Audio distribution system A44/A88
pc software

The Niko Audio Distribution System lets you distribute your favourite music to 4 or 8 rooms in your house from a central audio system. This software tool has been developed for user-friendly control and optimum installation of your system.

The installer can use this tool for optimum configuration of the audio distribution system and the end-user can use it to simply operate the complete system from his pc, e.g. selecting audio sources, adjusting the volume or the tone.

We advise you to carefully read through the guide of the Niko audio distribution system before using the software.

1. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS
• Microsoft Windows compatibele pc
• Microsoft Windows 98/NT/XP
• mouse
• free COM port

2. INSTALLING THE SOFTWARE
Unpack the ZIP file to a directory on your hard disk. Double-click on the 'setup' file and follow the installation wizard. After installation, you can start up the software from the program list.
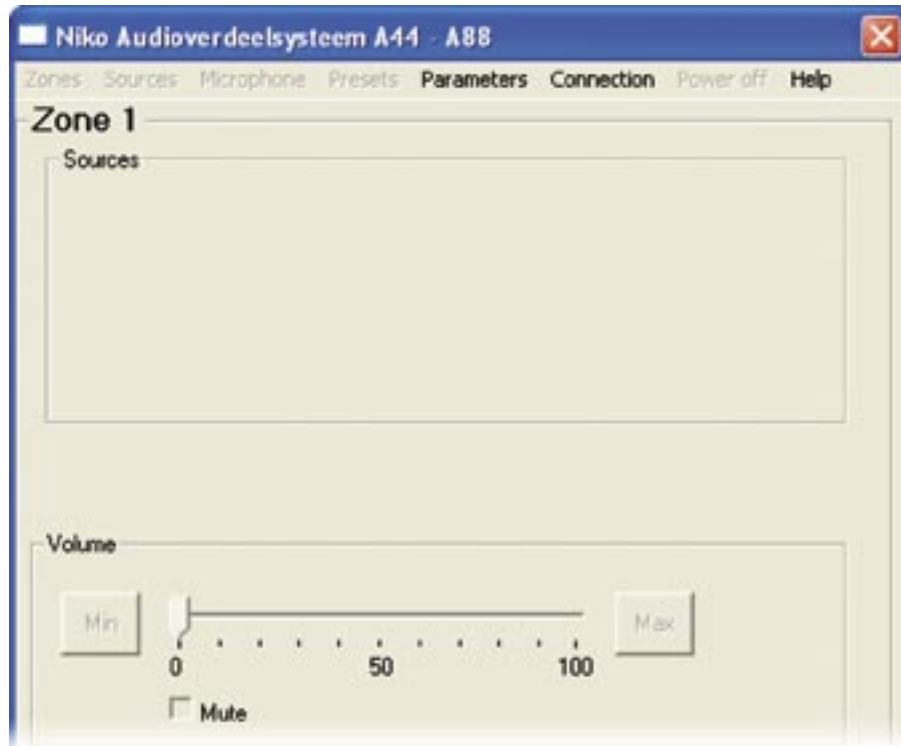
3. CONNECTION WITH THE PC
Connect the serial port of the PC to the COM1 port of the A44/A88. For this, use a straight serial cable and connect it to a free COM port on the PC.

