**C229 Lecture Week 5 – What Grips Do - Lighting 202**

**Agenda:**

* Lighting (continued)
* Grip Department
* Announcement: You should be capturing your Campus Symphony / Montage projects this week.

**Reading/Watchlist:**

Here are 2 good webpages of film terms:

* <https://www.bhphotovideo.com/explora/video/tips-and-solutions/guide-film-set-lingo-and-hand-signals>
* <https://www.studiobinder.com/blog/movie-film-terms/>

This is a great resource page with excellent embedded videos:

* <https://www.studiobinder.com/blog/how-to-use-c-stand/>
* On shaping light with flags and nets: <https://youtu.be/ShFk1Ao9sBw>
* Grip Tips: The C-Stand <https://youtu.be/3LXexXE0Dxo>

Lastly, be sure to watch ***Grip it Good***, a great overview on what grips do:

* <https://vimeo.com/82248530>

[LiveDesign](https://www.livedesignonline.com/): Look behind the Super Bowl half-time show: [Behind the Build](https://www.livedesignonline.com/sponsored/go-behind-build-all-access-staging-super-bowl-lix-halftime-show?itm_source=parsely-api), [PixMob](https://www.livedesignonline.com/news/pixmob-canadian-company-behind-super-bowl-lixs-mind-blowing-effects) (effects), & [Plots](https://www.livedesignonline.com/news/apple-music-halftime-show-drawings-and-crew-list?utm_medium=email&utm_source=nl&utm_campaign=LDI-NL-Live+Design+Wire&oly_enc_id=6800A6496578E9Z).

Best/Worst Ads: [AdWeek](https://www.adweek.com/brand-marketing/the-best-super-bowl-ads-of-2025/), [NPR](https://www.npr.org/2025/02/09/nx-s1-5273643/super-bowl-commercials-best-worst), & [FoxSports](https://www.foxsports.com/stories/nfl/best-super-bowl-commercials-2025)

**Lighting (Continued) -** Last week we looked at two types of lighting instruments:

* **spotlights**, which produce focused beams of light (hard light) and create sharply defined shadows
* **floodlights**, which create softer, more diffused light.

We also looked at **two different ways of placing the key light: broad/downstage vs narrow/upstage**.

**Common types of spotlights:**

**Fresnel**: These are named for the lenses. Fresnel lenses are made with a concentric series of rings milled into them, which help focus the light. Fresnel spotlights are versatile, as their beams can be focused from narrow (spot) to wide (flood).

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| Mole-Richardson  Fresnel Lens CD07 for Betweenie 300W, Mini-Mole 2801  | Fresnel Lenses | How They Work – How I See It |

**Fresnel spotlights** (like the Arri 300 pictured below) should be used with barndoors, which help direct light and reduce unwanted spill.

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| ARRI Junior 300 Tungsten Fresnel Light with 3" Lens, 300 Watt L1.79200.A | ARRI Fresnel 300W w/Barndoor - ProGear |
| **Arri 300 watt Fresnel** | **Arri 300 with barndoors** |

**Barndoor holders** can also be used to mount scrims, filter frames, and speed rings to mount soft boxes.

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| ARRI Full Double Scrim for 150W Fresnel (3") | Used ARRI Filter Frame for the Junior 300 Watt Fresnel Light Unit.  E | Arri  Speed Ring for 650W Fresnel Light Head  |
| Scrim | Filter/Gel Frame | Speed Ring |

**Open-Faced Spotlights** like the Arrilite 750 Plus (pictured below) emit harsh light because they don’t have a lens- just a protective wire mesh. They are basically a light in front of a reflector. As a result, they aren’t ideal to serve as a subject’s key light. However, they are ideal for using with a softbox. This makes them perfect for creating soft key light.

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| ARRILITE 750 Plus | Impact Luxbanx Duo Large Square Softbox (40 x 40") |
| Arrilite 750 Plus with speed ring | Impact Softbox |

Softboxes turn hard light coming from a spotlight into soft light.

There are other types of spotlights (ellipsoidal, par cans, HMI, etc.) but Fresnel and open-faced lights are commonly found on set and in the Media School inventory.

