

# THE ITALIAN COLLECTION

A series of L+SI fact sheets giving information about leading Italian manufactures of entertainment lighting and their products. Previous editions have covered FLY, FAL and Coemar, successive issues will include Griven, Lampo, La Novalite and TAS.

## Clay Paky

**Director:** Pasquale Quadri, ably represented by Pio Nahum.

**Location:** Pedrengo, Bergamo, Italy

**Background:** Founded in 1976, by Claudio (Clay) Paredi and Pasquale (Paky) Quadri, Clay Paky has been the most influential of the new breed of Italian entertainment lighting manufacturers. Its history has direct parallels with the foundation of the British effects lighting industry and UK companies such as Cerebrum Lighting and Optikinetics.

Originally, Paky was a musician, studying electro-optics during the day, but he soon became fascinated by the essential role of lighting in creating an ambience conducive to enhancing the feel of music. In 1972 he started producing special-effects projectors in his garage by modifying standard slide projectors. It wasn't long before he had come up with the liquid wheel and managed to get a patent on it in Italy. (In the UK it was patented by someone else, now lapsed). He sold these items to the clubs where he performed at night. Quadri's friendship with Paredi, a fellow musician with a technical bent, dated from this period.

Together they established the company in a small workshop in Seriate, with Clay providing the engineering skills and Paky providing the creative impetus, and by 1973 had issued their first catalogue. At the same time they released their first proprietary, multi-purpose effects projector which, like Opti's Solar 250, accepted a range of effects and attachments but which, unlike the Solar 250, used a moulded, heat-resistant plastic enclosure in an eccentric shape, much like a tricorner-hat circa Paris 1789, to encapsulate the larger diameter effects wheels. The LX3 became CP's first landmark product, sold throughout Europe and by Avitec and Lightfactor in the UK, then later by Pulsar and WB Lighting.

Then, sadly, at the end of '73 Clay met with a tragic death in a motor cycle accident. Though distraught, the success of the business persuaded Paky to carry on with a new partner, and in the succeeding years the business grew out of all recognition, leading to a move to larger industrial premises in Pedrengo in 1989. During this period many innovative lighting

effects products were created by the company, often subsequently copied by others. The Astro range, which utilised the power of a single lamp and various lens configurations to generate multiple beams, is a typical example. Two years previously, Clay Paky had launched the Brilliant, a forerunner of their range of articulate mirror luminaires, but which wasn't technically a great success. Realising their mistake, and having a high regard for their electronic capabilities, they approached Pulsar for a collaboration, and a famous relationship was born, with Pulsar creating and providing all the control electronics for a new generation of projectors, leading directly to the success of the first Golden Scan product launched at SIB in '88. Since then more than 15,000 units have been sold. There followed a period of some commercial turmoil which led to an intensifying of the competition and a change in the structure of the company at the top. Nevertheless, with the subsequent launch of Superscan and Golden Scan 2, and then 16 more new products in 1992, Clay Paky re-established their pre-eminent position.

This culminated in the formalisation of their continuing relationship with Pulsar, and the acknowledgement of that interdependence,



Clay Paky supremo, Pasquale Quadri.



A page from Clay Paky's 1976 catalogue.

with the establishment of a series of dedicated CP&P franchised dealerships and service outlets stretching across Europe. This year has seen the introduction of the third generation Golden Scan with a 1200HMI lamp and many additional enhancements to performance. Many were impressed with Clay Paky's professional approach to marketing and presentation shown at this year's SIB in Rimini for the launch of this product.

**Company philosophy:** To produce original products employing high quality components and stylistic excellence, but above all to achieve exceptional visual effects.

