

Frequently Asked Questions about IR 8.01

- Q.1 I see that all the buttons on the middle row are now duplicated on the Toolbar. Can I hide the middle buttons to make more space for the grids?
- A.1 Yes. There is a new Options submenu under the Tools menu. If you open it you will see that it lists Toolbar and Middle Buttons and that both are checked. Uncheck Middle Buttons to hide them. You can, of course, similarly hide the Toolbar if you wish.
- Q.2 If I still want more space for the grids on the General page, is there anything I can do?
- A.2 Yes. Since IR8.00 the panels on that page have been re-sizeable. There is a moveable divider between the Device Buttons and Settings panel and another beneath both panels. Of course, the whole IR window can also be re-sized in the usual ways.
- Q.3 I see that there are two other entries under Tools/Options, namely Extended Titles and Highlighting. What do these do?
- A.3 Extended Titles adds to the title bar a display of the full version number of IR.exe (e.g. 8.0.1.14) and the signature, interface type and processor of the remote.
- Highlighting adds a new column, Color, to each grid and to the list boxes of the Devices, Protocols and Learned Signals pages. In the case of the list boxes there is no header or dividing line to show its presence, but you will see that the blue marking of selected items no longer extends to the full width of the box. The remainder will show the highlight color when it is set.
- When a color is marked against any entry, the bytes in the Raw Data grid corresponding to that entry are highlighted in the same color. You can highlight as many entries in as many grids as you wish, with the same or different colors.
- Q.4 How do I mark a color against a grid entry?
- A.4 There are several ways to do this. If you want to mark only a single row you can double-click the Color column, even on the list boxes. This will open a dialog screen on which you can select the required color. If you want to mark several rows with the same color, select them and then either (a) right-click any of the selected rows and choose Set Color from the popup menu, or (b) press the Set Highlight Color button on the toolbar. Either of these actions opens the same dialog screen.
- Yet another way, on those panels that have an Edit button, is to click this button after selecting the rows. The Edit form that then opens has a drop-down box for selecting the highlight color. Select your choice, check the “Set Highlight” check box and press “OK”.
- Note that however they are set, the colors are considered as a tool rather than as a property of the entry, so they are not saved when you exit IR.
- Q.5 You mentioned selecting several rows. Does that mean that I can now select multiple rows at once?
- A.5 Yes, the usual methods for multiselecting now work on all grids and list boxes. For the Device Buttons and Settings grids, however, you can only select multiple rows when Highlighting is turned on through the Tools/Options menu as Highlighting is the only function on these grids that uses multiselection.
- Q.6 So multiselection can be used for other purposes besides highlighting?
- A.6 Yes, it also works with editing, cloning, deleting and moving rows. When you edit multiple rows the edit form only shows those values that are common to all the selected rows, the other values

being left blank. Any items left with blank values when you press “OK” will retain their original pre-edit values for all selected rows. Any items given values will have that value set in all selected rows even if the pre-edit values differed. The same applies to cloning, the difference of course being that the cloned rows are added to the grid, the original rows being left unchanged.

