
Subject: Lights out, the party's over

Posted by [Paul Artola](#) on Wed, 12 Sep 2007 14:24:27 GMT

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After nearly 30 years of recording, composing, jamming, and general noise making, I have finally joined a band that performs before an audience. We play a typical mix of rock, country, and disco covers to get a crowd tapping their feet and dancing. Our first gig together (the others have been a band for a couple of years, but I just joined them) was this past weekend, playing at a friend's birthday party.

We set up in the backyard and played into the night, but as darkness approached, it was clear that our few lights were not up to the task. So, I ask this group what you suggest we do?

There are 6 of us on the stage, and currently, we are doing our own sound (via Yamaha 01V digital board). We have a pair of Chauvet sound activated color bank lights and a few metal clip-on lamps, but we really need more. The singers up front were mostly in the dark, and the sound activation algorithms were hard to control.

We won't be playing out enough to justify hiring a lighting tech, and since we are hauling our own gear and setting it up, anything that is easy to deal with in that regard is appealing.

Also, we are willing to drop a little money on lights, but I think keeping a total package in the neighborhood of \$1000 is our goal.

Thoughts? Suggestions? Experiences?

Thanks.

- Paul Artola
Ellicott City, Maryland

Subject: Re: Lights out, the party's over

Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Wed, 12 Sep 2007 14:34:16 GMT

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This is a great time to buy lighting gear. I'd start by googling "LED PAR."

The latest round of LED lights are bright enough to consider.

Low power consumption means you can have a lot of lights without blowing breakers or resorting to 220 circuits.

Very low heat output means you won't bake on stage.

DMX control for color changing without gels means more color choices with fewer lights needed. Program a dynamic show with your DMX controller and a few LED PAR fixtures.

Long life means you never replace bulbs and you can run them full on for up to 100,000 hours. (Lessee, four hours per show at N shows per year, well, you can do the math :^)

Cheers,
-Jamie
www.JamieKrutz.com

Paul Artola wrote:

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> Ellicott City, Maryland

Subject: Re: Lights out, the party's over

Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Wed, 12 Sep 2007 17:32:50 GMT

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lighting is not easy to setup/move, or particularly cheap but you have a lot of options these days. LED's, PAR cans, specialty, scanners, moving head... are you going to automate it? You can tie a sequencer and build files/presets in a DMX controller, or if you can find them still there are MIDI to A/C controller packs out there still, probably on ebay I'd bet.

How do you intend to control?

AA

"Paul Artola" <artola@comcast.net> wrote in message
news:amsfe3phjq9thkfbsjfti811he1upbj8j@4ax.com...

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> Ellicott City, Maryland

Subject: Re: Lights out, the party's over
Posted by [Paul Artola](#) on Thu, 13 Sep 2007 04:45:11 GMT
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There is an outside chance we could have a sound/light person, but otherwise control will be provided by one of us on stage.

- Paul

On Wed, 12 Sep 2007 12:32:50 -0500, "Aaron Allen"
<know-spam@not_here.dude> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Lights out, the party's over
Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Thu, 13 Sep 2007 12:45:31 GMT
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Budget?

AA

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news:n0ghe39u1n0bjt8o46dp4pebh6jpoh3jqs@4ax.com...

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>>AA

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Subject: Re: Lights out, the party's over

Posted by [Paul Artola](#) on Thu, 13 Sep 2007 13:55:07 GMT

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About \$1000?

- Paul

On Thu, 13 Sep 2007 07:45:31 -0500, "Aaron Allen"

<know-spam@not_here.dude> wrote:

>Budget?

>

>AA

Subject: Re: Lights out, the party's over

Posted by [John \[1\]](#) on Thu, 13 Sep 2007 14:09:00 GMT

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Here's the light show baby !

<http://www.google.com/products?q=mirror+ball&btnG=Search &hl=en&show=dd>

<http://www.raveworx.com/Mirror-Ball-Projection-Lightshow-pr-491.html>

http://www.alsto.com/product/code/9124909.do?cm_mmc=Froogle-_-Outdoor%20Christmas%20Decor-_-2007-_-9124909&code-macs=MA7WFGL&code=MA7WFGL

<http://www.tias.com/cgi-bin/google.fcgi/itemKey=1921135981>

http://www.netshops.com/cart/shopper.cfm?action=view&key=YTE002&tid=YTE002&source=channel_intelligence_gbase&ci_src=17588969&ci_sku=YTE002-1

Subject: Re: Lights out, the party's over

Posted by [Paul Artola](#) on Fri, 14 Sep 2007 01:28:27 GMT

Thanks, John. We're not really a mirror ball kinda group. The colorwheels do bring back memories. My folks had one for the Christmas display when I was a kid. I don't recall it working too well. I guess they needed a mirror ball too.

