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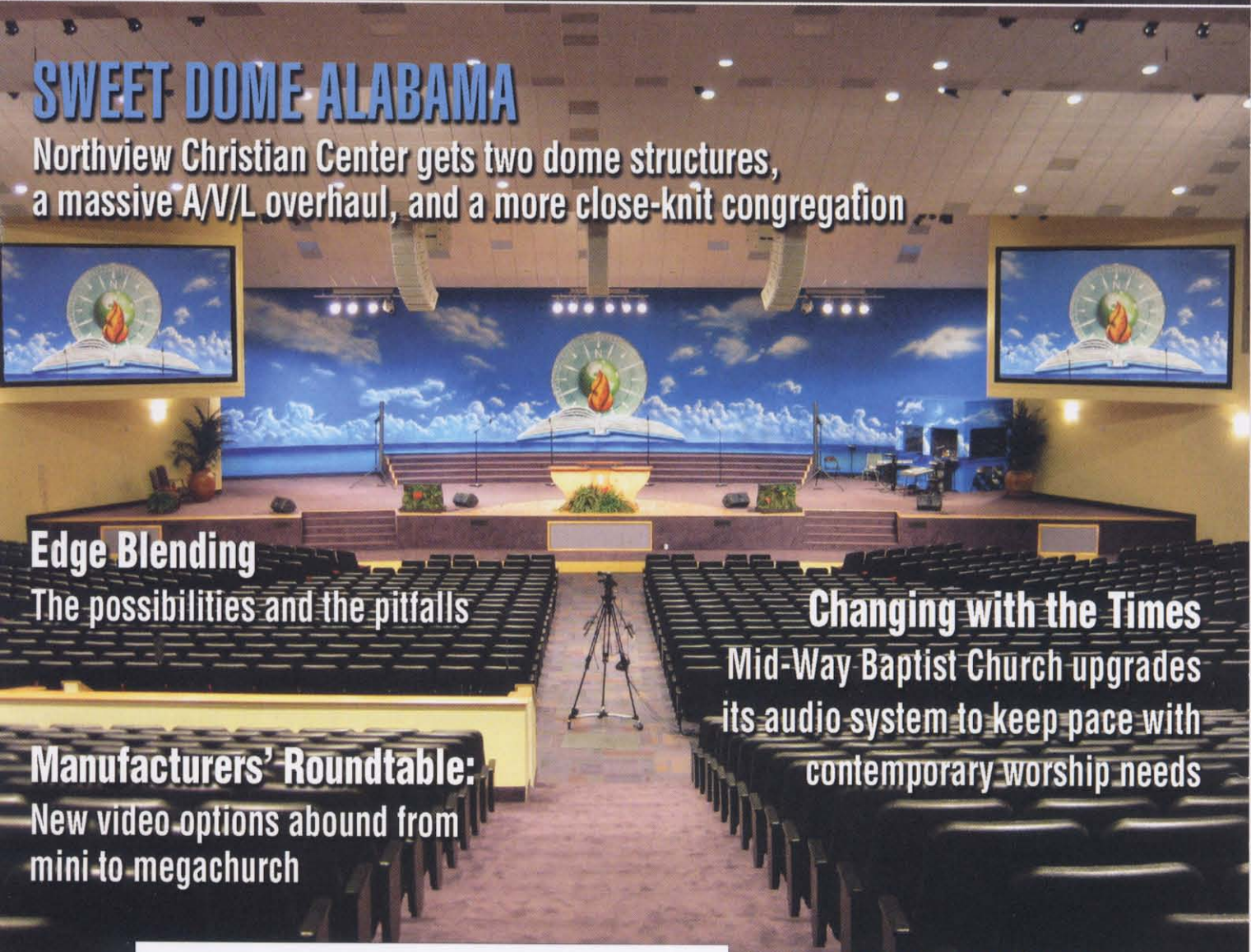


SWEET DOME ALABAMA

Northview Christian Center gets two dome structures, a massive A/V/L overhaul, and a more close-knit congregation

Edge Blending
The possibilities and the pitfalls

Changing with the Times
Mid-Way Baptist Church upgrades its audio system to keep pace with contemporary worship needs

