

15 amp	Generic term for the British plug & socket system used in lighting circuits. 15 amp plugs have round pins and are un-fused, and are generally made from a moulded rubber plug top and base.
16 amp	Generic name for European standard splash proof plugs and sockets, rated at a max load of 16 amps and colour-coded blue. See CEE-form.
19"	The old GPO standard for mounting equipment in cases used two perforated metal strips into which the equipment was bolted. Square holes in the metal strip allowed Rack Nuts to be inserted at suitable intervals. The two strips were mounted at 19" apart, thus meaning all equipment to fit such a system would be of uniform width. The depth of equipment is given in U (short for units), thus a reverb unit might be termed a 19" 2u
3-Phase	A type of AC electrical supply where three live wires and a common neutral are present, the live Phases or Legs are 120° offset from each other. Common for large power consumption such as lighting systems or motors. Extreme care must be taken when working with 3-ph systems, since a potential of some 415v exists between any two phase legs
5 amp	An old system of lighting plugs and sockets, only found in certain theatres. Uses round pins like the 15 amp system, but a much smaller plug.
58	Abbrv. For a Shure SM58 microphone, the most popular and versatile Dynamic Mic. Industry standard for vocal applications.
A-Frame	Abbrv. A-Frame Ladder, so called because the sloping rungs & support leg form a letter A. See also Zarges
A-Type	Trade name for square section Truss of 52cm (20.5 in) cross-section, made by Thomas. See also G.P.
A-Type Jack	Professional GPO style 3-pole Jack Plug connector, usually Balanced
Abseil	German for "Down Rope". A method of controlled descent via a rope
Absorption	The damping of sound as it strikes a surface or passes through medium.
AC	Alternating current, where the supply Phase oscillates relative to a neutral. The speed of oscillation is 50Hz throughout Europe and 60Hz in the USA. Mains supply voltage is approx 230v RMS (Root Mean Squared)
Access Tower	Aluminium or steel assembly of frames and braces supporting a work platform at variable height. Commonly fitted with wheels & outriggers. Careful attention must be paid to SWL markings and base to height ratios
Acoustics	The study of sound waves' Propagation, Reflection and Absorption. Means of analysing how sound will behave in a given environment.
Act Drop	A painted canvas stretched over a frame used to disguise scene changes
Action Level	The three Action Levels are the levels of noise at which the Law requires hearing protection notices and equipment to be supplied and used.

Active	Any powered set of electronics as opposed to Passive. An active loudspeaker system is one where signal division by means of a Crossover occurs before separate power amps, which drive dedicated speakers. Active instruments such as guitars and basses have powered pick-ups and pre-amplification circuitry. Generally operating at 9 or 18v, they require batteries to function. Active DI Boxes are normally powered by Phantom Power
ADC	Analogue to Digital Converter. A device which converts incoming Analogue signals to a digital Bitstream. See also Encoder. Most commonly found in Audio systems where analogue signals are converted for digital processing and recording
Ad Lib	Theatrical term for a short improvisation, usually to cover a forgotten line or mistake.
ADAT	A digital recording format developed by Alesis, (hence Alesis Digital Audio Tape). 8 discrete audio tracks are recorded onto a VHS type cassette tape. Although superseded in terms of quality & reliability the readily available and cheap recording medium means ADAT is still popular
Advance Bar	Lighting bar positioned just downstage of the proscenium arch.
Aero	A high intensity Par lamp with a narrow beam (name derives from aircraft landing lamps)
AFL	After Fade Listen – a mixing desk function, which allows the engineer to listen to the outgoing level of a particular mix i.e. after the level set by the relevant, output Fader. See also PFL
Aftertouch	A MIDI message relating to key pressure after the initial note has been sounded
Alignment (1)	Setting of parameters in a sound system to a predetermined specification e.g. signal gain at -10 dBv, aligning Peak Programme Meters across a number of items of equipment
Alignment (2)	The introduction of signal delay to achieve optimum clarity in a sound system where speakers are at different distances from the listener. See also Time Alignment
AM	Amplitude modulation
Ambience	The combination of reverberation and background noise that characterises the sound of a particular space.
Ampere (amp)	The standard unit for measuring electrical current flow.
Amplifier (amp)	A device for boosting electronic signals to drive speaker systems. Amps are measured by their power in watts which reflects their ability to drive speakers of a given Impedance
Amplitude	The measure of the size of a sound waveform - representing its loudness.
Analogue	An infinitesimal variable signal whose wave shape resembles that of the original signal - as opposed to digital where the data is in discrete chunks known as bits. Also refers to control methods of lighting circuits.
Anechoic	Literally means without echo and refers to a test room or chamber whose walls are lined with completely absorbent material. An Anechoic Chamber has no Reverb whatsoever.

Apron	The Apron or Stage Apron is an area of stage that projects beyond the Proscenium into the auditorium. Some theatres will have a hydraulic Apron which can be raised or lowered as desired
Arbor	American term for Counterweight Cradle. See also Counterweight and Cradle
Arch	A curved structure that spans an opening
Arc Light	A lamp using a carbon-arc discharge as the source.
Arena	A large, often multipurpose, venue with the audience seated in tiers around a flat ground.
ASM	Assistant Stage Manager. Responsible for practical tasks on or around stages and performances.
Assault Line	A type of non-stretch rope developed for the armed forces, now widely available commercially
Attack time	The speed of response to a stimulus of circuitry such as compressors, noise gates, synthesiser envelope generators and so on.
Attenuation	The reduction of level of a sound signal. A compressor will attenuate the Gain sound signals above a certain level. Also refers to reducing intensity of a lighting fixture.
Audio Path	The route(s) taken by a signal through an audio system
Auditorium	The part of the theatre accommodating the audience during the performance. Sometimes known as the "house". All seats usually face nominally in the same direction.
Aux	Abbrev. Auxiliary. An additional set of inputs/outputs to an audio system. Aux outputs on each mixing desk Channel Strip allow individual signals to be sent to processing equipment or to produce a separate mix for recording, monitoring and so on
Azimuth	The angle and positioning of a tape head against magnetic tape
'B'-Type Jack	A variety of Jack Plug with a larger signal Tip. Commonly used for guitar and Patch Leads
Backline	Name given to musical instruments, amplifiers etc. that are set on stage. Often refers to rented equipment supplied for artists. The Backline Tech is the person responsible for setting up and maintaining a performer's instruments. Larger tours may have specialist Backline Tech's including Drum Tech, Guitar Tech and Keys Tech
Backflap	A hinge used in scenery construction.
Backlight	A light behind scenery or performers (usually from upstage)
Backstage	The rear area of the stage that is out of the sight of the audience. The service areas of the venue not accessible to the audience.
Backstage	The service areas of the venue not accessible to the audience.
Baffle	A wall or board placed within a loudspeaker enclosure to separate the front and rear sound projection of the driver. Baffles might also be mounted or flow in a venue to create a better acoustic environment and minimise Reverb
Baffle	1) A sheet of material used to prevent a spill of light in a lantern or in part of a set.

Balance	Alternative name for Mixing audio sources. Most commonly in broadcast.
Balanced Line	A sound signal cable designed to eliminate interference through Cancellation. Uses twin signal cores both of which are independent of the earth.
Balcony	An area of seating in an auditorium above the lowest level
Ballast	Counterweight used to stabilise a structure. See also Kentledge.
Ballast	Colloquialism for the remote power supply unit for some types of lamp
Ballyhoo	Motion of a follow-spot beam swung in a figure of eight pattern.
Banana Clip	A fitting for "butt-joining" scaffolding tubes end to end. The Banana is inserted into the ends of the tubes to be joined and a bolt is turned at the centre of the clip to expand the projecting flanges that grip the tube from within. See also Sleeve
Banana Plug	An audio connector, common on speaker and amplifier terminals, allowing rapid insertion and removal of connector
Bandwidth	The frequency spectrum at which an item of equipment can operate in - either in audio or electronic or digital frequency. Also refers to the distance between two CROSSOVER POINTS.
Bantam Jack	A professional type of Jack Plug with a 3.5mm (1/8") diameter connector.
Bar	A suspended horizontal tube for hanging lighting or scenery. Also known as a Barrel. When vertical, known as a Boom.
Barco	Trade name often given to any kind of 3-tube video projector.
Barn Doors	Hinged metal flaps attached to the front of a lamp to shape the beam and prevent spill. Most common on Fresnel and PC fixtures
Barrel	Slang term for steel or aluminium tubing - often used for hanging lamps or drapes.
Barrel Checker	Homemade test equipment used to test electrical integrity of six-lamp bars and multicores. Often built into a Socapex connector. LED lamps indicate if individual circuits are good.
Base	The part of a lamp fitting to which electrical contact is made, also known as the lamp holder.
Base Pad	A plate (usually timber) used to distribute load over an area.
Baseplate	A metal plate used for distributing load at the bottom of a scaffold vertical or raker.
Base Station	In a Wireless System, the Base Station is a radio receiver picking up audio signals from either a Belt Pack or a Handheld. The Base Station interprets the incoming radio signal and outputs a balanced signal to the mixing desk or amplifier. See also Diversity Receiver. In closed loop headset communications systems, the Base Station is the device which powers the circuit and to which all Belt Packs must be linked in series
Basket 1	A method of slinging a beam or load which does not constrict it. Specifically, a connection of the two ends of a sling to a Leg or DROP using two Shackles in a particular arrangement.
Basket 2	Slang term for the working platform of a Cherry Picker or MEWP