Note: Many PCs no longer have a serial port (COM). You can also use a USB to serial converter.
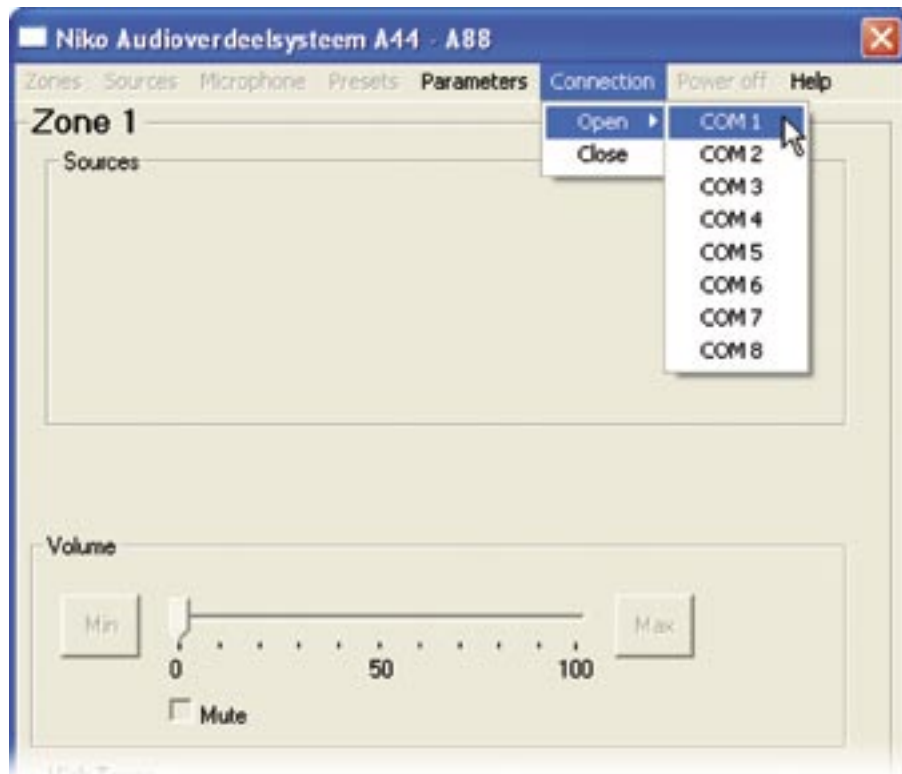
4. USE OF THE SOFTWARE IN STANDARD MODE

The program is always started up in 'standard' mode. The most frequently used functions can be accessed in this mode.

4.1. Connection

After you started up the program, you must make a connection with the COM port. Choose the port that corresponds to the port of the connection.

If the connection with the A44/A88 audio distribution system is correct, the sources and notes are displayed on top of the audio sources.

4.2. Adjusting the audio settings per zone

The selected zone is indicated at the top left. Press function keys F1 ... F8 to select another zone.

active zone	Zone 1
connection ok →	Source 1, Source 2, Source 3, Source 4
select a music source →	Source 5, Source 6, Source 7, Source 8
	Microphone
operate the music source (1…4)	1 2 3 4
volume	Volume: Min — 0 — 50 — 100 — Max
zone on/off	On/Off Mute
high tone control	High Tones: Min — 0 — 50 — 100 — Max
low tone control	Low Tones: Min — 0 — 50 — 100 — Max
balance left/right	Balance: Left — 0 — Right

Niko Audioverdeelsysteem A44 - A88

Zones Sources Microphone Presets Parameters Connection Power off Help

Connection on COM 1   15:03

4.3. Settings
Overview of the functions in the menu bar

4.3.1. Zones
select: to change the active audio zone
change name: to change the name of the zone

4.3.2. Sources
change name: to change the name of the music source
For the first 4 sources, you can also change the name of the function of the source.

4.3.3. Microphone
Call: check the zones where you wish to make a microphone call and press '**start call**'. After the call, press '**stop call**'.

You can also make a call in the selected zone. For this, select the 'Microphone' button from the sources. Press the 'Microphone' button again to return to the previous condition.

4.3.4. Presets
With the presets you can save the selected settings (volume, source selection, tone control, balance) per zone (local presets) or in all zones (global presets) in the memory of the A44 or A88. 4 presets are available per zone.
The global presets are a sum of the local presets, e.g. 'global preset 1' = 'zone 1-Preset 1' + 'zone 2-Preset 1' + ... + 'zone 8- Preset 1'. You save the audio settings of the various zones as if they were a snapshot of the audio settings in the various zones.

Local Presets:

Call (Preset 1..Preset 4): to call preset 1..8 in the selected zone

Save (Preset 1..Preset 4): to save preset 1..8 in the selected zone

Change name: to give a specific name to the preset

The local presets can be called via a bus push-button or hand-held IR transmitter

Global Presets:

Call (Preset 1..Preset 4): to call preset 1..8 (of all zones)

Save (Preset 1.. Preset 4): to save preset 1..8 (of all zones)

