main power supply from one panel to the next is:

1. The main power is connected to the first panel's Power Input or Output.
2. A power cable is then connected to the first panel's Power Output and connected to the next panel's Power Input.
3. The connections continue until all panels are connected.

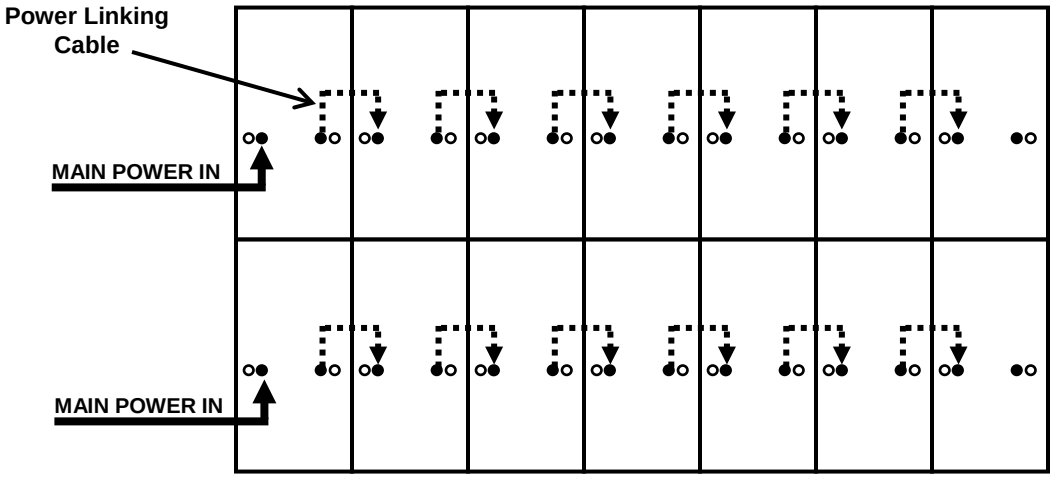
Connect power between the panels using the same procedure as the signal only using the Power Input and Power Output connectors. You must adhere to the power-linking specifications for each F4 model.

Refer to the Power Linking section for details on the number of panels that can be linked based on voltage from a single power connection.

Power linking more panels than recommended will void your warranty and increase the risk of electrocution or fire!

Refer to the following diagram for an example of power connection from the main and to each connected panel.

This example is using an F4 power linking 7 panels horizontally @ 120 V.



