

COMMON LIGHTING FIXTURES

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Here are some of the common lighting fixtures that you might see as theatrical lighting support for your show.

PAR Cans

These are the most commonly seen stage lights and are workhorses in the theatrical lighting industry.

The older generation of PAR cans (parabolic aluminized reflector) use halogen bulbs. They heat up really fast and tend to burn out. However, this lighting is commonly used because it is cheap to rent. The light colour is standard, but filters can be added in front to create the colours. It is fixed with no tilt/pan control from the lighting console.

The newer generation of PAR cans is now much smaller in size and use LED bulbs (hence do not burn out as much and do not heat up like the old PAR cans). The LED PARs have an added advantage of not needing the filters for colours and colors can be controlled from the light board.

Because they are LEDs, the lights can also be controlled in terms of intensity and how fast they fade, which make them much more flexible for event lighting.



America DJ PAR56



Colorkey LED Par. This is an example of the newer generation LED PARs.

For illusionists, the PAR cans can be used to create colour chasers by chasing the colours or pulsing them in different order. Because of the colours, one can still create the lighting theme and ambience with PARs, although this lighting is generally considered flat as there's no movement and depth.

Function: Mood & Story Reinforcement

LED Wash

This is usually used for stage wash or general wash light, for talking acts. It is a flat uniform lighting. The normal colour used for stage wash is CTO (colour temperature orange) rather than white. This gives a slight tinge of orange to the wash colour and creates a warmer wash as compared to a stark white.

There are also other colour temperatures (colour temperature blue for example), but this is not usually used for stage wash unless under special circumstances.

This is not a fixed fixture and its movement can be controlled from the lighting board.

As with most LED lighting fixtures, the great thing about the LED Wash is that the intensity and the colour of the light can be controlled from the lighting board. The light can be

Function: Visibility



Martin Mac 101-CT

Intelligent Lights

This is one of the most common lighting fixtures seen in showrooms and events alike. Depending on the purpose, the intelligent lights are usually used for stage wash or gobos. A gobo, derived from "Go Between" or "Goes Before Optics", is a physical template slotted inside, or placed in front of, a lighting source, used to control the shape of emitted light.

This light is extremely versatile because the light movement can be controlled from the light board (hence it is sometimes also called 'Moving Lights').

Intelligent lights are awesome for illusion show because of the amount of movement and depth they can create.

Spinning light rays and move and sweep across the stage can help to make an act look even more exciting due to the additional movement and depth. Using these correctly can make a show look exponentially better. At times you can also use the intelligent light to create a focused beam for a concentrated wash effect.

Function: All



Martin Mac700 Profile

Source Four (ERS)

This fixture provides a sharp circular beam of light. This light is fixed and not adjustable from the lighting console board.

It is generally used for highlighting a subject and is used in conjunction with the stage wash to highlight the performer's face.

For: Visibility & Focus



Strand Lekolite Fixed Beam Source 4

Fresnel

This light provides a circular beam of light like the ERS but softer. Usually there are barn doors added to the Fresnel which helps to keep the lighting within the wanted boundary.

Due to the soft and wide beam of light, this is usually used in the general lighting of the stage area because of soft and wide beam.



Strand Rama Standard PC Fresnel

Similar to the Source Four, this light is also fixed and cannot be controlled from the lighting console, hence found more in the theatre and auditorium setting.

In general for illusion shows, this is used for the stage wash for talking acts.

For: Visibility

Follow Spot

A follow spot is a large spotlight mounted on a tripod and is manned by a Follow Spot operator.

This light is used to track the performer on stage and “follow” the action as necessary. It keeps the audience’s attention focused on the performer but also allows some flexibility in lighting since it allows lights up the performer and a small area around him/ her.

The intensity of the follow spot is important and the right size and strength of light must be appropriate for the venue. If the light is not strong enough, it will be ineffective in lighting the performer. If it is too strong, the performer can be totally burnt out.

Function: Visibility & Focus



Chauvet LED Followspot

One important consideration for theatrical lighting to show up well and look good is the need for smoke or haze to be present on stage. Without smoke or haze, even the most intricate lighting design cannot be seen or effective in enhancing a show.

For more detailed information, basic lighting cues for magic & illusion shows and everything you need to know about performing a modern illusion show, check out “**How to be an Illusionist**” here.

