

SUPERVISOR™ DIGITAL DIMMERS

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

With the launch of a new generation of modular dimming in September, many of the advantages of the top range digital dimming installations will now be available to users a little further down the budget scale.

The Supervisor™ range of dimmers - known as CD80Supervisor™ in North America† and EC90Supervisor™ in the UK and Europe* - form the backbone of the new integrated digital dimming system. Integrated, because no longer are controls and dimmers considered as separate entities in the lighting control network - they are hubs within a sophisticated network of control, communications and feedback.

The Supervisor predecessors, EC90™ and CD90™, set the standard in 1990 with high-performance digital dimming in a modular format, but achieved at a level that put the most desirable features out of range for many users.

The Supervisor now offers the most widely preferred specification points of the top range dimmers - modularity, digital accuracy, status reporting and superb voltage regulation - and has new features such as direct dimmer control without having to use a control system and integrated architectural control. This, added to high level system security and the many in/out control options offered as standard, means that the Supervisor will surely be the bench mark against which every other dimmer will be measured.

STATUS REPORTING

Supervisor dimmers can report their status to a remote Personal Computer running the Strand Reporter™ dimmer supervisory program (available later in 1994). Standard reporting will be of the dimmer line voltage, dimmer output level, failure of either of the two Mux signals, or high temperature / fan failure. Also, as standard, the user can configure and directly control all of the Supervisor dimmers from the remote PC.

For information on load status, the Supervisor range includes the Reporter power modules. These modules measure the current of each dimmer load and report back the load in Watts (and whether this deviates from a stored load value), if the load has been disconnected (either by lamp failure or the spotlight is unplugged), an overload condition, a dimmer fault, a control fault, and if DC is present (eg. if one thyristor of a pair has failed).

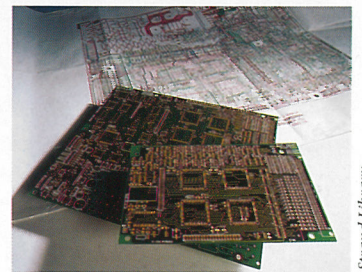
FLEXIBLE CONTROL OPTIONS

Supervisor accepts two simultaneous Mux signals which could be from two separate control systems, eg. "Theatre" and "Rock and Roll" style consoles, "House" and "Visiting" consoles or adding Auditorium or Architectural controls. Up to 32 simple +10V analogue signals enable control from fader desks (such as LX) or from on/off switches.

In addition, the SWC™ (System Wide Control) allows direct dimmer and preset control (of up to 99 presets) from a hand held unit and from distributed wall panels. Further, the Supervisor supports an architectural lighting control system called Outlook™. Outlook can control up to 16 rooms each with 8 programmable presets, with stations ranging from simple slider, pushbutton, slider and pushbutton, infra-red and audio visual interface.

The rack's own software then dictates exactly how the five incoming control signals relate to each other and to the dimmer output. These user programmable options have been structured for scenarios where, for example, auditorium lighting, backstage lighting and performance lighting are required to be controlled from one of two main lighting desks, or from distributed push-button outstations or faders. Six combination options allow Mux signals to take precedence, or preset outstations to override, or individual channels to take independent control.

Another clever feature is the 12 analogue signal outputs (available on the large processor version only) that can control non-dimming equipment, such as motors, relays, etc. from any of the above control inputs. This has obviously many uses, like integrating Audio/Visual



The design takes shape.



Designing Supervisor dimmer on CAD for SMT - (see feature page 20).

control, or controlling mirror balls together with a dimmer.

SECURITY FEATURES

A new term to dimming, these features provide security against hardware failure and security for peace of mind.

What happens if things go wrong? A problem on stage, in the auditorium, in a dark corner of a restaurant... and you need light -