**Selected product: Golden Scan 3** comes in two versions, 575 and 1.2k HMI with enhanced optics over the GS2, which enables CP to claim 30% more actual light delivered. Smoothness of movement has been greatly improved by doubling the microstepping on pan and tilt functions. The number of possible colours has been expanded to 24, by providing two colour modifiers which give eight warm and eight cold shades of the original base colours. Frost has been added for a wash effect. Colour splits, and continuous rotation of the colour wheel for a rainbow effect are also available. Although only four 'M'-size, bi-directional rotating gobos are provided and 10 alternative patterns are issued with each unit. A four-facet prism is also accessible within the projector. Other features are full mechanical dimming, blackout-shutter with strobe, and variable speed remote iris. With power factor correction, the 1200 model requires a 6A supply at 240v, and the 575 only 3 Amps. The Golden Scan 3s weigh in at 42.5kg and 30kg respectively.

**Recent releases: Superscan MRG**, a version of the 1200HMI top-of-the-line articulate projector, described below, with enhanced gobo facilities, enabling bi-directional rotation with programmable speeds and positions, plus superimposition. To facilitate this, the prisms are left out of this model. The touring version



Clay Paky show room (left), and full action from their stand at the SIB Magis trade show in Rimini (right).





has an external power supply option. **Piper ICC** is a programmable colour changer using seven dichroic colours, also providing the possibility of colour splits and variable speed colour wheel rotation up to a rainbow effect. Two models are available in HTI 150 or Halogen 24v versions. **Shadow** is a compact followspot, based on the internal technology of the Golden and Superscans. Three faders are provided in an external handle which enable direct control of the eight dichroic colours, the variable speed iris and the mechanical douser/shutter. Two models are available with 1200 or 575 HMI lamps.

All Clay Paky products with discharge lamps now offer power factor correction. Most models (except Piper and lower power versions of Tiger which have built in modulation or are analog controllable only) accept analog, or digital control via DMX or RS232/423 via PMX, use processor controlled stepper motors with microstepping and are protected to IP 20.

**Other products:** *Lighting effects:* **Tornado** is the latest model in Clay Paky's single lamp, multi-beam stable, one in, six out. The difference is that each pair of the six heads around the circumference of the unit is controllable for pan and tilt, the colour is variable from all white to colour-per-beam, the colours can be moved round at variable speeds and splits are thus obtainable. Intended as a centre piece or wall feature Tornado also has strobeable shutters and uses the 575 HMI lamp. **Atlas**, from the same lamp and using the same technique, it generates 14 collimated beams from the perimeter of its flat semi-circular body. A sweeping shutter enables mechanical sequencing of the beams, strobing and blackout. **Astoraggi Twin** boasts two 24v, 150W Halogen lamps which rotate at 50 RPM under a hemispherical black cowling punctured with 103 tiny objective lenses. The lamps may be switched, or an optional four-colour wheel added. **Bazooka** is a searchlight-based on the 1200 or 575 HMI lamp and articulating mirror technology, but with special lens and extra optical length for tight collimation of the beam. Eight colour changes, five gobos, mechanical dimmer/shutter/strobe, iris and focus are available. **Polycolor** is a new angle on the RGB colour changing system, but instead of three different coloured lamps, Polycolor mixes red, green and blue dichroic filters to provide a range of hues and secondary colours. Graduated frost gives variation from hard edge spot, through soft to wash. Mechanical dimmer, shutter/strobe or the strobe function can be replaced with a remote Iris. Manual accessories available are: iris, framing mechanism, gobo holder and beam adaptors.

*Effects Projectors:* **Superscan**, again based on the HMI 1200 lamp, this articulated mirror projector is Clay Paky's most prestigious product. Superscan offers the additional features often sought in the theatre or TV studio. In addition to the RGB colour system described for Polycolor, an eight-position colour wheel is provided with variable speed rotation. This wheel provides the opportunity to insert a CT conversion filter from 5600 to 3300°K. Two, 4-way gobo wheels can be superimposed and there are three different prisms to select from. Remote focus, iris, mechanical dimmer and strobing shutter complete the facilities. **Golden Scan 2** is still in the catalogue, eight colours, eight static gobos with superimposition, shutter/strobe and iris. Available in 575 and 1200 HMI versions. The **Tiger** range is an expanding family of dedicated projectors based around the two HMI lamps (1200 and 575W), and some lower power units which start at HMI 575, offering 36v 400W Halogen as another

