

TABS



Editor:
RICHARD HARRIS

4&5 STRAND'S NEW LOW COST M24 MEMORY SYSTEM EXPLAINED

NEW!

6 MATCHAM NORTH
by Anthony Easterbrook

10 FRANK MATCHAM
by Frederick Bentham

11 "HIGH-BEAM" and "ACT TWO". NEW PRODUCT FROM STRAND

NEW!

12 PORTRAIT OF AN AGENT No 2: YAMAGIWA CORPORATION TOKYO

14 WHAT! 2000 WATT? NEW PRODUCT FROM STRAND

NEW!

16 SUNRISE STUDIOS—A LOOK AT TV-AM
by Fred Humphrey

18 NEW LIGHTING CONTROL IN VIENNA
by Rudolph Fuchs

20 ROYAL CONCERT HALL, NOTTINGHAM
by Bob Anderson

22 START WITH THE CODA? NEW PRODUCT FROM STRAND
by Frederick Bentham

NEW!

23 WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT
by Tony Brown

24 GOOD FOR ALL OR GOOD FOR NOTHING?
by John Wyckham

27 THE EDITOR'S JOURNEYS

31 ENVIRON 2. NEW PRODUCT FROM STRAND

NEW!

32 EVESHAM SHOWS THE WAY
by Bentley Miller

33 LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

34 REGENT MELBOURNE HOTEL GRAND BALLROOM
by Peter Crossley

COVER PICTURE

Our cover shows the amazing new M24 lighting control with the two men principally responsible for its design — David Bertenshaw and Tony Brown.



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Correspondence and articles for publication should be addressed to the Editor.

NEW PRODUCT

In many ways this is the most important issue of TABS that Strand have produced for many years.

And I make no apology for the fact that its importance derives from the tremendous amount of new product which Strand have recently introduced and which we have tried to cover in this issue. Never before in the history of the company have we — all within a few months — introduced a complete new range of lanterns — the Cadenza series plus new Coda Floods, a complete new range of ENVIRON dimmers of a quite revolutionary concept, and the truly amazing M24 memory system, plus a new mini dimmer, Act 2.

Readers will find details scattered about this issue of TABS but, obviously, we don't want the magazine to become an alternative sales brochure. If a reader wants hard information on any of the products concerned please ask for literature. Or better still, ask your local Strand agent anywhere in the world to give you details and demonstrations.

All the agents visited us in April to be shown the new products in full technical detail and not only do they all have demonstration units by the time you receive your copy of TABS but they are happy to actually show you the goods.

WHAT EVERY SCHOOLBOY KNOWS

Somewhere in Britain there must be a science sixth form that hasn't invented its own memory system. If there is, I long to hear from them!

Of course, the whole point about memory systems is not that they are now so easy to produce, but rather that they have to have their functions designed so that they are really suitable for the job at hand.

When electronics can do almost anything design cleverness comes in to making the system perform the functions that are really needed, avoiding all the clever side tracks that open so invitingly.

Our in-house code for this is 'avoiding bells and whistles', and, of course it is best if the system goes on doing what it should for a decent period of time.

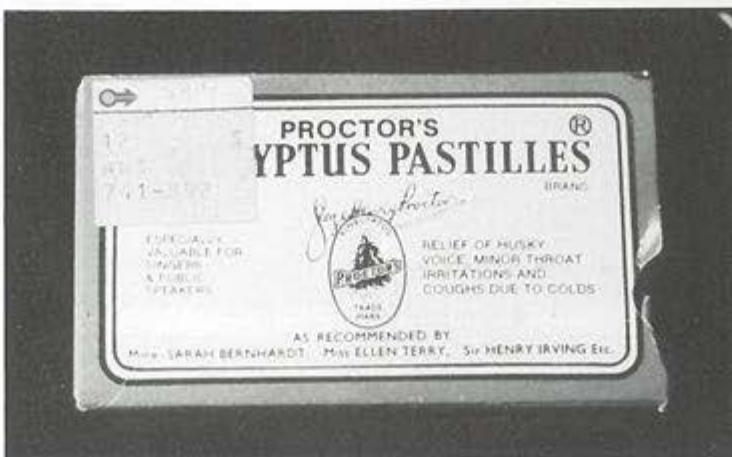
Ever since the Titanic it has been a generally accepted principle that a ship's life boats

should be able to hold as many people as are on board. The Editor's control system rule is — however simple it seems always have a standby system, and always practice using it.

Some companies are willing to sell memory systems without any "life boats". Significantly, they do not remain in business long. I suppose the one really golden rule for any theatre equipment is that it must never, never, involve the theatre in giving back money at the door. There is nothing so perishable in this world as a theatre ticket, hence every Strand system installed always has a standby, even if it is the old manual board. Tony Brown's article in this issue of TABS covers the situation thoroughly.

Come to think of it, that is probably why there are so few manual boards on the secondhand market.

A very theatrical throat lozenge. The Editor purchased this excellent product recently at a local chemists. Look at the stars of the nineties who found them so useful.



STOP PRESS

We are pleased to announce a new reflector design for the Harmony range of profile luminaires. (Patent applied for).

The new reflector has been designed so that by one movement of the lamp slide mechanism the light output can be redistributed to provide either a "peaky" beam with a hot centre or a totally flat beam across its entire width.

Thus the Harmony range of profiles can now be used in two distinctive modes with one simple adjustment.

All Harmonys now in stock have this latest improvement.



What a truly flat field means. Gobo projection by one of the new Harmonys photographed by Paul Weston.

U.S.A. AND CANADIAN READERS PLEASE NOTE

Our sister company in America, Strand Century Inc. are now operating at a new address at 18111 South Santa Fe Avenue, Rancho Dominguez, California 90221, U.S.A. Telephone: 213 637 7500 Telex: 4720028 LA.

Any U.S.A. readers having enquiries relating to TABS please send them to Susan Dandridge at Strand Century.

Canadian readers should notify any change of address, please, to Donna Appleton at Strand Century Ltd., 6490 Viscount Road, Mississauga, Ontario.

The products generally described in TABS are intended mainly for 220/240 volt markets. There are of course certain products that apply and can be used in both. For example, a large number of Century Light Palettes have been sold in Europe and of course Galaxy is available world wide. But for all our products described in TABS it is safe to say there will always be a local equivalent, even if the actual product is not available in your market area.

Ianaro lanterns are offered around the world to suit all voltages. Strand Environ Architectural Dimmers are also offered to suit all voltages.