- Q.7 So how would I delete the notes from a multiple selection? If I leave the Notes field empty, the original notes would be preserved.
- A.7 Put a single SPACE character in the Notes field of the editing form. This will overwrite the existing notes, and since trailing spaces are trimmed from notes, they will all finish up empty. You don’t need to do this if editing a single item. In that case simply deleting the existing entry in the Notes field is sufficient.
- Q.8 What does the cloning of multiple rows mean for Macros? Won’t the clones finish up either on the original keys, or all on the same new key, in either case creating unacceptable duplicates?
- A.8 The editing and cloning of multiple rows distinguishes between common and differing original values more finely than you might expect. For example, the underlying key and its shift state are treated as separate values. So you could clone a group of macros that are on unshifted keys, putting the clones on the corresponding shifted keys. Similarly you could edit them, as a group, from unshifted to shifted keys.
- Q.9 I have a number of keys set up to use the LKP Special Protocol. I would like to change them all to use the DKP protocol instead. If the editing of multiple rows makes fine distinctions, can I do this by editing them as a group?
- A.9 Yes, almost anything is possible that is meaningful in terms of editing multiple rows. As another example, if you have two Pause protocols, say PauseInt and PauseExt that encode pauses in different ways and you have several keys set up with the PauseInt protocol, you can change them as a group to the PauseExt protocol. IR will keep the pause duration (i.e. its actual value in seconds or fractions of a second) unchanged apart from unavoidable rounding, and will re-encode that duration as appropriate for the new protocol.
- Q.10 You mentioned highlighting working for the Device Buttons and Settings grids. I understand it for Device Buttons, but Settings are set bit-wise, often with several settings corresponding to different bits of the same byte. How does highlighting work in that case?
- A.10 With Settings, the relevant cells in the Raw Data grid are colored in eight vertical stripes, one for each bit, with bit 0 corresponding to the right-most stripe. If different settings have differing highlight colors and share the same byte then you get a multicolored cell!
- Q.11 I would like to know exactly which bits correspond to a particular setting. When only one or two stripes are colored, it can be difficult to judge which bits they correspond to. Is there any other way of finding out?
- A.11 If you hover the mouse over a cell in the Raw Data grid that has colored stripes, a pop-up “hint” will tell you which bits are highlighted.
- Q.12 You mentioned multiselection working with moving rows. I didn’t know you could change the order of the rows in a grid. How do you do it? I’ve tried dragging rows with the mouse to the new position but it doesn’t work. Am I doing something wrong?
- A.12 You must start the drag with the pointer being in the Row Number column, against one of the selected rows. You don’t have to stay in that column, or even in the IR form, as you drag but you must start in it. As you drag, the outline marquee moves to show you the target position for the selected rows. The move itself happens when you release the mouse button.

- Q.13 Some of my grids have a lot of rows and I would like to sort them into order by device and key. It would be tedious to do this by moving the rows one at a time. Is there a better method?
- A.13 The header cells of those grid columns for which sorting is meaningful are now active. You can tell an active header cell, as its background color darkens slightly when the mouse pointer is over it. Clicking an active header cell sorts the grid by the corresponding column. Where values are equal in that column, the original order is preserved. This enables you to sort on multiple sort keys by clicking the headers in order, starting with the most minor sort key.
- Q.14 I've sorted or moved rows and don't like the result. Can I undo what I've done?
- A.14. There are buttons on the toolbar for Undo Sort/Move, and also for Redo Sort/Move if you don't like the effect of the Undo. You can undo up to eight steps of sorting or moving, independently for each grid or listbox. These Undo and Redo operations are also available through right-click menus.
- Q.15 How do I select all rows at once, say to delete them all or to give them a common highlight color?
- A.15 The keystroke Ctrl-A selects all rows, or you can do it with the mouse. With the mouse you either click in the blank space of the grid to the right of all the columns, or else right-click and choose Select All from the popup menu.
- Q.16 You mentioned selecting all rows with a keystroke. Can I move rows with the keyboard instead of with the mouse?
- A.16 Yes. Select the required rows with the mouse or by holding down Shift and using the Up and Down keys. Then press Ctrl-X ("Cut") to start the move, Ctrl-Up and Ctrl-Down to move the selection marquee to the desired target position and finally Ctrl-V ("Paste") to complete the move.
- Q.17 The above answers are generally expressed in language appropriate to grids. How much of the above applies also to the Device, Protocol and Learned Signals list boxes?
- A.17 Most of it applies but with slight differences in how things appear, or how they are done. You can't clone items and you can't move them by using keystrokes. When you move them with the mouse they move as you drag, rather than it being a selection marquee that moves. You can't Select All with the mouse, but you can with Ctrl-A or from the right-click menu. You can move, delete and highlight a multiple selection and you can edit a Learned Signals multiple selection. You can also sort the lists, but as there are no column headers you do it instead by selecting Sort from the right-click menu.
- Q.18 When I use the Learned Signals page, the Misc column of a decode now sometimes shows text such as "3 frames" or "2 dittos". What does this mean?
- A.18 The learning process performs some analysis of the signal itself. In particular, it tries to identify a repeating pattern in the signal. Sometimes there is a repeating pattern but the learning process does not find it. In that case the DecodeIR DLL that performs the decode in IR.exe will itself check for such repeats. If it finds them, it reports this in the Misc column. An entry of "3 frames" means that three identical frames were found in the signal. An entry of "2 dittos" means that the protocol identified by DecodeIR uses a simplified frame to indicate repeats. These simplified frames do not carry the data of the signal but just serve as "ditto marks", and "2 dittos" means that two such ditto frames were detected. As with full repeats, this is shown only when the learning software did not recognise that there were two or more identical ditto frames.
- Q.19 Why does DecodeIR bother to look for such repeats if IR.exe is going to ignore the result much of the time?

