

BACKstage

Technical Theatre for High Schools

Lighting and Electrics Terminology (A-Le)

Adapter: Electrical accessory that transitions between dissimilar connectors; may be a molded unit, box or cable assembly

Amperes: Unit of measure for the quantity of electricity flowing in a conductor. **Synonym:** A, Amp, Current

Automated Luminaire: Lighting instrument with attributes that are remotely controlled. **Synonym:** Automated Fixture, Automated Light, Computerized Light, Intelligent Light, Motorized Light, Mover, Moving Light

Backlight: A lighting source that is behind the talent or subject from the viewers perspective. **Synonym:** Backs, Back Wash, Bx, Hair Light, Rim Light

Balcony Rail: Lighting position mounted in front of or on the face of the balcony. **Synonym:** Balcony Front

Bare End: An electrical cable with no plug connector

Barndoor: Device that attaches to the front of a luminaire that allows for beam shaping by blocking the beam of light

Beam Angle: When the beam of light (lumens or foot-candles) is at least 50 % of maximum intensity

Blackout: The total absence of light on stage or set

Boom: Freestanding support for equipment

Boom Arm: Horizontal pipe attached to a vertical boom

Boom Base: Bottom member of a boom that spreads the weight over a wider area and provides an anchor to the floor holding the boom in a vertical position

Box Booms: Hanging positions mounted in the house on the side walls or seating boxes of the theater. **Synonym:** Side Cove, Slot

Break-in: Adapter consisting of multiple plugs (M) wired to a single multipin (FM) connector; may be a box or a cable assembly. **Synonym:** Break-in Box, Fan-in

Break-out: Adapter consisting of multiple receptacles (FM) wired to a single multipin (M) connector; may be a box or a cable assembly. **Synonym:** Break-out Box, Fan-out
Burn Out: Failed lamp or color media that is burned through

Channel: Specific control parameter encompassing single or multiple device attributes (lighting dimmers, audio signals, etc.) controlled as a unit

Channel Hookup: Paperwork designating the connection of dimmer circuits to channels of control

Circuit: Path for electricity to flow from the source, through a conductor, to a device(s)

Circuit Breaker: Mechanical/Electrical device that is designed to automatically open (trip) if the current exceeds the rated level protecting the circuit; may be operated manually
Synonym: Breaker, CB, OCPD, Overcurrent Protective Device

Color Extender: Top hat with color media holder. **Synonym:** Gel Extender

Color Frame: Metal or heat resistant device that holds the color media in front of a luminaire. **Synonym:** Gel Frame

Color Media: Translucent material used to color light
Synonym: Color Glass, Dichroic, Gel, Roundels

Company Switch: Electrical panel with disconnecting means for the supply of significant amounts of electrical power to portable equipment. **Synonym:** Bull Switch, Disconnect, Panel, Power Panel

Conductor: Material through which electricity will flow
Synonym: Cable, Feeder, Leads

Cue Light: Light controlled from the stage manager's station to signal actors or crew

Cyclorama Light: Non-lensed luminaire with an asymmetrical reflector, primarily used for lighting backdrops. **Synonym:** Cyc light

Deck Electrician: Performance crew dealing with operation of lights and other electrical components on stage

Dichroic Filter: Style of glass light filter that reflects unwanted frequencies instead of absorbing them. **Synonym:** Dichro

Dimmer: Electrical device between the power source and a luminaire used to adjust the intensity of the lamp

Dimmer per Circuit: Patching dimmer 1 to circuit 1, etc.
Synonym: 1:1, Patch 1:1

DMX512: Digital Multiplexing protocol developed by USITT for communicating control information between a console or other controller and dimmers or other stage equipment
Synonym: ANSI E1.11

Donut: Square plate with a circular hole that is placed in front of an Ellipsoidal Reflector Spotlight to sharpen the image

Electrical Connector: Conductive device for joining electrical circuits. Synonym: Plug, Receptacle

Electricity: Flow of electromagnetic energy (electrons) through a conductor

Ellipsoidal Reflector Spotlight: Luminaire which projects light via an elliptical reflector and a lens system. Synonym: Ellipsoidal, ERS, Leko®, Profile, Source 4®

Entertainment Electrician: Crew member who hangs, adjusts, operates lighting equipment, and electrical distribution
Synonym: Electricians Crew, Lighting Technician

Field Angle: When the beam of light (lumens or foot-candles) is at least 10 % of maximum intensity.

