BaseStation 6000 Quick Start Guide
Basic System Configuration Guide for Installers

This Quick Start Guide will help you perform the steps to get the Baseline BaseStation 6000 set up as quickly as possible with a basic watering program so you can make sure that all points of installation have been completed correctly, and you can begin irrigating as soon as possible.

This guide is for the initial set up only and does not cover the use of soil moisture sensors or flow devices. Consult the complete BaseStation 6000 User Manual to take full advantage of the powerful water-saving strategies provided by the BaseStation 6000 system.

Before you begin programming, we strongly recommend that you have your list of zones, their associated biCoder numbers, their associated Remote Base Units, and a layout of your property organized by hydrozones. If you have any questions before you begin, please give Baseline a call at 1.866.294.5847.

After you have installed and set up your computer as described in BaseStation 6000 User Manual, complete the four basic steps covered in this guide to get your system up and running:

1. Set up the Remote Base Units
2. Enter the Baseline biCoder addresses for the zones
3. Set up the start times and water windows for the programs
4. Adjust the default zone run time

BaseStation 6000 Standard Support

Baseline supports every Baseline product, on every project, for every customer – every time.

Every BaseStation 6000 purchase usually includes up to 10 hours of assisted setup and support (more if required). Baseline’s support staff will host a series of one to two hour setup and training sessions that can be scheduled at your convenience.

These training sessions are conducted live, via a special WebEx® tool that allows Baseline support to take control of your BaseStation 6000 computer and walk you through each screen and explain how to perform each function. You can begin to program your controller while Baseline is monitoring the system and answering your questions.

Note: The BaseStation 6000 computer must have Internet access for these sessions.

We recommend that the end user or landscape manager be involved in these training sessions whenever possible. Depending on the complexity of the site, one or more of these sessions may be combined or expanded to meet your needs. Whenever you have a question, you are welcome to contact our support staff for additional help.
Features of the BaseStation 6000 Main Window

1. Main Menu
2. Tabs for accessing configuration panes
3. Configuration data - varies depending on the tab you are on
4. Run button
5. Programs button
6. List of Remote Base Units - the one being configured is highlighted
7. System clock and status
8. Alarms and Alerts pane
9. Initialize Serial Port button
10. Local Site Name field
Step One: Set Up the Remote Base Units

1. Using the designated communication method, connect the computer that is operating as your BaseStation 6000 site controller to the Remote Base Unit (RBU) or Bridge Unit.
2. Turn on the computer. The BaseStation 6000 software starts automatically.
3. On the Main Page, click the Base Unit tab.
4. If the BaseStation 6000 computer connects to the RBU through a network, skip to Step 6. If the computer is connected with a cable, continue with Step 5.
5. Click the Initialize Serial Ports button in the lower-right corner of the Base Unit tab. The computer “talks” to the RBUs through the serial ports. The Serial Port Locator message box displays all available serial ports.

   Note: If the computer was purchased from Baseline, there is likely only one available serial port.

   - If the list of serial ports and the default displayed in the message box is correct, click Yes.
   - If the serial port is not correct, click No. The Select Alternate Port dialog box displays. Type the serial port number in the field, and then click OK. If you need help, please consult with your IT Department or call Baseline Technical Support (866.294.5847).

6. On the Base Unit tab, click the Comm button located at the right end of the row for the first RBU.
7. In the **Communication Setup** dialog box, select the Communication Type for the RBU.
   - If a serial to wired backbone **Bridge Unit** is part of the system configuration, be sure to select the check box in the **Communication Setup** dialog box for each RBU that you are setting up.

![Communication Setup Dialog Box](image)

- If **Mesh Radio** is the Communication Type for the selected RBU, select that option, and then type the MAC address that is listed on the Mesh Radio Module of the RBU.

![Mesh Radio Module Sticker](image)

- If **Radio to Radio to Bridge** is the Communication Type for the selected RBU, select the Mesh Radio option, and then type the MAC address that is listed on the Mesh Radio Module of the RBU. Also select the Bridge Unit/Remote Base check box at the bottom of the **Communication Setup** dialog box.

- If **Network** is the Communication Type for the selected RBU, select that option, and then type the serial port number and the IP address for your network.

![Communication Setup Dialog Box](image)

8. Click **Return** to save your changes and go back to the Base Unit tab.
10. In the **Serial Number** field (1), type the serial number for the first RBU, and then press **Enter**. The system searches for the device, and updates the Serial Number and Device Found fields.

**Note**: The RBU serial number is printed on a sticker that is located on the inside door panel of the RBU. The serial number format is RBXXXXXXX (where the Xs represent a series of seven numbers).

11. We recommend that you type a description in the **Description** field (2) so you can easily identify the RBU that you are working with.

12. Under the Active Zones column, in the **Base** field (3), set the total number of zones that can run at one time (concurrent zones) for that individual RBU to 1, which is the default value.

**Note**: We recommend that you initially set the number of active zones to 1 in order to test the quality of the installation and to identify any potential problems with wiring, pipes, heads, and so on. See the Concurrent Zone information at the end of this document. For help with concurrent zone settings, please call Baseline Support at 1.866.294.5847.

13. Repeat Steps 6-12 for each RBU.

14. In the **Total Active Zones** field (4), set the total number of zones that the entire system can run at one time to 1.

