



The Light Stuff

The Light Stuff is a
publication of TLS, Inc.
Huntsville, AL

TLS, Inc.

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Answers to Your Unanswered Questions

When you begin to build or remodel your space - whether it's a theatre, sanctuary, or special use area - you have all kinds of questions. As a Speciality Lighting Contractor, TLS, Inc. provides answers to your unanswered questions.

Q: I know what I want to do with my lighting but I'm just not sure what I need, or where to put it. Or where to begin. What can you do to help me?

A: As a Speciality Lighting Contractor, TLS, Inc. can offer assistance in the discovery of your vision. We offer a clearly defined scope of work, with specifications matching your requirements. We work with other trades (sound, video, etc.) to create a design that will bring about harmony for everyone and allow proper placement of system components.

Q: I've been doing a bit of research and I'm discovering that this equipment is really high-tech and computer driven, just like most things these days. How am I supposed

to keep up with all this?

A: Lucky for you, you don't have to keep up with all the new technology. That's our job. We strive to keep ahead (or at least keep up!) with the latest technological advances in our field so that you receive the latest and most educated solutions to your lighting needs.

Q: Ok, now that TLS, Inc. has helped me to design and make "real" my lighting vision, what happens next?

A: Your Project Manager will work closely with the General Contractor to provide accurate time-lines and quality technical

support. The PM will also create correct technical submittals, make on-site visits, and assure on-time delivery - even expediting materials if needed.

Q: Are there any other services that you, as a Spe-

ciality Lighting Contractor, can offer?

A: We believe it is necessary to include several important services in the overall lighting package. These include low voltage terminations, factory energizations, the initial hang and focus of the fixtures and initial programming services. We also offer technical support and end-user training.

Q: End-user training



First Missionary Baptist - Huntsville
Doug Bennett - Project Manager

sounds good - what else does that include?

A: A variety of benefits! We offer first-production mentoring to get you through

the inaugural run of the equipment. We also come back for periodic retraining, as well as offer training in our shop via factory sponsored seminars. Our Repair Department can

Continued on Page 3

LED's Fixtures On The Rise

(Ed's note: The following article contains excerpts from an article printed in the June-Aug 04 edition of The Light Stuff.)

It's like Old MacDonald's Farm around here these days - here an LED, there an LED *everywhere* an LED! There are LED products popping up everywhere. Everything from flashlights to PARs. Driving through Huntsville and probably where you are, you'll notice that the traffic signals are brighter - yep LEDs! Those little keychains that light your path to the door - LEDs! But what *is* LED?

L.E.D., or more commonly seen without the periods - LED, is the standard abbreviation for *Light Emitting Diode*. A Light Emitting Diode is a semi conducting device that emits light when an electric current runs through it. This is beneficial for several reasons: it uses significantly less power, releases less heat, and lasts a lot longer than an incandescent light bulb.

Recent manufacturing advances of LEDs have enabled James Thomas Engineering to build a lighting instrument that is bright and reliable enough to be used in demanding situations - such as stage lighting. Just a few of the benefits of these fixtures are:

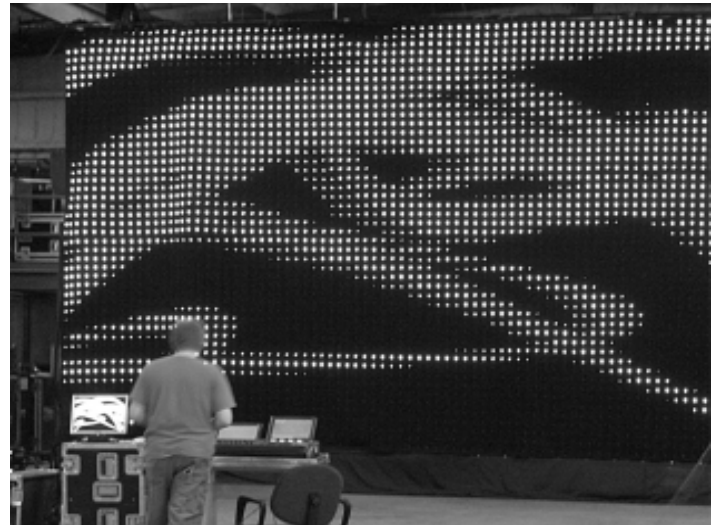
- ◆ Reduced electrical running costs
- ◆ No lamp failure - therefore reduced maintenance costs
- ◆ No color filters (gels) - dirt buildup, filter fading, and having to change filters is eliminated

Think about those PARs you've got hanging in that "awkward to get to" area of your church, or theatre, or club. How many times in the last year or two have you had to hire someone - or climb up yourself - to change a blown lamp? More than likely you also change the gel periodically, if not for every show. Are you tired of climbing that ladder yet?