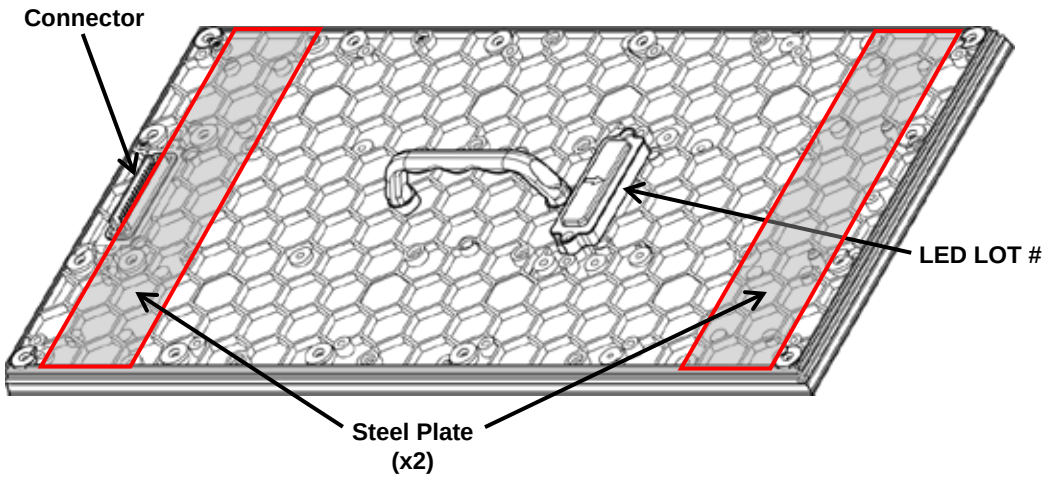
7. LED Module Care and Replacement

F4 LED Module

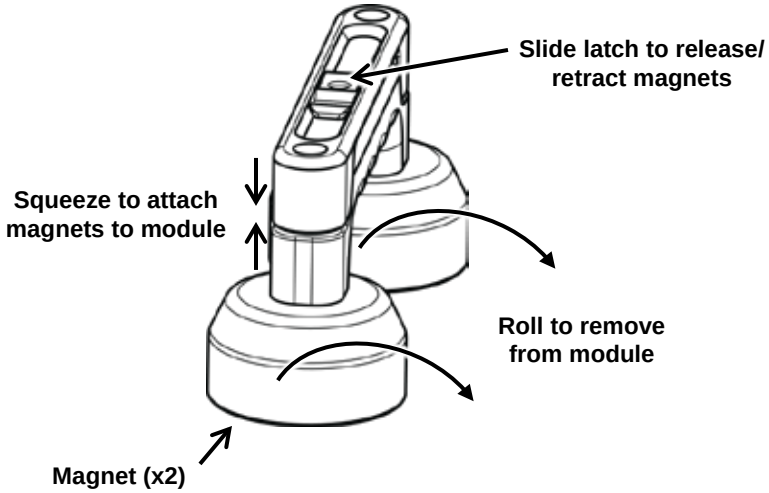
Each F4 has 4 LED modules connected to the panel frame by magnets. Each module has a single connector that connects to the main processing unit.

LED Lot Numbers

To ensure consistant color matching and output, replace damaged or defective modules with the same LED lot # as the others on the panel. When combining panels to create full video wall systems (rentals, permanent installations, etc.) it is highly recommended that the LED lot #'s on each of the panels match. LED lot #'s can be located on the back of each module.

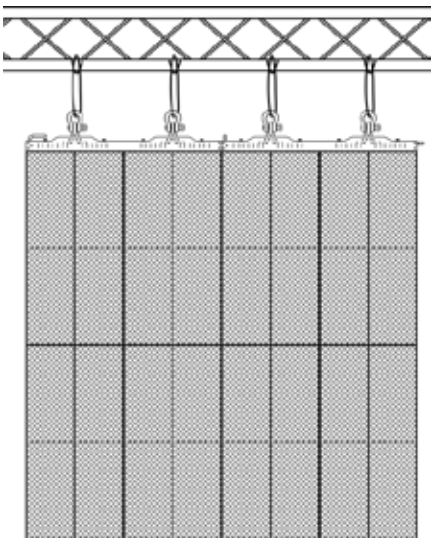


Using MT-03

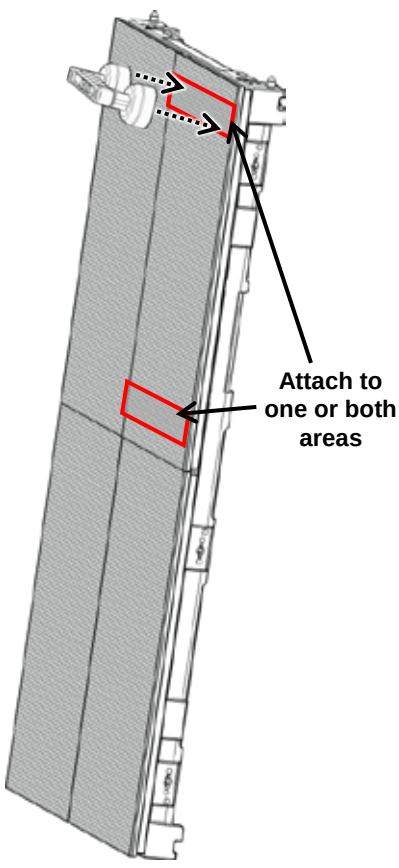


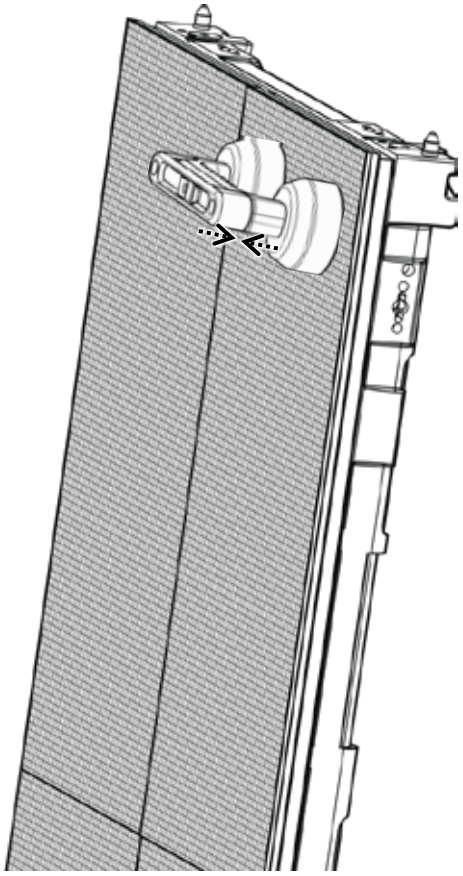
The MT-03 is specially designed to carefully remove and replace the F4 LED module from the front while the panel is mounted in a video wall setup. Before using this tool, be sure to familiarize yourself with how this tool works by reading all the module removal/installation procedures.

