

ETC Application Note

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Multi-Level Cyc Lighting with Desire and Selador Classic



The Multi-Level Cyc

It is possible to achieve the traditional cyc-lighting look of a ground row and top row, and also to far exceed this performance, by mounting Selador units in clusters at the top or the bottom of a cyc, focusing them on different vertical sections, and using lenses to precisely spread the light. By taking this approach, the illumination of the cyc can be broken into two, three, or as many vertical sections as required, and the distribution of the light can be far more uniform than what is possible with the traditional method.

In this way, for example, the look of a ground row can be replicated, even though all fixtures are hung above the cyc on only a single batten. Multiple vertical sections can be set to different colors in order to produce effects like sunsets; and then with a simple cue change, the cyc can be made to appear completely flat and uniform.

The downsides to this method include:

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- The focus is quite finicky—it takes consistent, delicate adjustments to match the focuses of multiple fixtures across the length of the cyc.
- Lensing and diffusion requirements may be slightly different for each venue, as hanging positions and cyc sizes vary, so a one-size-fits-all recommended practice is unlikely to be helpful.
- It only works well when there is a fairly generous distance between the cyc and the fixtures—perhaps 4 to 6 feet or more.

Surely, this is not the right approach for every cyc-lighting application, but for those users who have an experienced eye for focus, or for those sites where the cyc-lighting rig is installed once and then left in place, it can be a great way to maximize the flexibility and beauty of a cyc, and it can also actually reduce the overall cost of lighting it because the light is used much more effectively, with less spill and waste.

The following are two examples of this kind of cyc installation:

Large Cyc on a Stage – Selador Vivid-R 11" Units

Fixtures are hung on an elongated yoke connected to a triple bracket. The bracket is tilted so that light from the upper fixtures does not create shadows off the lower ones.



The fixtures contain the following lenses and gel diffusion:

- Top row: V50 + H50 (no gel diffusion)
- Middle row: V30 + H20 + Rosco 104 Silk, with the “grain” of the silk running horizontally (thereby producing a vertical spread)
- Bottom row: H20 only (no gel diffusion)

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- The pipe holding the fixtures is flown at a 30' trim.
- Its distance from the cyc is approximately 5 ½ feet.
- The clusters of fixtures are hung on 3' centers.
- There are 20 clusters lighting approximately 60 linear feet of cyc.
- The cyc has a useful illuminated surface that extends from the stage deck to a 30' height (all the way up to the pipe holding the fixtures).