- Paul

On 14 Sep 2007 00:09:00 +1000, "John" <no@No.com> wrote:

>
>Here's the light show baby !
>
>
> [http://www.google.com/products?q=mirror+ball&btnG=Search &hl=en&show=dd](http://www.google.com/products?q=mirror+ball&btnG=Search&hl=en&show=dd)
>
> <http://www.raveworx.com/Mirror-Ball-Projection-Lightshow-pr-491.html>
>
> http://www.alsto.com/product/code/9124909.do?cm_mmc=Froogle-_-Outdoor%20Christmas%20Decor-_-2007-_-9124909&code-macs=MA7WFGL&code=MA7WFGL
>
><http://www.tias.com/cgi-bin/google.fcgi/itemKey=1921135981>
>
> http://www.netshops.com/cart/shopper.cfm?action=view&key=YTE002&tid=YTE002&source=channel_intelligence_gbase&ci_src=17588969&ci_sku=YTE002-1
>

Subject: Re: Lights out, the party's over

Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Fri, 14 Sep 2007 09:30:37 GMT

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Behringer Eurolight <http://www.zzounds.com/item--BEHLC2412> Once you buy it, you'll need to also build/buy a XLR plug to 5 pin DIN pigtail.. do a pin for pin pigtail off Behr's 5 pin DIN. Radio Shack probably has what you need. Or you can do what I did and skip the pigtail,yank the dumb idea 5 pin, and drop in a 3 pin XLR. It's a DMX512 protocol, just they decided on a non-standard plug. Understand of course your warranty goes in the crapper the moment you 'modify' the unit.

(8x) Mini PAR 16 cans

<http://www.pssl.com/bitemdetail.tpl~waGroup1datarq~>

[waGroup1datarq]~eqint_KeyIDdata~18683~itemNumber~[item_number]~UID~2007091402084430~disp_IMG~Y~catgroup~%5BcatGroup%5D
Put the ceramic base Halogen track lighting in them @ 50w, they'll blow a

hot hole in you on a typical club size stage...this is a pretty directional setup:)

(2x) DMX dimmer packs

http://www.pssl.com/bitemdetail.tpl~waGroup1datarq~DMX%20pack~eqint_KeyIDdata~39872~itemNumber~DMX-4%20~UID~2007091402084430~disp_IMG~Y~catgroup~%5BcatGroup%5D

(2x) stands/bars

[http://www.pssl.com/bitemdetail.tpl~waGroup1datarq~\[waGroup1datarq\]~eqint_KeyIDdata~7294~itemNumber~\[item_number\]~UID~2007091402084430~disp_IMG~Y~catgroup~%5BcatGroup%5D](http://www.pssl.com/bitemdetail.tpl~waGroup1datarq~[waGroup1datarq]~eqint_KeyIDdata~7294~itemNumber~[item_number]~UID~2007091402084430~disp_IMG~Y~catgroup~%5BcatGroup%5D)

Get the plastic/neoprene O Ring mounts to fit the above pole (8x). Probably should pick up some good gauge A/C extensions as well. Get XLR cable for your DMX sends. I've used mic cable before, but don't use the cheap stuff or it could bleed into your audio.

You'll need to get some gels also... avoid darker colors unless you plan to double up the PAR16/halogens to offset coverage. Set up/connect all the lights. Build your presets in the Eurolight. Once you decide to go with self automations or a guy, you can decide if you need to call up the presets from the front panel or pick up a foot MIDI controller or let your dude run presets/faders.

Nice thing about this set up is if you have DMX send channels left, you can add lights later and beyond that get a second 2412 and cascade them. If you're not up on DMX, google DMX512 protocols.

FYI.. at teardown....the general rule is do NOT fool with the lights until they've cooled or you'll be buying a lot of bulbs. The Halogens take it pretty well but specialty lighting absolutely does not, and those are pricey bulbs.

AA

"Paul Artola" <artola@comcast.net> wrote in message
news:69gie3tgcgempn2aflfuuqr695sr4bmcd1@4ax.com...