F4 LED Module Removal with MT-03



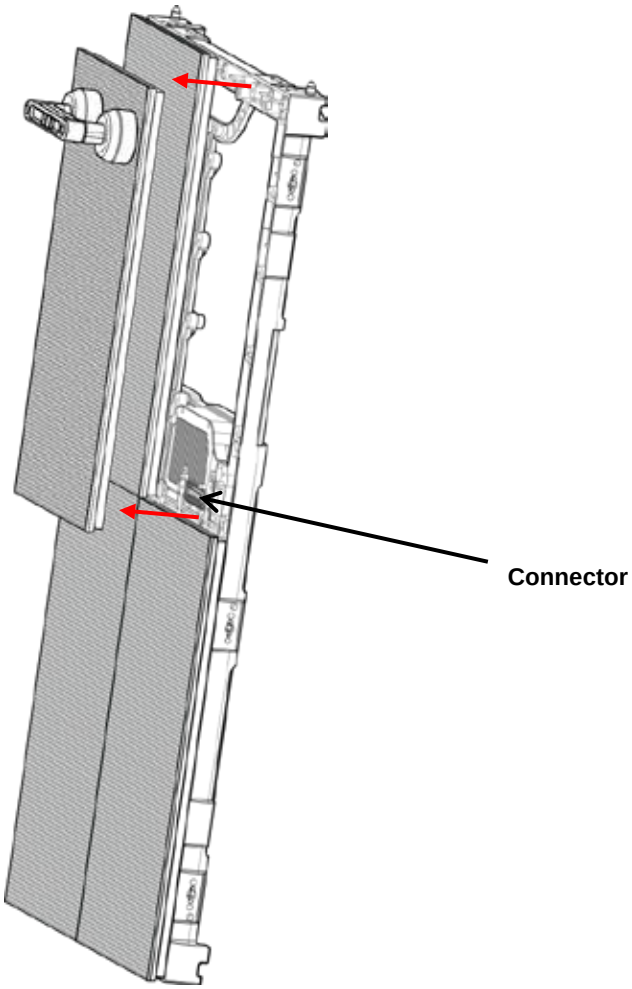
1. Identify the module that needs to be removed.





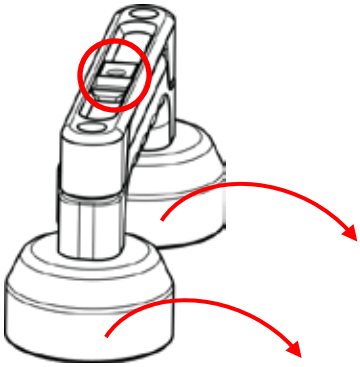
2. Carefully attach the MT-03 to the top and/or bottom of the module to be removed. Place the MT-03 against the module in the open position, then squeeze the handle trigger in to secure the magnets to the module.

Damage may occur if the MT-03 is not in the open position when placed against the module.



3. With steadily increasing force and keeping as straight as possible, pull the MT-03 back until the module is released from the frame.

Use caution when removing the module so as not to damage the connector attached to the back of the module.