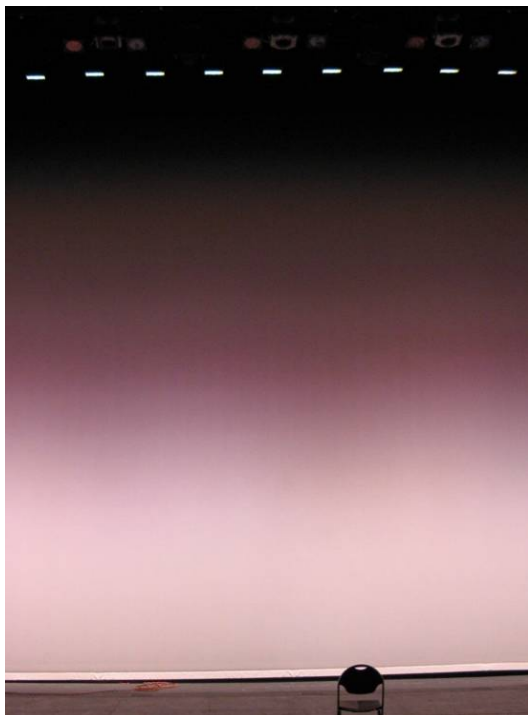
Top row only



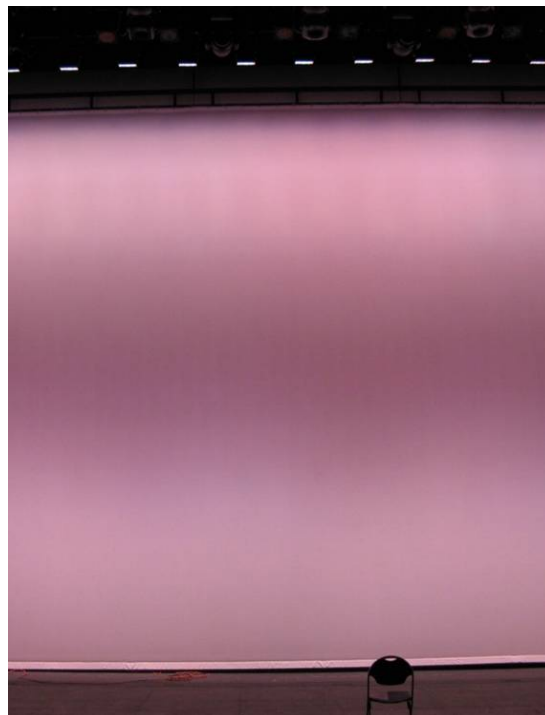
Middle row only

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Bottom row only



Top and bottom rows



Top, middle, and bottom rows

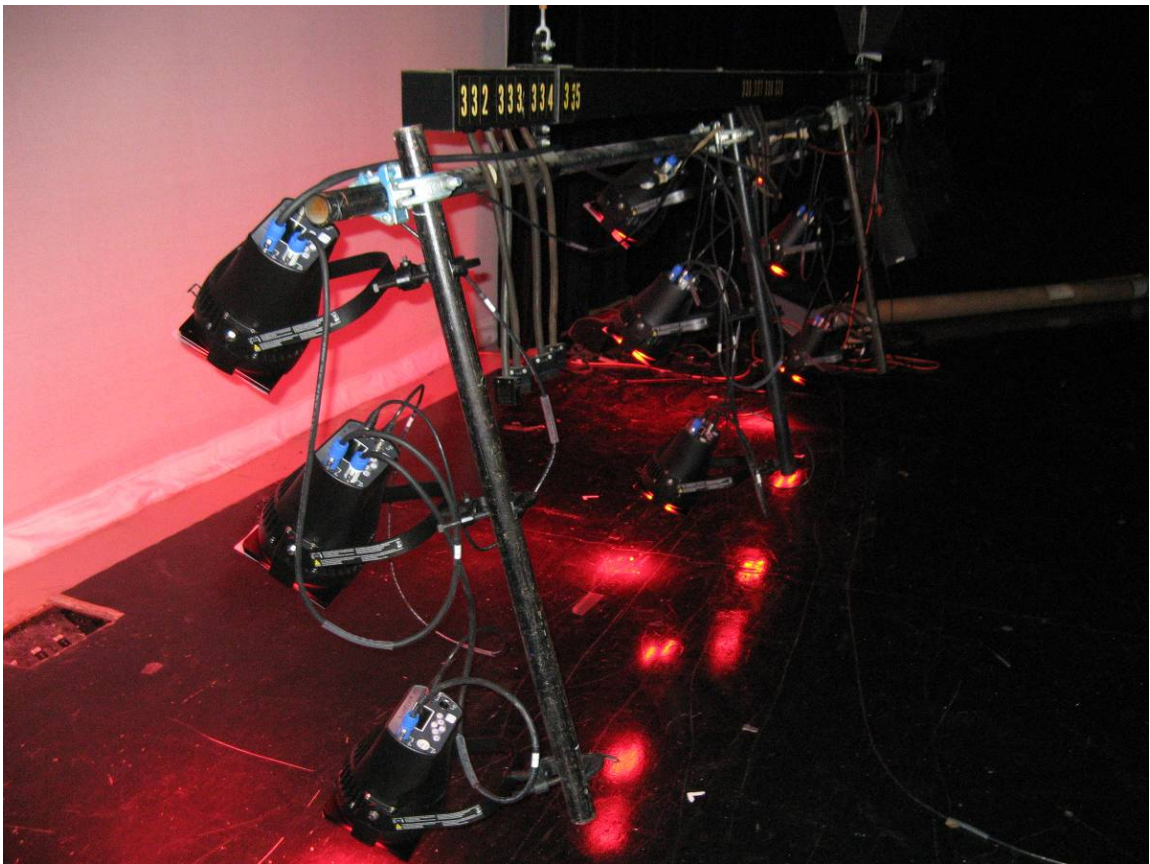
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These photos were taken prior to final focus. One can see that the rows are not yet fully even and that the spread of the middle row is broader than the top and bottom rows. Therefore, the middle row appears somewhat dimmer than the others. It is possible that a narrower vertical lens on the middle row would create better overall uniformity. However, despite the work still to be done, the light distribution is far more uniform than what can be achieved with the traditional approach. Additionally, the upstage area previously taken by the ground row is now fully freed, expanding the cyc view and greatly enhancing the safety and permanence of the cyc-lighting installation.