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> <know-spam@not_here.dude> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Lights out, the party's over

Posted by [John \[1\]](#) on Fri, 14 Sep 2007 11:45:18 GMT

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I had a friend here who bought an 8mm projector at a garage sale and played movies in the background on a sheet. Get creative ;-). I saw a show on lighting and this guy had an overhead projector with colored water and oil in a clear container and would add and remove oils and such to make the wild psychedelic images of the 60's. It was totally simple and the effect was absolutely stunning.

Like this: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zTbNdjbv6Bw&mode=related&search=>

good luck and have fun !

Subject: Re: Lights out, the party's over

Posted by [Paul Artola](#) on Fri, 14 Sep 2007 13:56:09 GMT

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Aaron -

Thanks for the recommendations. I will look into all this.

- Paul

On Fri, 14 Sep 2007 04:30:37 -0500, "Aaron Allen"

<know-spam@not_here.dude> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Lights out, the party's over
Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Fri, 14 Sep 2007 20:38:18 GMT
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I mentioned this before, but for about the same price you could get a two or three light LED PAR 64 color changing system that you could grow from there as needed. Or you could get more LED lights if you go with smaller fixtures (I'm leaning toward newer PAR 64 LED models for

brightness).

With LED lighting you don't need dimmer packs.

You don't have to worry about waiting for hot lights to cool down after the show, they don't get hot.

You don't have to replace bulbs, ever.

You'll never need gels.

All of which potentially saves money and time.

LED lights won't heat up the stage.

You can change the color of each light dynamically during the show, so you can choose from wider variety of colors while using fewer lights. If you like strobe light effects, any LED light can strobe in any color.

An LED system is unlikely to blow any breakers. And setup is probably quicker.

If you have any stores near you that carry both LED and older tech, it'd be worth comparing.

Cheers,
-Jamie
www.JamieKrutz.com

Paul Artola wrote:

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Subject: Re: Lights out, the party's over

Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Sat, 15 Sep 2007 05:15:56 GMT

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I did some quick compares on LED vs incandecent and the LED's are softer/fuzzier. Nothing super scientific mind you, but I like not only the definition of the incan/halo lights, but also the directional properties... they look better under a fog machine that way. LEDs would be good fill lighting I'd think, but not for directional/spotting/highlighting.

AA

"Jamie K" <Meta@Dimensional.com> wrote in message news:46eaf305\$1@linux...

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> www.JamieKrutz.com

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>>> [\[waGroup1datarq\]~eqint_KeyIDdata~18683~itemNumber~\[item_number\]~UID~2007091402084430~disp_IMG~Y~catgroup~%5BcatGroup%5D](http://www.pssl.com/bitemdetail.tpl~waGroup1datarq~[waGroup1datarq]~eqint_KeyIDdata~18683~itemNumber~[item_number]~UID~2007091402084430~disp_IMG~Y~catgroup~%5BcatGroup%5D)
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>>> [0%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20~UID~2007091402084430~disp_IMG~Y~ca](http://www.pssl.com/bitemdetail.tpl~waGroup1datarq~DMX%20pack~eqint_KeyIDdata~39872~itemNumber~DMX-4%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20~UID~2007091402084430~disp_IMG~Y~catgroup~%5BcatGroup%5D)
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>>>
>>> (2x) stands/bars
>>> [http://www.pssl.com/bitemdetail.tpl~waGroup1datarq~](http://www.pssl.com/bitemdetail.tpl~waGroup1datarq~[waGroup1datarq]~eqint_KeyIDdata~7294~itemNumber~[item_number]~UID~2007091402084430~disp_IMG~Y~catgroup~%5BcatGroup%5D)
>>> [\[waGroup1datarq\]~eqint_KeyIDdata~7294~itemNumber~\[item_numbe](http://www.pssl.com/bitemdetail.tpl~waGroup1datarq~[waGroup1datarq]~eqint_KeyIDdata~7294~itemNumber~[item_number]~UID~2007091402084430~disp_IMG~Y~catgroup~%5BcatGroup%5D)
>>> [r\]~UID~2007091402084430~disp_IMG~Y~catgroup~%5BcatGroup%5D](http://www.pssl.com/bitemdetail.tpl~waGroup1datarq~[waGroup1datarq]~eqint_KeyIDdata~7294~itemNumber~[item_number]~UID~2007091402084430~disp_IMG~Y~catgroup~%5BcatGroup%5D)
>>>
>>> Get the plastic/neoprene O Ring mounts to fit the above pole (8x).
>>> Probably should pick up some good guage A/C extensions as well. Get XLR
>>> cable for your DMX sends. I've used mic cable before, but don't use the
>>> cheap stuff or it could bleed into your audio.
>>>
>>> You'll need to get some gels also... avoid darker colors unless you plan
>>> to double up the PAR16/halogens to offset coverage. Set up/connect all
>>> the lights. Build your presets in the Eurolight. Once you decide to go
>>> with self automations or a guy, you can decide if you need to call up
>>> the presets from the front panel or pick up a foot MIDI controller or
>>> let your dude run presets/faders.