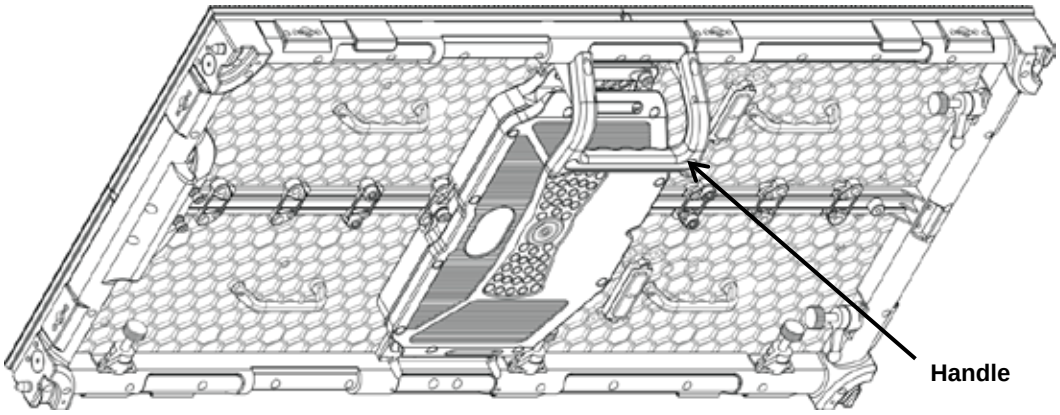


4. Carefully roll the MT-03 to the side to remove it from the module.
5. Use the slider on the back of the MT-03 to retract the magnets.
6. Reverse the steps to install the replacement module.

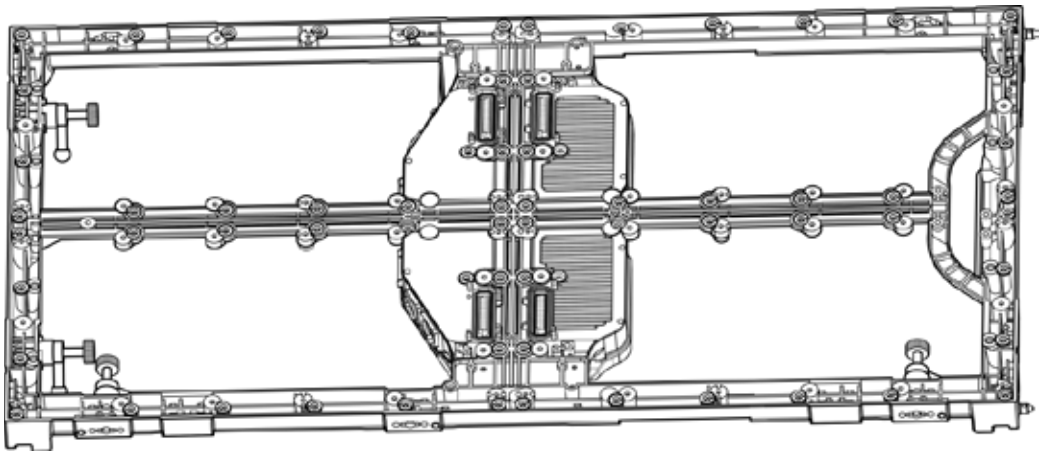
8. F4 Panel Configuration

The F4 can be configured to fit the user's needs for handling and serviceablity. This allows the panel to be either entirely front serviceable (default) or entirely rear serviceable, so a technician will not have to walk around an entire video wall multiple times to service a single panel.

