

EQUIPMENT NEWS

edited by Gordon Keith and Harry Sutherland

News RDS/HMI Fresnel Spots

Cinema Products Corporation (Los Angeles) has been appointed the exclusive distributor for North and South America of a new line of HMI lights for motion picture and television production manufactured by Ryudensha Co., Ltd. (Japan) — one of the largest manufacturers of professional lighting equipment in the world.

The new RDS/HMI lighting series consists of four units: 575-watt, 1200-watt and 4000-watt daylight-balanced luminaires, each with its own ballast designed to operate at 120 volts, 60 Hz.

Outstanding features include:

- A Fresnel lens specifically designed by Ryudensha to provide the RDS/HMI lights with a more efficient optical system resulting in a smoother field of light, as well as a wider focusing ratio from spot to flood.
- The basic modular construction permits safe, convenient changing of lamps and easy maintenance since the entire HMI inserts assembly — which includes the lamp socket, ignitor circuitry and switches — can be easily removed without the use of tools (an automatic safety switch cuts the power when the insert assembly is removed). And repairs to the electrical system can be conveniently accomplished away from the luminaire.
- Lamp sockets made of machined brass allow extremely rapid heat dissipation for longer lamp life.
- Another unique feature is that the RDS/HMI lights can be readily converted to incandescent Fresnel spots by replacing the HMI inserts with optional inserts which permit the use of 1KW, 2KW, 5KW and 10KW tungsten-halogen lamps.

Prices for RDS/HMI Fresnel spot lights (luminaire and ballast) start at \$2500. A complete line of related accessories is also available.

Gordon Keith is a professional video and film technician currently working as video editor at TVOntario.

Harry Sutherland is a documentary filmmaker presently working between Toronto and Paris.

New Version of Oscar-Winning Steadicam Available

Cinema Products Corporation announces the availability of a new version of the Oscar-winning Steadicam film/video camera stabilizing system — Steadicam (Universal Model II).

The new *breakaway-style* camera operator's vest features an emergency release cord located on the vest's right shoulder, which allows the operator to divest himself of the entire Steadicam in less than two seconds in any emergency situation which may occur while shooting in hazardous conditions, especially when filming in a boat!

The new *raised video monitor* is now positioned mid-way between the Steadicam camera-mounting platform and the sled-like lower portion. The new design allows the monitor to be tilted up or down and rotated about its axis, so that the operator can find the most convenient viewing position for shooting specific sequences.

For filming special effects, Steadicam now permits the camera to be rotated a full 360° during the shot. (A special adapter is required for low-angle and tabletop shooting with the camera on the bottom instead of on the top.)

Prices for the new Steadicam (Universal Model II) start at \$19,500. For further information, please write to Cinema Products Corp., 2037 Granville Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90025. Tel: (213) 478-0711 or (213) 477-1971.

New Generation 3/4" Video Cassette Editing System

Panasonic Video Systems has introduced its next generation high performance 3/4" video cassette editing system. The next system, designed for the demanding user of 3/4" video, consists of the direct-drive NV-9240 recorder, NV-9600 editing/production recorder and NV-A960 editing controller. All units offer selectable voltage operation (110, 120, 220, 240 volt), 60/50 Hz. Resolution on both units is 260 lines color and 330 lines b/w;

signal-to-noise (luminance) is 46dB color and 50dB b/w. In addition, Panasonic crystal-oriented HPF video heads help maintain overall picture quality. Highest dubbing picture quality is also offered via new *dub in* and *dub out* connectors that provide excellent multi-generation pictures. Contact Bill Brown, Panasonic, 5770 Ambler Dr., Mississauga, Ont. Tel: (416) 624-5010.

New Equipment at NAB

VTR Productions Ltd. attended the National Association of Broadcasters' conference (Los Vegas, April 1980) and listed the following items in their Videonews letter as "the most interesting and practical."

Ikigami — Complete new camera, "Electronic Cinematography Camera" EC-35. A portable camera using 2/3" diode gun tubes which can use standard lenses as well as zoom. It has been produced as an alternative to the 35mm camera.

Bosch-Fernseh — Digital CCD Telecine Chain FDL-60-A2. This new system was the highlight of the NAB. It features a complete new "scanning" method of producing television pictures from film (16-35mm) at extremely high resolution with no video noise. The unit overcomes all the difficulties associated with the flying spot scanner. It requires no tubes and has no moving parts in the optical path and can operate at variable speed both forward and reverse.

RCA — New 1-inch, Type C Video Tape Recorder, Model TR800. This unit has been designed for ease in operation, versatile editing capabilities and total access for maintenance and service. It appears to be the first most complete and versatile 1-inch machine built to date. The price tag is approximately \$105,000 U.S. funds.

Sony has introduced what it says is the world's first commercial colour video camera to utilize a completely solid state image sensor called a charged-coupled-device (CCD) instead of a conventional vacuum tube image sensor. Identified as the Model XC-1 the new two chip colour camera measures 66 x 75 x 198mm deep (approximately 2.6 x 3 x 7.8 inches).