First Electric: First pipe batten over the stage upstage of the proscenium or plaster line that is designated for stage lighting equipment. Synonym: First Elec, 1E, LX1

Floor Pocket: Dedicated enclosure recessed in the floor with a hinged cover. Synonym: Floor Box, Stage Pocket

Focus: Process of aiming a luminaire so that the beam falls in the desired location and shape

Followspot: Luminaire that is operator controlled to follow action on stage. Synonym: Front Light, Spot

Followspot Operator: Electrician or Stagehand who operates followspots. Synonym: Frontlight Operator, Spot Operator

Footcandle: A common measurement of lighting intensity

Foot Lights: Lights mounted horizontally around the down stage lip of the stage at floor level - often some form of strip light

Framing Shutter: Movable metal plates, in an ellipsoidal reflector spotlight, that shape the light beam. Synonym: Shutter

Fresnel: Luminaire which projects a soft-focus light via a spherical reflector and a flat, concentric ringed lens

Front Light: A lighting source that illuminates the talent or subject from the direction of the viewers point of view

Gate: Secondary focal point of an ellipsoidal reflector spotlight where accessories (pattern, iris, shutters) can shape the light beam

Ghost Light: Single lamp in a safety cage on a floor stand that remains illuminated on stage when the theater is not in use

Going Dark: Warning given when the stage is going to a blackout. Synonym: Going to Black

Ground Conductor: Conductor that physically connects circuit to the Earth. Synonym: Green Wire (North America), Ground Wire

Head High: Luminaire mounted at head height above the floor. Synonym: Head, High

Hot: Conductor that is a part of an electrical circuit. Synonym: Black, Black Wire

House Lights: Audience lighting. Synonym: House

Incandescent Lamp: Light source created by a filament that glows when current passes through it

Insulation: Nonconductive material around the electrical conductor

Iris: Device that adjusts the beam circumference larger or smaller

Jumper: A short extension cable. Synonym: Shortie

Lamp: Transparent or translucent glass housing containing a filament and/or gas that produces light when voltage is applied. Synonym: Bottle, Bulb, Globe, Light Bulb

Lamp Lead: Electrical cable assembly for connecting a luminaire to its plug. Synonym: Lead, Pig Tail, Tail

LED Luminaire: Luminaire which uses light emitting diodes as light source

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Lighting and Electrics Terminology (Li-z)

Light Board Operator: Person who may set up, program and operate the lighting console. Synonym: Board Op

Light Plot: Scale drawing that shows the locations of lighting equipment. Synonym: Hang Plot, Lighting Plan, Plot

Lighting Batten: Pipe battens dedicated for attaching luminaires and stage equipment. Synonym: Elec, Electric Batten, Electric, Light Pipe

Lighting Boom: Vertical mounting position for lighting and other electrical equipment. Synonym: Boom

Lighting Bridge: Lighting position that consists of a catwalk with pipes mounted on one or both sides

Lighting Console: Device that controls lighting and stage equipment. Synonym: Board, Console, Controller, Desk

Lighting Crew: Persons involved in hanging, circuiting, focusing, maintaining and running the entertainment light systems

Lighting Cue 1) A designed lighting effect or image; 2) Action that an electrician or light board operator does during the course of a performance. Synonym: Look, Q, State

Lighting Design: Artistic vision of the lighting designer

Lighting Designer: Person who creates the lighting design for a production. Synonym: LD

Lighting Director: Person who stays with the show to maintain lighting design

Lighting Paper Work: Documentation of the lighting design that may include the following: light plot, magic sheet, cue sheet, channel hookup, instrument schedule, shop order, etc.

Luminaire: Preferred term for stage lights. Synonym: Lights, instruments, fixtures, etc.

Magic Sheet: A visual representation of lighting focus positions in the theatre.

Master Electrician: Crew head for the lighting

Mid High: Luminaire mounted waist high above the floor. Synonym: Mid

Moving Mirror Instrument: Intelligent luminaire that uses a mirror to direct the light beam. Synonym: Scanner

Multicable: Multiconductor cable with multipin connectors installed. Synonym: Mult, Multi, Socapex®, Veam, VSC

Multipin Connector: Electrical connector commonly used with multiconductor cable to carry 6 to 12 circuits. Synonym: Multipin, Socapex®, Veam VSC, Pyle-National, Soca

National Electrical Code®: A set of rules regarding electrical installation and some practices for the safeguarding of persons and property from the hazards arising from the use of electricity, adopted by municipalities and other government agencies as law. Synonym: NEC®, NFPA 70