Medium Cyc in a Studio – Desire D40 Units

Fixtures are hung on perpendicular pipes with cheeseborough clamps. The pipes are tilted to avoid shadows. It is possible that equal success could be achieved by clamping all fixtures to the batten directly, side by side, rather than stacking them vertically, though this approach was not tested at this site.

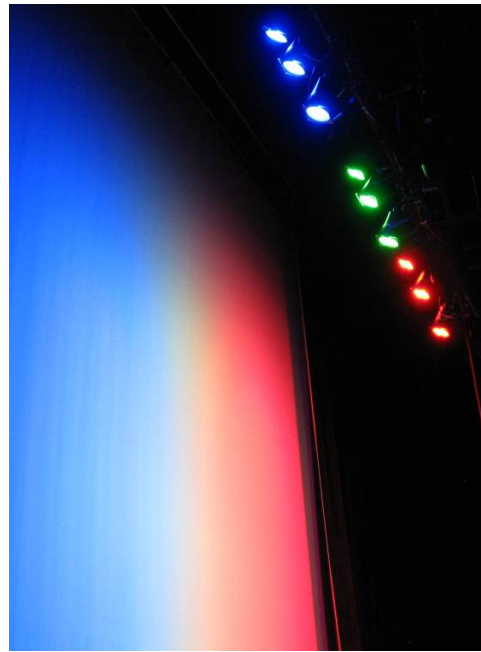


The fixtures contain the following lenses and gel diffusion:

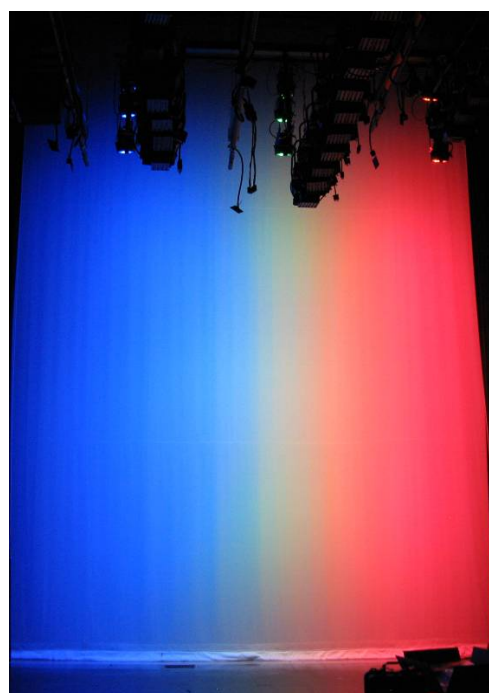
- Top row: 75° Round + Lee 250 Half-White
- Middle row: 30x70° Oblong (rotated so that the wider, 70° spread runs *horizontally* on the cyc) + Lee 250 Half-White
- Bottom row: 20x40° Oblong (rotated as above, so that the wider part of the beam is horizontal on the cyc) + Lee 251 Quarter-White

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- The batten trim height is 23'.
- The fixtures are hung on the perpendicular pipes at a distance of 5", 21", and 41", respectively, from the cheeseborough clamps.
- The distance from the cyc to the batten is approximately 7 ½ feet.
- The clusters of fixtures are hung on 6' centers.
- There are 3 clusters lighting approximately 15 linear feet of cyc.
- The cyc has a useful illuminated surface that extends from the studio floor to an approximate 20' height.



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Image captured live



Image of studio monitor displaying input from studio video camera

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