


AVOLITES

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THE PEARL : PURE POWER



The Rolacue *Pearl* is the newest control desk to roll out from Avolites. The PEARL has full moving light control and enough power for surprisingly large shows.

With 512 channels, 450 memories, 30 pages, 60 high-quality channel faders and 15 simultaneously active playbacks, you will never be lost for lack of channels or storage space. Not surprisingly the *Pearl* has ADD and SWOP buttons for channels, memories and chases.

Channels can be allocated as Highest Takes Precedence (HTP) or Latest Takes Precedence (LTP). Using the widely acclaimed personality system, also found on the *Sapphire* and *Diamond* control desks, patching or moving lights and colour changers is as simple as patching a dimmer.

Programming is easy too. The Preset Focus buttons give instant access to positions, colour, gobos and even intensity without having to touch a wheel or fader.

Moving light programming uses the Avolites Three Dimensional Intelligent Track-

- Simultaneous control of 30 intelligent instruments (Super Scans, Intellabeams, VL*5's etc.) AND 60 colour changers AND a fully loaded dimmer racks.
- 512 channels.
- Twin DMX512 outputs.
- Dedicated Focus and Palette buttons for Position, Colour, Gobo etc.
- Separate SWOP and ADD buttons with master faders.
- Stage Remote.
- Built in graphic screen and optional Colour VGA output.
- Easy programming, labelling and ordering of cues.
- Three dimensional Intelligent Tracking System.
- Separate timers for movement and intensity.
- 3.5 inch PC compatible disk system.

ing System, allowing follow spot type operation of a number of instruments, which will track each other. This is particularly powerful when programming, as one instrument can be positioned on the stage and others requested to point at the same position.

As the Rolacue *Pearl* offers Highest Takes Precedence channels, it means that replaying memories and chases with dimmers as well as instrument control channels produces the results you would expect.

Recording of memories, chases and

sequences is identical to the *Sapphire*, allowing direct loading and running of a *Sapphire* show disk.

With 30 pages of write-on legends, recording that memory. 'just in case,' and finding it again, is a doddle. 'Link' allows a memory/ chase/ sequence to appear on some or all pages.

The fully featured 'theatre playback' allows access to any step in a sequence. Steps are numbered in theatre style, with inserts allotted point numbers e.g. 10.5. Steps can be linked, run out of sequence and smoothly terminated whilst running, allowing seamless changes into a new step. Sequence lengths are only limited by the system memory, typically giving 1,000

steps. As would be expected, each step is dipless and has its own separate wait and fade times for HTP and LTP channels, giving six timers per step.

The familiar and intuitive feel of the roller, the use of high-quality faders, genuine Shadow switches and the ruggedness of this console allows creativity that you previously only dreamed of.

The pureness of the *Pearl* makes it ready to give light around the world.

The Rolacue *Pearl*, creating standards for others to follow.





Bullen with the Diamond II in the Avo demo room.

ROXETTE

Swedish super group Roxette have always been lit by Pontus Lagerbielke (Bullen), who has always had a liking for Avolites desks.

His Avo experience spans the entire range, starting with the Rolacue 30 and finishing with the Diamond II, which he will be using for Roxette's upcoming *Crash Boom Bang* world tour.

Attracted by the superior layout of Avolites desks, Bullen also finds them powerful and user friendly. The ultra smooth Penny and Giles faders, high quality add/swop buttons, clear displays and engraved finish add that extra touch of class.

Bullen visited Avolites over the summer to acquaint himself with the Diamond II. Having worked with the Sapphire, he was already familiar with the architecture.


ROXETTE THE NEED FOR POWER

- Roxette are touring with the Diamond II,
- 16 x Super Scan Zooms
- 76 x Vari*Lites
- 72 x dimmer channels
- 32 x ColorFaders
- 13 x Rainbow Lightcurtains with scrollers
- 8 x 8-lites with Rainbow colour scrollers
- 4 x Solar 575 projectors.

BULLEN was called in as moving light programmer on the Eros Ramazzotti World Tour, the first tour to use all 512 channels of a Rolacue Sapphire. The desk was controlling 40 Samurai scans, 80 X-4 mirrors and 20 Polos.

