

top ten lighting and sound products of 2010

Discover the best equipment as featured at the ABTT Theatre Show 2010

1) ETC – SmartModule 2, launched at ABTT 2010

Part of ETC's Smart Solutions range of portable dimming and control. Portable, compact and affordable, it can be wall-mounted, hung on a pipe or placed on the floor. No complicated set-up, and convection cooled so it operates silently. Available with either four or six 2.3kW dimmer modules as standard, both versions are available with CEE 16A, Schuko, NF (French) and UK15A sockets. The six-dimmer module is also available with Socapex-type six-circuit multi-pin outlets. The system offers remote control via DMX512A with Remote Device management (RDM), presets, local control capabilities and a choice of dimmer curves, as well as 20 pre-programmed chases for unattended operation.

2) Orbital Sound – Da-Cappo Micro Microphones, European launch at ABTT 2010

Range includes the Da-Cappo DA-15, a single ear microphone with in-ear monitor. Tiny (2.5mm in diameter) and affordable, with a combination of moisture resistance – which contributes to the capsules' operational lifespan in a hot, on-stage environment – and the use of a separate pluggable cable, which avoids discarding the whole product simply because of a damaged cable. Both these factors have the potential to make budget savings. The in-ear monitoring facility, built into the around the ear loop, has applications for use in orchestra pits, performers requiring foldback,



Orbital Sound's Da-Cappo head-worn micro microphone

and backstage communications.

3) White Light and Arcola Energy – HyLight150, launched at ABTT 2010

A portable lighting and power supply that offers the ability to run lighting in locations away from the electrical grid silently and without the emissions of traditional, noisy diesel generators. Externally, the first model, HyLight150, is a compact, wheeled flight-case, rugged for transportation and easy to deploy. Internally, it contains the new Hymera hydrogen fuel cell generator and two lightweight hydrogen gas cylinders from industrial gas supplier BOC. Also features a choice of low energy LED lighting systems suitable for architectural, live event or safety applications.

4) Stage Technologies – PC Wing

A compact training tool, which

enables students and automation technicians to learn to programme and operate automation technology off-line in a classroom environment. Enables trainees to work on the same control interface used in some of the live performance industry's most popular control desks. Connecting over USB and running on next-generation eChameleon software, PC Wing provides a dedicated Acrobat/Illusionist keyboard, three playbacks, a dead man's handle and an emergency stop button. Also useful for experienced operators for offline plotting of new shows, revisiting repertory shows to recall technical or design details and can also be used for data backup on a live system.

5) Avolites – Pearl Tiger Touch with Titan V3 operating system

Fast, accessible, hands-on control working in conjunction with the intuitive wide touch screen.

12 DMX universes of 6144 channels, 20 Submasters for Cues, Cue Lists and Chases and an expandable library. Hosts 1,000 virtual playback executors and ten direct macro buttons with macro library. The Titan V3 software features the new quad view which allows multiple user defined views. Colour controller and channel list viewer can be seen in addition to a dynamic function window. Live rock and roll control combined with a touch screen interface, and no overly complicated menu driven system.

6) RAT (Music Stands) Ltd – Mains voltage LEDlight

Needs no separate power supply, and can therefore be plugged straight into the mains and is compatible with older RAT-stands Lights. Uses warm white LEDs, which operate in the only part of the spectrum that professional musicians will tolerate. They give very bright and very even illumination of the score, and the sharpest cut-off of any light on the market. The LED-light gives lots of light for musicians in the pit, but very little spillage for the lighting designer. The mains voltage LEDlight can be dimmed by all known types of dimmer.

7) MilTec (UK) Ltd – "LEDHead"

50W LED moving head profile. A very compact unit, only 400mm high, with dichroic colours, indexable rotating gobos, rotating prism and motorised focus. Light output is comparable to many current

moving heads fitted with MSD250/2 lamps. The dimming and strobe are both electronic, giving a perfectly smooth dimming curve and distinct strobing up to 30 fps. The luminaire is small enough to be hung on a single hook clamp using the omega bracket adaptor provided. The compact size and light weight, along with the quiet fan cooling and low heat output, make it perfect for small school and club venues where height is at a premium.

8) Sound Technology – AKG DMS700 Digital Radio Microphone System/AKG Wireless iPhone app, launched March, 2010

A 100% digital signal path for pristine audio quality, up to 100 simultaneous channels, auto-scan, infra-red transmitter link, secure encrypted transmission, low-cut filter, three-band Equalizer, dbx Compressor and dbx Limiter and a rugged all-metal construction. Crucially, the ultra-wide tuning bandwidth (548.1Mhz – 697.9Mhz) of the AKG Band 1 system includes the future-proof Channel 38, but also available is a Band 2 system (710.1Mhz – 864.9Mhz) covering the current Channel 69. The DMS700 can be monitored, and soon controlled, from AKG's new iPhone application.

9) ETC – Selador

Selador series of LED fixtures designed specifically with theatre use in mind, so they output broad spectrum whites much more naturally than a regular LED fixture would.

Selador Vivid was specifically designed for bright colours and low power use. High power Luxeon Rebel LEDs and high efficiency lenses provide brilliant colour production and lighting punch. The new Vivid-R produces 50% more light while consuming 10% less power.

10) Martin Professional – MAC 350 Entour

A cutting edge LED profile fixture that surpasses what has previously been possible in terms of brightness, efficiency and compactness in a hard edge LED fixture.

Features include continuous rotation, full blade crossover framing, uniform focus of each blade and easy conversion between a profile and performance. The framing module also includes iris, shutter, rotating gobos, animation system, colour wheel. It is also the quietest fixture in its class.

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White Light and Arcola Energy HyLight150 lighting and power supply