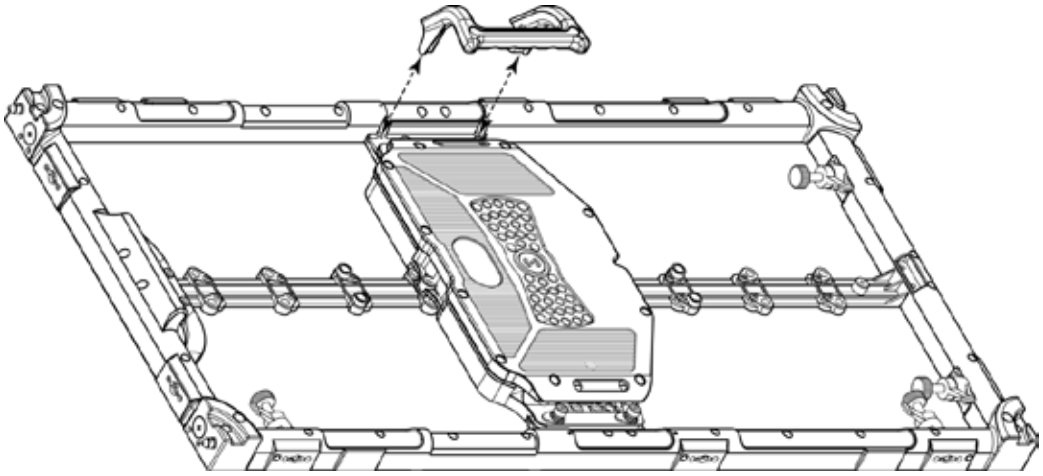
Installing the Handle



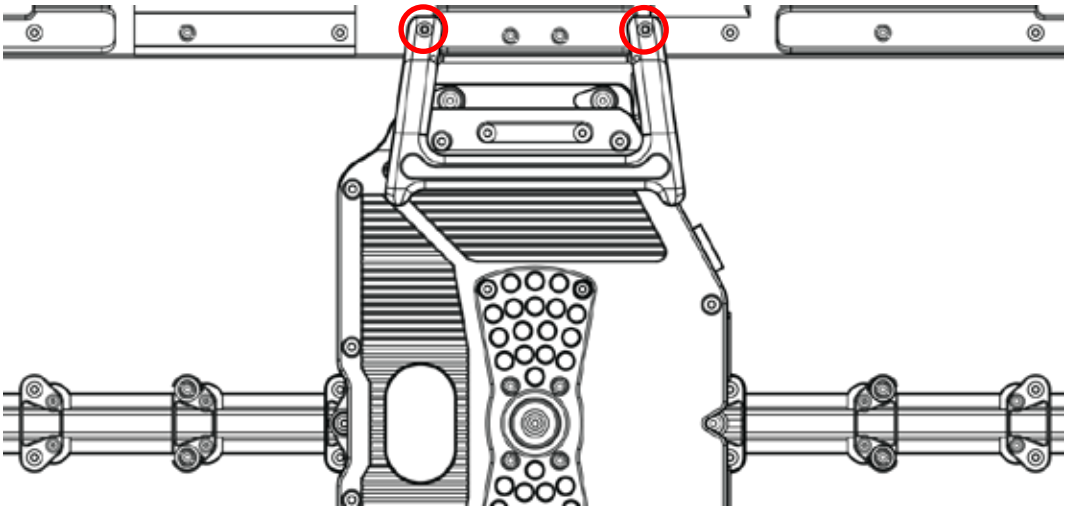
Each F4 comes with a handle that can be installed on a long side of the panel. Follow the instructions below to install the handle onto the F4:



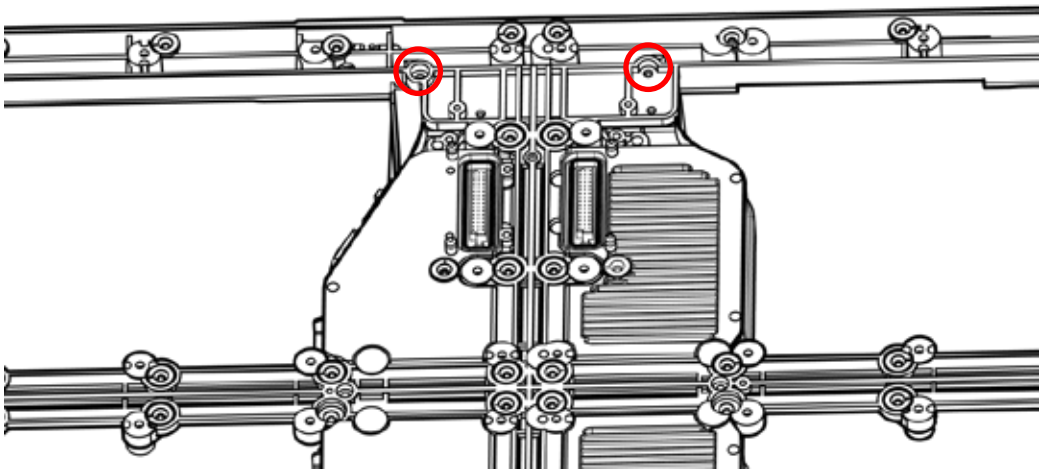
1. Remove the modules as described in LED Module Care and Replacement.