Manufacturers' Roundtable:
New video options abound from mini to megachurch

PRODUCT REVIEWS

DIGICO SD8 Audio Mixing Console

HITACHI CP-X 10000 Projector

ROBE DigitalSpot 3000 DT Digital Moving Light Projector

$4.95

Robe

DigitalSpot 3000 DT Digital Moving Light Projector

reviewed by: Greg Persinger

While digital lighting fixtures are not new to the lighting market, Robe's DigitalSpot 3000 DT is the first digital moving light projector that has been combined with an LED-based wash fixture, forming a unique hybrid lighting fixture with both digital spot and wash features.

With the DigitalSpot 3000 DT as Robe's newest addition to the company's Digital Series line of fixtures, Robe continues to make advances into the digital lighting market.

SO WHAT IS A DIGITAL LIGHTING FIXTURE?

It's a lighting fixture that uses a video projector as the light source and the means of manipulating the light's pattern, combined with a computer-based graphics engine that provides the moving or still images and effects to the video projector, all combined in a moving light body allowing the light to pan and tilt like any other moving light. This combination of video projector and moving light with media content allows you to do things with a digital light that you can't do with a standard moving light.

Real-time video playback, 3D rotation effects of the video, and dynamic warping to fit on curved or odd-shaped surfaces are just a few examples of what a digital light can do that a standard moving light can't. Also, multiple DigitalSpot 3000 DTs can be tiled and edge blended to create one large image. These features alone allow for a lot of creativity in your lighting design. Add in the fact that images and effects can be overlaid using the three digital gobo or pattern layers, and you get a lot of flexibility.

The DigitalSpot 3000 DT has a 2700 ANSI Lumen DLP video projector with a 4:3 aspect ratio at 1024 x 768 XGA resolution with a 2000:1 contrast ratio. It uses a 200-watt, 4000-hour lamp and has a mechanical focus and mechanical shutter for true blackouts. This projector is housed in a moving yoke that gives the unit its pan and tilt capabilities.

On the front of the unit is a built-in RED wash module. RED stands for ROBE Emitted Diodes, which is the LED wash portion of the lighting fixture. The RED wash module consists of a total of 48 red, green, blue, and cool white LEDs, allowing you to color mix any color of light you might want from the fixture.

The LED color mixing was very nice. I especially liked the range of blues that the unit allowed me to create. The dimming was good, as well. You can use both the

company:	**Robe Lighting**
product(s):	**DigitalSpot 3000 DT**
phone:	**(954) 615-910**
website:	**www.robe.cz**
price:	**$19,900**

The ROBE DigitalSpot 3000 DT was a lot of fun to play with and could be a great asset in worship lighting. With a versatile graphics engine that allows you to manipulate your content in thousands of ways, you can create rich lighting textures to augment the worship environment.

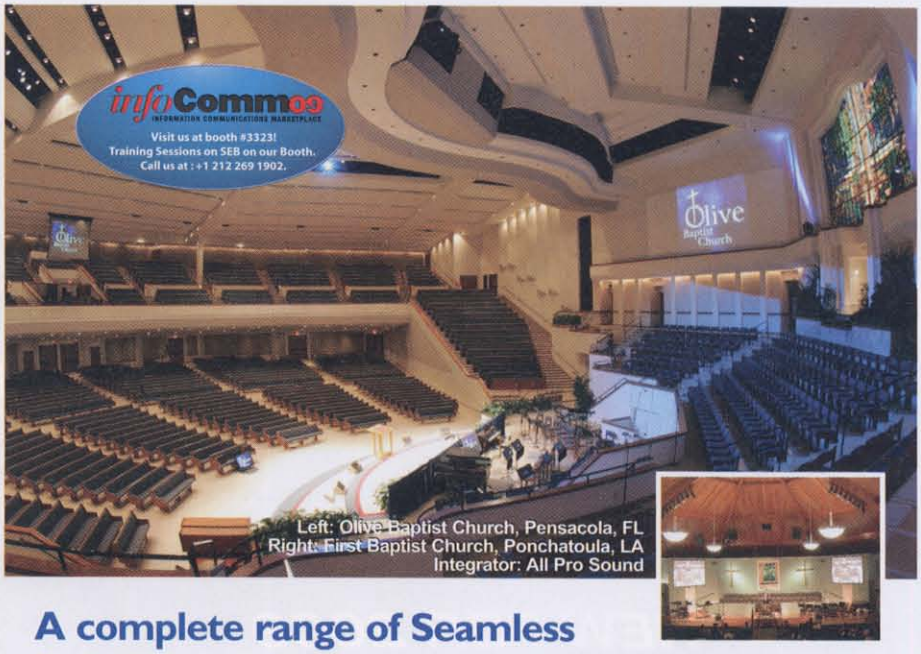
wash portion and the spot portion of the fixture simultaneously, increasing the number of effects you can get out of the fixture. This makes the LED wash module a nice value-add to the unit.

