

STRAND REMOTE CONTROL

Valve Racks.—In addition to accommodating the valves, these carry all necessary lighting circuit fuses, the only further protection of the entire bank required being the usual isolating switch and fuse, which should be situated nearby.

Valves.—The maximum "dimmer loss" with valves is 80 watts per 2 kw. circuit against 600 w. when the same load is dimmed through resistances. For the present, the maximum load per lighting circuit is restricted to 2 kws. This is not to say however that the maximum load controlled by one circuit of the control panel need be so limited, since a multiplicity of valves may be connected together on the control side so as to be operated from a single switch or dimmer. Thus a blue cyclorama flood bank of say 8 kws. could be operated from a single circuit control on the panel but would require the space equivalent to four circuits (each of 2 kws.) on the valve bank. As soon as valves of larger capacity have passed satisfactory tests they will be made available, and the valve racks have been designed and constructed to accommodate them at any time. It has however been found in practice that theatrically it is often extremely useful to break down the larger loads such as flood banks, footlights and battens into sections, e.g., right, centre and left, to allow gradation of light across the stage. It is not felt therefore that this temporary limitation is of a serious nature.

Tests which we have conducted to date—independently of the manufacturers—show that a valve life equivalent to three years working may be expected as a **minimum**, and it is confidently anticipated that completion of these tests will raise this figure very considerably. In our own experience the only valve failures to occur have taken place within the first month of use. This point has been completely covered by the manufacturer's guarantee. Owing to the impracticability of assessing or recording the actual number of hours of use of any valve, the manufacturers have agreed to guarantee the valves during the year following their **installation** as follows. Any failures during the first month are replaced free of charge. Any failures during the second month are replaced on payment of 1/11th of the value, during the third month by payment of 2/11ths and so on. Thus during the guarantee period the user is only required to pay for the period of actual installation less the first month, which is in any event a period of free replacement.

It should always be appreciated that the failure of a valve does not mean the extinction of the circuit concerned, but only a voltage reduction of $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. The circuit will continue to be fed from the other two phases and may still be switched and dimmed.

Siting and Wiring.—In order to reduce the lighting circuit wiring to a minimum the valve bank should be situated near (but not necessarily on) the stage. No special ventilation is required but cold draughts should be avoided. All internal wiring is carried out to terminal blocks numbered to correspond with those in the control panel.

Dimensions.—The necessary number of valve racks and main sections can be arranged to suit local conditions, e.g., in line, at an angle or parallel. Each valve rack and each main section measures 3 feet long by 2 feet deep by 5 feet 11 inches high. Not less than 2 feet must be allowed at back and front and at one end for access.

Thus, assuming they were all placed in line, the lengths shown in the table would be required, the depth and the height remaining constant.

No. of 2 kw. Ways	No. of Sections Rack	Main	Total Length of Bank
Up to 24	1	1	6 feet
25 to 48	2	1	9 feet
49 to 72	3	2	15 feet
73 to 96	4	2	18 feet
97 to 120	5	3	24 feet
121 to 144	6	3	27 feet

Access must be added to the above lengths.

The small dimensions of each part (3 feet by 2 feet by 5 feet 11 inches) should ensure easy installation in the most awkward location.

Further details and demonstrations on application.

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