

# AVOLITES

## STATE OF THE ART

Avolites, always at the cutting edge of technology, introduce the "Active Rise Time" ART dimmer.

Avolites dimming has a world-wide reputation for excellence, so it's no surprise that the new ART dimmer is set to continue the tradition well into the next century. As with all Avolites innovations, revolutionary techniques combine with common sense and practicality to produce an unrivalled product.

The chokeless ART dimmer is completely silent. The new technology and design combine to give highly accurate definition of rise time in excess of 450 micro-seconds.

Two DMX inputs offer separate start

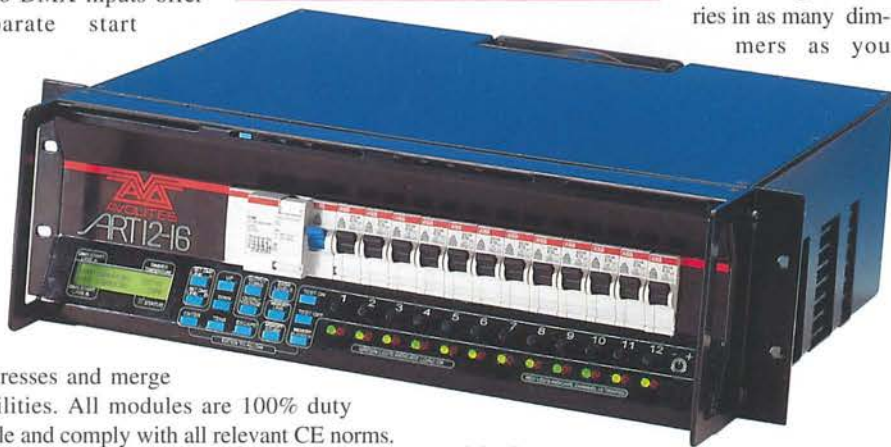
each module, two-pole MCB circuit breakers and temperature controlled, quiet fans.

The ART dimmer constantly monitors the mains frequency on every cycle for all three phases. This can avoid problems from dodgy mains or generator supplies.

### THE ART DIMMER

- ⚡ SILENT 450 MICRO-SECOND RISE TIME
- ⚡ 2 DMX INPUTS WITH SEPARATE ADDRESSES AND MERGE
- ⚡ ANALOGUE INPUTS
- ⚡ 100% DUTY CYCLE
- ⚡ RGB PROTECTION
- ⚡ TWO-POLE CIRCUIT BREAKERS
- ⚡ 28 AND 110 VOLT OUTPUTS

Additional features include: The 'Status System', which is available on rack and installation systems to allow a more in-depth interrogation of dimmer status, temperature, current, etc, and 'Memory Link', a clever system that allows you to use one module as a memory master for controlling memories in as many dimmers as you



addresses and merge facilities. All modules are 100% duty cycle and comply with all relevant CE norms.

The ART dimmer also enables control over a whole range of loads such as star cloths, pigmy bulbs, motors, 110 volt and 28 volt lamps, without resorting to dummy loads.

On the front panel, channel level controls are used to set channel levels, to test a channel or to playback one of the backup memories. Dedicated switches mean no clumsy sub menus, whilst allowing easy access to DMX addressing, response curves and 'show levels'.

Safety is high priority with RCB protection on

wish. In some cases, the latter may remove the need for a control desk.

The ART dimmer is streamlined, aesthetically attractive and, naturally, laid out in a comprehensible and straightforward manner.

The remarkable ART dimmer is ideal for both touring and installed situations. Constructed with over 14 years experience and knowledge of Avolites dimming, it is built to last as long as its predecessors.