>>>
>>> Nice thing about this set up is if you have DMX send channels left, you
>>> can add lights later and beyond that get a second 2412 and cascade them.
>>> If you're not up on DMX, google DMX512 protocols.
>>>
>>> FYI.. at teardown....the general rule is do NOT fool with the lights
>>> until they've cooled or you'll be buying a lot of bulbs. The Halogens
>>> take it pretty well but specialty lighting absolutely does not, and
>>> those are pricey bulbs.
>>>
>>> AA
>>

Subject: Re: Lights out, the party's over
Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Sat, 15 Sep 2007 07:10:54 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Aaron Allen wrote:

> I did some quick compares on LED vs incandecent and the LED's are
> softer/fuzzier. Nothing super scientific mind you, but I like not only the
> definition of the incan/halo lights, but also the directional properties...
> they look better under a fog machine that way.
> LEDs would be good fill lighting I'd think, but not for
> directional/spotting/highlighting.

Fair enough. You're right that using LEDs for stage wash is a common application. Depending on the band and the show requirements, that might be enough.

But I wouldn't rule out LEDs for close-in front spots, and there are LED specialty lights available for other applications.

I've read comments from several bands who have gone all LED and are happy with the results. I've seen some LED comparison images that hold up well to old-style PAR lighting.

Here's my direct experience: We have a really nice small club in Denver with all LED lighting. If you go to my bands page you can see a shot:

<http://www.JamieKrutz.com/jbands.html>

Look for the one that's labeled: "Ten Tiers at the Soiled Dove Underground, Denver." No fog, but the lighting worked well and it wasn't hot on stage even with a fair number of lights mounted fairly close in (it was actually a bit brighter than it looks in the pic). They have big bands there (lots of people on stage) and they have plenty of fixtures to cover those shows. I was impressed enough with their system to add

LED lighting to my buy list.

Those are American DJ PAR 64 LED cans. That company has since come out with their upgraded PAR 64 PRO cans which are brighter. Other suppliers on Ebay have similar 10mm LED models for a bit less \$.

Fixtures with the larger Luxeon 1 and 3 watt LEDs are also appearing for more \$\$\$\$. There are even LED kits to upgrade old PAR cans to LED.

BTW, which LED lights did you test? And how long ago?

From what I've seen so far, brightness/power varies by the model. Some are wide and some are narrow. Some have more defined edges than others. You can add diffusion filters to narrow ones if you need more of a wash. There are LED rain lights and FX lights that do tight beams. A lot of the better lights have been introduced in the last year or so, some in the last few months.

I haven't gotten any LED lights yet but am on the edge of getting two or three modest ones for my solo show - for small gigs where no lighting is provided.

One reservation is that the white from an RGB LED light can be a bit blueish, although American DJ has an all white model (non color changing) that might get around that for a front light. There's been talk of upcoming fixtures with RGBY - adding some yellow LEDs to warm up the output. Having said that, the white from the RGB LED lights at the Dove seemed OK.

Older lights with gels work fine, though they are limited to a smaller color palette, put out way more heat, need dimmer packs, and have the additional long term costs of replacing bulbs and gels, and eating significantly more electricity.

It seems to me that LEDs are the future of stage lighting. They offer a lot of advantages: low power consumption, low heat output, color changing flexibility, simple setup, direct DMX control w/o dimmer packs, no gel costs, no bulb replacement costs, and the possibility of having fewer fixtures that do more. In the last year or so they've started becoming bright enough to consider. It's still a bit cutting edge but I like to geek out on new tech, so these are exciting times...