2. Align the handle as shown above.

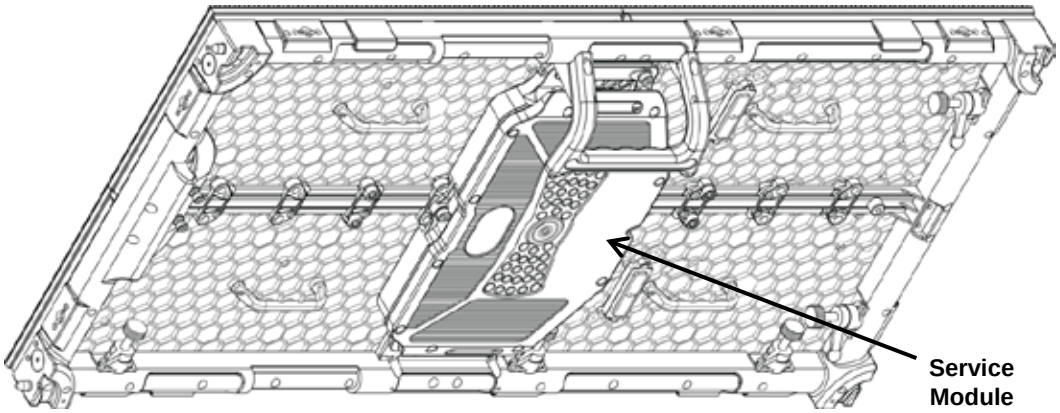


3. Insert two screws to secure the handle to the rear of the panel frame.



4. Insert two screws to secure the handle to the front of the panel frame.
5. Reinstall the modules onto the panel as described in LED Module Care and Replacement.
6. Reverse the steps to remove the handle.

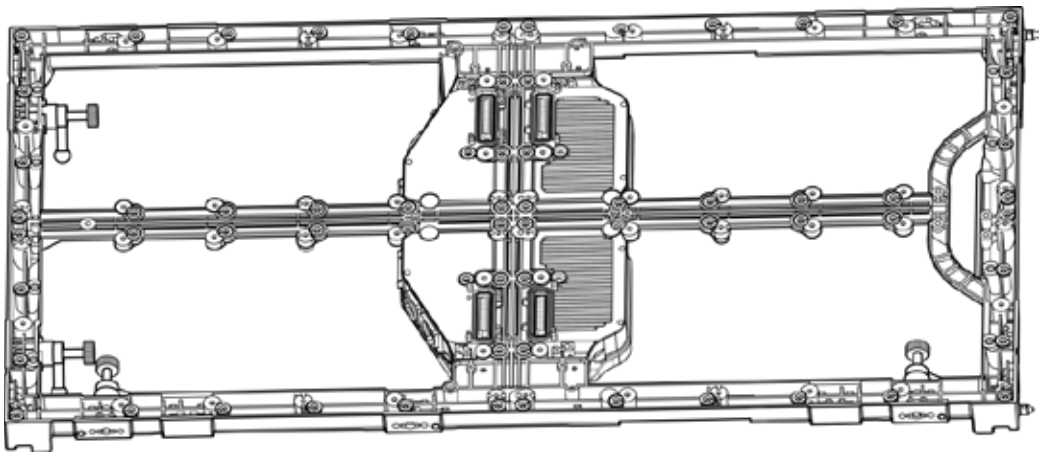
Switching Between Front and Rear Serviceability



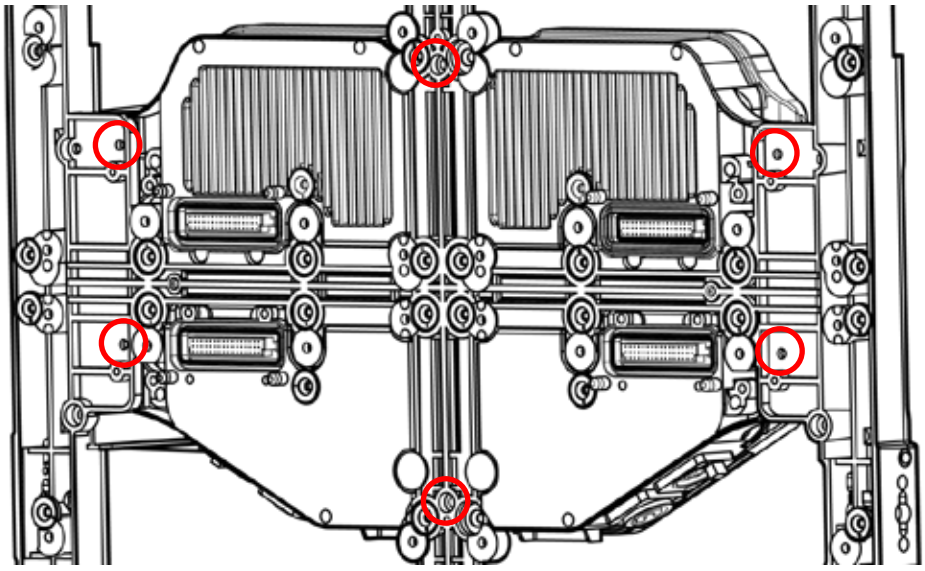
The F4 service module can be accessed and removed from either the front of the panel or the rear of the panel, depending on how the user has configured the panel. Follow the instructions below to switch the F4 from front serviceability to rear serviceability:

The F4 should be front serviceable for applications such as mounting against a flat wall, where there can be no access to the rear of the video assembly.