## THE AVOLITES 4D TRACK

- ⌚ ENABLES YOU TO MOVE ANY NUMBER OF LIGHTS AS ONE
- ⌚ MEMORIES CAN BE QUICKLY ADJUSTED 'LIVE' WHEN PERFORMERS MOVE OFF THEIR TARGET POSITION
- ⌚ PRECISE COLOUR MIXING CAN BE ACHIEVED IN SECONDS
- ⌚ MAKES COLOUR MIXING OF INTELLIGENT FIXTURES AT LEAST 30 TIMES FASTER
- ⌚ LIGHTS CAN BE USED TO 'FOLLOW-SPOT' FROM THE CONSOLE

## TIME - THE FOURTH DIMENSION

If you have experienced the common constraint of not enough pre-production time, then the Avolites 4D Track is set to revolutionise the programming of moving lights!

The 4D Track reduces the fourth dimension - time - in the realisation process of a show. 4D Track provides a unique and unrivalled interface for controlling moving lights, creating an interactive stage plan and enabling the lighting designer to map out the stage and focus positions as desired, saving time in the process.

The XY tracking allows you to move as many lights as you wish as one - representing time savings when it comes to preset focuses.

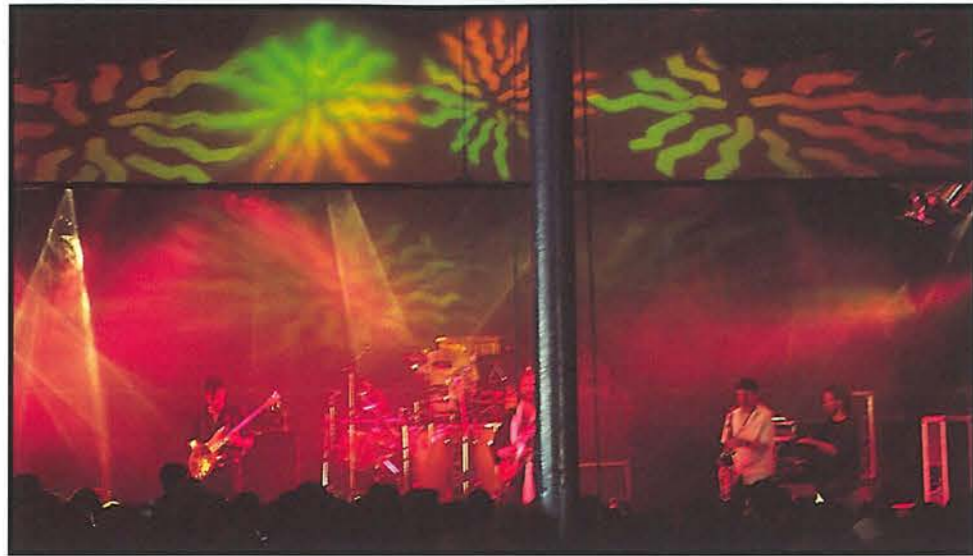
More importantly, the 4D Track allows you to 'follow-spot' performers, and has already been used successfully to track ice skaters - who are probably the fastest moving performers!

With the 4D track, when a performer moves off the target position, you can use the instrument in 'nudge' mode to move the beams and pull the moving light memory back in to focus on the artist.

Virtually all moving lights offer colour mixing - it is powerful but extremely difficult to manipulate manually. The 4D tablet allows the user to build up a complete palette of colours in minutes without having to touch a wheel.

All the lighting designers who have worked with the Avolites 4D Track claim that it's at least 30 times faster than using previously existing technology.





The Fleadh Festival in Finsbury Park: LD Phil Freeman's set for John Martyr.

# AVOLITES ON THE ROAD

Nineteen ninety five has been an active year for Avolites products on the road. The summer festival season in particular has been frenetic, with many of the major festivals having utilized Avolites desks.

These include Glastonbury (see separate feature), while at the Fleadh in Finsbury Park, the *Time Out* stage was run from a *Sapphire* operated by Ewan McRobb dealing with a whole variety of acts. He was controlling VL 5's, VL 6's, Trackspots, Megastar strobes and a large conventional rig supplied by The Art of Darkness.

