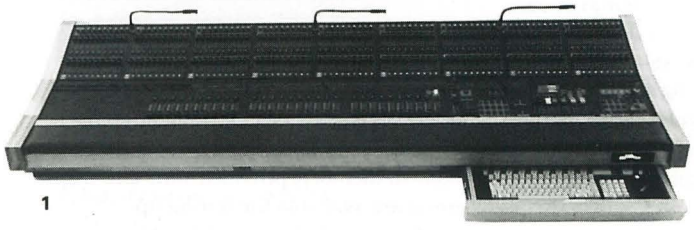
example on page one, REDCROSS on page two, with any of the countless other possibilities set up on a computer keyboard to label each of the remaining pages. If a new lighting sequence is added, then the old ones are shuffled along the line of faders to keep the order of use correct. If a lighting sequence is abandoned altogether then the memories are closed up. Computer logic does all this quite painlessly. Changing pages also needs thought, and ingenious special circuits. It is not satisfactory if the lighting in use changes immediately as a new page is selected. The old effect is held safely until no longer required, and, of course Celco has found a way to do this, to 24 memories dedicated to chase effects. Even better, memory masters can be chased giving faded chases, again with full memory storage, and the chase effects have their own master so that they can be brought into and out of use independently of the static lighting effects controlled by the designer.

Enough though about front of panel complexity. To go further requires hands-on experiment and reference to the excellent operator handbooks provided by the manufacturer. But there are many more goodies on offer. How about a 'smart card' memory? This, the 1990s replacement for the floppy disc, provides near-indestructable storage for all system memory and, if needed, rapid up-dating so that many sets of memorised effects can be stored on card and used in turn on the show. Celco, hearing that the cards were available and believing they offered real advantages, developed their own electronics to use them well before the rest of the industry was able to offer such systems off the shelf. How about cassette storage, the cheap and simple predecessor of the Smart Card? How about the ability to link boards together to double the number of channels responding to one set of master controls? How about optional VDU channel level display? How about paper printout of all cue data? How about an interface to synchronise with the MIDI music protocol? Look at the Celco catalogues. All these options and more are available and not all are restricted to the bigger and more expensive systems.

Celco also makes dimmers. Mobile, portable thyristor dimmers, flight-case packaged for secure road transport. The standard is high, though, and there is a price to pay. Celco dimmers are not cheap. Packages of 12 by 10 amp and 12 by 20 amp are the basic modules, mounted in 3-U panels. Twenty-five amp and 50 amp dimmers take more space. Filtering, by traditional theatre and TV standards is basic, but the rock 'n' roll music industry finds it acceptable. The bulk and weight penalty of anything better would be too great in this essentially mobile market. Conversely, two dimmer laws - BBC 'Square Law' or linear - are available at the turn of a switch, power circuit breakers are provided as standard instead of fuses, and each rack automatically adjusts for the applied main voltage detected and shuts down if a phase is connected to neutral by mistake. Fault finding aids are generously provided and both control patching and power patching are available to give high flexibility for those with the need and time to be precise about their interconnection needs. Smart Card has even been applied to patching, giving, and many alternative proportional patching options. Digital control, using the USITT DMX 512 protocol can be chosen and positive or negative control input or outputs selected to suit available controls and dimmers.

Celco delivers quality products for demanding customers, and they appear to have mastered their market.

Celco delivers quality products for demanding customers, and they appear to have mastered their market. Twenty years ago colour television was financing the development of new ideas in lighting control. Today it is the big rock bands and the top product launches. Both produce technology to suit their own needs. Other users can enjoy the spin-off benefits. Long may manufacturers with high standards continue to prosper for the overall benefit of lighting users everywhere.



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Celco manufactures a range of controls, from the Celco Gold (1) for major concerts and big venues, to the Celco 60 Major and 30 Major (2) for industrial presentations and smaller venues, to the Celco Baby for club and disco lighting.

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Divers départements de la Celco produisent une gamme d'appareils de commande d'éclairage: la Celco Gold (1), pour les concerts importants et les grandes manifestations; la Celco 60 Major et 30 Major (2) pour les salons industriels et les petites manifestations; la Baby Celco pour l'éclairage des discothèques et des clubs.

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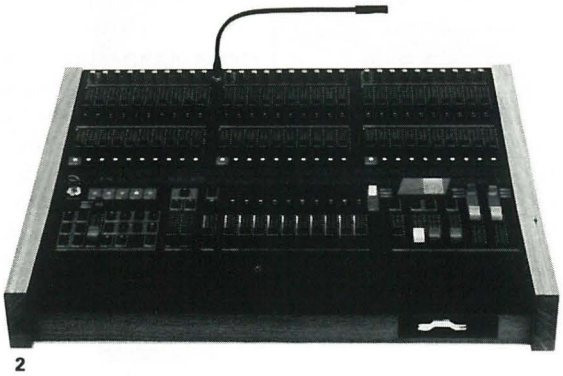
Celco stellt eine grosse Palette von controls her: den Celco Gold (1) für grosse Konzerte und Veranstaltungen, den Celco 60 Major und den Celco 30 Major (2) fur Präsentationen der Industrie und kleinere Veranstaltungen, den Celco Baby fur Clubs und Discos.



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