The F4 can be rear serviceable in any application where the rear of the video assembly will be easier to access than the front.

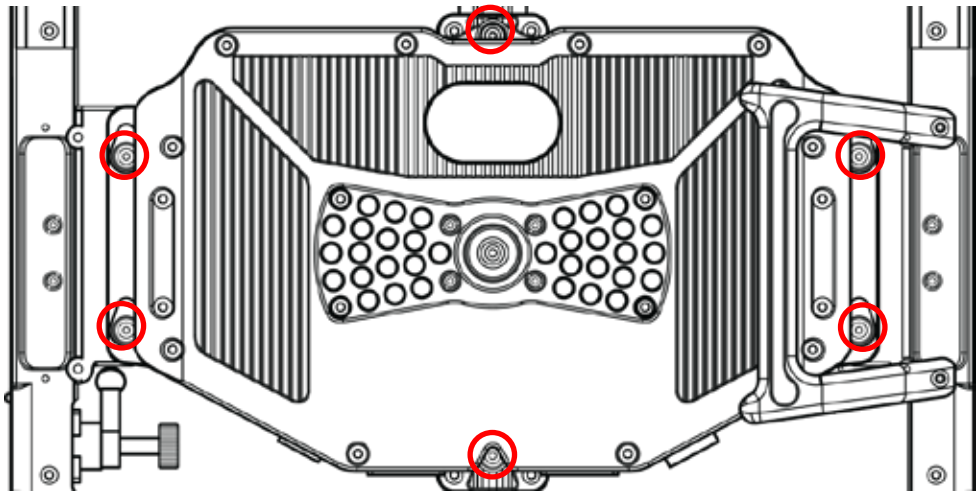


1. Remove the modules as described in LED Module Care and Replacement.



2. Remove six screws from the front of the service module.

Use caution when removing these screws, as the service module will be detached from the panel frame until the next step is completed.



3. Install those screws into the rear of the service module.
4. Reinstall the modules as described in LED Module Care and Replacement.
5. Reverse the steps to make the panel front serviceable again.

9. Typical F4 Installation

Because a video wall system can include different components to provide a simple to complex modular wall design, use the following steps as a general guide to get started.

Step 1 Open and examine the F4 road case to make sure you have received all products and accessories and that each one is in good condition.

Step 2 Apply power and run the self-test for each F4 to ensure all LEDs and inside connections in each panel are working (optional).

Step 3 Create a stable mounting surface (e.g., truss or other stable surface) for F4 mounting.

Step 4 Mount the first top row of the F4s. Refer to the Mounting section in this User Manual.

Step 5 Adjust the alignment of the first row using the Speego connectors.

Step 6 Connect the signal source to the VIP Drive 43Nova.

Step 7 Connect the VIP Drive 43Nova to the Signal port of the first panel in your connection chain.

Step 8 Based on your video wall configuration (design), join each panel, either horizontally or vertically, using the instructions in the section Joining Each F4 (Creating a Modular Design)).

Refer to the instructions and information in the section of this User Manual, Connecting (Cabling) Each F4.

10. Operation

Additional Hardware and Software

In addition to the panels, you will need other hardware and software to design, build, and operate your VIP video wall system. The following table summarizes these additional items—some are required and others are optional.

Item	Description
VIP Drive 43Nova	Interface between the signal source, LED Studio, and the F4 being used
NovaLCT-Mars	Software application used to design and run the F4s comprising the video wall. A PC is needed
F Series Rigging Bar (optional)	Provides hardware needed to mount F4
Neutrik etherCON Signal Extension (optional)	Neutrik etherCON CAT6 extension cable; 18 in. Neutrik etherCON CAT6 extension cable; 5 ft Neutrik etherCON CAT6 extension cable; 10 ft Neutrik etherCON CAT6 extension cable; 25 ft Neutrik etherCON CAT6 extension cable; 50 ft
Neutrik powerCON Extension (optional)	Neutrik powerCON extension, 18 in Neutrik powerCON extension, 5 ft Neutrik powerCON extension, 10 ft Neutrik powerCON extension, 25 ft Neutrik powerCON extension, 50 ft
VIP Media System	Rack mountable video computer system
ArKaos MediaMaster	Video playback software

About NovaLCT-Mars

NovaLCT-Mars is a powerful and easy-to-learn software application used to design and run the F4 video wall system. The following is some introductory information about this software.