The Phoenix featured a *Diamond I/Diamond II* combination on the main stage. The generic rig was up to half a megawatt (over 400 lamps) and the moving lights included 16 Cyberlights. Other instruments controlled by the desks included Color Rams, 5K Color Rams and Deathstar strobes. Yet another *Diamond II* ran the Main Stage at Reading with a *Sapphire* in the Melody Maker tent.

In Europe, *Diamonds*, *Sapphires* and Avolites dimmers illuminated the Roskilde festival in Denmark, while a newly acquired *Diamond II* was put through its paces at the In The Green Festival at Frauenfeld, Switzerland by rental

company Stagelight. The latter saw the *Diamond* controlling Cyberlights, Vari\*Lite 5's, par cans and a variety of other generic luminaires.

On the touring front, the power and flexibility of Avo has been chosen by some of the most prestigious lighting designers for the highest profile

## TAKE THAT; THE DIAMOND II & SAPPHIRE CONTROLLED:

- ⚡ APPROX. 1000 PARS (OVER A MEGAWATT)
- ⚡ 40 X 4 LITES
- ⚡ 40 X 4 LITE SCROLLERS
- ⚡ 20 RAINBOW PAR SCROLLERS
- ⚡ 8 X AVOLITES 7.2 WAY DIMMER RACKS

bands of the moment. These include REM (LD Willie Williams, operator Bruce Ramus), Blur (LD Dave Byars), Take That (LD Simon Tutchener), Terence Trent D'Arby (LD Ian MacEwan), Boyzone (LD Peter Barnes) ..... and the *Pearl* made it's UK

touring debut with the darling of indie avant garde, Bjork, (LD Paul Normandale). The names and the occasions speak for themselves!

## AVOLITES CLUB INSTALLATIONS

- ⚡ THE SHEPHERDS BUSH EMPIRE, LONDON
- ⚡ THE FORUM, LONDON
- ⚡ THE ASTORIA, LONDON
- ⚡ THE JUNCTION, CAMBRIDGE
- ⚡ GINO'S, STOCKHOLM
- ⚡ THE MEAN FIDDLER, DUBLIN
- ⚡ THE ROMILEY FORUM, MANGHESTER
- ⚡ THE MILKWEG, AMSTERDAM
- ⚡ RED FACTORY, ZURICH
- ⚡ THE SZENE, VIENNA
- ⚡ PALLADIO, HELDEN - NETHERLANDS
- ⚡ EMPIRE PLAZA, WESEL - GERMANY

# GLASTONBURY '95

Glorious weather marked the 25th anniversary of the world famous Glastonbury Festival of Contemporary Performing Arts 1995. Smiles, sunshine, positive energy and stimulating acts encompassing the whole performance spectrum abounded for the three day event. It also saw Avolites consoles playing their own indisputably vital role!

Avolites gems dominated the main stages of the festival. *Diamonds* shone brightly on the Main stage, where a *Diamond II* looked after the moving lights (Scan Zooms and NAT's), while a *Diamond I* controlled the myriad of conventionals and colour changers. Equipment was supplied by Neg Earth Lights and The Spot Co.

The rig was designed by Phil Freeman and included one of his famous 'Freeman Shapes' curving elegantly round the Orbit roof, utilising every centimetre of space. Phil has long been an exponent of the *Diamond*, as has Carl Burnett who operated moving lights. Carl commented that as far as he was concerned, there was no other desk to use!

On the trendy NME stage, Dave Gibbon was running Golden Scan 3's and scrollers off a *Sapphire*. As with the Main Stage, they were accommodating a number of demanding visiting LD's every night, each with their own



Double Diamonds at the Glastonbury Main Stage.

extras and shows to programme. Thus Dave praises the *Sapphire* for being so quick and easy to programme, maintaining that it is the ideal desk for such occasions.