Change name: to give a specific name to the global preset

The global presets can only be called via Philips Pronto

4.3.5. Parameters

Sources connected: enter the number of music sources that are connected to the A44/A88 audio distribution system (max. 4 for type A44 and max. 8 for type A88).
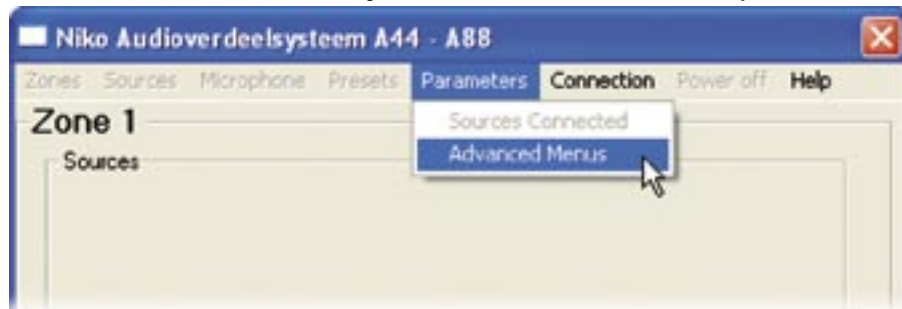
Advanced Menus: See chapter 5. Use of the software in advanced mode

4.3.6. Power off

Used to switch the A44/A88 Niko audio distribution system to stand-by mode.

5. USE OF THE SOFTWARE IN ADVANCED MODE

This mode is used for maximum configuration of the Niko Audio Distribution System.

5.1. Configuring the audio sources (devices)

5.1.1. General

You can connect several audio sources to the audio distribution system (max. 4 for version A44, max. 8 for version A88). You can control up to 4 audio sources via IR signals (infrared). Max. 1 source can be controlled serially.

In case of IR signal control, the audio distribution system takes over a number of functions from the original remote control of the music source (e.g. hifi system).
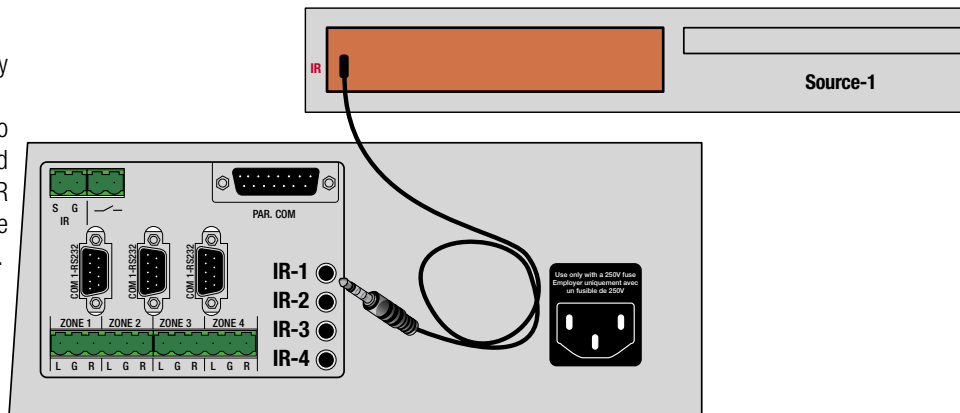
In addition, the music sources can be automatically switched on or off when the Audio Distribution System is swiched on or off.

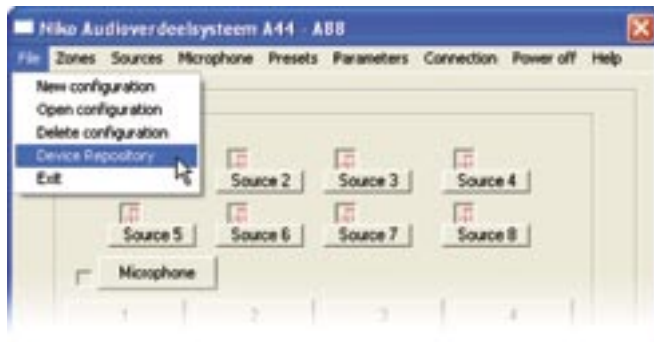5.1.2. Creating a database (device repository)

You can create your own database of music sources that you want to operate with your audio distribution system now or in the future.   The database is divided by brand, type of device (device) and type of control (IR or serial control). This database is saved on the hard disk with name default.mdb and can be found under '…/program files/Niko audio distribution system'. You are advised to take regular backups of this repository to prevent loss of data.

