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Technical Data

STAGE ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT

Under this heading are grouped the various accessories which, when combined with Lighting Equipment, complete the stage picture; Curtain Tracks, Curtains, Suspensions, Rostra and Portable Stages. Furse hold a unique position in this field as manufacturers of a full range of products such that planning and design can take into consideration all requirements for any stage area, thus integrating the whole in a planned scheme.

CURTAIN TRACKS Furse Curtain Track Type A (CT-A) specially designed to carry heavyweight curtains normally used for stage work, also where suspension points must be kept to a minimum. This track can be controlled electrically from a separately mounted Controller (E-CC) or by hand with a winding winch (H-CC) or sash weight.

The CT-A tracking has the advantage that not only can it be used with standard traverse curtains, but curving is possible so that tracks can be provided to completely encircle the drama area, or arranged with right-angle bends to give maximum clearance to an acting area.

In addition to the conventional method of electric curtain control, Furse offer a self-contained Auton track where track and components are mounted on an aluminium extruded rail 18 ft. long, complete with wiring and limits such that it is only necessary to provide an electrical supply and control wires to the motor position. This design is useful in buildings where space is very limited and rope drives not possible. It can also be useful for domestic situations where remote electrical control of window curtains add a luxurious touch. Limitations exist in the weight of curtains and length of track that can be used. This generally prohibits their use for stage work.

CURTAINS Curtains can be supplied, depending on customers' requirements, ranging from the traditional Velour materials to the gaily patterned Contemporary fabrics. In all cases where curtains are used on stage they must be flameproofed to comply with Fire Regulations. In many cases this extends to the Hall curtains in school installations to give maximum safety. However, it must be pointed out that this flameproofing process does not last indefinitely and usually curtains need reprocessing every two to three years. Also, any dry cleaning carried out by the User will automatically nullify the flameproofing properties in the material so they must be re-flameproofed before use.

Due to the weight of material and type of track used, stage curtains are made up in quite a different manner to normal domestic curtains. Fullness, approximately 50% is sewn into the top webbing and special hooks provided at 12" (30.4 cm) centres to suit CT-A track. In all cases curtains must be weighted to allow them to hang properly and sufficient allowance in hems made to compensate for shrinkage after cleaning.

Curtains can be supplied in pairs or in separate sections with press studs to suit any shape or style of drama area. For highly decorative effects they can be swaged into deep folds or bunched into festoons, for use in Clubs and Dance Halls.

Furse offer a complete curtain service including cleaning, re-flameproofing, repairs and alterations. Prices and samples will be sent on application with details of headed width and drop.

SUSPENSIONS In any arrangement of stage equipment a large percentage of the barrels and lanterns must be suspended over the acting area involving the use of special fixings and accessories to suit wall surfaces or ceiling structures. Furse offer a variety of clamps and pulleys based on a series of standard components which give the User the maximum amount of tolerance with regard to the size of support. Details of raising and lowering systems are illustrated on the accompanying leaflets, and prices can be found under the appropriate sections reference TF. Where a standard fixing is not suitable, purpose-made brackets or clamps can be fabricated and supplied. Often, when no fixings exist, brace beams or tubes can be supplied to form a simple grid over the stage area. In situations where appearance is extremely important a lightweight aluminium bar can be incorporated or special finishes employed.

ROSTRA With the development of flexible drama areas it is necessary to consider Rostra for either lifting up the acting area or seating to retain good sightlines. On smaller installations in drama rooms sections of lightweight Rostra are essential to allow the building up of various levels and shapes in conjunction with steps. Alternatively, in the multi-purpose Hall it may be necessary to supply sufficient units to make up a complete stage or to devise methods of folding the seating to create space. Some form of standardisation of components is necessary even though no two areas are alike and each has its own problems. The rostra leaflet illustrates general types and ideas but again, our Planning Staff will prepare specifications and prices to suit specific applications.

PORTABLE STAGES In many multi-purpose areas where considerable expense is involved in labour costs setting up a stage area it is more practical to make use of folding wheel-away units which can be installed in minutes by one man in whatever size and form it is required. The units are highly manoeuvrable, require little storage space and yet are extremely strong, being of plated steel construction. For details of these Portable Stages see page headed "The Portable Stage System".

General all stage users will be aware of the many and varied items that are necessary to ensure smooth running of any production. These range from a sheet of colour media for spotlighting to a cleat or screw for use on a stage flat. Some of these accessories are listed in the following pages. However, it is not possible to cover every item and therefore if you cannot find your particular requirement in this catalogue please do not hesitate to contact our Organisation.

If you cannot afford to buy, it may be possible to Hire, and facilities are available for hiring a variety of items ranging from Curtain Tracks to Spotlights. We regret this does not include curtains as the variation in drop makes stocking a problem. However, many of the other bits and pieces, braces, weights etc. are available.