

◆ TLS, INC. ◆

Volume 37

"We Light the Stars"

May-July 2003

TLS, Inc. to host Basics of Power Distribution Seminar

Theatrical Lighting Systems, Inc. will be hosting a *Basics of Power Distribution* seminar on Tuesday, May 6th, from 1-5pm. This seminar is offered free of charge as a service to our customers.

Bob Luther, founder of Lex Products Corp., will begin with the basics of electricity; explaining thoroughly how AC power is generated and distributed to the electrical panel. From there, topics will include the use of the National Electrical Code for the selection of feeder cables and cords, GFCI (General Fault Circuit Interruption) and overcurrent protection. This seminar is a shortened version of the 2-day seminar Luther produced as part of the *LD Institute* at the Lighting Dimensions International tradeshows in 1998-2000.

For more information, or to register for this seminar please contact Crystal, cburke@tlsinc.com or call our main number. The complete registration form can be found on our website.

High End Announces Release of Show Conversion

So you made the transition from vinyl to 8-track to cassette then to CD's then to MP3's - each time kicking and screaming, vowing this was *the last* change no matter what new technology came along. Yeah, right. It's a hassle having

to rebuild your library; all that time and thought in picking out just the right music. It's OK, we've all been there.

Now you're a lighting programmer. You've used all the "big" boards - every Hog in the pen. You've found your dream board - the Whole Hog®II. You've spent hours at the console making sure all the cues are programmed, every light addressed, every designer happy. You love your Whole Hog® II. You never thought of changing boards until . . . High End Systems introduced the Whole Hog®III. You know that the Hog III has extended capabilities like allowing different types and brands of automated fixtures to be addressed in a common language, thus making the fixtures

all respond in the same manner - rotating gobo speeds in sync, colors blending all the same way. Your dream board has just been one-upped.

You're wanting to buy a Whole Hog®III, but you have all your shows programmed for your Whole Hog® II. Or maybe you've already come to grips and just purchased a Whole Hog® III, but now

dread spending all that time reprogramming all those shows. Rejoice! High End Systems/Flying Pig Systems has your solution - *show conversion!*

As a service to customers, High End Systems UK subsidiary, Flying Pig Systems, is offering a Whole

Hog® II to Whole Hog® III show conversion. All you do is send your show to them, they convert it and send it back - easy as that! Relax, you don't have to spend all the time reprogramming - somebody
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Pyro Safety

While TLS, Inc. does not offer pyro of any sort, we realize that many of our customers often utilize it in productions. With the recent tragedy still fresh in mind, we are reprinting here the press release from the APA (American Pyrotechnics Association) concerning safety issues.

THE SAFE USE OF INDOOR PYROTECHNICS Industry Group Issues Recommendations

Bethesda, Maryland (March 10, 2003) – In response to questions about the safe use of indoor pyrotechnics following the Rhode Island nightclub fire on February 20, the American Pyrotechnics Association (APA) today issued the following safety recommendations to meeting planners, banquet facilities, hotels, theaters, stadiums, convention centers and conference sites that use indoor "proximate" pyrotechnics to enhance their events:

- ☒ Only use a professional pyrotechnic company or certified pyrotechnic operator.
- ☒ Require and verify references from the pyrotechnic company or certified operator.
- ☒ Request that NFPA Standard
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Show Conversion (from page 1)

else will do it!

In order to guarantee that the latest conversion utility is being used and to avoid the complications of supporting different versions released to the public, it was decided that the “send your show to us - we’ll do it for you” method would work best for everyone involved. This way you won’t have to search around for the latest version of software, and you’ll never be a “v0.1” behind. Most shows will be returned in a few days; although in the early stages, while converting many fixture types

for the first time, it may take a week or more.

As most of you know, this show conversion offering is a wonderful breakthrough. Richard Mead, Flying Pig Systems Product Manager, tells me “this capability opens the door for many shows constrained by the capacity of the Hog II system to migrate to the Hog III platform”. He further states that it will also open the way “for the exciting possibility of combining two Hog II shows, currently running on separate consoles, onto a single Hog III”.

Are you hooked yet? You’re ready to make the leap aren’t you? Probably first, you should have a Whole Hog@III. You can do that by calling the TLS,Inc. Sales Dept. Then, to convert your show: simply send a zipped-up copy of your WholeHog® II show to the nice folks at support@flyingpig.com. They’ll send you back a converted Whole Hog@III show. You’re done. No more changes - ever . . . NOT!

Send your show to them, they convert it and send it back

Other News Worth Printing

Several events have occurred since our last newsletter went to the presses. We’ve been host to several seminars and social gatherings, we’ve reevaluated our inventory system and two of our “family” have been affected by the war in Iraq.

When building our new facility, we kept in mind our commitment to our community and customers. We wanted to have the capability to open our doors and invite folks in for workshops, seminars and the like. These learning opportunities can be beneficial to both us, as a company, and to individuals who want to learn more in order to improve their lighting knowledge and abilities. Now that we have more space to utilize, we have offered more learning opportunities than in the past.

February and March proved to be a testing ground. The TLS,Inc. classroom got plenty of use. In February we offered a Hog III school. We had eight people come from the surrounding states to learn programming of the newest addition to the Hog Family of consoles. These eight left with valuable hands-on programming experience.

In March we had nearly back to back

events. For the first time in a number of years, TLS, Inc. offered its very own Lighting Seminar. Since we were easing back into this we offered a simple one-day seminar. A little over 130 people came from seemingly everywhere. We had whole classes from local high-schools, several colleges sent students and many area churches had representatives. Wonderful vendor reps came in to speak: Henry Kones of High End Systems; Rita LeFavour of Apollo, Linda Crawford & George Dukas of Ardd & Winter and ETC, respectively. We believe the seminar was a success, even so, we hope to make improvements before next year!