First, make sure you have the following:

- Original remote control of the music source. (any serial codes in case of control via serial port)
- Plug 1 IR transmitter into port **IR-1** of the Audio Distribution System. This is the IR port that is used to test the IR codes. Stick the transmitter to the IR window of the audio source. Consult the guide of the audio source for the exact location of the IR window.
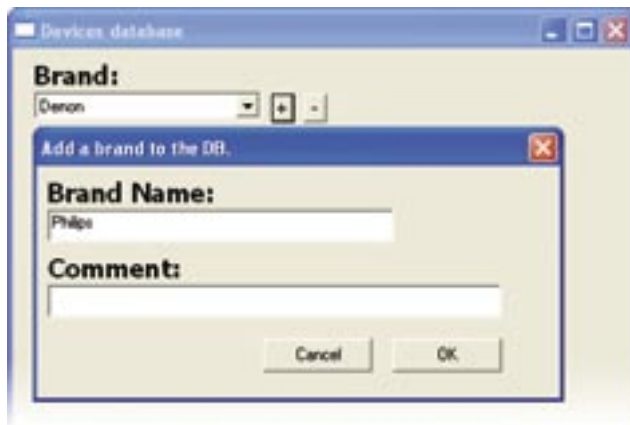
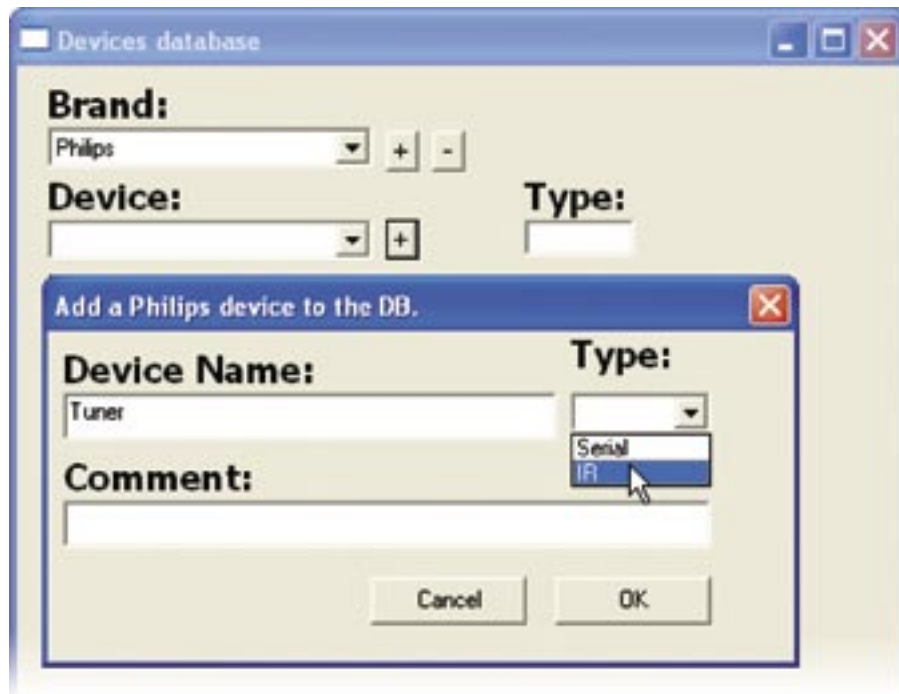In the **file** menu, select **Device Repository**.

This is where the music source database is managed.

When you use the software for the first time, the database already contains a number of brands and devices. Press the **+** button next to **Brand** to add a brand, e.g. 'Philips'.

Press the **+** button next to **Device** to add the device, e.g. 'CD player CD-104'.

For an IR device, select the option **IR** for **Type**.

Press **+** next to **function** to insert the name of the function, e.g. play.

The Niko Audio Distribution System is now ready to receive IR codes. Proceed as follows:

1. Hold the remote control of the CD player approx. 2cm in front of the IR eye of the A44/A88 audio distribution system.

2. Press the **Learn** button and press the button on your remote control (e.g. play) that you want to learn until the IR code appears in the window.

3. Press **TEST** to test the code. It may take a few seconds before the code is sent by the IR transmitter (IR transmitter in IR port 1!).

4. Check whether the device correctly responds to the learned code and press **SAVE** to save the code in your database.

5. If the sent code does not provide the expected result, you can learn it again. Press the **Learn** button again and repeat steps 1 through 4.

6. Repeat the above procedure to add other functions of the device, or to add new devices to your database.

Devices database

Brand:
Philips

Device:
Tuner

Type:
IR

Function:
Play

Learn

IR answer=....

Comment :

Devices database

Brand:
Philips

Device:
Tuner

Type:
IR

Function:
Play

Learn   Test

*PDA,39,198,38,134884,6768X,7918,8905,7915,25730,7906

Save

Download succesfull.. by testing your new code...

