

The Strand 85 S



by Andy Collier

MAJOR product launches have now, for Strand, become something of an annual tradition. Although in 1983 we proudly gave birth to the M24 memory control system, the cast of new products was undoubtedly dominated by additions and improvements to the luminaire catalogue. The Nocturne and Coda ranges of floodlights, the new Minim 500W spotlights, and the Cadenza 2kW range completed the mainline products in the new luminaire design programme.

The 1985 'Spring Collection' was previewed at the Strand agent's and dealer's meeting at Peebles, Scotland, last September and this time it was the control product range which occupied the star dressing room. But first, to provide the limelight, we introduce the Solo followspot...



SOLO NEW

Both the 2kW tungsten halogen, and the 1kW CSI (or CID) discharge variants share the variable spread lens system developed for the successful Cadenza profile spots. The beam can be controlled from 9° to 15°, focussed from a soft to a hard edge, and lamp adjustment is provided to produce a flat or peaky field. Standard equipment with both followspots includes a 24 leaf iris and a horizontal stripping shutter, and the substantial wrap-around tubular handle ensures that the Solo is comfortable to use in any operating position.

The ease of servicing has been an important consideration in the design, and there is easy access for lamp replacement, iris exchange and for cleaning the lenses.

A special feature of the Solo CSI is its ballast design, which provides selectable power settings for full power (100%) half power (50%) or standby (25%). So now there is no risk of damaging the iris between cues as the followspot stands idle at full power, or having to resort to the costly and noisy 'hot restrike' solution. Solo CSI will quietly return to full power on cue from the comfort of standby in a few seconds.

And, if you have ever tried to fade out your discharge followspot and failed - here is the answer: Strand's dimming shutter accessory. The scissor-like mechanical shutter incorporates a carefully researched profile to produce the smoothest of discharge fades currently available.

M24 EXPANDED

First in the line-up of controls is last season's juvenile lead, Tempus M24, which was originally designed for the needs of the smaller theatre, using a maximum of 60 circuits. There was an overwhelming demand for M24 to control more channels, so we have developed an expansion kit to provide up to 120 channels and a substantial improvement in memory capacity. The 1985 M24 systems will be supplied as standard to control up to 72 channels, or in the expanded form for 84, 96, 108 or 120 channels, all with a capacity of 199 memories.

Whilst we were at it, we have added a special facility for exhibition and display work. The latest systems include an autostart option so that M24 proceeds with its recorded sequence of lighting effects automatically as soon as mains power is switched on.

To complement the mature 120 channel M24, its partner M24 FX is also expanded to control the full 120 channels as a standard feature and, don't forget, these improvements are also available to all current users of M24 - see your local agent for details.

ACT 6 NEW

With M24 making its name with portable lighting rigs, we introduce a new partner, the ACT 6 dimmer pack. The small, lightweight construction of ACT 6 belies its powerful complement of six 10 amp dimmers. Carrying handles are incorporated in the side panels, which when reversed provide the correct fixing supports for a standard 19" rack.

Two control standards are provided for ACT 6. Firstly, the analogue version which is compatible with Tempus manual control

desks or any similar system. Secondly, there is a multiplex variant which connects directly to the output of the M24 without the need for an interface. Both varieties are provided with local controls: in the case of the analogue ACT 6, six faders may be used for controlling the dimmers during the performance for a small installation, or just for testing the connected lamps whilst rigging. The multiplex version also includes a rigger's facility, with a single fader to set a common level.

ACT 6 is available with 5 Amp, 15 Amp or a selection of European socket types and meets international RFI regulations.