Cheers,
-Jamie
www.JamieKrutz.com

> AA
>
>
> "Jamie K" <Meta@Dimensional.com> wrote in message news:46eaf305\$1@linux...
>> I mentioned this before, but for about the same price you could get a
>> two or three light LED PAR 64 color changing system that you could grow
>> from there as needed. Or you could get more LED lights if you go with
>> smaller fixtures (I'm leaning toward newer PAR 64 LED models for
>> brightness).
>>
>> With LED lighting you don't need dimmer packs.
>>
>> You don't have to worry about waiting for hot lights to cool down after
>> the show, they don't get hot.
>>
>> You don't have to replace bulbs, ever.
>>
>> You'll never need gels.
>>
>> All of which potentially saves money and time.
>>
>> LED lights won't heat up the stage.
>>
>> You can change the color of each light dynamically during the show, so you
>> can choose from wider variety of colors while using fewer lights. If you
>> like strobe light effects, any LED light can strobe in any color.
>>
>> An LED system is unlikely to blow any breakers. And setup is probably
>> quicker.
>>
>> If you have any stores near you that carry both LED and older tech, it'd
>> be worth comparing.
>>
>> Cheers,
>> -Jamie
>> www.JamieKrutz.com
>>
>>
>>
>> Paul Artola wrote:
>>> Aaron -
>>>
>>> Thanks for the recommendations. I will look into all this. - Paul
>>>
>>> On Fri, 14 Sep 2007 04:30:37 -0500, "Aaron Allen"
>>> <know-spam@not_here.dude> wrote:

>>>

>>>> Behringer Eurolight <http://www.zzounds.com/item--BEHLC2412> Once you buy it, you'll need to also build/buy a XLR plug to 5 pin DIN pigtail.. do a pin for pin pigtail off Behr's 5 pin DIN. Radio Shack probably has what you need. Or you can do what I did and skip the pigtail,yank the dumb idea 5 pin, and drop in a 3 pin XLR. It's a DMX512 protocol, just they decided on a non-standard plug. Understand of course your warranty goes in the crapper the moment you 'modify' the unit.

>>>>

>>>> (8x) Mini PAR 16 cans

>>>> [http://www.pssl.com/bitemdetail.tpl~waGroup1datarg~\[waGroup1datarg\]~eqint_KeyIDdata~18683~itemNumber~\[item_number\]~UID~2007091402084430~disp_IMG~Y~catgroup~%5BcatGroup%5D](http://www.pssl.com/bitemdetail.tpl~waGroup1datarg~[waGroup1datarg]~eqint_KeyIDdata~18683~itemNumber~[item_number]~UID~2007091402084430~disp_IMG~Y~catgroup~%5BcatGroup%5D)

>>>> Put the ceramic base Halogen track lighting in them @ 50w, they'll blow a hot hole in you on a typical club size stage...this is a pretty directional setup:)

>>>>

>>>> (2x) DMX dimmer packs

>>>> http://www.pssl.com/bitemdetail.tpl~waGroup1datarg~DMX%20pack~eqint_KeyIDdata~39872~itemNumber~DMX-4%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20~UID~2007091402084430~disp_IMG~Y~catgroup~%5BcatGroup%5D

>>>>

>>>> (2x) stands/bars

>>>> [http://www.pssl.com/bitemdetail.tpl~waGroup1datarg~\[waGroup1datarg\]~eqint_KeyIDdata~7294~itemNumber~\[item_number\]~UID~2007091402084430~disp_IMG~Y~catgroup~%5BcatGroup%5D](http://www.pssl.com/bitemdetail.tpl~waGroup1datarg~[waGroup1datarg]~eqint_KeyIDdata~7294~itemNumber~[item_number]~UID~2007091402084430~disp_IMG~Y~catgroup~%5BcatGroup%5D)

>>>>

>>>> Get the plastic/neoprene O Ring mounts to fit the above pole (8x).

>>>> Probably should pick up some good guage A/C extensions as well. Get XLR cable for your DMX sends. I've used mic cable before, but don't use the cheap stuff or it could bleed into your audio.

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>>>> You'll need to get some gels also... avoid darker colors unless you plan to double up the PAR16/halogens to offset coverage. Set up/connect all the lights. Build your presets in the Eurolight. Once you decide to go with self automations or a guy, you can decide if you need to call up the presets from the front panel or pick up a foot MIDI controller or let your dude run presets/faders.

>>>>

>>>> Nice thing about this set up is if you have DMX send channels left, you can add lights later and beyond that get a second 2412 and cascade them. If you're not up on DMX, google DMX512 protocols.

>>>>

>>>> FYI.. at teardown....the general rule is do NOT fool with the lights until they've cooled or you'll be buying a lot of bulbs. The Halogens take it pretty well but specialty lighting absolutely does not, and those are pricey bulbs.