Comment :

5.1.3. Notes on the use of serial commands

If you select the type 'serial' (SER) next to **Device**, a serial string can be sent from the audio distribution system to the device.

For this, you need to know the serial codes of the device to be controlled. You can obtain these codes from the manufacturer of the audio device, e.g. the string: *TUN,1,PRES,1;   This information is entered in the ASCI code string field.
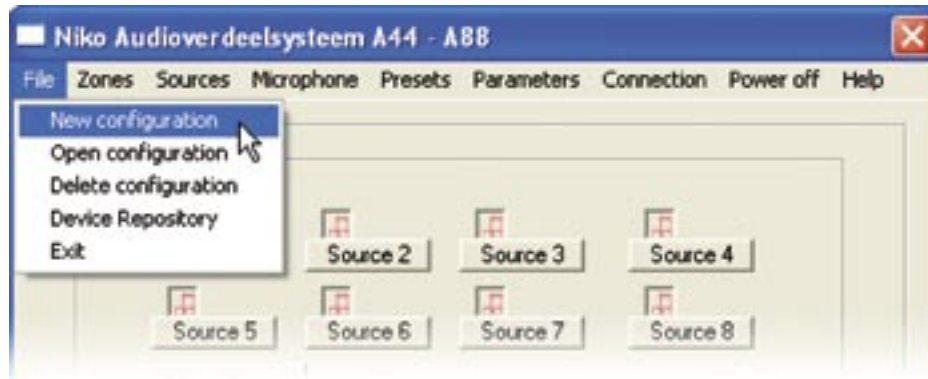
If only the Hex information is known, enter this information in the 'HEX' field.

Repeat the above procedure for all functions that you wish to add.

5.2. Creating a configuration

By creating a configuration you can determine which audio sources will be used with which functions. Proceed as follows:

1. Select **File, New configuration**

2. Complete the configuration screen.
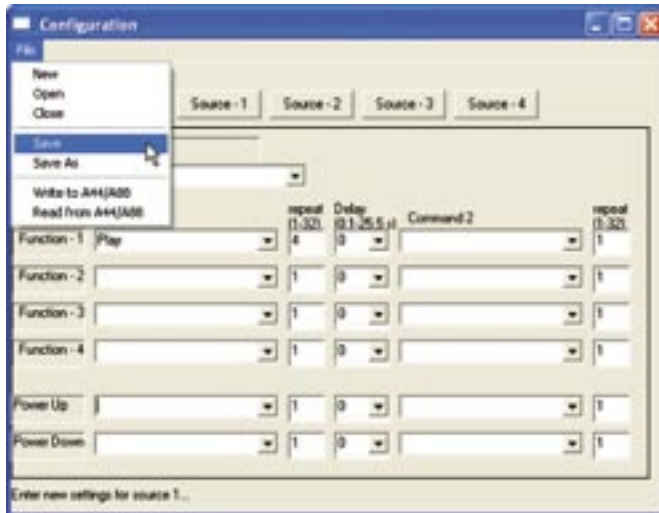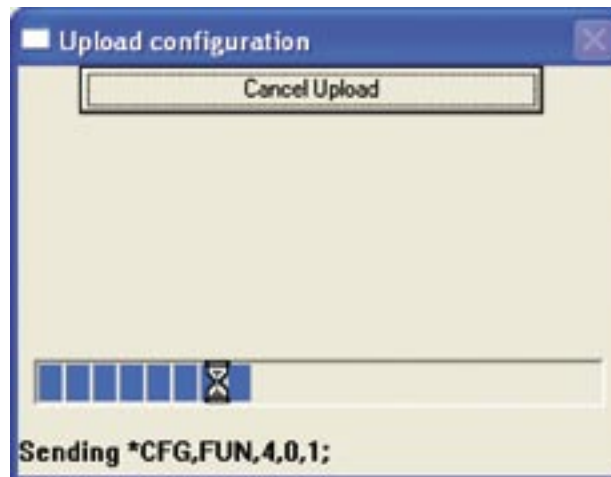
❶ select source
❷ select device from your database
❸ select the function of the selected device
❹ command executed when switching system on
❺ command executed when switching system off
❻ number of times the transmitted code is repeated
    (preferably 4 x)
❼ delay between 2 commands
❽ optionally, a second command can be entered

3. Select **File, Save** to save the configuration.

4. Select **File, Write to A44/A88** to load the configuration into the audio distribution system.

Make sure that each music source (max. 4) is provided with an IR transmitter or serial connection cable.
The audio distribution system can now control music sources.