Many of those guest LD's are



already confirmed Avo fans, and bands to play the Main Stage included Simple Minds (LD Steve Pollard), The Cure (LD Roy Bennett), Pulp (LD Dave Byars), Orbital (LD Rock) and the hottest band of 1995 - Oasis (LD Mikey Howard). The NME Stage line up included the techno virtuosity of The Prodigy (LD Gary Howard), Gene (LD Pip Rhodes), The Shamen (LD Colin Jones) and Elastica (LD the ubiquitous Dave Byars). Other stages to be lit with Avolites desks included the Acoustic Tent.

Avolites' Steve Warren, Tony Shembish and Louise Stickland were on site for the duration, to aid in programming sessions and imbibe in the organic spirit of the festival!



Scott Presley performs at the Presley Theatre, Branson, Missouri. Lighting control by Avolites.

# AMERICAN GRAFFITI

News from Avolites America includes very keen interest in all products, particularly the *Diamond II* and the *Pearl*. The power and flexibility of the *Pearl* has amazed small venues, clubs, discos, fashion shows and theatres alike, ensuring that the console will continue to be a big seller over the next 12 months.

Touring wise, those using *Sapphires* include Jimmy Buffett (LD Sid Strong), Nine Inch Nails, Melissa Etheridge (LD Peter Morse) and Carly Simon (LD Bruce Spillman). On the *Diamond II* front, there has been Lynard Skynard (LD Mitch Keller/Bob Looney), REM (LD Willie Williams/operator Bruce Ramus), Queensryche (LD Howard Ungerleider) and *Diamond II's* have also been used on a large Channel 13 production and the Vinha Del Mar Music Festival both in Chile, The Will Rogers Theatre, Missouri, Foxwoods Casino and The Presley Theatre, Missouri.

Avolites have established the *Sapphire* and *Pearl* as mainstays of the American production industry over the last 12 months. These consoles are in an ideal position to fulfil needs without any artistic or financial compromises, while the larger *Diamond II* has also consolidated its position as stalwart of the power light show.

Avolites America have recently expanded and moved to new, larger premises where they are already having extra workshops constructed to cope with the increased demand for products over the forthcoming year.

# SIMPLE MINDS



Photos courtesy Pulsar Light of Cambridge

Lighting Designer Steve Pollard's stunning and dramatic visual array for the Simple Minds 1995 world tour was controlled from an Avolites *Diamond II* desk.

Steve also designed the set that contained several moving pieces. Much of the Jali-type set architecture and colours were inspired by Eastern influences, in particular the Jantar Mantar observatory in Jaipur, India, which was the source for much of the album photography. The idea was to give the set and visuals a textured and hazy feel - a departure from the giant stadium rock look of the late eighties.

Fixture wise, Steve used 32 Super Scan Zooms - the largest number yet to feature on one tour. Also on the rig were over 100 pars with colour changers, cyc lights, strobes and an assortment of 4 and 8-lites - all run from the *Diamond II*.

It's the first time he has used a *Diamond II*, commenting that whilst offering the latest technology, the console also retains the familiar functions and feel of a generic desk, "You don't have to delve into hyperspace to make it work, and is easy to get hands-on control of the instruments".

Steve likes the fact that you can run the whole show from one board, "It was a very ambitious move to structure my show in this way, but it feels great. It's a beautiful console and has a real 'quality' feel to it - it's obvious that much time and thought has gone in to it".

## TERENCE TRENT D'ARBY; THE SAPPHIRE CONTROLLED:

- ⚡ 6 X CYBERLIGHTS
- ⚡ 6 X INTELLABEAMS
- ⚡ 4 X TRACKSPOTS
- ⚡ 18 X COLORFADERS
- ⚡ 4 - LITE MOLES
- ⚡ 4 X COLOR CHANGERS
- ⚡ PAR 64'S and PAR 36'S



Tony Shembish

Avolites have always emphasised their commitment to customer service and quality. The friendly and informed sales team travel world-

# FACES OF THE FUTURE

wide throughout the year, meeting potential new customers as well as keeping in contact with already existing satisfied owners, and are constantly on hand to answer inquiries.

