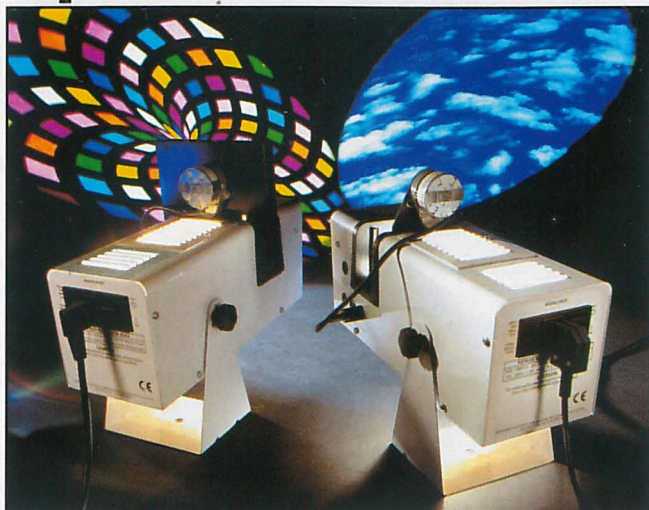


## Optikinetics reinvents Solar 250



The evergreen Solar 250 projector has recently been significantly upgraded by Optikinetics.

It was withdrawn from production last year to allow re-engineering to meet new CE and EMC directives.

Other improvements have been built in, too, in the process. These include a new casing design which reduces light spill, improves serviceability and improves access to the optical system. The latter has itself been realigned to improve the projector's illumination field performance.

The unit also now runs cooler, is lighter (thanks to a new transformer) and features a range of extra safety features.  
+44 (0)1582 411413

## Chroma-Q defies sceptics

When the Chroma-Q was launched in June, says AC Lighting, "people were sceptical about how a colour changer could be made and sold for only £239.00". 3 months and 3000 colour changers later, they say, "Anybody who has invested in the units so far does not seem the slightest bit concerned about how they're manufactured, just that they are, and they will continue to be made". Chroma-Q has been a hit with schools and colleges, where colour changers were regarded as an expensive luxury. And recently top rental companies have been investing in Chroma-Q colour changers. "They offer an incredible return on investment compared to older-style metal-bodied colour changers," said LSD's Kevin Forbes.  
AC Lighting: +44 (0)1494 446000

## Cerebrum installs at Guildford University

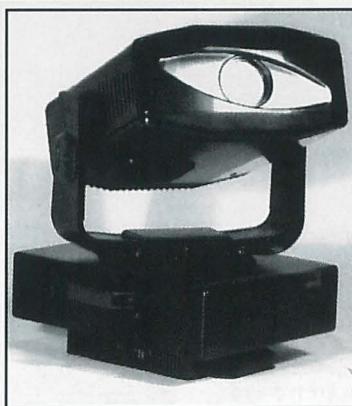
Surrey University in Guildford has re-equipped its entertainment facilities with an expanded dancefloor space and rationalised live venue. Ents manager Ian Lipp placed a £25k order with Cerebrum's Dominic Calvert for a range of hardware including Pulsar, Clay Paky and Martin effects, along with Trilite and Thomas trussing for the disco area.  
+44 (0)181 949 3171

## Starlite Mk5 hits the streets after PLASA debut

Following what AC Lighting called "the tremendous response" at last month's PLASA, the new Starlite Mk5 DMX moving yoke profile fixture will go into production "without delay". At the show, AC also announced the formation of Lane Lighting to sell the instrument.

Starlite director Ray French commented: "During the show interest was considerable, especially with the big name lighting designers. Although the Starlite Mk5 is slightly more expensive than other currently available fixtures, designers looked at the optical quality and the very complete feature set and agreed it was worth the extra. The 360 x 270° movement enables each fixture to do more, so less are needed to light a large show." The Mk5's launch follows extensive development and, says the company, "brings a new level of quality optics to the market, with complete image focusing and a flat field that has to be seen to be believed."

Its compact modular design allows users to purchase only required options. Standard features include a 1200W GS HMI lamp, remote focusing, 270 x 360° movement, strobe and separate dimmer. Fully-loaded, the Starlite Mk5 features full CMY colour mixing, 6-position colour wheel, two sets of five fully indexing variable speed rotating litho gobo wheels, fully indexing variable speed, rotating prisms / effects, and variable frost.



## Biancheri tightens techies' nuts

The Biancheri, so its makers (of the same name) claim, "will become the techie's friend in much the same way as the adjustable spanner has done." 'Techies' in this context refers to ladies and gentlemen of the lighting truss, to whom this wingbolt spanner may prove invaluable in securing those lanterns and other stage periphery – while straining neither wingbolt nor techie.  
+44 (0)181 521 6408

## Wholehog II adds AutoFX

At PLASA last year Flying Pig Systems unveiled Wholehog II, following in the footsteps of the Wholehog, aiming to make a great impression on the automated lighting world. Michael Jackson, Alanis Morissette, Stone Roses, and The Eagles were among Wholehog II's first year of concert tour credits; theatrical shows from *Big on Broadway* to *Miss Saigon*, *Grease*, *Riverdance* and Disney's *Pocohontas*; top Las Vegas shows and several of the new generation of cruise liners; and highly-visible projects including *The Song for Europe*, the Oscar Awards Ceremony and the United Nations Closing Ceremony – plus leading television studios including RTE, NRK, MTV-Goteburg and MTV (UK).

The new Auto FX offers a new advanced level of automated programming, "enabling even a completely inexperienced operator to create complicated polished moving light effects," says Flying Pig, "such as Spirals, Fly-Aways, Cancans, Circles, Iris Chases, Ballyhoos, Rainbow Colour Chases, which normally involve hours of skilled programming time, but can now be achieved with a few simple button presses."

The Auto FX reside in a palette window on the Wholehog II's touch screens just like existing palettes and any one of the 100 prerecorded effect can be selected from the palette. The Wholehog II's three wheels allow immediate control of rate, size and offset of the effect. Since Auto FX always refers to a fixed point, the designer can create a circle around one point on stage in Cue 1 and then crossfade the still-rotating circle, to another point on stage in Cue 2 and so on. Several Auto FX can be stored together, running together as a single Cue with no complicated programming.

The Auto FX package is now available as a free of charge software upgrade to existing users. It can be downloaded from the Flying Pig Web site at <http://www.flyingpig.com>.