option. **Tiger Scan MRG** is a pan and tilt version of Tiger MRG, both of which are offered with either of the two higher power lamps and are essentially rotating gobo projectors. Five omni-directional rotating gobos are offered, plus the option of an additional fixed one for superimposition. Rotation speeds are adjustable and programmable. In addition, eight colours are selectable, with continuous rotation and rainbow effect, plus split colours. It is these combinations with the gobos which generate the unusual effects and looks of these units. In addition there is a strobing shutter.

**Tiger CC** is a dedicated colour changer of eight selections plus graduated frost, otherwise the colour characteristics and colour effects are as MRG. This unit is offered in all three lamp options. **Tiger SRG**, **Tiger LW**, and **Tiger RW**, are based around the two lower power lamps, and most have in-built, sound-to-light rotation response. They are a single gobo rotation unit with options to add a colour wheel or second static gobo, a liquid wheel projector (no sound-to-light), and an effects projector which combines a graphic wheel with a continuous colour wheel. **Miniscan** is the baby brother in the articulating mirror family with eight colours, five gobos, shutter/strobe and mechanical dimmer. Available in HTI 150 or 24v 150W Halogen versions. **Piper** is another growing family of effects projectors based on similar technology and lamp selection as Miniscan. **Piper CC** is an eight colour changer; **Piper RG** is a rotating gobo projector which comes as standard with a multi-coloured split-colour gobo-sized wheel, a static gobo can be added; **Piper RW** has a graphics wheel with pre-mounted dichroics; **Piper MS** offers a multi-coloured starburst effect.

*Spotlights:* **Pinscan** is a driven yoke version of the pinspot encapsulated in a classy package. It accepts the full range of Halostar 12v 75W lightweight integrated reflector/lamps, as well as Clay Paky's own narrow focused parabolic reflector and 12v 100W M.28 lamp, offering beam angles from 2.5° up to 60°. Full 360° of horizontal rotation and more than 220° of vertical movement is possible and externally programmable. **CP-Spot** is a fixed version of the above which comes either with a trunnion, or as a recessable downlighter, and with, or without, built-in transformer. In a characteristic Clay Paky silver finish, extruded aluminium body with black diecast end-caps and bracket. Models with transformers for both 6v and 12v operation are available - so a wider range of lightweight Par 36-type lamps is possible. Accessories for both these models include gel frame and dichroic filters.

*Controls and dimmers:* All Clay Paky luminaires are offered with Pulsar control equipment from the **Zero 3000**, 3 channel analog programmer and the **Masterpiece 48** channel analog and PMX only programmable touch control panel, to the **Masterpiece 108** channel digital multiplexed board which delivers DMX and PMX on all channels and offers the possibility of 36 channels of analog control. Pulsar also manufacture a wide range of dimmer packs, including the recently introduced **Datapak** which adds direct digital control as an option to analog and can be supplied in wall, or rack mounted models, in 12 or 18 channel configurations, with 5 or 10A channel loadings and dim or non-dim options.

#### Clay Paky

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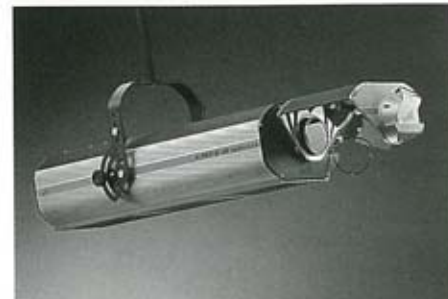
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The third generation Golden Scan.



Superscan MRG, with gobo rotation.



Shadow, 1200 HMI followspot.



Piper LCC, new colour changer.



Miniscan, the baby of the CP projector family.



The LX3 of yesteryear shaped like a tricorn hat.