Bass	The lower end of the sound spectrum, generally considered to be below 400Hz
Bass Reflex (Bin)	A speaker type designed to improve bass response by means of a port or opening. Sound from the rear of the driver emerges from the port and reinforces that from the conventional opening. See also Subwoofer
Batten	A length of rigid material, usually wood hung from lines in a theatre. An enclosure housing several footlights.
Beam	The visible cone of light emerging from a lantern, or a load bearing horizontal strut, truss or member
Beam Angle	The angle of the cone of light produced by a light.
Beam Light	A lantern with a parabolic reflector but no lens giving a parallel beam of light.
Be-Be	A manually operated chain winch using a cranking handle to operate the drum. Lightweight and easy to use they are often employed as temporary fixes when an item of truss or motor needs to be repositioned.
Bell	The curved part of a SHACKLE also known as the BOW
Belly Box	The storage containers underneath the main compartment of a truck or lorry. Accessed from the side Belly Boxes usually contain load straps, ropes and ancillary equipment such as TRUCK RAMPS
Belt Pack	The small transmitter unit used in Wireless Systems. Small enough to clip to a belt or be concealed in a pocket, the Belt Pack contains a small radio transmitter which broadcasts the signal to a discrete Base Station which passes the signal on to the mixing desk, amplifier etc. The alternative to a Belt Pack is a Handheld where the radio transmitter is built into the body of the microphone itself. Most headset communications systems rely on a series of linked Belt Packs into which headphone/mic units are plugged
Bend	A group of knot-types e.g. "sheet bend"
Bi-amping	Using two separate amplifiers to drive high and low frequency Drivers in a speaker cabinet. Most commonly used in Wedges. See also Crossover
Bias	In order for the magnetic particles on the tape to respond to all frequencies consistently a high frequency (10kHz) bias signal is added and used to modulate the incoming audio. The high frequency modulation is used to agitate the magnetic particles on the tape sufficiently to register slow signal changes associated with low frequency sound.
Bight	A loop or fold of rope; a knot made "on the bight" is made on a section of rope that has been "doubled". See FIGURE OF EIGHT KNOT
Billy Bunters	Rhyming slang for Punters - the people who attend a concert or event. Also known as Billies
Bitstream	General name given to a flow of digital information in the form of a sequence of "Bits" of discrete length
Black Light	See Ultraviolet Light.
Blacks	Generic name for black velvet or serge fabric used to dress stages and sets

Blaggers	Slang term for people attempting to gain access to restricted areas or to obtain services for nothing.
Bleater	Slang for a resistance metering tool used for checking continuity in electrical circuits. Emits an audible tone if continuity is present. Also known as a Beeper or Bleeper. Hence Bleeping a circuit to check it.
Blinders	Slang term for a battery of lamps pointed directly at the audience. Common on outdoor shows.
Block	One or more PULLEYS mounted in a chassis. This can be either suspended or fixed to a surface
Block and Fall	A system of multiple pulleys and rope that give "mechanical advantage" i.e. make it easier to lift or pull a load
Block Diagram	A diagram showing the basic electrical components and operations of a system
BNC	Professional type RF Connector – common on video/audio systems
Bomb Tank	Mesh covered metal bin or box in which pyrotechnics can be safely detonated.
Boom	In lighting terms a vertical tube or pipe for fixing lamps at the side of stage. For sound purposes the movable and sometimes extendable arm of a microphone stand.
Bootleg	General term for unlicensed or unofficial products, ranging from CD's to T-shirts. Bootlegging can be seen as harmless fun or a serious undermining of the artists copyright. Common in the form of unofficial recordings of concert performances.
Border	A narrow strip of fabric or drape used to mask lighting trusses and bars.
Bottle-Screw	See RIGGING SCREW
Bouncing	The playing of one or more recorded audio source(s), adding to it and recording the result
Bow	The curved part of a shackle. Also used as a name for shackles with a flared loop whose diameter is greater than the pin width as opposed to a "D" shackle whose sides are parallel
Bowline	A knot which forms a non-slipping loop at the end of a rope
BP Screen	Back Projection screen. Translucent material stretched on a frame, used to show an image when the projector is on the opposite side of the screen to the audience.
Braid	To plait or interweave. "Braid-on-Braid" ropes have a braided centre core, commonly 8 strands, and a woven outer sheath, of commonly 16 strands which acts as a protective sleeve for the central load-bearing core
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Brace	A diagonal tube fixed between elements of a scaffold or between the floor and a piece of scenery. Used to provide stability.
Braid	To plait or interweave. "Braid-on-Braid" ropes have a braided centre core, commonly 8 strands, and a woven outer sheath, of commonly 16 strands which acts as a protective sleeve for the central load-bearing core
Bridle	1) Rigging equipment (usually steel wire rope and accessories) used to hang a load from two or more points that are not directly above the load. 2) A scaffold tube used as an intermediary support to another tube.
Busbar	Metal bar carrying incoming electrical supply into which portable dimmer racks or other large power requirements can be wired directly. An enclosure containing busbars is a Busbar Chamber.
Cable Dog	See Wire Rope Grip
Cable tie	Plastic band with integral locking mechanism used for a wide variety of fixing applications. Originally intended for holding bundles of cable together, cable ties, or Ty-wraps are extremely common for quick production fixes.
Cable Winch	A winch or hoist with a drum of wire rope. The drum can be grooved where the rope sits only one layer thick in a defined spiral groove; or a smooth drum with shoulders between which layers of wire can build up. Can be powered or manually operated
Calling Cues	Usually undertaken by the Stage Manager, calling cues or "calling the show" is the act of reading cues out to operators at the appropriate point in performance.
Camlock	Device mounted semi-permanently in truss sections allowing them to be joined. Should only be used when joining vertical sections where they function as location devices only. Not to be used in horizontal spans when they are subjected to load
Camlok	Name given to heavy duty single pole electrical mains connectors. Not favoured by safety authorities (or Europe!), because the Earth or Neutral can be disconnected independently of the other cores, Camlocks are still standard throughout the UK
Cancellation	A type of Phase Interference whereby the peaks of one signal nullify the troughs of another, resulting in a greatly reduced signal
Cans	Slang term for headphones. See also PAR Can
Cantilever	A horizontal projection from a building or structure. Supports load without external bracing.
Carbine Hook	A pear-shaped snap hook for quick connection to chain links, wire ropes etc. Often seen on safety wires for lamps, speakers etc. Not always marked with a SWL rating and should not be used as part of a lifting assembly unless they do so.

Carbon Arc	An old style of discharge lamp whereby two carbon rods are positioned to cause an electrical arc between them, emitting a bright light.
Cardioid	Literally "heart-shaped" from Latin. Refers to the pickup pattern of a microphone where it is more sensitive to signals coming from in front than to the rear. See Polar Pattern and Hyper-Cardioid
Cardioid Microphone	A microphone with a heart shaped pick-up pattern, where sounds from in front are heard far more strongly than from the rear.
Caribiner	A mountaineering/caving device for attaching safety lines or equipment to a harness or secure point. Available with or without gate lock, and in a variety of alloys & steel. Sporting caribiners may not be SWL marked and should not be used commercially
Carousel	Trade name for Kodak slide projector, often used for any kind of slide projector with a magazine of slides.
Catenary	A stretched wire rope installed for relatively lightweight duties such as hanging drapes, control multicores etc. As soon as weight is applied it begins to sag and may need additional supports at appropriate intervals
Catering	The location where crew and other production personnel are fed and watered at a site or event.
Caving Ladder	A flexible ladder consisting of two wire ropes with aluminium rungs pressed between them. Commonly used for access to lighting trusses and spot positions. Should always be used in conjunction with a FALL ARREST system
C-ducer	Trade name for a type of acoustic instrument pick-up. See also Bug and Piezo
CEE-form	General name for European standard electrical connectors used on outdoor and temporary supplies. CEE-forms are rated in 16, 32, 63 and 125 amp sizes and are colour coded blue (single) or red (3) phase. 110V (Yellow) also used.
Centre Line	Imaginary line running through the centre of a stage (upstage or downstage).
Chain Bag	Canvas bag used to hold excess lifting chain from a Chain Hoist
Chain Block	A manually operated chain lift, the hook being raised or lowered by means of a continuous loop of chain drawn through the block.
Chain Grab	A forged hook which can securely attach to any point along a chain. Some types can only "grab" a chain when slack, others when slack or taut
Chain Hoist	A mechanical device for raising or lowering loads by means of a chain passing over a gear driven chain wheel. The power source can be manual, hydraulic, pneumatic, but is most commonly electrical in the events industry
Chain Pull	See Bee-Bee. Also known as "Come Along" or "Pull-Lift"
Channel	A series of controls on a sound or lighting desk which affect a single input or output
Channel Strip	Refers to the set of controls, usually in a vertical strip, which affect the Gain, EQ, Phantom Power and Routing of a single audio signal. The controls of the channel strip are repeated across the desk to create the entire input section of the console. The sequence of controls on the Channel Strip will vary from one manufacturer to another and on the application for which the desk was intended.