- A.19 Because IR.exe is not the only program that uses the DecodeIR DLL. Other programs such as the IRScope software of the IR Widget pass the entire signal to DecodeIR, however many repeats are present, and they always report the counts that are found.
- Q.20 How can I find out more about the protocols and other information reported on the Learned Signals page?
- A.20 There is a new entry on the Help menu, “Interpreting Decoded IR Signals”. This opens an HTML document that is now included in the IR zip file. It contains a great deal of information, both about DecodeIR in general and about the individual protocols.
- Q.21 I know that the data shown by the Summary item on the File menu includes the decoding information from the Learned Signals page, and also a table of raw signal timings that I can’t find at all on that page. Are those raw signals timings available on the Learned Signals page, and is there an easier way to get a summary of the decode information for all the learned signals?
- A.21 Yes, but you need to open the Advanced menu and select Force Learned Timings. This opens another panel on the Learned Signals page that gives the timing data and allows some useful manipulation of it. It also adds two more buttons, Code Summary and Times Summary. These open extracts from the full Summary document giving just the decode information and the raw timing data respectively.
- Q.22 Previous versions of IR always preserved grid column widths from one invocation to the next, but when I enter IR 8.01 it appears to have forgotten my column widths. Is this a bug?
- A.22 No. IR has always only preserved column widths when the grids have the same number of columns as in the previous invocation. It would not make sense for it to do so if new columns have been added, as it has no way of telling whether the new columns are in the middle or at the end. All grids have gained an extra column in IR 8.01, even if the extra column is initially hidden, as with the Color columns, so these grids open with default widths. Column widths *will* be preserved between invocations of IR 8.01, even for hidden columns, e.g. if you change the width of a Color column and then turn off Highlighting before exiting IR, the next time you enter IR and turn Highlighting back on, it will remember your new width.
- Q.23 I used IR 8.01 and then returned to an earlier version. My settings, such as Suppress Messages and Enable Unsafe Upload on the Advanced menu, appear to have been lost. Is this a bug?
- A.23 No. Previous versions of IR have preserved the setting of each selectable menu item as a separate boolean value in the Windows Registry. This was getting to be unwieldy as there are now 16 such menu items, including the four added by IR 8.01 in the Tools/Options menu. So IR 8.01 has changed the way in which such values are preserved in the Registry. Instead of 16 boolean entries there is now a single integer-valued Options entry. When you first enter IR 8.01 it creates the Options entry corresponding to the old-style settings it finds in the Registry and then deletes the old-style entries. This is in the expectation that you will have no reason to return to an earlier, less well-featured, version.
- Q.24 A minor matter, but one I’m curious about. Why is the dividing line between the Code and Note columns in the Device Buttons grid much thicker than all the other dividing lines?
- A.24 This grid is the only one where there are hidden columns other than at the end of the grid, There are in fact two hidden, i.e. zero-width, columns between the ones you mention, the Label and Seq columns, both of which only become visible for remotes that make use of them. But when a column has zero width, its dividing line is still present. The line you see between the Code and Note columns is therefore three dividing lines concatenated. If you look carefully you will see a similar effect at the right-hand edge of the Advanced Codes grids when Highlighting is turned off, though here there are only two concatenated lines so the effect is less apparent.