The set for this Roxette tour projects a slick but rough look. The lighting rig, is based on the traditional upstage/downstage trussing

principles, with all the backline visible, in what Bullen calls "A very 70's TV look", and there are also some stunning silk drapes to add a touch of panache. Equipment is being provided by Swedish company Lightman, who are importing the Diamond II for the occasion.

Bullen feels that using the Diamond II is the solution to programming the complicated Roxette show, "It's a powerful desk with many good features. The group and focus functions are excellent, and I particularly like the ability to unfold the chase." 

FESTIVAL FEVER

Festival lighting set-ups require a completely different philosophy to touring productions. Control in these situations has to be flexible and easy to understand, as there will often be a large number of visiting lighting designers each day of the festival. The three most prestigious festivals in Europe this year have been controlled by Avolites desks.

The main stage lighting for Glastonbury, the most important festival on the English calendar, was controlled from an Avolites Diamond. The festival played host to a crop of top class acts from all over the world, and the main stage was being run by lighting designer Phil Freeman. The rig consisted of a large par can system from Neg Earth Lights and 18 Golden Scans from The Spot Co. Phil is a keen exponent of the Diamond, and comments that it was ideal for the job, simple to programme and pleasing to all other LD's who used it during the three days.

Roskilde festival in Denmark starred artists such as Peter Gabriel, Elvis Costello and ZZ




Steve Brown, (LD for Carter USM) and the Diamond II at the Phoenix Festival.

Top, and made use of two Avolites Sapphires for the Green Stage system. The equipment was provided by Paradise Tour Productions from Copenhagen. Their conventional lighting rig featured over 300 instruments, and was run by an Avolites dimming system. They chose a Sapphire for control because it gave them access to a large number of channels and also so they could keep the entire control set-up an Avolites one. The second Sapphire was used to control the moving lights - 26 Vari*Lites, 10 V*L 1's and 16 V*L 5's.

'TAKE-OVER' MODE gives the operator access to all the programming functions of the desk during playback, i.e. large colour and position palettes are instantly accessible. The rig at Phoenix included 30 ColorFaders, and Carl programmed a 30 colour palette in to the Diamond II for these. Running in 'take-over' mode enabled immediate access to any colour at the touch of a button

It was the second year for the four-day Phoenix festival in England, and main stage lighting designer Carl Burnett jumped at the chance to use his favourite desk - the Diamond II. Carl believes, "The 'Take-over' mode function of the desk makes it ideal for festivals."

Carl reports that despite being the first time that many of the lighting designers had used the Diamond II, it was an instant success. 



Hampton Court Palace Festival LD John McCullagh programmes the Diamond II


COURTING ROYALTY

The Hampton Court Palace Festival this summer attracted class acts and audiences from all over the world. Artists included Kiri Te Kanawa and Montserrat Caballe, and HRH The Prince of Wales was one of the more prominent visitors. The programme featured some of the finest classical music and opera, set in the elegant and beautiful grounds of Hampton Court.

Lighting production for the two week festival was provided by Meteorlites, and Lighting Designer/Operator John McCullagh used a desk that is 'perfectly refined' for the occasion - an Avolites Diamond II. This followed a demonstration at Avolites by software engineer Shahid Anwar. Advanced planning allowed Avolites to perform a degree of custom adaptation to the desk so it would run in the particular style required.

John comments "It's a good flexible desk, and the mixture of LTP and HTP channels is a unique feature. I also liked the ability to 'unfold' the chase in order to edit it, and the cue updating is very handy." Time for re-programming between events in the festival was short, and John is quick to point out that the support he had from Avolites was second to none.

The Diamond II was controlling thirty Vari*Lite 5's, a rack-full of pars, twelve ColorFaders, 2K Bambino Fresnels and Cantatas on stage. There was also considerable architectural lighting of the roofs, buttresses, building frontage and fountains that was also run from the Diamond II. This included the famous Hampton Court chimneys that looked charming and resplendent bathed in light.

The hard work was well rewarded by a hugely successful event, enjoyed by thousands of people having fun and much luck with the weather! 

LETTER FROM AMERICA



The Jimmy Buffett tour designed by Sid Strong featured a Rolacue Sapphire.