15. In the **Local Site Name** field (5), type the name of the site.
Step Two: Enter the Baseline biCoder Addresses for the Zones

1. Click the **Config Zone** tab on the Main Page of the BaseStation 6000 software.

2. Find the serial number of each biCoder. The number of the two-wire biCoder is printed on a sticker that is attached to the side of each biCoder. The serial number of the powered biCoder is located on the inside of the enclosure door.

   ![Image of biCoder](image)
   
   **Note:** The package contains two extra label stickers that you can attach to your site plans for future reference.

3. Make sure you know what zone each biCoder is attached to.

4. Starting with the biCoder for zone 1, double-click in the box in line 1 under the Serial Number column for Address line 1.

5. Type the serial number for the zone 1 biCoder, and then press **Enter**. The Configuration Status message displays.

![Configuration Status Image](image)

6. Click **OK**. Additional programming fields display.

7. Type a description for the zone so you can easily identify it.

8. Assign a program number to the zone in the **Prog#** field.

![Main Page - BaseStation 6000 Site Controller](image)

**Note:** Program numbers must be unique on each Remote Base Unit (RBU). For example, if RBU 1 has programs numbered 1, 2, and 3, then RBU 2 will have programs numbered 4, 5, and 6.

9. Repeat Steps 1 through 8 for all biCoders and zones that are attached to the specific RBU that you are configuring.
Step Three: Set Up the Start Times and Water Windows for the Programs

1. On the Main Page, click the Programs button (1) located below the Zone Description column.

2. On the Set Watering Program Schedule window, click the Water Window tab (2).

3. Click the arrow at the end of the Program field (3), and then select the program from the list that displays.

If you want to change the name of the program, click the button (4) labeled Click to Edit Program Name.

The Program Name dialog box displays. Type a new name (up to 20 characters long) in the field, and then click OK.
4. Select the **Enable Program** check box (5).

5. Select the **Enable Clock Mode with Timed Watering Starts** check box (6).

6. Click the squares for the time of day when watering is allowed:
   - Blue allows watering during that hour.
   - White does not allow watering.

   **Note:** Typically, all squares except the start times would be blue unless there are watering restrictions or you need to designate a time for mowing.

7. Choose the watering start time for each day by clicking the appropriate square for each day and time until that square shows green.

   **Note:** You can only set start times in blue squares.

**Hint:** Click one side of the blue and white icon [   ] at the top of each column to set the entire column blue or white. When a column is blue, you can click the green icon [   ] at the bottom of the column to turn the entire column green.
8. For the initial configuration, we recommend that the **Total Active Zones** field (7) be set to 1. Please see the Concurrent Zone information at the end of this document.

9. Click the **Return/Save** button (8) at the bottom-right of the Set Watering Program Schedule window.

**Hint:** The information in the fields to the right of the Watering Time grid (9) provides a summary of the settings for a selected RBU. If you want to see the settings for a different RBU, click the arrow at the end of the Base Unit field and select an RBU from the list.
Step Four: Adjust the Zone Run Time

1. On the **Main Page**, click the **Adjust Zone** tab (1).

2. Under the **Sprinkler Settings** column, set the total minutes on (2) for each zone. For more information about this setting, see the note on Intelligent Soak Cycles at the end of this document.

   **Note:** The Soak Cycle settings (3) are set to default values. While you can change those values, we recommend, at least initially, that you use the default soak cycle values.

3. Click **Run (4)** to start the system.

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Congratulations!
You are now ready to water.
An Important Note on Concurrent Zones

Using concurrent zone settings, you can configure the controller to allow more than one zone to water at once. The BaseStation 6000 uses a sophisticated watering engine that can use concurrent zone settings on multiple levels including the device level, program level, Base Unit level, and system wide level. These settings require detailed information about the electric and hydraulic limits of the system.

During the initial configuration of your BaseStation 6000, we recommend that you set all concurrent zone settings to one, which limits the number of zones that can run at one time to only one. If you are unsure where these settings are configured, please call Baseline Support.

If your site requires that more than one zone waters at once, and you know the gallons per minute available from your sources and the gallons per minute output of each zone, you can set each of those limits appropriately. For example, if you know that your water source provides 100 gallons per minute, and each zone waters at a maximum of 25 gallons per minute, then your available concurrent zones would be 4.

We strongly recommend that you call Baseline Support when configuring concurrent zone so we can help optimize your system’s watering capabilities. We look forward to your call. We can be reached at 1.866.294.5847.

An Important Note on Intelligent Soak Cycles

Soak cycling breaks the total run time (the time set in the Total Min On field) into shorter water "cycles" (timed water applications) with "soak" periods in between to allow time for water to soak into the soil before applying more water. Soak cycles save water by avoiding surface soil saturation and runoff.

Even on a perfectly designed system, it is important to match the water application rate to the infiltration rate of your soil. You configure this by breaking the total run time for any zone into multiple cycles and soaks. **Note:** One easy way to determine good cycle times is to turn on a zone and watch for first signs of standing water or runoff. Set the cycle time to be no more than this amount of time.

The BaseStation 6000 has built-in support for soak cycling and uses intelligent watering algorithms that apply cycles in the optimal order to maximize water penetration and minimize evaporation loss.

To understand how this works, consider the settings in the example below:

**Total Min On** = 60 minutes  
**Minutes On** = 10 minutes  
**Soak** = 30 minutes

In this scenario, the system waters for 10 minutes, and then it turns off and allows that water to soak in for 30 minutes. The system repeats this cycle 6 times to complete the total of 60 minutes set in the **Total Min On** field.

Thanks for choosing Baseline!

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