

Master and Group Blackout is also fitted.

Systems are built up using a number of 12 channel modules and one master module per desk. Up to sixty channels can be accommodated on a single unit desk. For systems in excess of this, wing unit extensions are available.

A desk worth looking at

Last but I suspect by no means least among lighting controls my eye was caught by Datalite from Dynamic Technology Limited. This subsidiary of London Weekend Television is not new to controls but up to now has naturally enough concentrated on the television market. Datalite however is definitely for theatre and has a desk that looks a pleasure to work. DTL believe they have a competitor for Rank Strand's Galaxy.

Thorn dimmers still in production

The Thorn L.A.O. type dimmers and cubicles and the F.D. range of dimmers live on. D.E.W. Electrical Engineering Ltd., have taken over the production of this successful range of plug in dimmer modules. Power rating are 2.5kW, 5kW and 10kW. They incorporate a 3 phase bus bar system and easy load/phase balancing.

Service responsibilities for existing installations will continue to be undertaken by Thorn but any new installations will be looked after by D.E.W. Electrical Engineering Ltd., at Maybank House, Unit C, Maybank Road, London E18.

Designer Products

Rosco had no less than 20 new designer products at the ABTT—gauzes, scrims, fabrics, filters, props, dyes and blood.

Iddings Deep Colours need no introduction but now that they are part of the Rosco Group the choice of paint systems from this stable is pretty comprehensive. Iddings Deep Colours are reckoned to be light fast as well as water and mildew resistant. They are non-bleeding, recoatable and are apparently uniformly light reflective. As well as the 24 colours there are 2 clear acrylics.

Rosco also have a new fog machine and fluid. Because the fluid is not petrol based the system is much safer, cleaner and altogether pleasanter than the traditional products.

There are additions to the Glame and Slitdrape range, a new range of Haussmann stage products and various other new designer and effects products all of which were being promoted with tremendous energy and good humour by Rosco's Michael Hall, although he did hire a professional dancer, I am glad to say, to demonstrate the Roscofloor. This is a new product for Europe which has been very successful in America especially for dance tours.

Gobos and Effects

Berkey are aiming to give Rosco a little competition (and Lee and Cinemoid as well for that matter) with their Gelatran colour

filters. There is a good range in sheets and rolls and the price is more competitive than it was. Berkey claim the colours are resistant to heat fading. They also have a range of Gobos and Designers Patterns.

Talking of Gobos reminds me of David Hersey Associates which has now been split into two separate units but still at the same address. DHA Lighting is run by David Hersey and concentrates on Gobos and holders. Centre Stage is run by Malcolm Davis for effects, hardware and the hire side of the original business.

No mention of effects could omit Theatre Sound and Light and Eddie Biddle, probably the best known effects man of them all and this year's winner of the ABTT Technician of the Year award.

Sound Progress

Libra (Who are now owned by Audix) have an improved version of their sound mixing desk which won the "Best Product of the Year Award" at the ABTT in 1978. The new version has 60 input channels, improved output mixing and extra equalisation. Libra with Graham Walne are developing theatre sound products independently though obviously with the backing of Audix.

Optical Fibres

Theatre Projects is of course a focal point for all manufacturers and they had some intriguing new products on display. One of these was a programmable fast magazine colour changer which allows ten colour changes from one magazine. It is made by Plumblin Design.

Theatre Projects are also responsible for the entertainment applications of optical fibres manufactured by Eurotech Optical Films. In case, like me, you don't know what optical fibres are you have probably seen them at work as warning lights on car instrument panels. They consist of cables made of optically efficient glass fibre which are capable of transmitting light *without power* over quite long distances with minimal loss of illumination. The beauty of using them is that they are virtually indestructible (Brian Benn at T.P. says you can tie knots in them) and of course need no wiring. You simply provide a light source at one end and distribute the other ends wherever required on stage, say on a backcloth. This was done to great effect in the American show "Swing" even if the production was not a success otherwise.

Make-up for AJS

AJS of Bournemouth best known as distributors of lighting equipment, have branched out into make-up as U.K. distributors for BEN NYE one of the best make-up houses in the United States.

Ironmongery

Peter Mumford has designed a carousel cradle which may sound boring but is one of those simple devices which make life easier. It allows 45° movement vertically in either direction and should be a real boon for theatre and club projections just as

much as multi-screen audio visual work. It is a thoroughly robust piece of ironmongery which can be mounted on booms, hung or used free standing. A deserving winner of the ABTT Product of the Year Award Peter Mumford trades as THE LIGHT WORKS AT 58-60 Salisbury Road, Cardiff CF4 2BX and should not be confused with another talented designer in a different field, Charlie Paton whose company LIGHT WORKS LTD., is at 2A Greenwood Road, London E8. Charlie Paton's remote control developments continue and he had an extremely impressive display at the ABTT show using his new control which interfaces with a memory.

Another piece of ironmongery from Lancelyn Lighting of Oxford fill a gap left by the sad demise of Hallstage. Stage weights are not exactly an everyday purchase but when you want them Lancelyn have a sensible new design and a very sensible price of £12.50.

The Big Scene

NECO (Colour Enlargements) Ltd are promoting their new SUPERSCAN process for making backdrops for shows, exhibitions and for general interior design.

SUPERSCAN will reproduce any image—artwork, photograph transparency—to any size onto virtually any material.

Prints by SUPERSCAN have been used by television companies, theatres, ballet and opera companies, discotheques, in fact by designers in all branches of the entertainment industry.

A SUPERSCAN print is extremely durable, is UV fade resistant, fireproof, ironable and will not peel or crack.

The process was originally invented in the United States and is basically a computer-controlled ink-jet printing method. Since NECO (Colour Enlargements) Ltd acquired this technology they have been developing new and better inks and committing a considerable amount of money to Research. A new and even better SUPERSCAN machine is coming into operation within the next six months.

The cost of a SUPERSCAN print is surprisingly low—less than conventional photo blow-ups and with none of their restrictions.

Further information is available from Charmian Watford, Sales Director, NECO (Colour Enlargements) Ltd., Suite 24 Craven Lodge, 15-17 Craven Hill, London W2 3ER. Telephone 01-402-6418, Telex 298857.

The Suffolk Scene

As well as bespoke scenery for new shows Suffolk Scenery will provide a whole range of stock sets for rental by touring companies. Just a telephone call to Martin Dye on 0493 679 and before you can say 'curtain up' he will see you on the road with the right set for any show in your repertoire.

There's a Small Hotel, Aint Harf Hot Mum, Doctor in the House are just a few of the shows in the Suffolk Scenery's own repertoire.