Cherry Picker	A boom-type MEWP, either using telescopic or folding arm. Requires TICKETED, competent person to operate
Chimps	Pejorative slang for Local Crew
Chocolate Block Connector	Plastic connection block used for joining two bare ended cables. Available in variety of sizes. Only intended for use as part of a fixed installation within a shielded box. NOT for joining EXTENSION LEADS
Choke	A means of slinging a beam or load, which constricts it. When a shackle is employed to complete a choke, it is best practice to orient it so the pin cannot be turned by movement in the sling
Chorus	A musical effect based on frequency shifting a signal and mixing it with the original source
Circuit Breaker	See RCD, ELCB and MCB.
Clamp	The metal bracket which hold a light or other fixture to a bar or truss. Usually referred to as "C" or "G" depending on their shape.
Clamp Meter	A device for measuring electrical current by means of induction. A pair of jaws on the meter clamp around the cable to be tested
Clear Span Structure	Temporary Demountable Structure such as a marquee that contains no king or centre poles, usually built with an aluminium frame to support outer covering.
Cleat	Theatrical term for a casting or moulding used to secure a rope to a surface without knotting. Cleats vary in size & type, but most are a two pronged bracket to which a line is secured by figure-of eight turns
Clew	A device which joins several smaller diameter wire ropes to one of larger diameter. Clews frequently run on guide wires to prevent spinning and tangling which occurs when the load on a wire rope varies
Clipping	Distortion in an amplifier or mixer caused by severe overloading of the signal. Whilst sometimes desirable, such as in guitar effects pedals, Power Amp clipping is potentially hazardous to speakers and should be avoided by limiting the input signal.
Clove Hitch	A hitch as opposed to a knot by which a rope may be secured to a post, tube or other item
Clutch Chain	An O-Ring with a chain and Chain Grab attached. Used as an adjustable component in a bridle leg to fine tune position. Common in flying loud speakers where one chain leg controls the angle at which the stack is suspended below a hoist
Collared Eye-Bolt	An Eye-Bolt with a raised edge supporting the junction of the eye and the threaded section of bolt. Makes the fitting more resistant to off-axis loads
Colour Changer	Changes in lighting colour are achieved in two ways, either by means of coloured Dichroics being inserted into the beam path using a Colour Wheel inside a Moving Light; or in Generic fixtures a Gel String is moved in front of the lantern by rotating motorised spindles onto which the Gel is wound. Such changers are generally referred to as Scrollers
Colour-Wheel	Device in moving and automated lighting fixtures which employs a series of colour filters mounted on a metal disc. A Step-Motor rotates the disc to select the desired colour

Combo	Abbrv. Combination amplifier/speaker cabinet, most commonly used for guitars & basses.
Come-Along	A ratchet-handle operated wire rope winch. Term also applied to manually operated chain winches. See Bee-Bee
Comms	Abbreviation of communications. A system of headphones & microphones that allow communication between workers. Commonly uses belt packs and headsets with mic leads running between stations. Also radio sets on festival sites.
Compression	An audio term for reducing the dynamic range of a signal to get a more consistent output level. See COMPRESSOR
Compression Driver	An efficient, high volume loudspeaker. Compression drivers are most common as high frequency units although this is by no means always the case. In a high frequency driver the diaphragm is small and operates in a moulded enclosure that feeds into a narrow throat, this throat then flares out into a horn to disperse the sound. The driver generates high pressure levels within the compression chamber, which leads to an efficient and high SPL output.
Compressor	A piece of equipment designed to process sound signals by reducing their dynamic range. Once the signal reaches a threshold level the compressor activates to reduce signal gain. The amount of gain reduction is set using a Ratio control.
Concert Pitch	A precise tuning of instruments based on the pitch of A = 440 Hz.
Condenser Microphone	A type of mic where the signal is generated by the change in capacitance between a moving diaphragm and a fixed plate. Condenser mics require power to operate. See Phantom Power, Dynamic Mic, PZM
Cone	See Driver.
Confetti Cannon	A stage effect which uses a pyro charge to fire large amounts of paper confetti from a mortar tube. Highly effective but loud, messy and dangerous.
Control	Generic term for position from which technical equipment is operated. Also term for any circuit carrying a controlling signal as opposed to mains – such as DMX.
Controller	In rigging a system for operating several electric hoists or winches from one handset. Sometimes referred to as a "Distro" by riggers.
Control Rack	In audio terms the Control Rack is normally a 19" flightcase at the Front of House position, which contains all the effects processing, dynamics processing, Main Graphic, speaker management and Insert units.
Control System	Any means of limiting the risk posed by particular hazards. Control Systems might be architectural, such as a loading ramp or safety rail; they might be managerial i.e. setting up a safe system of working; they might be physical such as PPE. A range of control systems should be brought to bear on any given hazard
Core	A discrete copper conductor in a cable, or the central element in a wire rope around which the load bearing strands are woven
Corporate	As in " A corporate gig" meaning a show put on for a commercial rather than a public audience. Often well funded.

COSHH	Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 1994. The law dealing with dangerous or toxic substances
Counterweight System	A means of suspending scenery, lamps or drapes in a theatre. A continuous rope loop is attached to the FLY-BAR bar and to a Cradle into which weights are added to balance the object being lifted.
Cow's Tail	A "Y" shaped safety line attached to a harness, permitting the wearer to maintain a constant connection to a secure fixing
Coupler	A component used for fixing scaffold tubes together. Double Couplers fix tubes that are at 90 degrees to each other. Sometimes referred to as "Doubles" or "Nineties". Swivel Couplers fix tubes that are at angles to each other (N.B. they do not fix the angle!). Sometimes referred to as "Swivels". Joint Pins are an expanding fitting, fitted internally to scaffold tube, used to connect tubes coaxially. Sleeve Couplers connect two scaffold tubes axially. Fitted externally to the tubes. Sometimes referred to as "Sleeves".
CPA	Concert Promoters Association. Trade body representing concert promoters and agents.
CPC	The Circuit Protective Conductor, commonly called the Earth connection
C.P.L.	Centre point load. A load that is applied at the mid-span position of the supporting member (e.g. truss or beam).
Cracker	A device for creating mist or fog effect, commonly using oil, water or glycol. Replaces smoke machines in some applications. A more diffuse effect than regular smoke.
Cradle	The container into which weights are placed to counter the load of a bar in a Counterweight System
Crew	The team who are responsible for the physical construction, rigging and creation of a performance event. Crew may well be divided into specific disciplines or areas of responsibility e.g. Lighting Crew or Site Crew.
Crimp	Cable termination lugs pressed onto the copper cores of electrical cable. Also relates to the FERRULES or PRESSINGS used to terminate eyes in wire rope
Crossbrace	Diagonal metal strut of scaffolding towers, stages, trussing etc. that prevents twisting or deformation. Can be used to ensure correct construction or orientation of support structures.
Crossfade	A lighting term meaning to fade one state up whilst another fades out. A similar action occurs when moving between two audio cues
Crossover	In audio terms a device for separating audio signals into discrete frequency bands so they can be processed or amplified separately. In theatrical terms refers to the corridor behind stage whereby people can cross from one side to another.
Crossover Frequency	The point in the audio spectrum where the Crossover splits the signal between two destinations. The distance between two such Crossover Points is called the Bandwidth, and refers to the amount of the frequency spectrum sent to a particular output of the Crossover. The degree to which signals are attenuated above or below a crossover point is determined by a mathematical function called the Slope. Most common functions are either Linkwitz-Riley or Butterworth curves

Crossover Point	See Crossover Frequency
Crosstalk	The unwanted phenomena of signal leaking from one channel to another in audio processing circuits or cabling.
Crowd Control Barrier	A tubular steel barrier that locks together to form continuous runs of waist level fencing. Often referred to as Police Barrier, it is NOT suitable for front stage or Pit Barrier
Cue (1)	A point during a performance at which certain action must be taken e.g. a lighting fade, scenery movement etc.
Cue (2)	A mixing desk function which allows a listener to monitor sources PRE-FADE, without affecting the main output from the desk
Cue Sheet	A list of all cues required during a performance.
Curfew	The fixed end time for a concert or event. Usually set by License conditions, promoters or Environmental Health Officers.
Curtain	The drape across the front of stage that conceals the stage from the audience.
Cupola	1) A dome roof mounted on a circular or polygonal base. 2) The central support mechanism for the canvas of a traditional circus tent.
Cyc	Abbreviation of cyclorama, the wall or drape at the rear of a stage.
Cyc Light	A lighting fixture with an extremely wide beam allowing a cyc to be lit evenly at close range.
D:d Ratio	Refers to the degree of distortion (weakening) of a wire rope or sling of diameter "d" passing over a bar or beam edge of diameter "D". Ratios of below 6:1 result in a reduction of the SWL of the sling. Softening or Burlap should be used.
Damping	The addition of acoustically absorbent material to a speaker enclosure to reduce unwanted resonance.
DAC	Digital to Analogue Converter. A device for converting a digital Bitstream into an Analogue signal. Most common in audio systems whereby digitally recorded or processed material is rendered intelligible to analogue equipment
DAT	Digital Audio Tape - a cassette type recording format where either two tracks of audio or data are recorded digitally onto tape. Although DAT generally refers to smaller format tapes, a variety is available, including ADAT and R-DAT
Datum	Single reference point from which all measurements are taken. Typically the centre of the edge of the stage nearest to the audience is used. This position is known as DSC (Down Stage Centre).
dB	See Decibel
DC	Direct Current. An electrical flow in one direction only.
Dead	Theatrical term for the chosen position for a moving item see IN-DEAD and OUT-DEAD. In rigging, after making a loop with a Bowline the tail of the rope is known as the "Dead" end
Dead Hang	A situation where the load is vertically underneath the point of suspension
Dead Hung	A vertical suspension of a piece of equipment achieved without the use of a motor or hoist in the final hang. In a dead hang the suspension cable attaches directly to the load.

