

California Community Theatre

How-To

Converting Incandescent Lighting to LED

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Converting incandescent lighting to LED

We are a small community theater in Casper, Wyoming. We started up about 2 years ago. We begged and borrowed our lighting and sound for the first year. When we decided we were ready to buy our own, I was put in charge of the project. I owned my own company for 25 years (now retired) and specialized in Electronic Systems Integration. I had plenty of sound experience, but very little lighting knowledge. My research indicated that DMX controlled LED was the ONLY way to go. Initially more expensive, but much cheaper to operate and infinitely more flexible.

- We started off with seven (7) Blizzard LED wash fixtures and a 24 channel Elation Professional DMX dimmer board. Expensive dimmer packs and wiring were eliminated with LED lighting.
- I have since added three (3) more wash fixtures and a Chauvet Intimidator moving head spot fixture.
- I discovered computer controlled DMX software when my distributor was giving it away with a minimum purchase.
- We run the entire system from the software (running on a surplus Windows XP machine) and have eliminated the 24 channel board entirely.
- All ten (10) wash lights and the moving head light are running on one 110 volt circuit with amperage to spare!

I cannot begin to explain how flexible this lighting is. From choice of color, dimming, movement, to special effects, DMX LED the only way to go. We have spent approximately \$5K to date and just recently received a grant for the entire amount from Rocky Mountain Power.

Richard Fisher
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Casper, WY
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Special thanks to Richard for his insight and information.