May Yam and Tony Shembish have an extensive practical working knowledge of all the products as well as excellent communications skills, and the progressive nature of the sales team will ensure that Avolites are always one jump ahead of everyone else.

The company has a diverse and energetic ambiance as well as being multi-lingual. Lan-



May Yam

guages spoken include French, German, Dutch, Cantonese, Mandarin, Arabic, Tamil, Swahili, Gujrati and Hindi.



## VARI\*LITE SERIES 300

With the very flexible Vari\*Lite VL5™ and VL6™ luminaires becoming ever more popular for a whole range of lighting applications, Avolites desks are becoming increasingly the 'console of choice' for control of these fixtures, once again demonstrating the ultimate flexibility of Avolites.

Paul Normandale's company Lite Alternative is a UK Vari\*Lite Series 300™ dealer that has recently purchased Rolacue *Pearl* and *Sapphire* consoles. Paul states, "Avo desks always work every day. Avolites listen to people and develop a range of desks based on the strengths of their previous products. They offer free software and a high level of support for companies who buy their products".

CYP/Beronic, that incorporates Vari\*Lite Spain have had a long and successful acquaintance with the whole range of Avolites consoles. They like many things about the consoles, including fast patch, instant access to any channel, luminaire, focus or group and the ability to differentiate between HTP and LTP channels whilst controlling dimmers.

Vari\*Lite Spain comment, "Thanks to these features and some others, Avolites consoles are ideal to programme and operate any moving luminaire system that runs DMX 512. Offering packages of Vari\*Lite Series 300 is very exciting, especially for designers who now have the possibility of running the complete show themselves."

Delux Theatre Lighting in Switzerland are also a Series 300 dealer. Urs Kistler from Delux maintains, "Avolites consoles are easy to programme, and are the best choice for shows with a mixture of different intelligent instruments. Features such as the intelligent patch, selective preset focus recall and channel copy also make Avo consoles really powerful. The colour table, instant fade and channel invert options make it easy to programme VL5's and VL6's."

Lighting Technology Austria, another established Vari\*Lite Series 300 dealer, have just ordered the first of their *Pearl* consoles.

As lighting rigs become increasingly diverse in terms of instruments, Avolites consoles lead the way by ensuring that fixture personalities can be easily created and modified by the user.



Peter Johansson with Fremlab's prized Pearl.

## PRL 001

Of the many successful products to emanate from Avolites, The Rolacue *Pearl*, launched at PLASA 94 takes some rivaling. The power of the *Pearl*, its streamlined size combined with the very affordable price tag have made sure that the *Pearl* production line has seen ceaseless activity over the past 12 months.

*Pearl* 001 was purchased by Carl Malmgren's Swedish lighting and sound rental company, Fremlab. Carl had visited PLASA 94 with the express purpose of seeking out a new console - one that would control everything but was reasonably priced. When his colleagues reported

back to him that Avolites had the answer, he presumed that it would be out of his price range! Closer investigation revealed this not to be true - when Carl had the full capabilities of the *Pearl* demonstrated to him, he knew he need look no further!

Since becoming the proud owner of an Avolites product, Carl has put the *Pearl* to good use. Recently it controlled lighting at the Baltic Festival in Karlshamn, Sweden. This was enjoyed by approx. 250,000 people over a 4 day period. Operated by Peter Johansson, it controlled Cyberlights, pars, profiles, 8-lites and fresnels.

Carl enthuses, "The *Pearl* is excellent - a very

nice piece of electronics and ideal for the type of work we do which is a lot of smaller and medium sized shows. Avolites have a very good name, know how to look after people and everyone wants to hire and operate Avo desks".

### STOP PRESS:

*The Pearl was also used to light the historic Stockholm Water Festival.*



One of the many bands at the Baltic Festival, Sweden.



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