A mere week later, TLS,Inc., in conjunction with Knology and America’s Party Pros, hosted 400+ people at the Chamber of Commerce *After Hours*. This was a grand social occasion and a time for us to show other local and area business exactly what we do and what we can do for them.

After the seminars were over and all the activity settled, we decided to take a really good look at our inventory ordering procedures. We

have reviewed and revamped the ordering information in an effort to insure that we have the things you, our customers, want most on the shelf when you need it. We have recommitted ourselves to tracking the “hot” items, and updating those items as trends change.

As in any business, there will always be circumstances beyond our control (i.e. vendor backorders, last minute large orders), that may leave us momentarily out-of-stock on one of these hot items. After reorganizing, however, we believe this will happen less often.

TLS,Inc. asks that you keep two of our own in your thoughts as the war in Iraq continues. Robert Osborn, one of our Service Techs, left us in late January. His reserve unit (mechanical) based out of Decatur, was called up abruptly. Alex Clair, in Repairs, left us in February to be with his wife, Christie. Her National Guard unit shipped out to Washington state and is stationed there until June or July at which point they will be sent elsewhere. We wish them much luck, and hope for their safe return to us soon.

The Shape of Things to Come

article contributed by Gene Mason, Hunter Street Baptist Church, Birmingham, AL.

Gobos - projected lighting shapes and patterns - are a great way to add flavor to your lighting design. What's available today through standard and custom gobo patterns is amazing - nearly any projection effect can be realized through the use of gobos. A few ideas for creating a one-of-a-kind look. . .

Swap Shapes

The standard gobos in widely used instruments like the Technobeam or Cyberlight are overused. The great thing is, swapping out the patterns in these fixtures for a specific production is easy and relatively inexpensive. In addition to the metal shapes and breakups that have been available for years, the latest wave is glass gobos or "litho-patterns." Subtle tones and colors are now possible in gobos and the catalog of standard designs is staggering. Swapping one or two of the standard patterns in each light completely changes your lighting options. One standard Cyber gobo is a multicolor breakup - it looks like a microscope sample. I've heard it called the "chicken embryo." It's cool, but how many times can you use that

same gobo? Swap it out for something else already!

Go Custom

Creating a customized gobo from a logo or piece of artwork can be done in less than a week starting at around \$100. The cost varies by the number you order and the complexity of your design. Logo gobos can be projected on curtains, walls, even the floor. At a concert recently, the band's logo was projected on the floor of the stage before the show and during the intermission. The gobo made the fabric on the stage look like a custom made carpet. Very cool. I've seen this used for themed corporate events or seminars as well. How much would it cost to do custom, large format graphics versus the much less expensive investment in a few well-placed custom gobos?

No Set Pattern

Who says you can't use gobos to just create some everyday interest in your lighting design? Your church doesn't have stained glass windows? No problem - they make a gobo for that. You can have the wonderful

sun-dappled colors of stained glass wash across the walls behind your choir any time you want. I recently popped gobos in two lekos we were using for front light on a soloist. Instead of a full, even field of light, breakup gobos gave the lighting a more moody look that complemented the soloists' song choice.

Loss of Focus

I've seen gobos used both in perfect focus and slightly out of focus. I like to see the sharp edges of the gobo shapes, but you can achieve some amazingly natural effects by taking the gobos slightly out of focus. Some automated fixtures have spinning gobo frames that, when used with an out of focus gobo, give you the effect of flickering flames of fire, or reflections of watery waves.

For your next rental or purchase, remember there is a fast, inexpensive and extremely versatile way to give your lighting a completely custom look. Don't forget the gobos!

Pyro Safety (from page 1)

1126, Standard for the Use of Pyrotechnics before a Proximate Audience, be strictly adhered to, especially if your state or local jurisdiction has no detailed legal requirements for indoor pyrotechnics.

- ☒ Understand what pyrotechnic effects will be used and make certain that the local fire marshal has approved the plan and issued the necessary permit.
- ☒ Prohibit any pyrotechnic supplies or devices on-site that have not been approved for use at the event.
- ☒ Ensure all venue staff are advised of the intended use of indoor pyrotechnics in the facility and designate appropriately trained staff to be responsible for executing the facility's emergency response and evacuation plans.
- ☒ Insist that personnel have appro-

priate fire extinguishing equipment on hand to extinguish any accidental fire involving flammable or combustible materials.

- ☒ Request a certificate of liability insurance coverage from the pyrotechnic company or certified pyrotechnic operator.
- ☒ Insist that the venue be named as an additional insured for the duration of the event.

The APA emphasized that indoor pyrotechnics are not appropriate for use in venues with flammable or combustible interior surfaces or furnishings and may not be appropriate in certain facilities that do not have sprinklers. All staging areas, including draperies and carpet, must be flame retardant.

"By adhering to these common sense, practical safety tips, and employing the services of a licensed professional pyrotechnics company or certified pyrotechnics operator, indoor pyrotechnics can be an exciting and safe entertainment medium," said Julie L. Heckman, Executive Director of the APA.

Heckman noted that for more than 30 years, indoor pyrotechnics have been enjoyed by millions of spectators and have enhanced theatrical productions, rock concerts, sporting events, ice shows and political conventions.

More info on the pyrotechnics industry can be found on APA's website: www.americanpyro.com



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Objects in photo not to scale

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