The base of the DigitalSpot 3000 DT contains the brains of the fixture, the on-board graphics engine which is a custom PC running a Linux operating system and custom Robe graphics software, which interfaces to a lighting console via DMX or the DMX-over-Ethernet control protocol ArtNet. Although this sounds simple, the results are stunning.The control over the light that comes out of the DigitalSpot 3000 DT is amazing, and is primarily the product of the graphics engine.

First and foremost, three digital gobo layers are available in the graphics engine. Each gobo layer can be a still image or a video picked from the content loaded in the graphics engine. The fixture comes with some preloaded content, but you can load your own custom Mpeg1 and Mpeg2 video as well as any common image file, such as Jpeg, PNG, GIF, and others,to be used as a gobo. A 120GB hard drive on board provides storage capacity for more than 60,000 images and videos available for use on each gobo layer. Each gobo layer can be independently positioned, scaled, and a have effects added in numerous ways.

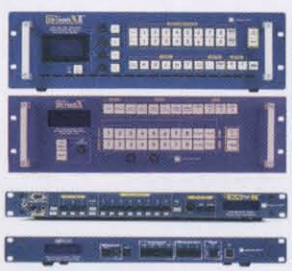
Along with the three gobo layers and their effects, there are global effects that are placed on the full image coming from the graphics engine. Some of these effects include digital iris and masking effects, keystone correction, CMY color effects, shutter effects, and color temperature correction.

There is also a live video input to the graphics engine that accepts a composite



Left: Olive Baptist Church, Pensacola, FL
Right: First Baptist Church, Ponchatoula, LA
Integrator: All Pro Sound

A complete range of Seamless Switchers adapted to your House of Worship



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video or S-video signal. This allows you to use a camera or external video source with the fixture.

When you combine the three gobo layers and the global effects of the DigitalSpot 3000 DT you get multiple unique gobo combinations that can't be created with a standard moving light. Even better, manipulating the same content in a slightly different way yields a totally different effect. Add in the fact that it is easy to add your own custom content and there should never be a time when you can't create something that would work for your lighting design.

Overall I was impressed by the flexibility and the images you can create with the DigitalSpot 3000 DT. It was a great tool that allowed me to be very creative and make very rich and graphic lighting environments.However, there are a few things to be aware of.

First, because it has so many different creative parameters, the unit requires a lot of programming time. Don't expect to create cool stuff five minutes after you turn it on. Be prepared to give yourself a day to learn the fixture before you plan to use it.