**LED Lighting**

LED lighting comes in a wide range of shapes and sizes. Small LED lights can be considered spotlights, since their smaller surface area creates harder, more focused light. Larger LED panels and ring lights create softer light, like a floodlight. Many have variable color temperatures (3200K-5600K) so they can be used inside or outside. [B&H LED Lights](https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/browse/led-lights/ci/48382)

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| Genaray LED-7100T 312 LED Variable-Color On-Camera Light | Litepanels Astra 6X Bi-Color LED Panel | GVM Bi-Color LED Ring Light (18") | Godox LED RGB Light Stick LC500R |
| Genaray 7100T | Lightpanels Astra | GVM Ringlight | GVM Light Stick |

**LED lights use less electricity than tungsten lights and generate less heat** as well. Because of this, they can often be powered with batteries. Because of their small size and battery power, they can be positioned in tight areas and interesting locations.

**Grip Department**

**Grips & Gaffers** (What’s the difference?)

* **Gaffers** work with lighting and electricity. Best Boy/Girl is the Assistant to the Chief Electrician
* **Grips** (led by the Key Grip) rig and control lights and cameras- but don’t do electrical work.

**Heat & Power Consumption** - Unlike flash and strobe lighting used for still photography, film/video production requires "constant on" devices, which can use significant amounts of electricity and generate a lot of heat. **LED fixtures are usually not an issue, but tungsten lights can use lots of electricity and pose a potential fire hazard.** Parameters of electricity include:

* **Voltage** (volts) Referred to as the letter E in some formulas.
* **Amperage** (amps aka current) Referred to as the letter I in some formulas.
* **Resistance** (ohms) Referred to as the letter R in some formulas.
* **Watts** (a.k.a. Power) Referred to as the letter P in some formulas.

**US household electrical circuits are usually 120 volts at either 15 or 20 amps.** (240-volt circuits are also used, but for larger equipment and lighting.) If too much current passes through a circuit, a circuit breaker *should* trip, cutting off power.

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| How to Turn Off the Power in Your Home | Square D™ QO™ 1-Pole Standard Circuit Breaker at Menards® |
| **Circuit Breaker Box** | **20 Amp Circuit Breaker** |

**Formulas used to calculate electrical/lighting loads:**

* **Ohm’s Law is I = E/R** This formula states the relationship between voltage (E), current (I), and resistance (R). Variations of this are R=E/I, and E=IxR.
* **Watts = Amps x Volts** Variations of this are W/Amps = Volts, or W/Volts=Amps

When lighting on set or in the field, keep track of electrical loads, especially when using high-wattage tungsten devices. Think about if you were using three 650-watt Arri Fresnel spotlights. The three lights would need a total of 1950 watts (650 x 3 = 1950). Given a common 120-volt circuit: 1950 watts/120 volts = 16.25 amps. **This would trip the breaker of a 15-amp circuit.**

**Maximum Wattage for Common Circuit Breakers: 15 amp = 1,800 watts 20 amp = 2,400 watts**

**Winding Cables**

Master the “over/under” method of winding cable. It applies to ropes, mic cables, electrical cables, and long camera/video/BNC cords. You can practice in lab this week.

“How to” video examples:

* <https://youtu.be/cpuutP6Df84>
* <https://youtu.be/KHwPthJO5bo>

**C-Stands**

C-stands are essential tools on film sets. You can attach lighting devices to them, accessories such as flags and nets, and monitors and more.

Watch the videos from the watchlist, which cover the important aspects of setting up, carrying, and stacking C-Stands.

**Some important things to remember:**

* Align the gobo arm (carrying the weight) over the tallest leg.
* Sandbags go on the tallest leg and should not touch the ground.
* When picking up C-stands, grasp both the gobo arm and the stand.
* When carrying large pieces of gear call out “Points” especially when around people or turning blind corners.
* When mounting gear to grip heads remember: Righty-tighty/Lefty-loosey This ensures that the weight of whatever’s attached will help tighten the arm and not loosen it.

**Attendance Question** (There’s just one today):

From all the lights discussed today, which is ideal for using with a softbox?

**Bonus Filmmaking Jokes:**

How many actors does it take to change a lightbulb? *"That depends. What's my motivation?"*

This joke doesn’t have a punchline. *No worries - we'll fix it in post*