>>>>
>>>> AA
>
>

Subject: Re: Lights out, the party's over
Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Wed, 26 Sep 2007 03:39:57 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

----- Original Message -----

From: "Jamie K" <Meta@Dimensional.com>
Newsgroups: IDEA.EMUEnsoniqPARIS
Sent: Saturday, September 15, 2007 2:10 AM
Subject: Re: Lights out, the party's over

>
> Those are American DJ PAR 64 LED cans. That company has since come out
> with their upgraded PAR 64 PRO cans which are brighter. Other suppliers on
> Ebay have similar 10mm LED models for a bit less \$.
> BTW, which LED lights did you test? And how long ago?

These are the ones (ADJ's) I looked at in the local GC I believe.. no name present I could see.... probably a month or less ago again. Found them to be absolutely not adequate for our stage show, but the current band uses a pretty large production scale for local clubbing.

>
> Fixtures with the larger Luxeon 1 and 3 watt LEDs are also appearing for
> more \$\$\$\$. There are even LED kits to upgrade old PAR cans to LED.
>

This might be more to my liking, but probably only for washing from what I've seen.

>
> From what I've seen so far, brightness/power varies by the model. Some are
> wide and some are narrow. Some have more defined edges than others. You
> can add diffusion filters to narrow ones if you need more of a wash. There
> are LED rain lights and FX lights that do tight beams. A lot of the better
> lights have been introduced in the last year or so, some in the last few
> months.

>
I'd be interested to see specs/pics/demo the narrow LEDs. I know that LED's are capable of better than what I saw, being a geek I sub'd to a magazine strictly on LED tech and it was pretty fascinating stuff.

> Older lights with gels work fine, though they are limited to a smaller
> color palette, put out way more heat, need dimmer packs, and have the

- > additional long term costs of replacing bulbs and gels, and eating
- > significantly more electricity.

Couldn't the same be said of tube amps, basically?

- >
- > It seems to me that LEDs are the future of stage lighting. They offer a
- > lot of advantages: low power consumption, low heat output, color changing
- > flexibility, simple setup, direct DMX control w/o dimmer packs, no gel
- > costs, no bulb replacement costs, and the possibility of having fewer
- > fixtures that do more. In the last year or so they've started becoming
- > bright enough to consider. It's still a bit cutting edge but I like to
- > geek out on new tech, so these are exciting times...

Much as I love geekin' out as well, I don't think LED's are quite the future of professional band lighting - however they'll have a place in the future almost certainly. They're not bright enough and not directional enough. Mirror/reflective surfaces could probably fix the directional problem, and en mass maybe the bright enough. I love the weight thing, and built in DMX but once DMX is dead the fixture is useless... not so with my incan/halo stuff. Unfortunately, I can already see where DMX is a dying spec and running out of wind.

- >
- > Cheers,
- > -Jamie
- > www.JamieKrutz.com

Cheers 'n' Good Stuff
AA

Subject: Re: Lights out, the party's over
Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Wed, 26 Sep 2007 07:14:54 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Aaron Allen wrote:

- > ----- Original Message -----
- > From: "Jamie K" <Meta@Dimensional.com>
- > Newsgroups: IDEA.EMUEnsoniqPARIS
- > Sent: Saturday, September 15, 2007 2:10 AM
- > Subject: Re: Lights out, the party's over
- >> Those are American DJ PAR 64 LED cans. That company has since come out
- >> with their upgraded PAR 64 PRO cans which are brighter. Other suppliers on
- >> Ebay have similar 10mm LED models for a bit less \$.
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- > absolutely not adequate for our stage show, but the current band uses a
- > pretty large production scale for local clubbing.

I don't know if GC carries the newer, brighter version yet. It would be labelled "American DJ PAR 64 PRO."

- >> Fixtures with the larger Luxeon 1 and 3 watt LEDs are also appearing for
- >> more \$\$\$\$. There are even LED kits to upgrade old PAR cans to LED.

- >>

- >

- > This might be more to my liking, but probably only for washing from what
- > I've seen.

Yeah, not too good for drying, due to low heat output. ;^)

- >> From what I've seen so far, brightness/power varies by the model. Some are
- >> wide and some are narrow. Some have more defined edges than others. You
- >> can add diffusion filters to narrow ones if you need more of a wash. There
- >> are LED rain lights and FX lights that do tight beams. A lot of the better
- >> lights have been introduced in the last year or so, some in the last few
- >> months.