Here's a closer look at just a few of the available products. **Thomas' PixelLine 1044** is a 4ft linear batten designed to produce a 20° seamless wash



*James Thomas Engineering's
PixelLine 1044*



*TLS, Inc.'s Chris Lighthall works on a demo of
Main Light's Soft-LED*

of light with no 'hot-spots'. Coverage is up to 20 ft from unit, but with little to no heat emitting, it's perfect for up-close illumination of delicate set pieces without fear of fire. The *pixelline 1044* is controlled by an on-board user interface on back or it can be daisy-chained to other fixtures. However, it is designed to work best with Pixeldrive - a control interface program that works with conventional DMX lighting controllers.

Main Light Industries' Soft-LED draperies are the latest rage on the tour circuit. These versatile, lightweight, and compact panels add a dynamic element to any concert or event.

American DJ has entered the LED market with its new P-64 Par

Can. This ain't your daddy's PAR Can. Gone are the days of swapping gels between sets and burning your fingers at strike. The P-64, like most LED products, emits very little heat, and has smooth color mixing.

We currently have the 1044's and Soft-LED available to rent and, of course, you can always purchase. For a demo or more information, please contact our sales department - gbrock@tlsinc.com or 256.533.7025.



*American DJ's
P-64 LED*

continued from Page 1

handle most warranty issues, down the road when you need them. We have an extensive rental inventory that allows you to rent extra gear when needed, or to replace your gear if it's being repaired. You can also purchase extended service contracts that allow one of our repair folks to periodically come by to clean and inspect your gear. Now that we've answered some of your general questions, we invite you to call us when you begin your next project!

Employment Opportunities

TLS, Inc. is currently seeking to fill the following positions:

◆**Sales.** Please go to www.tlsinc.com/salesopp for more information on this position.

◆**Install Technicians** - Must be willing to travel. Electro-mechanical skills a must.

◆**Show/Production Technician** - Definitely must be willing to travel! Must be familiar with automated lighting and control consoles.

◆**Repair Department Manager.** Good organizational skills & ability to make fast decisions.

For complete information on these positions please visit www.tlsinc.com/employment.

Are You Protected?

Most people walking into our showroom for the first time nearly always have the same question - "Why do y'all have all that rock climbing stuff?" We then have to explain that it's not all for rock climbing, in fact most of the items are used in our industry for fall protection. (However, we do sell to climbers, cavers, and rescue personnel).

Since 1995, the Occupational Safety and Health Organization (OSHA) has said that if an employee is subject to a 6' or more fall, they must be protected (OSHA 29 CFR 1926, Subpart "M"). Of the three types of protection (safety nets, restraining belts on catwalks, and personal fall protection systems) only the last works for those in the entertainment industry. The system includes a full body harness and various attachments such as lanyards, rope grabs, fall blocks, lifelines, auto-locking carabiners, and scaffold hooks. Use of these systems while working at height is not optional, it's the law of the land.

We make it easy for you

to follow OSHA's requirements by gathering all the bits and pieces of a fall protection system into one package at one price (see sale on the back page).



Theatrical Fall Protection Package

There are two packages we offer. One is for theatrical/entertainment applications and the other is for standard industrial use. The standard industrial fall protection package includes a full body harness with a 4 ft lanyard with snaps (locking hooks) on both ends. The harness has its "pick-point" in the middle of the back with two side attachment points.



Industrial Fall Protection Package

The theatrical fall protection system uses the same full body harness, but the lanyard has loops on the ends instead of the snaps. This means you can choose between using an autolocking carabiner on each end or use a carabiner on one end and an autolocking steel scaffold hook on the other. The scaffold hook is great for attaching to 2" standard trussing.

There are other harnesses available if you want to pay a bit more or get a bit more padding here and there or a different fit. The overall object, obviously, is to be as safe and

secure as possible while remaining in OSHA guidelines.

Summer Hours

TLS, Inc. is welcoming summer by changing to our summer hours. Beginning May 27th, we will be closed on Saturdays. On September 16th, we will resume

regular hours. Monday thru Friday we are open 8:30-5:30 CST.