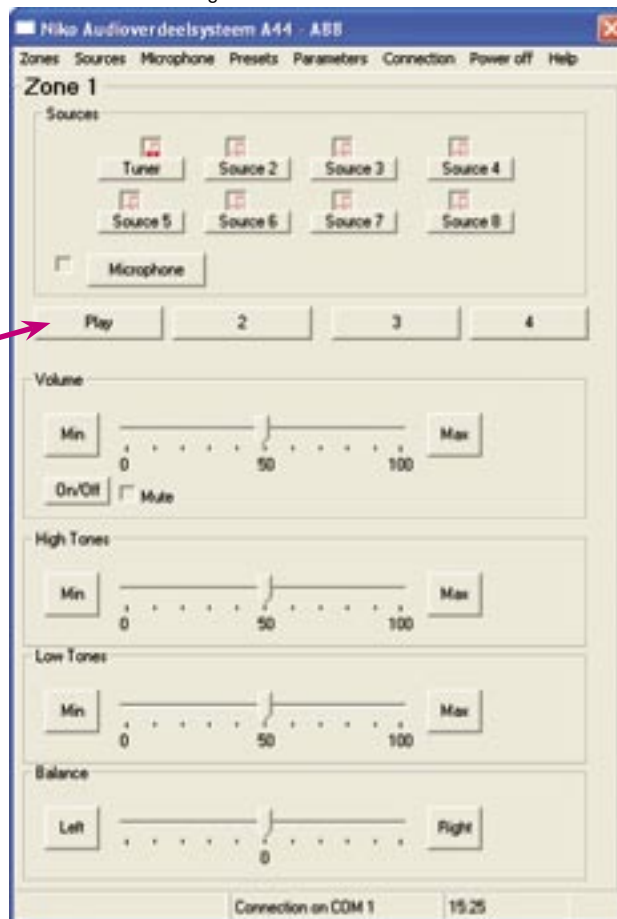5. Click on the function keys of the selected source to test the configuration.

Functions 1 to 4 as indicated in the configuration screen can be found in the screen for audio settings per zone

You can now use these to control the functions via the software.

5.3. Settings in 'advanced mode'
In advanced mode, the following additional settings can be made.

5.3.1. Sources
Prégain: to change the pre-gain per input. The default setting is 0dB.
Warning: if too high a value is specified for pre-gain, this will lead to distortion and overloading of the audio signal. This could damage the connected amplifier or loudspeaker.
Toggle: to select the next music source, this is also possible via function key F12

5.3.2. Microphone
Prégain: to change the pre-gain per input. The default setting is 0dB. This setting should only be changed if the microphone signal is too weak. if too high a value is specified for pre-gain, this will lead to distortion, overloading or wow/flutter.
Default volume: to adjust the microphone volume per zone. If the microphone is selected as source, the default volume is applied.

5.3.3. Parameters
Extended parameters:
Binary Port settings
The Niko audio distribution system can be controlled via contacts connected to the binary port of the A44/A88 audio distribution system.
In most cases, the default parameters can be used. For optimum use of the binary port, you can change a number of parameters. We will be glad to help you with a detailed description of the use of binary ports which can be obtained upon request from our Sales Support department.

Auto Power Off
This parameter determines when the device must switch to standby mode. In combination with amplifiers, which also have an auto mute function, Auto Power Off is set to a value that is less than the auto mute function of the amplifier. In this way, you avoid reverberation of the speaker (dull sound).

IR receiver system address
This parameter is used to change the system address of the built-in IR receiver. This is necessary if several audio distribution systems are used within one installation and have to be controlled independently of each other with IR codes.

Com 2 & 3 (RS485) Fixed control port
If you want to use COM 2 (via RS485 converter) or COM 3 (RS232 port) to connect the Audiolink or another serial controller, this port must be set as 'fixed control port'. You can do this by pressing the Set button and checking the corresponding box. The port can then no longer be used to control a music source.
The COM 2 or COM 3 settings are only changed if these COM ports are used to control an audio source via serial commands. The parameters (baudrate, data bits…) of the COM port are then changed in the configuration menu.