- >>

- > I'd be interested to see specs/pics/demo the narrow LEDs. I know that LED's
- > are capable of better than what I saw, being a geek I sub'd to a magazine
- > strictly on LED tech and it was pretty fascinating stuff.

Cool! LED tech seems to be moving forward relatively quickly.

- >> Older lights with gels work fine, though they are limited to a smaller
- >> color palette, put out way more heat, need dimmer packs, and have the
- >> additional long term costs of replacing bulbs and gels, and eating
- >> significantly more electricity.

- >

- > Couldn't the same be said of tube amps, basically?

Sure. FWIW, I don't gig with my tube rig any more.

- >> It seems to me that LEDs are the future of stage lighting. They offer a
- >> lot of advantages: low power consumption, low heat output, color changing
- >> flexibility, simple setup, direct DMX control w/o dimmer packs, no gel
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- >> bright enough to consider. It's still a bit cutting edge but I like to

>> geek out on new tech, so these are exciting times...

>

> Much as I love geekin' out as well, I don't think LED's are quite the future

> of professional band lighting -

> however they'll have a place in the future almost certainly. They're not

> bright enough and not directional enough.

Of the ones you've seen so far. But there may be others that are. If not, it may just be a matter of time before what you want in a light is developed using LEDs.

> Mirror/reflective surfaces could

> probably fix the directional problem, and en mass maybe the bright enough.

The brighter ones are using fewer but higher-power-rated LEDs.

> I

> love the weight thing, and built in DMX but once DMX is dead the fixture is

> useless... not so with my incan/halo stuff. Unfortunately, I can already see

> where DMX is a dying spec and running out of wind.

Tell me more. I thought DMX was pretty entrenched. What do you see replacing it?

I wouldn't mind having direct MIDI control over lights w/o having to translate to DMX.

Cheers,

-Jamie

www.JamieKrutz.com

303/319-9332

>

> Cheers 'n' Good Stuff

> AA

>

>

Subject: Re: Lights out, the party's over

Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Wed, 26 Sep 2007 13:02:09 GMT

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"Jamie K" <Meta@Dimensional.com> wrote in message news:46fa089d@linux...

> Aaron Allen wrote:

>> ----- Original Message -----

>> From: "Jamie K" <Meta@Dimensional.com>

>> Newsgroups: IDEA.EMUEnsoniqPARIS

>> Sent: Saturday, September 15, 2007 2:10 AM

>> Subject: Re: Lights out, the party's over

>>> Those are American DJ PAR 64 LED cans. That company has since come out

>>> with their upgraded PAR 64 PRO cans which are brighter. Other suppliers

>>> on Ebay have similar 10mm LED models for a bit less \$.

>>> BTW, which LED lights did you test? And how long ago?

>>

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>>> more \$\$\$\$. There are even LED kits to upgrade old PAR cans to LED.

>>>

>>

>> This might be more to my liking, but probably only for washing from what

>> I've seen.

>

> Yeah, not too good for drying, due to low heat output. ;^)

LOL... no kiddin. Years ago I got a neck full of PAR64's about 5 ft away from my neck at the Cain's ballroom on a drumming show. I'd like to have knife stuck the idiot that thought that was a good placement for the wash lighting.

>>> From what I've seen so far, brightness/power varies by the model. Some >>> are wide and some are narrow. Some have more defined edges than others.

>>> You can add diffusion filters to narrow ones if you need more of a wash.

>>> There are LED rain lights and FX lights that do tight beams. A lot of

>>> the better lights have been introduced in the last year or so, some in

>>> the last few months.

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>>> additional long term costs of replacing bulbs and gels, and eating
>>> significantly more electricity.
>>
>> Couldn't the same be said of tube amps, basically?
>
> Sure. FWIW, I don't gig with my tube rig any more.

I can't seem to get away from tubes, but modeling is/has been improving to great levels. Good thing I don't have a gtr gig right now to have to lug that stuff around :)

>>> It seems to me that LEDs are the future of stage lighting. They offer a
>>> lot of advantages: low power consumption, low heat output, color
>>> changing flexibility, simple setup, direct DMX control w/o dimmer packs,
>>> no gel costs, no bulb replacement costs, and the possibility of having
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>

> Tell me more. I thought DMX was pretty entrenched. What do you see
> replacing it?

