

LBX™ – A NEW CONSOLE WITH THE TOUCH OF GENIUS™

At the London PLASA show in September 1993, and at LDI in November, the preview of GSX™ - Strand's new entry-level memory lighting console - provided an exclusive look into the future. A future where the lighting control panel is synonymous with the computer keyboard, and the computer-type software packages determine its function.

After all, you don't dispose of a PC and buy a new one when you need to draw as well as type a letter. If you want more from your PC, you add more software. So why shouldn't you do the same with a lighting console? When you want a larger rig, and more dimmers, you can now insert a channel upgrade disk and expand the console to match.

The future is now a reality. The Strand suite of operating software was fully launched in May, consisting of Genius™ v1.1 (including a 25-channel Genius upgrade), Kaleidoscope™, the special effects package, and Communiqué™, with its interconnectivity tools such as MIDI, MSC (Midi Show Control), and remote macros.

The advantage of separate software and hardware platforms is choice. The choice to buy what is needed at an affordable price, but with the flexibility to expand the system in the future. But choice is not restricted to the software. Although plans are already in place for new and exciting software to expand the GSX further, the latest offering in choice is the new LBX™ control console that works with the same software as GSX.

ANNOUNCING LBX

The LBX - a memory plus manual control console - is unashamedly a GSX in concert clothing. The LBX console mirrors the GSX in capacity: from 25 to a maximum of 125 channels, chosen by the selected Genius software version. LBX has an additional feature - manual faders - but this can mean everything to everyone. The universal panacea: manual faders mean hands-on; direct control; two-presets; single preset; submasters. Everyone has a need, and the need differs. So what has been done?

LBX has faders - we've put 96 of them on the desk. And a manual playback with time faders to control them. But what are the faders for? Although they are laid out on the control surface to look like a 48

channel 2-preset desk, the faders can be switched, by the Genius software to be 48 x 2-presets, or 36 x 2-presets with 24 submasters, or 72 x 1-preset and 24 submasters or 96 x 1-preset. The clever part is that if the LBX is set to a single preset configuration, it still works like a 2-preset board, with an intuitive 'hold' function to freeze the channel levels after each fade, so that the state can be re-set using the same faders.

You may well be thinking that if you've bought 125 channel Genius software, any less than 125 channels worth of 2-preset faders is a limitation, but just imagine the size of such a console! Also, with a greater use of colour scrollers, the number of fader-controlled channels reduces. With the flexibility of the LBX and Genius combination, the function of a full-capacity 2-preset desk is condensed into a more manageable sized housing.

SYSTEM CONNECTIVITY

Now, with all the 96 faders being used as channels, what about submasters? This is where the power of interconnectivity begins to show itself. Firstly, install Communiqué software, then by plugging an LX™ manual desk into the analogue port of LBX, 12 faders of the LX control become the LBX's submasters. Still not satisfied? Connect another LBX, or an MX™ into the "DMX-IN" socket™ (yes all these desks are compatible) and the two presets of the auxiliary desk take direct control of either channels or dimmers.

The sturdy engineering-grade injection-moulded LBX case, incorporates a self-adjusting power supply for any mains voltage from 90V to 250V, yet the console is a mere 14kg (30lbs) in weight, making it ideal for touring. But there's more to touring different venues than being tough. The console has to provide an extra level of functionality to accommodate the wide range of shows, the differing situations, the complex rigs, the last minute changes.

PERSONALITY PROGRAMMING

The LBX will work the way you work. What language do you speak? English, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Swedish? Do you like to type in 'channel' @ 'level' and it happens, or do you use a command line sequence with an enter key? Do you like the wheel to work proportionally or to shaft master? Do you prefer cues to track or

crossfade? The choice is yours through the software personality.

You can configure the LBX to match the rig. Which channels are used for scrollers (and therefore mustn't reset when there's a blackout)? Which dimmers are non-dims? Which channels control which dimmers, and at what proportional level?

LBX (with Genius, Kaleidoscope and Communiqué) can operate as the centre of a sophisticated lighting communications network. In addition to the standard equipment such as hand-held designer's control, you can link compatible consoles together through the DMX-In port, or through MIDI. A manual desk can be plugged in and



LBX Lighting Console.