Decay Time (1)	A measure of the time taken for audio signals to fade away in reverbs and echos. Most digital processors will allow decay times to be set by the user to mimic particular environments or create specific affects
Decay Time (2)	Also known as RELEASE time. The time taken for a compressor or other signal processor to return to normal once a signal has fallen below the THRESHOLD level.
Decibel	A measure of sound volume. The dB scale does not refer to absolute values, but to a relationship between voltage, signal amplitude and actual energy in the sound signal. Various scales are used including dBv, dBu, and dB. 0dB is silence when the scale is used to measure absolute volumes – as in the Action Levels for Noise Regulations. 0dBv refers to a signal strength of 0.0775v (RMS). 0dB means to neither boost or cut a signal i.e. Unity Gain
Deflection	Most commonly refers to the sag in a truss span midway between suspension points. Generally refers to any movement in a structure when LOAD is applied
Delays	1) Also known as Delay Stacks. These are repeater speaker clusters set out in the audience to reinforce sound and give a greater spread of audible signal. Delays might allow the main PA to be reduced in size, but they introduce the problem of Time Alignment which must be resolved to obtain a clear sound throughout the auditorium. 2) Delay Towers or masts are used to hang delay speakers from.
De-mux	Analogue equipment being controlled from a digital output lighting desk will require a De-mux box to convert signals from the digital domain to a recognisable format. Most commonly De-mux boxes accommodate 48 channels.
De-Rig	The process of returning a venue to its normal state by removing structures, PA, lights and cables.
Desk	1) Piece of equipment (mixing desk) from which sound or lighting equipment can be controlled. 2) Collective term for 2 players in a section of orchestra usually sharing the same music stand. (viz. Second desk of 1 st . violins)
DI Box	See Direct Injection. A DI box is an electronic or small balancing transformer that allows Unbalanced musical instrument signal to be output as Balanced signal. It also allows for IMPEDENCE MATCHING. DI boxes can either be passive, ie without powered circuitry or Active, most commonly Phantom Powered from the mixing console
Dichroic	A modern lighting colouration system using coated glass filters instead of coloured plastic Gel. The glass substrate of dichroic filters allows their use in high temperature/high intensity conditions, making them ideal for Moving Light systems.
Diffraction	The bending of sound waves around surfaces, obstacles and speaker housings. The phenomenon of diffraction also occurs in lighting whereby light is split into its component (coloured) parts
Diffusion	A translucent gel used to soften a light source.
Digital	A system whereby sound or lighting signals are converted into a stream of coded numerical measurements. This allows for far easier transmission, storage and manipulation than analogue signals.

Dip	<p>1) Small covered trap in a stage floor concealing electrical outlets.</p> <p>2) Fading lighting to a lower intensity.</p> <p>3) Transparent lacquer for colouring lights.</p>
Dim	Fading lighting to a lower intensity
Dimmer	An electronic device that varies the voltage to a given lighting circuit relative to the control signal it receives, allowing adjustments to lighting intensity. Dimmers are packed together in metal cases called Racks.
DIN	German industrial standards system similar to the BS (British Standard) system
Direct Injection	The process of sending a musical instrument signal direct to a mixing desk rather than through a microphone. See DI Box
Direct Out	Audio outputs from a mixing desk taken directly from the input channel, without passing through the desk electronics. Often used to achieve a signal split for recording or Monitoring
Dispersion	The angle of spread of a sound or lighting source. High frequency speakers have specific dispersion or throw patterns making them suitable for producing sound for listeners close to or far away.
Distro	Abbrev. of Distribution. The means whereby an electrical supply is divided and distributed to different equipment.
Diversity	A Wireless Base Station receiver with two independent aerials. The system detects which aerial is receiving the best signal and automatically switches. Gives better reception esp. for moving transmitters
DMX	A digital control language allowing lighting desks to communicate with equipment such as lamps, dimmers or smoke machines. 512 channels can be sent down one standard DMX cable.
DMX Terminator	Allows the final link in a DMX signal chain to be properly terminated without degradation of the signal. Simply leaving the signal loop open can cause serious control problems
DMXter	A brand name for a piece of test equipment that will establish whether DMX control signals are being properly sent or received.
Dock	<p>1) An area adjacent to a stage, often raised, onto which equipment is unloaded from delivery vehicles.</p> <p>2) An area in which mobile stage and scenic equipment is 'parked' when not on-stage</p> <p>3) Location for floating stages</p>
Dog	Slang for Wire Rope Grip. Commonest type is a U-bolt and nuts which clamp the wire rope against a forged saddle
Double	<p>1) See Coupler</p> <p>2) Stand-in for a performer</p>
Double Purchase	Refers to a system giving a twofold mechanical advantage
Double-Purchase Counterweight System	Found in theatres with limited roof space. The cradles containing Counterweights travel only half the distance of the fly bar and must be loaded with twice the bar weight to accurately balance the load
Downstage	The area of a stage closest to the audience (see Upstage)

Dolly	A platform on wheels used to store and move equipment.
Drapes	Generic name for curtains or fabric suspended vertically to mask areas of a stage or set
Driver	The Transducer unit within a speaker housing that converts electrical signals to sound waves.
Drop	A suspended cloth used to mask parts of the stage.
Drop-In	The process of adding a new part to an existing recorded audio track. Drop-In's are used to replace errors bum notes and so on, or entire sections of a track. Digital technology now allows for highly accurate dropping in of material
Drop-Out	A tape error resulting in the loss of a short part of the recorded signal - the sound "drops-out" and then returns
Drum Tech	The person responsible for the setting up and maintenance of a performer's drum kit and associated equipment. See Backline
Dry	An audio signal that has not been affected by audio processing such as EQ or Reverb
Dry Ice	A preparation of solid carbon dioxide which gives a low lying smoke effect when dipped into hot water. Care must be taken in handling because of its extremely low temperature which can cause frostbite and "burns".
D-Shackle	Describes the shape of a shackle intended to only connect two items - one on the pin the other in the curve of the D. The sides of D-shackles are parallel, as opposed to a BOW SHACKLE
Dump	The transfer of MIDI data en-masse from one device to another
Dynamic Microphone	A mic operating on the electromechanical principle, where a moving Voice-Coil vibrates within a fixed magnetic field to produce electrical signal. See also Condenser Mic and PZM
Dynamic Range	The range of signal level from loudest to softest. See also Compression, Expander
Dynamometer	A mechanical or electromechanical device for measuring loads
Eaves	The edge of a roof that projects beyond a wall. Often used to denote the vertical 'ends' of a sloping roof
E.H.O.	Environmental Health Officer. Usually a Local Authority officer who is responsible for minimising risks to the public. Will inspect installation as part of the Licence conditions.
Elevator Stage	A mechanised stage that has sections that can be raised or lowered.
E.S.T.A.	Entertainment Services & Technologies Association. USA trade association.
Earth	The common name for the Circuit Protective Conductor that links the chassis and exposed elements of circuits to the physical mass of the earth. In fault conditions electrical energy is conducted safely by the CPC to the earth itself, allowing sufficient current to flow either to trip RCD or ELCB devices, or to blow the circuit fuse. Called Ground by Americans, and Terre by the French
Earth Bond	A cable link between stages, platforms or other metal structures and the electrical earth point, ensuring a common earth potential for all equipment.

Earth Lift	A switch which allows the earth screen of a signal cable, or item of equipment to be cut. This minimises the possibility of multiple earth routes being created resulting in an Earth Loop. Earth lifting only removes signal earth connections and does not interfere with the CPC safety system
Earth Loop	An audio problem characterised by interference to signals – usually at 50Hz, and often called Mains Hum. Multiple routes to earth mean there may be a potential difference between paths and a current flows, causing interference. The solution is to ensure a single common earth, or to employ Earth Lift on problematic signal runs. Earth connections to equipment must NEVER be removed
EDAC	Multipin audio connector – commonly found on FoH Multicore cabling
ELCB	Earth Leakage Circuit Breaker, a type of safety device that detects current flowing through the earth core. If a fault develops whereby this flow exceeds a certain level (usually 30mA), the device will cut the circuit. See also the RCD
Ellipsoidal Lamp	A lighting fixture where light is collected by means of an elliptical mirror behind the bulb and focused onto a lens.
Encoder	A device which converts signals (usually analogue input from a control surface) into a digital stream which is then stored or transmitted to another device which decodes them and carries out the appropriate function. See also ADC
EPROM	Erasable Programmable Read Only Memory. A type of chip that can store programmes and be updated with new software. Common in moving lights and audio processors.
EQ	See Equalisation
Equaliser	See Graphic Equaliser.
Equalisation	The process of boosting or cutting certain sound frequencies by means of electronic Filters, to compensate for equipment or room characteristics, or to create a particular artistic effect.
E-Stop	Shorthand for Emergency Stop - usually a large red button to shut down a machine or system. Typically, a key or some other process such as twisting is required to reset the E-Stop before the machine can be re-started
Expander	An audio processor that increases dynamic range, artificially boosting rises in Gain
Extension Lead	Plug and socket joined by a length of flexible cable. Used to supply mains power at a distance from the fixed socket. Care should be taken in use of reel types, and where the lead ends in multiple outlets
Eye-Bolt	A threaded bolt with a circular eye instead of a normal hexagonal head. Attachment is made by means of a SHACKLE. Eye bolts should be SWL marked. Loads applied off-axis will result in a lowering of the SWL. See also Collared Eye-Bolt
Eye-Nut	The female-threaded equivalent to the EYE-BOLT

