



How the V-Pro Micro In-Line Dimmer Works (Plain-English Overview)



What it is:

The Varilight V-Pro Micro Inline Dimmer Pack (MDJ160) is a tiny in-line dimmer (smaller than a matchbox) that hides behind a light switch or ceiling rose. Instead of having a visible dimmer knob on the wall, it's controlled by retractive (momentary) switches – the type that spring back after they're pressed.

Basic Function

- This product dims your LED lights using push-to-dim control.
- Push the switch once to turn the lights on or off.
- Hold the switch to gradually dim the lights up or down.
- The dimmer remembers your last brightness level, so when you turn the lights back on, they return to that setting.
- You don't need any apps, remotes, or extra devices – just the micro dimmer pack and compatible switches.

Installation and Wiring

The MDJ160 is wired in-line with your lighting circuit.

- The terminal connects to the live input from the mains.
- The two wires connect to your retractive switch.
- When you press the switch, it sends a signal to the dimmer to change brightness or turn on/off. It does not require a neutral wire at the switch – perfect for most UK homes.

Because it's small and lightweight, it can fit inside most back boxes or ceiling fittings.

Setup and Operation

This dimmer is ready to use straight out of the box. It supports up to 160W of dimmable LED lighting – more than enough for most setups.

It uses trailing-edge dimming, which means it works quietly and smoothly with modern LED bulbs, avoiding flicker or buzzing.

Just replace your standard switch with a retractive switch. From then on:

- Push and release the switch to turn on or off.
- Hold the switch to dim lights up or down (it switches direction each time you release and press again).

Multi-Way Dimming

You can control the same lights from multiple locations using extra retractive switches – ideal for hallways or large rooms.

- Only one micro dimmer pack is needed per lighting circuit, no matter how many switches you want to use.

All the switches connect to the same control wire and share the same live feed. That way, any switch can dim or turn the lights on/off – not just one “master” dimmer or switch.

This is different from traditional 2-way switching, where only one dimmer can control brightness. With the V-Pro Micro In-Line Dimmer Pack, every switch is a dimmer.

Expected Functionality

To the end user, it feels just like having smart dimmer switches at the wall:

- Lights come on at the level you left them.
- Dimming is smooth and silent.
- You can adjust brightness from any switch location.

It's designed specifically for LED lights, even low-wattage ones, and prevents flickering thanks to Varilight's V-Pro technology. It also features a soft start (to protect your bulbs) and built-in overload protection.

Extra Features (Optional)

Electricians or advanced users can customise settings via the switch:

- Change dimming modes for tricky bulbs
- Adjust the minimum or maximum brightness levels
- Enable child-lock to prevent accidental reprogramming
- Turn on boost mode for LEDs that struggle to start at low brightness

These adjustments are done by pressing the switch in certain sequences which can be found on the instruction leaflet. But for most users, no setup is needed – it works out of the box with standard dimmable LEDs.

Need Separate Up and Down Dimming?

For setups where you want separate up and down dimming control on the same faceplate, we offer a different version of the V-Pro Micro, called the MDJ160K.

Just like the push control version, the dual push control version supports multi-way control with multiple retractive switches but for this version you'll need to use “centre-off” (sometimes called “2-way”) retractive switches. This type of switch has the option to press up or down. When you stop pressing, the switch returns to the centre position. By using this type of switch with a V-Pro Micro MDJ160K, you can dim the lights up by pressing in one direction and dim the lights down by pressing in the other direction. A short press in either direction will turn the lights on and off.

It's discreet, silent, and easy to hide behind a switch plate or in a ceiling fitting.

If you don't need separate up/down buttons, the standard version, MDJ160, will work perfectly. But if you do want the separate up/down control then the MDJ160K has you covered.

In Short:

The V-Pro Micro gives you full dimming control from any switch point, without bulky knobs or complicated wiring.