

# PRODUCT NEWS

## Multi-mini-luminaire complexity

The Pattern 123 is dead – long live the Model 803, and Model 833. And Microspot, Minuette 6" Theatre Fresnel, S.F.R. J.F.R. and Spotpak. If there's anyone we've left out, we'd be glad to hear from you in time for our next issue. The point is that the choice of Bread and Butter 500 watt Soft-Edge spotlights has never been so wide and diverse. We hope to correlate performances in a later issue, meanwhile we will establish the pedigrees of the runners in the soft beam stakes for fill-lights costing less than £50.

In the beginning, there was the Pattern 45 and Pattern 123 from Strand Electric, the SFR from Furse and the SE5 from Major. All these took a T1 lamp, all (except the Pattern 45) had a reflector; light output and beam angles for the other three being fairly similar at around 12°–40°. If memory serves, the first attempt at utilising the new generation of T/H. small-envelope lamps was by Lancelyn Lighting of Oxford; using the small A1/2479 and A1/244 lamps. Later the 2000 hour M class lamps were used in what could truly in 1976 be called the Microspot range. This type is still one of the cheapest on the market and has several solid virtues particularly its range of beam angles, 10°–80°, its cable lampholder arrangements and its positive tilt lock. It is available with Fresnel and plano-convex lenses and with lampholders for Par 38, Par 36 (650W. 120V) and internally silvered reflector spots. There are frames for hanging quantities from one stand, and a 12ft. stand will soon be available. About 5,000 of these luminaires have been sold over the last 3 years, a fair number for a small firm.

The next company to market a compact Fresnel spotlight was C.C.T. with their Minuette, which was featured in these pages in the previous issue. Suffice it to say that C.C.T. persuaded Thorn to produce the T18 Lamp, which has the robust qualities needed for theatre and since production of the T18 has been stabilised, the lanterns using it have become very worthwhile units.

Side by side with this micro-world, the battle of the giants has been taking place, with the P28 Lamp Cap dictating a longer lamp house and lens. Rank Strand have two new 6" Fresnels. The Model 833 (suggested lamp T1, 500 watts) and the Model 803 (suggested lamp T/13 650 watts). These two are sold at widely different prices, the 833 competing with Microspot and Minuette at below £30 and the 803 in the senior league at over £40. The polarisation of these lamps into the two price groups is curious, particularly as the 833 and the 803 are virtually the same lantern, the only

apparent differences being that to accommodate the recommended lamp, the 833 has no reflectors, and for economy it has no rear handle. It must also have a restricted lamp carriage (again because of the T1?) as its beam angle variation is much smaller than you would expect of the poor relation to the 803. Incidentally, the Rank Strand range is now excellently documented in a multi-colour handout which unfolds to show mostly in diagram form, all the photometric and other data you would need on all their range of spots, floods, projectors, lighting boards and sundries. The Lux/Throw/spread graphs are complex at first, but enable comparisons with other lamps in their range (and other makes) to be made easily. Perhaps other firms will now consider such clear illustration of their wares.

The other firm to enter the 500 watt market with a conventionally sized product is Berkey-Colortran of Thetford. The difference between their 6" Fresnel and Rank Strands 803 is that the Berkey is rated to 1 kw and carries the option of a P28 or a GX 9.5 Lampholder. The makers claim that

the Borosilicate lens is extremely efficient and photometric data provided appears to support this, especially in the Spot focus. the colour runners, whilst not so light-leak proof as the C.C.T. Starlette 1kw, allow the same barndoors to be used on both lamps. Perhaps this is a coincidence, but it would be nice to think that standardisation had been considered. If and when Berkey bring out a maximum 500 watt Fresnel it will be interesting to see how close or different their product is from the Microspot and Minuette.

And now for something slightly different – I suppose the Furse Spotpak could be called a mini-convertible. *Two into one will go* says the publicity – a *Profile and Fresnel in one lamp* and *The total flexibility of this spotlight enables obscure and original lighting effects to be produced*. Granted, this lantern is built specifically for the schools market and some of our lighting education was pretty 'obscure', but some quite strong claims are made for this lantern. Price-wise Furse has placed their new baby in the upper price bracket which, with the two lenses and three beam masking plates provided, is to be expected. The reflector is adjustable in relationship to the lamp and the lens so that peaking the beam can be achieved. So far so good. Close examination reveals the effects of compromise. In the Fresnel mode, the beam variation is 9°–27°, which is not a lot compared with the opposition. Swap the lens over and a hard-edged 17° is achieved,

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