Neutral: Conductor that is a part of an electrical circuit which connects the load back to the source. Synonym: White Wire (North America)

Non Dim: Remotely controlled on/off circuit. Synonym: Relay, Contactor

PAR Can: Luminaire with a PAR lamp mounted inside. Synonym: Can, PAR, Par Light

PAR Lamp: Parabolic Aluminized Reflector Lamp

Parallel Blade Grounded Connector: 15 or 20 Amp North American standard electrical connector. Synonym: Edison Connector, FUG, MUG, PBG, Straight Blade, U Ground

Patch: The connection of a circuit to dimmer or assignment of a dimmer to channel. Synonym: Hard Patch, Soft Patch

Pattern: Image or cutout that is inserted into the gate of an ellipsoidal spotlight to project the pattern with the light. Synonym: Gobo, Template

Pattern Holder: Metal plate with a heat resistant handle that is used to insert a pattern into the pattern slot of an Ellipsoidal Reflector Spot. Synonym: Gobo Holder, Template Holder

Pattern Slot: Opening at the gate of an Ellipsoidal Reflector Spotlight where accessories can be inserted. Synonym: Gobo Slot, Template Slot

Pin Connector: Electrical connectors with 3 split pins or sleeves configured in a rectangular housing. Synonym: 2P&G, 2PG, Bates®, GP, PC, Pin Plug, Stage Pin

Plano Convex Lens: Lens characterized by one flat and one outwardly curved surface

Plug: Male connectors using pins or blades as the conductors

Practicals: Functional electrical devices such as light fixtures and switches that are a part of a scenic setting

Production Electrician: Person who assembles and installs the lighting equipment of a production and supervises the electrical crew

Receptacle: Female connectors using sockets as the conductors

Running Lights: Lighting used during a performance or rehearsal to allow visibility backstage. Synonym: Bluelights, Equity Lights, Safety Lights

Safety Cable: Accessory used to back up the primary attachment. Synonym: Dog Collar, Safety

Scroller: Accessory placed in front or internal to a luminaire that contains a color string or roll

Shinbuster: Luminaire mounted just above the floor. Synonym: Kicker, Shinkicker, Shin

Shop Order: Paperwork that indicates all the elements, parts and pieces being included in a rental

Short Circuit: Occurs when the current carrying wire connects to either the opposite polarity or the ground causing the current to bypass the intended electrical path. Synonym: Short

Side Arm: C-clamp with short piece of 1/2" diameter pipe and one or more sliding mounts

Side Light: Light that comes from the luminaire that is mounted on either side of the stage

Single Pole Locking Connector: Large, rubber-sheathed, locking connector (typically color-coded); suitable for connecting single conductor feeder cable. Synonym: Cam, Cam Connector, Cam-lok® Single Pole Separable

Special: Luminaire that is used on its own
Stage Cable: Portable, extra-hard usage electrical cable. Synonym: Cable, CABTIRE, SC, SO, SOOW

Strain Relief: Mechanical clamp to protect internal electrical connections from tension; 2) Line or device attached along a cable to relieve tension on the connector. Synonym: Cord Clamp, Kellems® Grip

Swatch Book: Samples of color media in a bound format. Synonym: Gel Book

Terminator: Device used to control data corruption in a DMX run.

Top Hat: Accessory that fits on to the front of a luminaire to reduce spill and glare. Synonym: Snoot

Tungsten-halogen Lamp Incandescent lamp with a tungsten filament in a quartz glass envelope filled with a halogen gas. Synonym: Quartz Lamp

Twist Lock Connector: Round electrical connector with multiple interlocking curved contacts. Synonym: GTL, L5-20, L6-20, TLG, Twist

Two-fer: Electrical accessory enabling two devices to be plugged in to one receptacle. Synonym: 2-fer

Universe: 512 channels of DMX

Volts: Unit of measure for the difference in electrical potential (pressure) between two points

Wall Pockets: Dedicated enclosure in the wall, sometimes with a cover similar to a floor pocket

Watt: Unit of measurement for power consumed. Synonym: W, Wattage

West Virginia Formula: Represented as $W=V \cdot A$, the equation can be used to calculate volts, watts and amperes. Synonym: The Power Equation

Worklights: Lighting fixtures used for general illumination other than during performances. Synonym: Overheads, Works

Yoking Out: Hanging a piece of equipment at an angle from a batten. Synonym: Cannon

Zoom Luminaire: Luminaire with adjustable lens system that enables a range of focal lengths Synonym: Zoom