With many production companies diversifying into the industrial and television markets, Avolites America have seen rapid growth in the last year. Rob and Cathy Steel note that rock 'n' roll is now just part of a larger industry and Avolites design philosophy of producing products for rock 'n' roll, theatre, broadcast and industrial shows has enabled them to take advantage of this expansion.


Diamond II is now in four high profile permanent installations; Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas;

Foxwoods Casino, Connecticut; The Glen Campbell Goodtime Theatre and The New Mel Tillis Theatre, both in Branson, Missouri. Diamond tours include Garth Brooks, Yes, Guns 'n'Roses and Peter Gabriel to name but a few.

For the second year running a Rolacue Sapphire was chosen to run lighting at the largest convention in the US - for Mary Kay Cosmetics in Texas, and

demand for the Sapphire has increased steadily during 1994. Recent rock 'n' roll tours in the US that have featured Sapphires include Janet Jackson, Michael Bolton, Crosby Stills &

Nash, Jimmy Buffett, Wynonna Judd, Lyle Lovett and Chicago.

Rob reports that he is spending more time training an ever increasing number of Avo users to master the consoles. This is a sure sign that Avolites can expect an active future stateside. 



Janet Jackson tour LD Peter Morse, with his Rolacue Sapphire



The Mel Tillis Theatre in Branson, Missouri, features a Diamond II.

DIMMERS MADE FOR 2001

Avolites dimmers are designed to be in use in 2001 and beyond. Since the first dimming modules rolled off the production line at Avolites sixteen years ago, the progress of the Avolites dimmer has become legendary to the lighting business. The reason for this success has been the reliability factor, which has always put Avolites' products in a class of their own.

The robust FD dimming module that has become the industry standard, can be found in every corner of the world. Time and time again it has been proved that this design can be relied on to function in harsh conditions that have defeated lesser products.

The FD module is available, fully flight cased in 48 or 72 way systems, complete with power distribution panel, and hot patch with test and DMX inputs. (Optionally with ana-



D36 front

logue signal patch to special order.)

The 72 way format is offered by all major touring rental houses in the UK, as well as some of the most prestigious theatre companies. The latter include The Royal Opera House at Covent Garden, The D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, The Welsh National Opera, Opera North, The English National Ballet, The Scottish National Ballet and The Birmingham Royal Ballet. Numerous television shows

have also benefited from Avolites dimming, ranging from Top Of The Pops to The Proms from Rock to Opera. Avolites dimmers are used on virtually every touring production. Recent examples include Madonna, The Rolling Stones, Guns 'n' Roses and Phil Collins.

In response to different demands made by



D36 rear

DMX inputs plus all the ancillary features found on the 72 way. The beauty of this rack is it's compact size, making it an easy 'one person tip', ideal for clubs and venues where space is at a premium. Built with identical components to the 72 way, naturally no compromises have been made on the durability front!

broadcasting, Avolites developed the TV Dimming system, a high power range of 5 and 10K dimmers designed specifically to handle large loads over continuous periods.

Introducing the new D 36 series...

In 1994, Avolites have complimented their existing range of dimmer systems by introducing the D 36. This contains three FD modules, mains distribution, Hot Patch and



Carl Burnett - a shot from the video

Avolites' permanent demonstration room is well equipped with a mixture of intelligent lighting instruments, including Super Scans, Intellabeams ColorFaders and Wybron

a new training strategy was needed for those who found it difficult to attend the demo room in person. Thus the first in a series of training videos is now available. It also features an 'On

FAST FORWARD >>>

Scrollers. Lighting Designers are encouraged at the outset of their project to come in to the demo room at a convenient time where they can either gain an informed overview of all the Avolites desks, or an in depth familiarisation with one particular desk they intend to use.

The facility is open to anyone who will be using Avolites desks, or who is interested in exploring programming techniques for future reference. The relaxed atmosphere has proved a great success and conducive to the learning process, thus bookings are now essential.

With so many products now being exported along with the continual development of new desk features, it became apparent to Avolites that

The Road' section starring top LD Carl Burnett (pictured) on tour earlier this year with The Wonderstuff, where he expands the many virtues of the desk, in this case a *Diamond II*.

Audio tapes will be available from Avolites as a programming aid to any of the desks currently available.



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