

a VDU and all the basic memory facilities. TPL mainly have it for rent at a terrifying £400 a week. Tell that to the Arts Council. Still there are always the trade shows, I suppose.

ADB MASTERLIGHT SYSTEM
(touring version) represented by
CONTEL Ltd.

ADB controls are well liked on the continent and their designs in controls tend to favour the continental form of lighting controls rather than ours. The complete touring version shown was quite large (or long) compared with the mini-systems that we see from other manufacturers. However you can buy just the main control desk and repertory disc unit. I like the facility of being able to take cues straight off the 'floppy disc' in the event of an emergency. It also has a considerable 'BOOST' facility when a state has been recorded. You can if you wish adjust any level, whether individual or grouped, by up to 40%. It is worth mentioning that ADB are known abroad for their reliability.

BPS represented by CONTEL

Very bright ideas coming from this firm. They have designed and produced a 120 way memory unit that will add on to any make of manual control. It has most of the basic functions that all memory boards have with the added bonus of being able to keep the manual control installed and fully

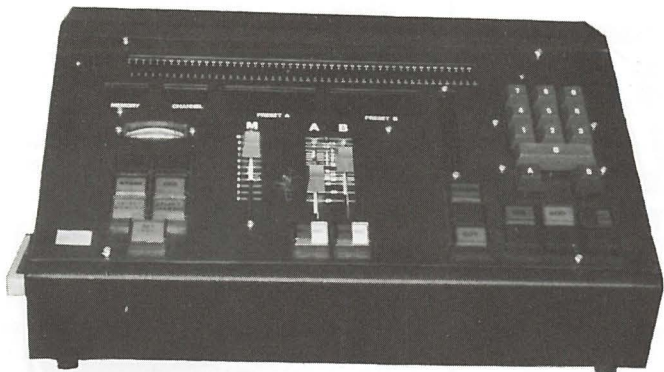


this can and is being updated all the time it should theoretically never become obsolete. This particular suitcase model handles 96 channels and up to 250 cues. There is a disc unit and copy printer as add on items. It does everything the bigger boards do with numerous extras, like automatic cueing which lets you run a sequence of cues, complete with crossfade times. Chain cueing or 'chasing' as we know it. They have what I think is the first pin-matrix system which in

So we all had to put up with the Duet – which is a nice board, but there cannot be many serious technicians who haven't looked into DUET a long time ago. So I'm going to digress from the exhibition a little and talk about the control that I think marks the next major step ahead in lighting control.

Light Palette has, amongst other basic facilities, 6 faders for the six possible parts of any cue. Any fade can be programmed to be manual or if timed can be taken over manually without matching. This control has screens which display the running cue sheet up to ten lines at a time. All data for each cue part is displayed such as fade time or manual, split fade, delays and fade profiles. A useful feature is a Rate Wheel that allows proportional modification of all recorded fades and can also take control of running fades so that they are completed manually. Welcome too, is an electronic patch between dimmers and control channels. This can be changed and recorded as required. Light Palette can bring the memory control back to the lighting operator who feels that he can help the show by his sensitive control of the movement of light. This board is technology helping the craftsman. The best thing to happen in memory control since Q-File and MMS. A very, very important board for technicians and operators – and most appropriate for Memoria 80 one would have thought. But we had to put up with a rather patronising speech from a senior rep about a board that most of us know inside out. Ah well! I wonder how many AVAB's and Channel tracks there will be installed instead of Light Palettes with that sort of sales pitch.

Vic Oliver, Technical Manager of the newly renovated Empire Theatre, Liverpool, is very pleased with their Light Palette now that it has settled down. They find that after getting to know it, it is fairly easy to work. They feel that they have had excellent service from Rank Strand! And the back-up module, which is almost a complete control in itself, has been extremely useful in the couple of teething problems that they have had with the main control.



operational. The best of both worlds, perhaps. I rang Richard Evans of the Festival Theatre in Malvern where there is one of the two models installed. He says that it is very good for them as they have many one night stands. They find that the full flexibility of the manual side is enhanced by the use of the memory side for fast sections of cues in all types of shows.

AVAB of Sweden gets the Adrian Dightam PANDORA's BOX award

I think we were all impressed by the incredible things that this tiny suitcase control could do. Coupled with the fact that it can also be controlled in every function from a hand-held infra-red remote. It is completely software based – so its facilities reside solely in the computer program. As

the event of an emergency could give you the chance of creating something on-stage which resembles what is in the memories. They have colour-coded diode pins which give you nine different preset lighting levels. At last a real pin-matrix back-up. Its frightening in a way. The AVAB 2001 is a very intelligent board. If it ever went wrong during a show it might need a New York analyst to get through to it rather than the local engineer. See it!

STRAND ELECTRIC and DUET

'Excuse me.'
'Yes.'
'Could you tell me why you didn't bring the Light Palette along?'
'Well we did not feel that this exhibition represented the correct sales market.'