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Church Production



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PREVIEW
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There are easy and inexpensive ways to add big impact to your lighting.

ACCESSORIZE YOUR LIGHTING

BY GREG PERSINGER

During tough times fashionistas will tell you to go to your closet, pull out your existing clothes and accessorize them, turning something you find tired into a fabulous new look.

So are you tired of the same old lighting looks? If so, here are some lighting accessory recommendations from a few lighting experts that you can use to spice up an existing lighting rig.

PATTERNS OR GOBOS First up for that tired lighting rig are patterns or gobos. According to Jim Smerbeck, vice president of sales for Stagelight Inc., a theatrical lighting company with offices in Texas, Louisiana and Tennessee, they are seeing churches trend toward purchasing patterns and pattern-related items because it is an easy and inexpensive way to add big impact to

your lighting. "We are seeing a lot of churches buying gobos and gobo-related items, including the new enhanced-definition lens tube from ETC," says Smerbeck.

Kevin Richie, president of Stage Spot in Austin, Texas agrees. "We sell a lot of gobos and we are seeing more and more churches purchasing custom gobos with the names and logos of the church as well as images geared toward sermon series. We especially sell a lot of custom gobos around the holidays and make a ton for pageants."

Smerbeck recommends having Rosco's universal iris slot gobo holder on hand when using gobos. It will accept glass or steel gobos and fits in the iris slot of most common ellipsoidal fixtures. The holder also allows you to overlay a second gobo over the first for effect and, at a list price of \$15.95, it's affordable.

Richie recommends looking at some of the stock full-color glass gobos, saying there are things such as full color skylines for under \$70. "You get a lot of bang for your buck when people walk in and see gobos on the wall or floor," says Richie.

MOTION ADD-ONS Both Smerbeck and Richie recommend adding motion effects using gobo rotators. "Gobo rotators are a great bang for your buck," says Smerbeck, referring to a device that rotates the gobo to give the pattern an animation-type effect. "Also," he says, "Apollo has a gobo changer called the Smart Move Vertical, which allows you to change the gobo or add vertical motion to it instead of just rotation."

Another motion effect is the Rosco I-Cue moving mirror that you add on to an ellipsoidal fixture so you can remotely aim the



Photo left: Assorted gobos courtesy of Apollo Design Technology.

Photo right: Apollo Smart Move Vertical gobo changer.



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PERFECT CLARITY

**Color mixing is a great addition to any
conventional lighting system.**

light beam coming from the fixture. "It's an inexpensive way to get a moving-light feel," says Richie.

In the motion add-on department, Chris Thomas, weekend lighting director for Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Ill., thinks that the City Theatrical AutoYoke, a device that adds console-controlled pan, tilt, focus, and iris to a standard ellipsoidal fixture, is a great addition to a lighting rig. "To have the ability to refocus my front light without having to go into the catwalk to work on it is a great timesaver," says Thomas. "I love the flexibility it gives me."




COLOR MIXING SCROLLERS Thomas also likes having the color-mixing abilities in his rig that his Wybron CXI color-mixing scrollers provide. He says that color mixing is a great addition to any conventional lighting system. Smerbeck agrees: "If you want to majorly enhance your lighting system, add Seachangers for color mixing," he says, referring to Seachanger Inc.'s Seachanger color engine.



Of course color changes don't have to be costly or complex. Color media is inexpensive at less than \$10 for a 2-foot by 2-foot sheet, and readily available from most theatrical lighting suppliers. There are hundreds of colors to choose from and typically you can color multiple fixtures from one sheet. The primary brands are Lee, Rosco, GAM, and Apollo. Be sure to get a swatch book from your dealer so you can compare different colors.

All of these items make great additions to most any lighting rig, delivering a bit of creative flair and excitement at a relatively low price. But sometimes it's the small, common things you can't be without. Smerbeck, Richie and Thomas all commented on how important it was to always have a roll of gaff tape around. To me, gaff tape is the lighting equivalent of underwear, or maybe toilet paper: It's important to you but unseen by the masses, and in a lighting emergency you always want to have a fresh roll.

GREG PERSINGER is the owner of Vivid Illumination. He can be reached at greg@vividillumination.com. 

QUICKLINKS TO LIGHTING ACCESSORIES

STAGELIGHT FULL SERVICE LIGHTING COMPANY, (800) 942-0555, www.stagelight.com | **STAGESPOT** LIGHTING RETAILER, (888) 567-8243, www.stagespot.com | **ETC SOURCE** FOUR ELLIPSOIDAL, ENHANCED DEFINITION LENS TUBES, (800) 688-4116, www.etcconnect.com | **ROSCO** UNIVERSAL IRIS SLOT GOBO HOLDER, GOBOS, GOBO ROTATORS, GEL, I-CUE, (800) 767-2669, www.rosco.com | **APOLLO DESIGN TECHNOLOGY** GOBOS, GOBO ROTATORS, SMART MOVE VERTICAL, COLOR CHANGERS, GEL, (260) 497-9191, www.internetapollo.com | **CITY THEATRICAL** AUTOYOKE, (800) 230-9497, www.citytheatrical.com | **SEACHANGER** COLOR ENGINE, (727) 545-0741, www.seachangeronline.com | **WYBRON** CXI COLOR CHANGER, (719) 548-9774, www.wybron.com | **LEE FILTER USA** GEL, GOBOS, (727) 545-0741, www.leefiltersusa.com | **GAM PRODUCTS** GOBOS, GOBO ROTATORS, GEL, (323) 935-4975, www.gamonline.com

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