Eye-Splice	A method of weaving and tucking the strands of a rope or wire rope to create a fixed loop or eye at its end
Factors of Safety	A lifting component may be said to have a safety factor of 6:1 if in a sample batch of identical items, fewer than 50% are destroyed when loaded at 6 times their SWL rating
Faders	Found on both audio and lighting consoles, faders are normally linear sliders that control the output level of a given channel. They can also be rotary controls
False Proscenium	A set of scenic elements used to reduce the size of the opening in a proscenium arch.
Falsework	A temporary structure used to support load.
Fail-Safe	In lifting a "Fail-Safe" is a device which prevents the load falling in the event of primary suspension failure e.g. spring bolts on a passenger lift which engage if the primary rope loosens
Fairy Dust	Slang term for using audio effects to enhance a signal, as in "Put some Fairy Dust on the vocals, will you."
Fall	Refers to each part of rope or wire rope which is carrying load between sets of BLOCKS in a multiple pulley assembly
Fall-Arrest	Refers to a work activity in which a person can fall from a height (above 2 metres). Being in a "Fall Arrest" situation means working in such a way that a fall is possible and Fall Arrest Equipment and PPE must be employed
Fall Arrest Equipment	Equipment designed to safely restrain people in the event of a fall. A full body harness must be worn at all times with a Safety Line attached to an Inertia Reel or expanding lanyards to absorb the energy of the fall. See also Cow's Tail , Fall-Arrestor, Fall-Retarder, Full Body Harness
Fall-Arrestor	Safety device which allows wire rope to feed in and out of a spring loaded spool at a slow rate. When the spool operates too quickly, inertia devices engage and stop the spool.
Fall-Retarder	Safety device similar to Fall Arrestor, but the inertia spool does not lock up. Rather, it permits a slow through put of wire so a person can avoid injury on landing. Commonly found as fire escape systems
Feedback	The phenomenon whereby a sound system output is picked up and returned to the input, creating a loop which can rapidly increase in volume causing distress to listeners and speakers alike.
Felco	Trade name commonly used for any kind of wire rope cutters
Ferrule	A cylinder of ductile metal through which wire rope is passed. The cylinder is compressed either with hand tools or a hydraulic Swage, forming an immovable fixing, thus creating fixed eyes and other terminations
Fascia	A flat, vertical, outer surface, usually to hide or decorate the structure behind. .
Festoon	A string of light bulbs spaced along a cable. Often used for outdoor events and in dressing rooms.

Figure-Eight Coiling	Storing excess power cable in a series of figure 8 coils. Allows air circulation around coils and minimises induced current within the cable as would happen with simple circular coils
Figure-Eight Knot	Name for knot having this shape; formed by introducing an extra turn around the STANDING LINE before completing an OVERHAND KNOT. Useful as a stop-knot to prevent the end of a rope from passing through a pulley block etc.
Filament (1)	The fine resistive wire in a lighting bulb that actually produces the emitted light
Filament (2)	The polyester yarn that is wrapped to produce the load bearing core of a round sling, or the single wire strand that is the smallest component of a Wire Rope
Filter (1)	Coloured medium, plastic or glass used to impart colour to a light beam. The filter operates by blocking the passage of certain frequencies and allowing the passage of others
Filter (2)	An electronic circuit allowing the cut or boost of a signal based on its frequency. Audio filters are the basis of Equalisation systems, synthesisers and so on. See Shelf-Filter and Notch-Filter
Finial	An ornament at top or end to a post or pole.
Fischman	Proprietorial name for a type of instrument microphone/pickup. Has become a generic name for all types of Bugs and Piezo pickups
Fishplate	A joining plate between two sections of trussing. Fishplates generally have bolt holes at each end which connect to the various truss sections.
Flambar	Trade name for a flame retardant treatment for fabrics. Different solutions available for different categories of fabric e.g. natural or man-made.
Flanging	Musical effect based on a sweeping detune and mixing with the original source
Flare	The moulded front of a high frequency speaker that determines how the sound is dispersed.
Flash Pot	A stage pyro cartidge available in a variety of sizes to create a flash, soft bang and a puff of smoke. Usually electrically fired
Flash Through	The process where lighting circuits are quickly checked in sequence to ensure everything is working. Usually carried out before a rig is raised and before a performance.
Flat (1)	A piece of scenery or masking. Generally made up from a timber frame with either a canvas, hardboard or plywood surface that is painted or covered in fabric. One or more Flats are generically referred to as FLATTAGE, as in "You'll find the flattage in the Scene Dock"
Flat (2)	A device that is Flat has an even Frequency Response across the sound spectrum. It does not accentuate or attenuate any specific frequencies

Fleet Angle	A wire rope should leave a drum at 90 degrees to the drum's axis. The amount by which it deviates from this at any moment is the Fleet Angle. Fleet Angles should always be eliminated or minimised as they give rise to wear in running lines
Flies	Theatrical term for the roof space, framework, pulleys and running gear above a stage where by means of which moving bars are suspended. See Counterweight System Also known as a Fly Tower
Flightcase	Generic name for rigid protective cases used to store and transport equipment
Flood	A wide angle lamp for covering a large area. Often used as working lights on stage and outdoors. Sometimes referred to as Halogens.
Fly Man	Archaic phrase for person responsible for operating movable bars and scenery using theatrical Flies.
Fly Tower	See Flies
Fly-Bar	Movable suspension bars usually running across stage in theatres. Commonly used for hanging lamps, drapes, set and so on. Fly Bars can be either fixed or movable by means of a HEMP or Counterweight System.
Flying	Generic term for suspending an item of equipment or set.
Flying Carpet	Slang name for type of elevating work platform, operated by means of powered scissor-type levers beneath the work deck. Most will have powered wheels and steering. Also known as a Magic Carpet
Focus	To position lamps so that beams light the desired areas, or the degree of sharpness of a Profile's beam
FoH	See Front Of House
Foldback	The return of signals from a FoH mixing desk to the stage. Foldback becomes a Monitor system when a separate console is used to control on-stage speakers. See Monitors.
Follow Spot	A high intensity lantern that moves to track performers on the stage.
Follow Spot Op	An operator of a follow spot, who moves the lamp on cue and changes its intensity and colour.
Frequency	The measure of speed of oscillation of a sound signal. Standard unit is Hertz (Hz).
Frequency Response	The relative reaction of any item of equipment to different parts of the audio spectrum. Microphones may have a Frequency Response that makes them particularly good (or bad) for specific applications. An uneven Frequency Response of loudspeaker cabinets may require the use of a Graphic Equaliser or similar to flatten out peaks and troughs in the sound spectrum
Fresnel	A theatre lantern type characterised by a lens made with a series of concentric rings. Used to produce a wide diffuse beam of light. See also Profile and PC
Front Tabs	House curtains.

Front of House (FoH)	The public area of an auditorium. The FoH position is the control point for lighting and sound in the auditorium or arena. Equally, refers to people controlling these systems and to the sound mix heard by the audience.
Full Body	As in Full Body Harness. A Fall Arrest harness including a basic sit-harness with shoulder and chest straps. Full Body harnesses have multiple fixing points for safety lines and are the only acceptable harness when working in Fall Arrest
Fuse	A device for limiting the flow of electrical current in a circuit. Traditional fuses are fine filaments of wire that heat as current passes. Once the current reaches a critical point the fuse wire melts thereby cutting the circuit. Fuses offer protection to the circuit, equipment and cabling, but offer no protection against electric shock. Fuses can be either bare wire, threaded between two contacts or encased in ceramic cartridges. Fuses have been mostly replaced by MCB's which fulfil the same function, but can be reset rather than requiring replacement. Shock protection is offered by RCD's
Fuzz Light	A lamp with a revolving mirror and a coloured plastic dome.
Gable	The top triangular area of a wall at the end of a pitched roof.
Gaffer Tape	Cloth tape, sticky on one side. Used for temporarily securing almost anything or for marking-out. Name derives from the film industry term for the senior electrician. Warning! Most brands of gaffer tape are not good insulators.
G.P.	Shorthand for General Purpose Truss. Whilst manufactured types will vary, GP is generally thought of as medium/heavy duty with a 52cm square section
Gain	A measure of the strength of an audio signal, also a measure of the degree to which a signal is boosted (+ Gain) or attenuated (Gain)
Gel	Coloured plastic film placed in front of a lantern to tint the beam. See also Dichroic
Gel-String	A length of lighting Gels cut to size and taped together to form a selection of colours. This is then wound onto the spindles of a Colour Changer or Scroller
Generator	1) Usually a combination of an Alternator that produces electricity when rotated and an Engine (frequently diesel powered) that provides the rotation. 2) A device that produces specific (often audio) electrical signals usually used for testing audio and similar systems.
Generic	General term for any lighting fixture that is not a Moving Light of some type. Most commonly Generics will refer to PAR cans or Leko's but might also include standard theatre lamps such as Profiles, PC's and Fresnel's
Genie	Trade name for telescopic lifting devices. Can be powered by manual cable winch, electro/hydraulic or compressed gas. Some models designed to lift a person on a work platform some 7-9 metres

Gerb	A stage pyro, which produces a constant stream of sparks, can either be hung to form curtains or placed vertically to give a fountain effect.
Get-in	The process of loading equipment and facilities into a venue or concert site. Also known as a Load-in
Get-out	The process of removing equipment and facilities from a site or venue after a concert. Also know as a Load-out
Go	The verbal command "Go" is the means by which specific actions are cued. Lighting, sound, stage and rigging moves, fades or actions are precisely timed by means of the STANDBY and Go cues
Going	The horizontal length of a stair tread (in the direction of the stairs). See also Rise.
Gobo	A perforated metal stencil which slots into the focal plane of a profile lantern and projects an image. Modern gobos can be made from glass with photographic images printed onto them. Some lamps have the ability to rotate gobos.
Gobo Rotator	A feature of certain intelligent lighting fixtures that allows a selection of gobos to be turned by means of a toothed wheel on the gobo mount. Generally, rotating gobos are mounted on a separate wheel to the fixed gobos - allowing intersecting patterns of fixed and turning gobos to be created
Gobo Wheel	A device inside moving or automated lighting fixtures, where a series of Gobo's are mounted in a metal disc. A STEP-MOTOR allows specific gobos to be inserted in the light path
Gofer	Slang name for a general purpose assistant i.e. some who is sent to go for this or go for that.
Graphic Equaliser	A device that separates the audio spectrum into a series of frequency bands, normally 1/3 octave apart. These bands are individually adjustable to add or reduce sound level of that particular frequency. Most PA and monitor circuits will have their own dedicated graphics.
Gravlok	A caliper type of scaffolding clamp which can secure a tube to the flange of an I-beam. Rigid and swivelling versions available
Green Field Site	An event taking place on a site with little or no existing facilities. Generally a rural or park area covered in grass.
Grelco	Slang term for a moulded double plug adaptor used in lighting systems. Care should be taken not to overload circuits
Grid	The truss or metal framework from which lanterns and other equipment is suspended. The grid may be a permanent part of an installation as in a theatre - or may be a temporary build brought in to lift on motors from roof suspension points
Grip	See WIRE ROPE GRIP, also known as a Dog A Grip is also a person on a film/TV crew responsible for either moving scenery or manoeuvring camera rigs
Gripple	Trade name for a device which can make an adjustable termination in a wire rope
Ground	Term for Earth in electrical systems, or for the shielding on a balanced signal system - nominally set at 0 volts