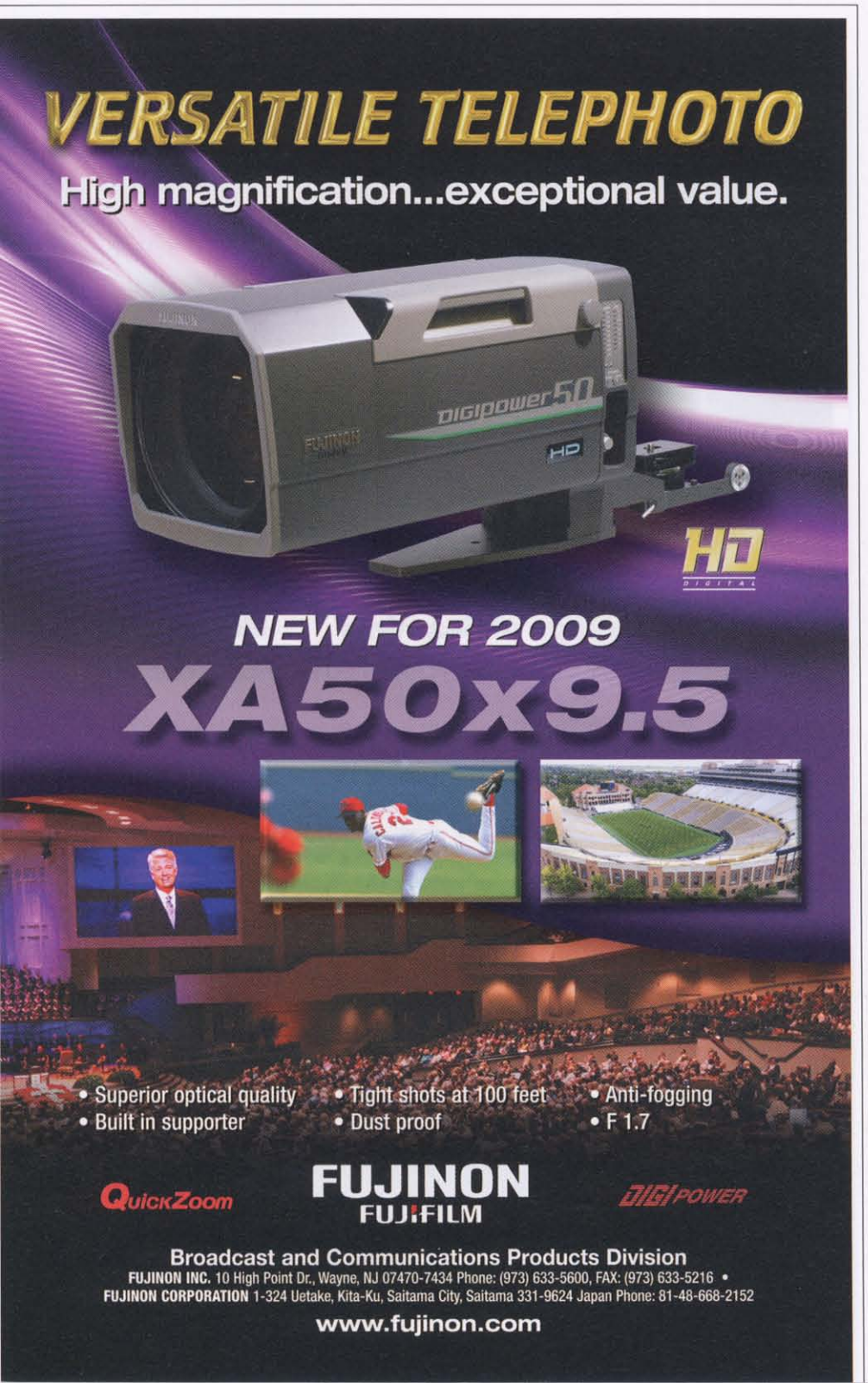
Second, don't forget that it is only a 2700 ANSI Lumen unit. As long as you are careful in your design, and keep in mind the type of surface you are projecting on, the unit can work for you. As long as the image is protected from big lighting washes and high ambient light situations, you will see the effects.

Third, you need a moving light console with the correct fixture profile to accurately control the DigitalSpot 3000 DT as each fixture uses 136 channels of DMX. Robe has a list of console profiles on their website.

Fourth, when using the DigitalSpot 3000 DT you are going to want to have an Ethernet network set up to each fixture hanging in the air so it is easy to upload and manage image content. Although the fixture has a USB port for a thumb drive or USB hard drive, using an Ethernet network and the built-in FTP server is much easier.

The DigitalSpot 3000 DT was a fun fixture to use and could be a great asset in worship lighting. If you are interested in the fixture, be sure to download the information from the website and get a demo from your local Robe dealer.

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



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