

PRODUCT NEWS

I'm told that the word TEMPUS is Latin for time. It is the name that RANK STRAND have chosen for their new portable lighting control, which is replacing the MINI 2 system. I must admit I find TEMPUS a very evocative title, and as I travelled to Brentford to see it I mused as to whether this was going to be the beginning of a new line in names for lighting equipment. Perhaps we are going to get away from such boring descriptions as T-SPOT and PATT 243 etc., and go towards more emotive names. I can imagine coming into a theatre on a Monday morning fit-up in a couple of years time and saying: 'Right Fred, nip down to the TEMPUS and push up circuits.' 'George - you go up the Tallescope and focus the SANTA

MARIA's.' 'Bill - get four pieces of 861 and put them in the SCHEHERAZADES', and so on!

Anyway whatever the name, STRAND are onto a winner here. TEMPUS is the best thing to come out of their design office for quite a while.

You can get a 2-preset TEMPUS control desk in 12, 18, 24, 30 or 36 way units. Each desk has a single, split crossfader for dipless and profiled, proportional cross-fades between the intensity levels set on the two presets of channel faders. Presets can be pile added too, with the highest level taking precedence. In addition there is to the side of the two masters a rotary control knob which allows crossfades to be automatically timed

between 5 seconds and 5 minutes. So to put it a little simpler let me set up a little scene as if we were doing a cue and you will see for yourself the possibilities:

You have on preset one the state that is visible in stage. You have preset on two the next lighting state. It comprises some new circuits coming in, some going out and some common to what is on preset one and on stage at the moment. The cue is to be moved in twenty seconds. Now on the 'GO' you can do it one of two ways. You can preset the timer to zero and move the masters by hand together, lagging one or the other to taste. Or you can preset the timer to 20 seconds and on the 'GO' move the two masters FAST together to the new preset. This automatically activates the timer circuitry and the desk will do the crossfade itself, turning off an LED above the new preset when it has finished. The control also has a SNAP black-out switch alongside both presets. So whether you choose to do a cue automatically on the timer or by hand, you only have to concentrate on moving the masters to bring in or take out circuits nicely - rather than working at the crossfade to avoid a dip. Very nice!

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