Ground Anchor	A secure fixing or ballast for a guy rope. It may be a spike driven into the floor, a fixed frame or an object such as a fork lift truck.
Ground Rigger	A member of the rigging team who works on the floor loading, preparing and attaching equipment, motors and so on before it is hoisted.
Ground Support	A trussing structure that is mounted on vertical pillars standing on the floor or stage. Ground support systems are used outdoors or where venue roofs don't allow suspension
Group	A mixing desk facility allowing a number of discrete channels to be summed and controlled by a single fader
Groups	Audio consoles sometimes allow individual channels to be assigned into groups, which allow collections of instruments, e.g. a drum kit or brass section to be controlled with a single fader.
Guitar Tech	Person responsible for setting up and maintaining a performer's guitars (and often amplifiers). During a show they will replace strings and assist with instrument changeovers, should they be required. See Backline
H.O.L.	Height of Lift, the working length of chain or wire rope fitted to a hoist or winch
H.S.W. Act	The Health & Safety at Work Act 1974. Legislation that protects workers from dangers they may face when at their place of work. An umbrella piece of legislation that allows Acts and Regulations to be passed, which give detail on how specific Hazards or situations must be tackled
Half-Hitch	A type of knot often used in tandem with other half hitches to seize a cable or tube.
Handheld	Slang term for a full sized Radio Microphone unit. The transmitter is mounted in the body of the mic, and the capsules are usually the same as the cable equivalent. See also Levalier
Hard Hat	Personal Protective Equipment for heads. A safety helmet used when work is in progress above the wearer. Minimum standards apply. (See PPE)
Harness	A collection of webbing belts worn around the body that provides secure attachment to fall arrest or work positioning equipment. (See PPE)
Hazard	Defined as "anything with the potential to cause harm or damage" Common hazards include Fire, Slips, Trips & Falls, Electricity and Noise. See also the concept of Risk
Headblock	The pulley block at the top of a FLY TOWER, which carries the fly lines and the operating rope
Headroom (1)	The gap between required volume and maximum system output - the "slack" available in an audio system.
Headroom (2)	Literally the clearance above or overhead an item. Also used as an equivalent term to FACTOR OF SAFETY
Hemp	Type of rope made from the fibres of the hemp plant. Generically refers to any natural fibre rope
Hemp House	Name for a theatre where flybars suspended from the grid are raised and lowered by means of hemp ropes running through pulleys without counterweight assistance

Heras	Trade name for welded mesh fencing. Easily constructed the panels fit into concrete footings to make effective crowd management and security fencing.
Hi-Viz	Hi visibility clothing of usually fluorescent yellow. Often fitted with reflective strips for nighttime use. Typically used in areas of poor visibility where mechanical plant is in use. Mandatory minimum standards in force when used on public highways (See PPE)
Hitch	A type of knot, many of which can be made without using the end of the rope such as the clove hitch
HMI	Halide Metal Iodide. Proprietary name for an arc discharge lamp operating at high temperature (5600-6300Kelvin), and giving a daylight colour temperature.
Hoist	Shorthand for any electrical chain or wire winch. Most commonly refers to electrically powered chain hoist such as a Lodestar or Verlinde
Hot Head	Broadcast quality camera operated by remote control.
House	The auditorium. Can also be used to denote the whole venue, in which case FoH denotes the auditorium area.
Humbucker	A double coil electric guitar pickup where one coil cancels the interference picked up in the other thus reducing noise and "Bucking Hum"
Humper	Slang term for stage crew responsible for loading or unloading equipment or for generally moving or humping materials for the production
Hyper-Cardioid	A microphone whose Polar Pattern is of an accentuated Cardioid or heart shape. Signals from the rear of the microphone are rejected giving an accentuated response to sound from the front
I-Beam	The cross sectional shape of a beam or rigid steel joist. The top and bottom of the beam are flattened "flanges", the vertical section is the "web". When installed on its side, referred to as an H beam
ILD	Institute of Lighting Designers
ILMC	International Live Music Conference. American based organisation representing large sectors of the music industry
IMF	The International Managers Forum, a trade body representing band managers
Impedance	Measured in Ohms, impedance is the resistance a circuit has to the flow of AC electric current. Most commonly encountered when matching speakers to amplifier output. RESISTANCE is the same phenomenon in DC circuits
Impedance Matching	A function performed by DI BOXES etc which allows for the maximum transfer of energy between an audio source and the LOAD it is driving
In	In theatrical parlance to let something "in" means to lower it. See OUT. Also shorthand for Get-In or Load-In, as in "What time is the in?"

In Ear Monitor	Recent development whereby performers listen to their own and others stage performance by means of headphones or tiny speakers mounted "In Ear". Eliminates need for loud stage monitors & allows highly personalised sound
In-Dead	The chosen lowest position of a flown item which moves during a performance. A tape mark on the hauling rope will indicate the final stopping position showing that the load is at its "In Dead"
Inertia	Inertia's or Inertia Reel - see FALL ARRESTOR
Insert	A mixing desk function that allows an external item of equipment to be placed into the audio chain. Inserts are common for adding DYNAMICS PROCESSING to incoming signals. The Insert Point is normally after Gain control and before desk EQ or routing functions
Interference	Unwanted audio signals picked up from external electrical and radio fields.
Inverted	The practice of hanging a chain hoist upside down, i.e. with it's hook upward and the load attached to the base of the motor. The motor then climbs the chain
Inverter	An electrical device which converts DC to AC
Iron	A theatrical term for the metal curtain or sheet that is lowered in front of stage as a fire break.
Jack Field	An array of JACK SOCKETS mounted in a frame and connected to specific items of equipment in a studio. By using short PATCH LEADS, temporary connections can be made between devices
Jack Plug	A male audio connector, commonly 1/4" or 1/8" diameter. The connection part of the plug is divided into the Tip, which carries the signal, and the Sleeve, which is generally connected to the cable screen and earth. Stereo jacks have 3 discrete connections: Tip, Ring, Sleeve and may be either stereo or Balanced. There are a number of different styles of Jack Plug depending on application, including 'A'-Type (studio applications) & 'B'-Type (guitar leads etc.)
Jack Socket	A female connection designed to accept Jack Plugs
Joint Pin	See Coupler
Jumbotron	Trade name for Sony large video screen. Formed of several (heavy) modules that use a matrix of tiny cathode ray tubes to provide each pixel of an image. Often used as a generic term for active video screens. See LED Screen
Kabuki Drop	Method for dropping a banner or cloth from a flown bar that rotates to allow the fabric to drop off metal spikes attached to the bar. Originates from a traditional form of Japanese theatre that used the technique for scene changes when it was not physically possible to build a 'Fly tower'.
Kader	A location system that links fabric sheeting to aluminium or plastic extrusion. From the Dutch term for edge. The extrusion is commonly referred to as 'shotgun'.
Kentledge	Counterweight used to stabilise a structure. Sometimes referred to as "ballast".
Kelp	Slang for tilt
Keys	Slang term for any kind of keyboard instrument

Keys Tech	Person responsible for setting up and maintaining keyboards and synthesisers for performance. Keys Techs will ensure proper MIDI connection and positioning of instruments for a performer. See Backline
King Poles	The principle support poles for a large tent or marquee. Usually of steel construction in triangular or square section.
KK Wheel	A motor driven perforated wheel attached to the front of a profile lantern. As the wheel rotates a moving pattern of light is projected. Now superseded by rotating gobo wheels in most moving lights.
Klein-Tool	Klein are a large USA tool manufacturer. They produce a series of cable grip tools including the "Chicago" with grooved jaws to hold the cable, and the "Haven" which employs serrated jaws on a cam mechanism - known simply as a Klein
K-Link	Trade name for a daisy chain of interlinked Roundslings. Problems arising from the D:d ratio are reduced by more robust construction of core and sheath. Consequently, a K-link of any given SWL will feel bulkier than an equivalent roundsling
Knuckles	The enlarged ends of a BOW or BELL on a Shackle through which the Pin passes. Sometimes referred to as the shoulders
Krab	Slang for Caribiner
Kwik-Form	Modular steel scaffolding manufactured by GKN. Commonly used for staging and tower construction.
Ladder Beam	A beam made from two parallel main members or tubes, braced with intermediate rungs or diagonals. Ladder beams should always be deployed on edge rather than flat, since it only has strength in one plane
Laminate	A plastic encased card usually used as I.D. or for PASSES.
Lampie	Slang name for people working as member of the lighting crew
Lanyard	Term for the short cord used to hang laminates or other ID around the neck. Indispensable piece of touring hardware!
Laser	Acronym for Light Amplification Stimulated by Emitted Radiation. A high power thin beam light source used for displays. Can be hazardous to sight if is looked into directly.
Lay	Refers to the direction of turn or spiral of the FILAMENTS or WIRES in a Strand, or the direction of strands as they are turned round the CORE of a wire rope.
Lay Length	The distance along a rope in which a STRAND makes one complete revolution around the rope axis
Layher	A German brand of modular steel scaffolding. Quick to erect and versatile.
Lead-Line	The part of rope running from a pulley or block to the operator or winch
Lectraflex	Trade name for eighteen core cable carrying six independent circuits. Terminated with rectangular clip together connectors. Increasingly rare in lighting applications but finding some use in sound.
Ledger	A horizontal tube component in a scaffold.

