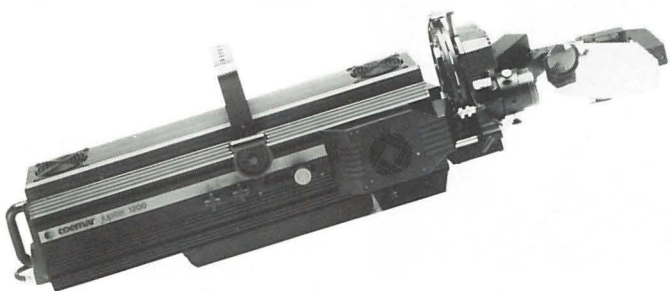


# A TECHNICAL APPRAISAL

BY BOB ANDERSON

**R**ifle through the Coemar catalogue, and you'll feel like you're studying a textbook on the history of lighting development. From the simplest single-fixed PARcan to the most technically advanced moving light, the company offers the full range of lighting equipment.

Take a conventional filament lamp, or better, a specially developed low voltage halogen lamp, and mount it at the centre of a flat-horn shaped housing with eight precision moulded plastic lenses around



the rim and one lamp can produce eight intense beams. Coemar called this the Spartan. Develop the housing to a full circle and there are 24 beams. Add one, two, or three motors on different axes, colour the beams, and you have the Venus range. When this effect begins to bore, add music-sensitive vibrating mirrors in front of each component beam and an internal colour drum. This is called Pivors. Alternatively, design precision plastic mouldings, fit two sets of 12 lenses in contrarotating sets to give the effect of a planetarium projector, drive in opposite

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directions and rotate the whole assembly about two other axes, and you have an even more spectacular result from an instrument named Colibri.

This game — correction — this highly profitable business, can be developed endlessly. The only criteria being novelty, and the ability to excite a positive response from the disco clientele.

For example, the colour of the light can't be altered and the beam shape itself

is fixed in most of the instruments described so far. This can't be good enough. So, first, take a simple projector, use a halogen incandescent lamp or one of the latest small metal halide HID lamps and fit a rotating disc in the gate with various hole shapes and colour. Call this Pictor. The next step is to split the shape disc and colour disc onto separate drives. Use dichroic filters for maximum purity and stainless steel high-precision gobos. Then, why not add a rotating prism to the front of the projector to sweep the beam around a 60° cone? Do all these, add a computer-based control panel and offer a choice of 16 variations and you have the Coemar Forte system.

Eventually, with the market still shouting "Encore," the full specifica-

tion as already defined by the Vari\*Lite had to be attempted, though at a fraction of the price. Coemar first produced Robot in 1986, using a moving mirror to direct the beam, and six-position colour and gobo wheels. In the 1989 version either SN250 or MSR400 lamps are offered. A computer programme stored and replayed movements through a data link and DC servo drives. The design and the price were welcomed, especially for the big purpose-built dance halls that were then becoming fashionable. Competitors soon produced their own versions. Naturally Coemar quickly took another step forward and in the summer of 1989 launched their current flagship, Jupiter, with choice of 700 or 1200w MSR lamps, quickly exchangeable 12 position colour wheels and gobo cassettes, precision stepper motor drives, and dimmer, zoom, iris, and dowsing options.

The latest control computer is the Jupiter 16 — a 16-instrument basic system devised by Coemar in-house, providing full storage of colour, position, etc., for 90 scenes and with

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The Jupiter (1) is Coemar's latest fixture, with 700w or 1200w lamps and a 12-colour and 12-gobo cassette wheel. Coemar also developed a noiseless, faster, and cheaper version of Jupiter, the Brio (2).

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*Le Jupiter (1) est le dernier projecteur construit par Coemar, qui se sert de lampes de 700w ou 1200w et de deux cassettes rotatives de 12 couleurs et 12 gobos. Coemar a aussi développé le Brio, une version sans bruit, plus rapide et moins onéreuse que le Jupiter (2).*

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Der Jupiter (1) ist Coemars neuester Scheinwerfer mit 700w oder 1200w Glühlampen und einem 12-Farben und 12-Diakassettenrad. Coemar entwickelte auch eine lärmfreie, schnellere und billigere Version des Jupiter, den Brio (2).

speed for each drive calculated on board the luminaire to ensure that smooth direct movement to each new position is completed in precisely the chosen time. For users wanting more, particularly in assistance in setting up new effects and linking to other sound and light effects systems, Jupiter can work with the well-known Enigma supervisory disco control system. Links to the MIDI systems are another option. The technology is unlimited and, for this market, still at affordable prices.

Looking at samples of Coemar's range of products at their UK distributors, W.B. Lighting in Northampton, the quality of the design and manufacture is immediately apparent. The customers, it seems, are not short of cash and are prepared to pay for good reliable engineering. Mike Wood, W.B.'s sales and marketing director, told me that worldwide demand more than justifies use of plastic injection

