

two-position slot for the lampholder base.

But for me the prime new feature is a gate which can be rotated through a full 360 degrees and locked in any position. This is going to make life much easier and faster in all sorts of situations from the focussing of box booms to the orientation of gobos.

The PC has improved lens and reflector: it seems now fit and ready to replace fresnels as the standard for quick-focus on-stage lighting bars. Smooth beam and soft-edge but lacking the fresnel's flare. The new barndoor, with longer flaps, is common to the new fresnel which has been engineered to Cantata style and standards.

Lekos go International!

Although the versatility of variable angle profile spots gives the flexibility essential in multipurpose rigs, such versatility is gained at the expense of size, weight and complexity. For one-off shows there is much in favour of the simple compact profile with a fixed beam angle. The long established classic in this category is the Leko. Indeed, although Leko is the Century name for what the Americans formally call ellipsoidals and the rest of us know as profiles, it has become the american generic name for all such spots. Lekos have always been available through Strand since Century joined them under the Rank gong in the early 1970s, and they can be found in many current London musicals. Now the Leko has formally joined the european Strand Lighting catalogue.

Four Lekos have been selected to form the initial international range and their names

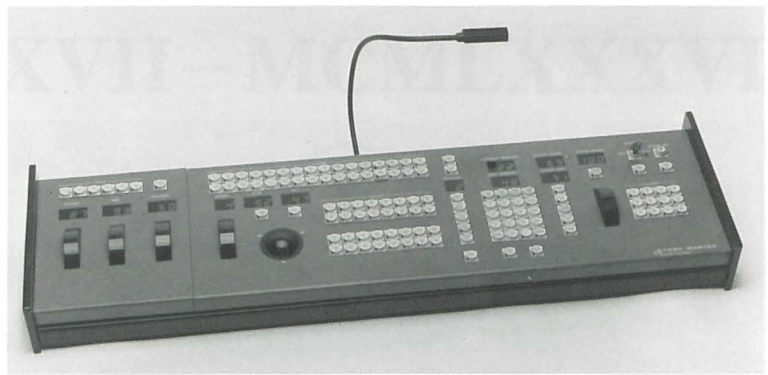
have been translated from american into a more internationally recognised form of lighting english: they will be known by their beam angles rather than by the diameter and focus of their lenses. Thus the range will comprise (US name in brackets):

| | |
|---------|--------|
| Leko 11 | [8×13] |
| Leko 18 | [6×16] |
| Leko 26 | [6×12] |
| Leko 40 | [6×9] |

When choosing a profile to do a specific job in a specific show the simple Leko has a lot to recommend it. Apart from its light, the units have a simple elegance that looks particularly clean when they are massed together on box booms. And it is good news to find high hats in the catalogue: I have always admired the way that these snoots are used on Broadway to lessen the distraction for the audience of seeing lens fronts out the corners of their eyes.



LEKO 1000W Profile Spot



TASKMASTER desk for 99 channels

Remotes

The development of remote control for the positioning and focussing of spotlights is gathering impetus. Strand are manufacturing Charlie Paton's PALS [Precision Automated Lighting Systems]. This allows many of the Strand luminaire range (including Cadenzas, Pars and Quartzcolours up to 5kW) to be supplied with motor drive assemblies for pan, tilt and either focus or iris. The drives and associated processors are safely and compactly housed in a clean looking rectangular yoke.

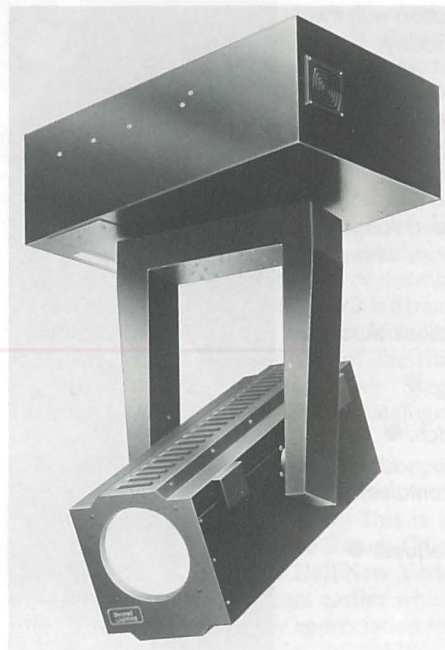
From America comes Litescan with a 400w discharge lamp, doing many of the things that have hitherto been unique to Varilite. (And Litescan is for buy, not just rent.) They Pan through 340° and tilt through 320° with a point-to-point variable speed of 2.5 to 15 seconds. There is an iris, five gobos, and dimming dowser. The focus offers an edge control which includes a hard edge capability on throws from 5 to 30 metres. The dual frame colour changer provides 32 individual colours or 256 combinations.

Control

All these moving spots need controllers. PALS has its own dedicated control and Taskmaster will control all the functions of Litescan as well as the earlier American Strand developments in colour scrolling. But, looking forward to the fast approaching time when remote positioning and focus will be standard practice in the biggest theatres, Galaxy 3 has integral facilities for PAL. This latest Galaxy is for up to 999 channels and 1536 dimmers. And integral at last, something that was briefly but expensively prototyped more than a decade ago in the Albery Theatre's MMS: a dimmer fault monitoring system that detects, displays and logs whether lights are receiving and using the juice sent to them by the dimmers.

If Galaxy 3 extends the control range upwards, Action brings memory to budgets as low as £999 which buys 24 channels, each with fader and flasher, 99 memories with keypad access, split crossfader with time control, plus 9 effects of the flash, flick and chase family.

In between, the control range includes Light Palette 3, Gemini, MLP2, Lightboard M, Celebrity Plus 2 and M24. The aim is a



LITESCAN spot 400W HTI