LED Screen	An active video display screen, frequently in transportable modules, where the light source is derived from thousands of small Light Emitting Diodes that each make up an individual pixel of the overall image.
Leg (1)	Slang term referring to one phase of a three-phase supply, as in "We've lost a leg of the supply."
Leg (2)	A narrow piece of fabric hung vertically, used to mask the sides of stage. Also refers to one wire rope used in a Bridle.
Leg (3)	A wire rope, chain or similar component of a Bridle. or multi leg lifting sling.
Leko	Trade name for a lantern of the Profile type. Primarily an American term, Leko's are generally smaller than conventional theatrical profile lamps.
Lens Tube	Cylindrical portion of a lamp holding condenser lenses. Movement of the tube allows beam angle and sharpness to be adjusted. Particularly important for lamps with interchangeable lenses.
Levalier	Also known as TIE CLIP - a small, discreet microphone capsule usually worn on clothing to pick up spoken voice and singing. Very common in TV and theatrical applications in conjunction with a Belt Pack.
Ligger	Slang term for geusts, friends, family and general hangers on who attempt to gain access or services backstage. An unwanted but common phenomenon occassionally causin serious obstruction.
Limit	A device which stops travel of a chain or wire rope through a hoist, pulley or chain wheel, when approaching either extreme of movement, or which is set to stop a move at a predetermined position
Line (1)	In audio terms a line is the cabling that brings an audio signal to or from a desk. In rigging terms a line is a piece of rope, cord or steel.
Line (2)	A length or rope or cord used in rigging
Line Check	The rapid process by which audio channels are tested in sequence to establish that clear signals are being received from instruments on stage. Usually undertaken at festivals where a full sound check is impossible due to pressure of time.
Line Level	An audio signal of (RMS) average strength above 10mV
Linear Motor	A motor with no moving parts, it provides tractive force by inducing electrical eddy-currents in a non-ferrous plate or track, which react with the magnetic fields in its own electric coils to produce directional force. Used in automated scenic systems
Linkwitz-Riley	A type of Crossover Frequency attenuation curve
Lite-Beam	Trade name for modular lightweight trussing made by Slick Systems Ltd.
Litton	Trade name for cable termination system from Litton Industries, USA.
Load (1)	The object(s) being lifted. That which is below a lifting appliance. In physics it refers to forces, or their vector additions. Hence the load is the force applied to a structure when lifting or hanging an object.

Load (2)	In electrical terms the load is the draw placed on a supply. This refer to the load of a speaker an amplifier is driving, or the amperage of an electrical supply, the number of lamps on a dimmer channel
Load Cell	An electro-mechanical weighing device - often with real time digital readout for measuring the force resulting from a given load
Load-in	The beginning of practical work on a site; the arrival of crews and equipment at a venue. See also Get-In
Load-out	See Get-Out
Local Crew	Team of casual labourers normally hired to assist with Get-In and Get-out
Lodestar	Brand name for a motorised chain hoist manufactured by Columbus McKinnon Corp. Generally available in 1 or 2 tonne load ratings. The 3-phase motor is operated by a separately powered 110V remote control. See Motors
LOLER	The Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998. Current UK legislation concerning any lifting, hanging, suspension activity and equipment
Luminaires	Generic name for lighting. Also known as fixtures, lamps, lights, instruments, or by more specific names such as Profiles, PAR's, Fresnels etc.
M.C.B	Miniature Circuit Breaker. Detects the amount of current flowing through a circuit and breaks the circuit if a limit is exceeded. Replaces conventional fuses.
M.E.W.P.	Mobile Elevating Work Platforms. Mechanical lifts that allow the positioning of equipment or focusing at considerable height. They come in a variety of types such as Boom Arm, Telescopic and Scissor Lift. Known as Cherry Pickers or Flying Carpets. Covered by the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regs 1998
M.U.	The Musicians Union. A trade union representing musicians and associated performers.
Mandraulic	A derogatory (usually) term for a method of moving heavy equipment (often a scenic element) by hand when this is a cheaper alternative to a powered system that is really justified.
Magic Carpet	A type of MEWP. See Flying Carpet
Maillon	French for "Link", as in chain-link. Used in English to describe the Carabiner like device used to secure harnesses to safety lines. It is less easily opened than a carabiner, which makes it better suited to this application
Mains Hum	Electrical interference with sound circuits caused either by close proximity to a mains supply cabling whereby interference is induced in the signal cable, or through having multiple earth connections – a fault known as an Earth Loop. Characterised by a 50 Hz buzz - the frequency of UK AC supply
Manilla	A type of HEMP fibre originating from the Phillipines
Manitou	Trade name for a brand of Forklift Trucks and similar heavy plant
Manual	Rigging shorthand for a manually operated chain hoist

Manual Handling Regs	The legislation covering all acts of Manual Handling, how they should be carried out and what PPE is required to protect workers engaged in such tasks. One of the HSE SIX PACK
Maroon	A stage pyro which produces a loud audible bang. Available in a wide variety of sizes.
Master Faders	Control the overall output level of an audio or lighting desk. Audio consoles generally have two Masters (Left & Right) whereas lighting consoles have one.
Master Link	An oval shaped "RATED" ring to which chains or other load bearing legs are attached (normally 3). The SWL of the Link will depend on the orientation of the load legs - a type number will be stamped on the link, from which the appropriate SWL can be derived, by reference to the manufacturer's information sheet
Matrix	Some audio desks have a flexible routing system which allows groups, Auxes and channels to be assigned to different outputs. This is referred to as a matrix, and greatly expands the applications to which the desk can be put.
Maxi-Beam	Trade name for heavy duty modular trussing built by Slick Systems Ltd
Mechanical Dimmer	In a fixture employing an arc or discharge source it is impossible to dim the light output by varying the electrical supply to the bulb. Fading and dimming is achieved by means of a mechanical shutter - either a tapered groove cut in a wheel that allows more or less of the beam through; or a series of vanes similar to a Venetian blind that swivel to allow more or less light passage
Memory	A pattern of light levels or positions stored in a computerised lighting desk.
Merchandising	The profitable sale of T-shirts, posters, stickers etc. that accompanies a concert. Merchandising can often make huge returns actually making a tour or event profitable. Much sought after by crew in the form of SWAG. Can be either Official or BOOTLEG
Method Statement	A set of "step by step" instructions (that also contains safety information) for carrying out a job or operation. A health and safety management "control" system.
MIDI	Acronym for Musical Instrument Digital Interface, a control protocol which allows information to be encoded and transmitted between instruments, controllers and modules. Whilst initially only intended for musical instruments, MIDI control has been extended to lighting desks and show controllers
Mini-Beam	Trade name for medium duty modular trussing built by Slick Systems Ltd
Mixing	The action of blending various audio sources to make a single coherent output
NCA	Nationwide Caterers Association. Trade organisation representing mobile food and drink retailers

Monitors	Refers both to the individual speakers (Wedges) and also the system as a whole which allows performers to hear themselves and others whilst on stage. Most commonly a separate console to the side of stage will be used to balance the mix(es). Also known as Foldback
Mother Grid	A structure hung from the roof of a building from which rigging points may be installed for the temporary suspension of technical equipment and material. The Mother grid may be a permanent installation, often motorised so it can descend to stage level for easy rigging, or it could be a temporary structure build from robust trussing to meet the needs of a particular production
Motors	Generic term for electrically operated chain hoists used to lift and position equipment and trussing. Often referred to by trade names such as Lodestar or Verlinde.
Moving Heads	A moving light system whereby the whole lamp assembly swivels on a motorised yoke.
Moving Lights	Generic name for lighting fixtures that are able to automatically change the direction of the light beam in two dimensions (Pan and Tilt). Moving lights invariably offer other features, including some or all of the following; Colour Change, Gobo, Rotating Gobo, Shutter, Mechanical Dimmer, Shutters. Once the sole preserve of well funded, large-scale shows, moving lights are increasingly common and will ultimately replace a good number of Generic Fixtures. Also known as Intelligent Lighting, Moving Heads, Moving Mirrors
Moving Mirrors	A moving light system where the lamp stays stationary and a mirror directs the beam.
Multicore	A piece of electrical cable having several separate cores which allows more than one signal or power feed to run along it. Multicore cables are used in both lighting and audio applications. Commonly run from stage to FoH or from dimmers to lamps. Multi's may conduct analogue or digital control signal or mains voltage power
Multipin	The metal connectors that join multicore cables, either to each other or to equipment. Often known by trade names such as Socapex, Lectraflex and Harting
Multiplex	When an item of digital equipment performs more than one task simultaneously, or the same operation on a number of discrete signals it is said to multiplex
PTA (PERTEXA)	Performance Textiles Association. Trade association representing manufacturers of tents, marquees, awnings etc.
NAA	National Arenas Association. Trade body representing the major indoor and outdoor concert arenas.
Nineties	See Coupler.
Nico	Short for Nicopress, an American system for the manual pressing of Ferrules for making terminations in wire ropes
No Brainer	American slang for back-to-back touring between one-night dates.
Node	That point in a structure or framework where horizontal, vertical and/or diagonal members meet. A strong point often referred to as "Nodus" or PANEL-POINT

