

## NEW PRODUCT

# THE BIGGEST TV IN THE WORLD?

WELL, not actually the television set itself – it's the picture I am referring to.

Your Editor was recently bidden to the launch of the new Rank Hi-Beam Video Projection System. This new product leaped into the world at the Wembley Conference Centre no less. It's inauguration was marked by comedian Les Dawson striking a Rank Gong which, instead of giving forth a sonorous note, promptly fell to pieces! It turned out to be made of plaster – thank goodness. Just for a moment my confidence wavered.

The Hi-Beam itself? Well it will project a picture far larger than any projected television image I have previously seen. At the demonstration at Wembley a picture a good 20ft across was shown. The source can be ordinary transmissions of tape in any of the professional formats or laser disc.

In the Editorial opinion, the laser disc gave the best result optically, but unfortunately the demonstration was a showing of 'Grease' so readers will guess that I did not actually stay for any longer than it took me to satisfy myself that the

machine worked extremely well.

Where is this type of equipment used? Obviously conference halls, pubs and clubs, and company training areas. A particular area of use appears to be in holiday camps. I suppose equipment such as the Rank Hi-Beam is the modern equivalent of the 16mm film projector.

Semi-diligent enquiries lead me to believe that much of the material available on 16mm film is now available in video. For example, I know that a lot of the Rank training films are covered and I know that nearly all feature film productions seem to come out in every possible format from super 8, as used for in-flight movies to 70mm as used in the Odeon Leicester Square, plus all known video tape formats.

Before we had to endure the 50's gambolling of 'Grease' an absolutely fascinating short film showing drops of moisture running down the outside of a Gordon's gin bottle was shown – that particular production I recommend to all readers.

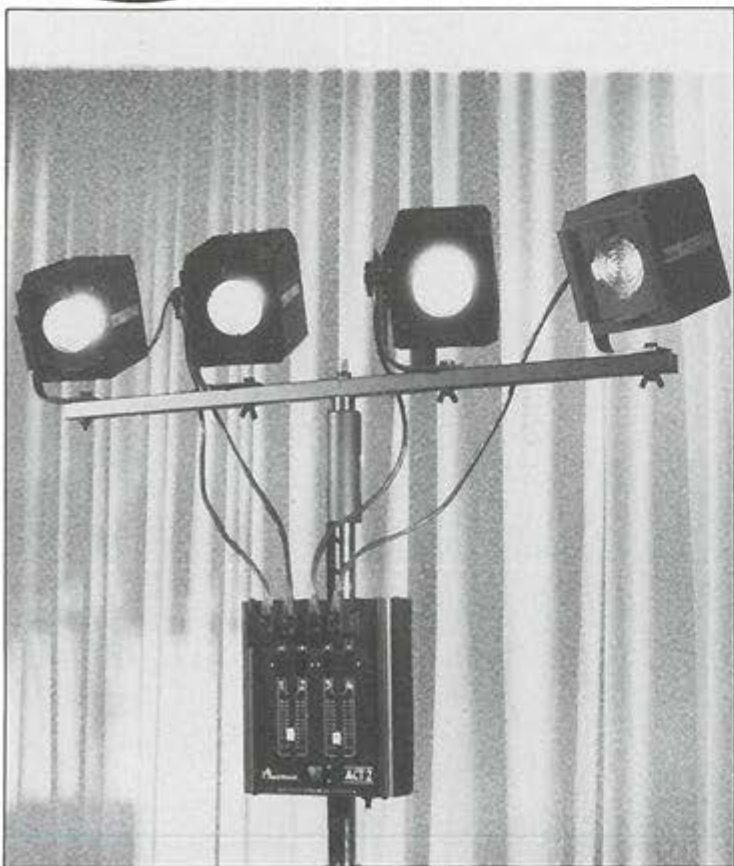
Even more strongly I recommend anyone considering equipping with projection television to examine the Hi-Beam very carefully. A phone call to Andy Cant at Brentford will explain all. ■



The Hi-Beam can be trolley mounted or suspended from a ceiling.

## NEW PRODUCT

# ACT 2—A NEW SMALL PORTABLE DIMMER



OCCASIONALLY the engineering gurus who labour at M24 memory systems or Environ 2 Architectural Dimmers take a few hours for relaxation and knock off the odd piece of electronics to fill a more basic lighting need.

In fact, of course, the simpler the object, the more carefully it has to be specified and costed. An extra pound's worth of circuitry on a memory system will raise no eyebrows, but that same pound on a simple dimmer could elevate both eyebrows plus beard.

From the original Junior 8 back in the fifties, through the Micro 8 of the seventies, Strand have long offered dimmer sharing as a path to affordability.



Our new Act 2 has four circuits which can be switched through two linear fader controlled thyristor dimmers, each of 1.5kW capacity. Switching is by 3 way rockers (top-full, centre-off, bottom-through dimmer).

There is an illuminated 'Black Out' switch, plus two 20mmx5mm HRC fuses which take cartridges that are readily obtainable anywhere from Outer Mongolia to Inner Aberfeldy.

The package of the unit deserves study. It can be used as a desk. Its neat rubber feet protect the ancestral mahogany. Alternatively a special back plate slides on to extruded grooves. This plate has a pipe grip so that Act 2 can be used on a stand or vertical barrel. By the ingenious use of two extra holes in the backplate the fixing can also be to a horizontal barrel.

Size? 250mm x 210mm x 90mm overall depth including back plate.

The finish is powder coated matt black, with pale blue dimmer scales and lettering.

Availability? Supplies and samples in the Autumn. Can I see one? Yes! Ask your local Strand representative or dealer. ■