Spec-wise? Not built yet to my knowledge but the problem is with the protocol. 512 channels sounds like a lot until you see the amount fixtures can swallow up and how DMX DIP's are used. Taking 4 channels per fixture on the low side is pretty common. Running out used to be unthinkable, but it's very, very thinkable and the control surfaces get limited. It's going to go the same way my midi packs went and die like any other spec IMO. They have one workaround that I've seen by linking to 512 desks together to get 1024 but it's not generic. I forgot who made that conversion option in their console at the moment, but it was high end... definitely not your typical club band stuff.

> I wouldn't mind having direct MIDI control over lights w/o having to
> translate to DMX.

I have that, direct midi to light packs, switchable to DMX as well... Adore them, wish they still made them. :(

>
> Cheers,
> -Jamie
> www.JamieKrutz.com
> 303/319-9332
>
>
>>
>> Cheers 'n' Good Stuff
>> AA

Subject: Re: Lights out, the party's over
Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Wed, 26 Sep 2007 16:22:35 GMT
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Aaron Allen wrote:

> "Jamie K" <Meta@Dimensional.com> wrote in message news:46fa089d@linux...
>>> I
>>> love the weight thing, and built in DMX but once DMX is dead the fixture
>>> is
>>> useless...

If DMX dies, I predict there will be adapters to any new standard.
People aren't likely to just throw away all the stage lighting that already exists.

> not so with my incan/halo stuff.

Because it already has an adapter, a big lunky dimmer pack. :^)

And you'll have to replace that adapter, or get an adapter to your adapter.

> Unfortunately, I can already

>>> see

>>> where DMX is a dying spec and running out of wind.

>> Tell me more. I thought DMX was pretty entrenched. What do you see

>> replacing it?

>

> Spec-wise? Not built yet to my knowledge but the problem is with the
> protocol. 512 channels sounds like a lot until you see the amount fixtures
> can swallow up and how DMX DIP's are used. Taking 4 channels per fixture on
> the low side is pretty common. Running out used to be unthinkable, but it's
> very, very thinkable and the control surfaces get limited. It's going to go
> the same way my midi packs went and die like any other spec IMO. They have
> one workaround that I've seen by linking to 512 desks together to get 1024
> but it's not generic. I forgot who made that conversion option in their
> console at the moment, but it was high end... definitely not your typical
> club band stuff.

Sounds like there's clear need for an improved standard to support more complex lighting situations. If you hear of anything in development, let us know...

>> I wouldn't mind having direct MIDI control over lights w/o having to

>> translate to DMX.

>

> I have that, direct midi to light packs, switchable to DMX as well... Adore
> them, wish they still made them. :(

That's cool, who made them?

I really like that the LED lights don't need dimmer packs, which means less stuff to carry and hook up. It'd be handy to have lights that could accept MIDI directly. They could still use an XLR connector. Switchable between MIDI and DMX would be great.

Cheers,

-Jamie

www.JamieKrutz.com

Subject: Re: Lights out, the party's over
Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Wed, 26 Sep 2007 19:14:38 GMT
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>>> I wouldn't mind having direct MIDI control over lights w/o having to
>>> translate to DMX.
>>
>> I have that, direct midi to light packs, switchable to DMX as well...
>> Adore them, wish they still made them. :(
>
> That's cool, who made them?

Elation LSC series. About \$200 for each 4 channel pack, 8 outlets.

Subject: Re: Lights out, the party's over
Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Wed, 26 Sep 2007 19:29:17 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Thanks Aaron.

Cheers,
-Jamie
www.JamieKrutz.com

Aaron Allen wrote:

>>>> I wouldn't mind having direct MIDI control over lights w/o having to
>>>> translate to DMX.
>>> I have that, direct midi to light packs, switchable to DMX as well...
>>> Adore them, wish they still made them. :(
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>
>
> Elation LSC series. About \$200 for each 4 channel pack, 8 outlets.
>
>

Subject: Re: Lights out, the party's over
Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Thu, 27 Sep 2007 05:03:37 GMT
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Let me know if you find a NOS source for that, I wouldn't mind at ALL having another couple of them. They've been dead solid and hassle free.

AA

"Jamie K" <Meta@Dimensional.com> wrote in message news:46fab4ba\$1@linux...

>

> Thanks Aaron.

>

> Cheers,

> -Jamie

> www.JamieKrutz.com

>

>

> Aaron Allen wrote:

>>>> I wouldn't mind having direct MIDI control over lights w/o having to

>>>> translate to DMX.

>>>> I have that, direct midi to light packs, switchable to DMX as well...

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