

STRAND REMOTE CONTROL

dimmer settings or intensities. The row master switch has an " off " position whereby a complete row may be blacked out, and two " on " positions. With the switch in **one** of these, such circuits as have been individually **selected** may be blacked out by the panel master switch. In the **other** " on " position of the row master, **all** circuits on that row will be blacked out by the panel master switch.

From the foregoing it will be understood that by selecting the appropriate position of individual circuit switches and row master switches, as many circuits as required on as many different rows as desired may be controlled from the panel master switch. Equally it is at the choice of the operator whether any circuit shall be under the control of its row master dimmer.

In order to provide for the collective operation of row master dimmers, two panel master dimmers are fitted. One collectively controls all those circuits which are fed through their row master dimmers, while the other performs a similar function for those which are fed independently of the same. Thus it is possible for one operator to brighten any number of circuits on a panel, while as many other circuits as may be desired are being dimmed simultaneously at the same or any other speed, regardless of the number of rows involved. The whole operation is electrical and there are no gears to insert or withdraw.

The changeover from the lighting set up on one panel to the preselection made on the other panel is effected either by a lever for instantaneous or rapid changes, or by means of a hand wheel for slow working. Both of these alternative drives are permanently in mesh but through the use of a suitable friction clutch it is never necessary to disengage one form of drive when using the other. A scale is provided for the lever drive for the purposes of checking progress and repetition. When the hand wheel is used the lever again passes over the scale acting as a pointer. The speed of changeover from one panel on to another is at all times at the discretion of the operator and the changeover can actually be stopped at any time. Any desired additions or alterations to the lighting may be made while a changeover is in progress. The addition of a variable speed motor drive for very slow changes is a simple matter.

It may be found that certain circuits are not required to alter intensity when changing over from one panel to the other. If the controls are set up on the second panel in like manner to the panel in use, the circuits will remain in status quo throughout. In order, however, to relieve the operator of the necessity of duplicating a number of settings for such a purpose, a two-way-and-off switch is provided at the end of each horizontal row of circuit controls whereby any row of either of the two panels may be " held " or released from the grand master cross control. The pilot lamp at the end of each row indicates always which rows are alive as, with the use of the last-mentioned switches, circuits on both panels may be alive simultaneously and the lever pointer will not by itself indicate the true state of affairs. As a changeover proceeds the pilots on one panel (excepting those released as above) dim to out while the others brighten to full by the end of the operation. The two panels may be used alternately as often as desired, but it will be found that the majority of simple changes can be effected on one panel, leaving the second free for the more complicated manoeuvres. It is of course always possible to revert to the lighting set up on the panel previously in use. This has its advantages at rehearsal when a producer either wishes the actors to start a scene again, or to check what changes he has already proposed from the lighting at the commencement of the scene.

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