Refer to the VIP Drive 43Nova User Manual for detailed information and instructions on setting up and using NovaLCT-Mars with your Chauvet VIP video wall system.

Description

NovaLCT-Mars enables you to create and control your video wall by addressing the panels included in your video wall including pixel pitch and layout.

Once you have physically created your modular video wall design by joining the panels, connecting power, signals, and the VIP Drive 43Nova, you recreate that design within NovaLCT-Mars.

Detailed information and instructions are in the VIP Drive 43Nova User Manual.

Chauvet does not recommend using NovaLCT-Mars for live show playback. For this purpose, Chauvet offers Arkaos MediaMaster, which offers numerous playback triggers, including DMX, Art-Net, MA-net, MIDI, and QWERTY.

11. Technical Information

F4 Maintenance

To maintain optimum performance and minimize wear, clean this product regularly. Usage and environment are contributing factors in determining the cleaning frequency.

As a rule, clean this product at least twice a month. Dust build-up reduces light output performance and can cause overheating. This can lead to reduced light source life and increased mechanical wear.

To clean an F4, follow the recommendations below:

1. Unplug the panel from power.
2. Wait until the product is at room temperature.
3. Use a soft brush to remove dust collected on the external components.
4. Wipe the outside of the LED Modules with a soft, lint-free cloth dampened with a solution of water and detergent. Apply gentle pressure only.
5. Make sure all connections are thoroughly dry before reconnecting power and signal cables.

Always dry the external surfaces carefully after cleaning them.

Returns

Send the product prepaid, in the original box, with the original packing and accessories. Chauvet will not issue call tags.

Call Chauvet and request a Return Merchandise Authorization (RMA) number before shipping the product. Be prepared to provide the model number, serial number, and a brief description of the cause(s) for the return.

Clearly label the package with an RMA number. Chauvet will refuse any product returned without an RMA number.

DO NOT write the RMA number directly on the box. Instead, write it on a properly affixed label.

Once you have received the RMA number, include the following information on a piece of paper inside the box:

- Your name
- Your address
- Your phone number
- The RMA number
- A brief description of the problem(s)

Be sure to pack the product properly. Any shipping damage resulting from inadequate packaging will be the customer's responsibility. FedEx packing or double-boxing is recommended.

Chauvet reserves the right to use its own discretion to repair or replace returned product(s).

12. Technical Specifications

Light Source	Tri-color SMD 3528 LED
Pixels per Panel	140 x 208 (21,632 total)
Pixel Pitch (between LEDs)	4.8 mm
Pixel Density	43,264/m^2
Display Refresh Rate	3,840 Hz
Viewing Angle	140°
Illuminance	1,500 NITS
Red Wavelength	619 to 624 nm
Green Wavelength	522 to 525 nm
Blue Wavelength	468 to 471 nm
Power Supply Type	Switching
AC Voltage Range	100–240 VAC, 50/60 Hz
Voltage Selection	Auto-ranging
Power Consumption 120 V, 60 Hz	257 W; 2.05 A
Power Consumption 208 V, 60 Hz	249 W; 1.27 A
Power Consumption 230 V, 50 Hz	248 W; 1.19 A
Power Linking @ 120 V, 60 Hz	7 units
Power Linking @ 208 V, 60 Hz	12 units
Power Linking @ 230 V, 50 Hz	13 units
Dimensions	19.69 x 1.89 x 39.37 in (500 x 48 x 1000 mm)
Weight	28.4 lb (12.88 kg)
Transparency	0%
Housing Material	Magnesium die-cast
Power Connection	Neutrik® powerCON®
Data Connection	Neutrik® etherCON®
Item Name	F4X4
Item Code	99091247
UPC Number	781462215958

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Visit the applicable website above to verify our contact information and instructions to request support. Outside the U.S., United Kingdom, Ireland, Mexico, or Benelux contact the dealer of record.

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