NOEA	National Outdoor events Association
Noise	The unwanted signals in an audio system. Noise is generated by all components in the audio chain but primarily by semiconductors and other 'active' circuitry used in audio processing. The 'hiss' from noise generated in the system is amplified along with the primary signal. See SIGNAL-to-NOISE
Noise at Work Regs	The Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005, dictate the measures employers must take to protect workers from hazardous noise levels whilst at work. The Regulations set out three Action Levels levels whilst at work. The Regulations set out three Action Levels at which certain precautions must be taken and Control Systems employed.
Noise Boys	Slang term for people working on the sound crew (See also LAMPIES)
Notch-Filter	A type of narrow audio Filter with an extremely high Q and generally a high level of attenuation, allowing specific frequencies to be eliminated, or at least significantly reduced within the audio spectrum
Off-Axis	Sound signals arriving at a microphone from the side. To mount a mic "Off-Axis" means to point it away from the actual source. Useful in close-miking of singers allowing the voice itself to be picked up without the problem of pops from breath and plosive sounds
Offstage	Out of sight from the audience.
Omni-Directional	A microphone equally sensitive to sounds arriving from all directions. It will have a more or less circular POLAR PATTERN
On-Axis	Generally used to describe the angle of an incoming or outgoing element to a fixed position. More specifically, it refers to the arrival of sound signals at a microphone. Those that are On-Axis are in line with the body of the mic itself, and are picked up well. OFF-AXIS signals arrive from the side, and depending on the POLAR PATTERN of the mic, will be attenuated or rejected altogether
Onstage	In sight of the audience.
Op-Amp	Operational Amplifier, an integrated circuit used as a Gain amplifier or zero-gain Buffer between audio processing circuits
O-Ring	A circular metal ring designed to accept multiple attachments (commonly 3). Also used loosely as a term for any MASTER LINK
Out	"Out" and "In" are equivalent to "Up" and "Down" respectively. In theatre parlance used to avoid confusion with Up- and Downstage. The instruction "Let it in a bit." means lower the load - even though this may involve the paying out of more line. Conversely "Take it out" means hoist it - even though this involves the motor taking in chain
Outboard	Generic term for signal processing equipment connected to a mixing console. The processors are in a physically separate rack, connected by INSERT or PATCH cabling - hence "outboard" to the desk
Outriggers	Extendable diagonal bracing legs to extend the base area and increase the stability of Access Towers, Zip-Up Towers and Tallescopes

Overhand Knot	The simplest knot that can be made; take the TAIL around the STANDING LINE and pass it through the BIGHT. Also called a HALF-HITCH
P.A.	Public Address system. A sound amplification system, generally referring to the main stage mounted system. At non-music events it refers to the speakers used to give information to the public. See TANNOY.
P.E.L.	Public Entertainments Licence. Local Authorities will issue a permit for an event to go ahead if they are satisfied with its management and safety provision.
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Pad	A pad switch varies the sensitivity of a piece of audio equipment to incoming signals, allowing it to cope with extreme differences in signal strength. Pad switches commonly attenuate by -20/30dB, enabling a swap from mic to line levels.
Panel Point	American term for a NODE
PAR Can	Parabolic Aluminised Reflector can. Known simply as "Par's" or "Cans". Uses a sealed beam unit mounted in a spun aluminium tube. The bulb includes parabolic reflector and lens in one unit. Tough, bright & light, the Par has been the mainstay of concert for two decades. Measured in 1/8" increments, Par sizes are given as numbers, so a Par 64 = 64 x 1/8th inch i.e. 8" diameter
Parabolic Mic	A microphone mounted backwards in a handheld parabolic reflecting dish. Such mics have extremely narrow POLAR PATTERNS, and are commonly seen in the broadcast of sporting fixtures where the sound of play, and players is picked up across a field, and the roar of the surrounding crowd is rejected
Parmiter	Attachment on the rear of a tractor for sinking posts or poles into the ground. Also known as a Pole Basher
Pass	A card, sticker or wristband allowing the wearer access to restricted areas. A Pass System allows the separation of public from work areas such as stages and production offices. Passes should not be seen as perks, but as a safety control system
Pass out	A system whereby punters are permitted leave and re-enter a venue as long as they have the appropriate pass.
Passive	Electronics that operate without the need for an external power source. A Passive loudspeaker system is one requiring only a single amplifier. Crossover is achieved within the speaker where the incoming signal from the amplifier is divided between appropriate speakers. Passive instruments mics and DI boxes are those without powered circuitry as opposed to Active circuits
Patch	In both lighting and audio terms to patch is to connect different inputs and outputs together, whether it be routing sound signals to

	outboard devices or determining which lighting circuit plugs into which dimmer.
Patch Leads	Short connection leads allowing temporary joining of specific inputs and outputs. Patch leads are common for transmitting audio signals between units (via Jack Plugs), or for allocating output channels on dimmers such as Avolites
PC (1)	Plano-Convex, a type of lens and also the name of a range of Generic theatre-type lamps fitted with such lenses. In PC's the bulb is fixed and sliding the lens, which is mounted, on a rail in the lamp housing, varies beam-angle. PC's provide a good compromise between the spread of a Fresnel and the hard focus of Profiles
PC (2)	Shorthand for Personal Computer – generally any machine other than a Mac!
PD's	Per Diem payments. Cash payments made whilst on tour or on site to cover daily expenses.
Pear Ring	A tapered oval ring similar to a Master Link, designed for three attachments. A RATED lifting component
Percy	Personal assistant to a band member. Often sent to fetch crucial items such as snack foods or pharmaceutical supplies Sometimes known as a GOFER
Permit to Work	A tightly controlled system restricting overlapping work operations. An example would be the suspension of all ground activity whilst a rigger climbs. The Permit is given by the Stage Manager, and once the operation is complete, that same person authorises ground level activity to recommence
PFL	Pre-fade Listen. An audio desk function which allows the engineer to hear an incoming signal before the level assigned by the channel Fader, enabling them to set optimal input gain. Also use to monitor elements of the mix during performance. See AFL
Phantom Power	A +48 volt current supplied by a mixing desk to Condenser and other powered microphones, ACTIVE DI boxes and so on
Phase (1)	Generically refers to the live conductor in an electrical mains feed. In a 3-phase supply, the three live supplies are 120o out of phase with each other, giving a theoretical maximum of 240v between phase and neutral, and 415v between any two phases.
Phase (2)	Refers to a point in the sound wave. If things are in phase their peaks and troughs occur at the same instant, and reinforce each other. If out of phase, peak matches trough and Cancellation occurs. Particularly important for bass frequencies with long waveforms.
Phase Interference	The phenomenon produced when multiple sound sources meet or overlap. The means by which sound waves are summed means there is potential for reinforcement or cancellation of signal. This phenomena is of particular importance in the design and positioning of speaker systems and the loading of Drivers in cabinets. See also Time Alignment
Picker	See Cherry Picker

Pickle	Slang term for an independent hand operated remote control for lifting motors. Attached directly to the motor it allows testing and preliminarily load alignment before the final lift, when it will be connected via extension cabling
Piece	Theatrical term for an item of scenery intended for attachment to a flying system. The Piece may actually consist of a series of smaller assembled elements.
Piezo	An instrument microphone using the piezo crystal effect. Most common on acoustic instruments such as guitars and fiddles where it's mounted under the bridge. Piezo crystals produce a voltage on either side of the crystal when they are flexed. Thin wafers of crystal are used to translate the vibration of the instrument bridge or body into electrical signals. Piezo mics inserted into instruments are commonly called Bugs
Pin	In a Shackle the pin is the screw-threaded element that passes through the holes in the Knuckles to close the shackle. In trussing systems Pins are sometimes used to lock together sections. In scenery Pin Hinges have removable pivot pins that allow for easy dismantling
Pink Noise	Sound (White Noise) containing all frequencies in the audio spectrum of the human ear, electronically processed so that every sound frequency appears to be at the same volume. See White Noise.
Pit	The area in front of a stage separated from the audience by a PIT BARRIER. It is primarily a safety zone for stewards to assist the crowd, but is also used by photographers & TV crews.
Pit Barrier	A specially constructed barrier designed to hold back a crowd at the front of a stage area. The public side has a smooth face designed to take a specific load, the other has a step to allow stewards to view the crowd or pull people to safety easily
Plan Brace	Any horizontal diagonal brace used to stiffen a structure. So called as only visible on the 'Plan' view of a 2D drawing of a 3D structure.
PLASA	Professional Light and Sound Association. Trade body principally representing lighting and sound equipment manufacturers. Best known for annual trade show.
Plate	Plate or Plate reverb is a device using the same principle as the SPRING LINE, but in this case the spring is replaced by a large (3m x 2m) metal plate with an agitator at one end and a pick-up at the other. Genuine reverb plates are usually only found in broadcast and studio applications. Most digital reverb machines will offer a Plate setting which is most commonly employed for Snare effects
Podium	A small stage, sometimes on a larger stage, often used for an orchestral conductor or lead performer.
Point	Variety of definitions depending on context: A mark on the floor vertically beneath a required suspension position; the position of a roof beam chosen for a WRAP; A Rated fixed position in the roof of a venue expressly for the attachment of suspended equipment. The 3-dimensional position in space chosen for hanging a component - the junction of 2 or more BRIDLE LEGS etc.

Point	Many different definitions are possible depending on context
Polar Pattern	A graph representing the sensitivity of a microphone to sound signals arriving from any given direction. The shape of the graph gives rise to the phrases Cardioid and HYPER-CARDIOID. See also Pressure Gradient and Pressure Operated Mics
Polyjohn	Tradename adopted for all portable plastic toilet units (NOT the trailer type). Also known lovingly as a Turdis or Tardis
Pop Shield	A foam fitting mounted over the capsule of a microphone to minimise wind-noise and loud sounds from breath and plosive vocal sounds
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment. Items of clothing or equipment designed to protect from hazard, such as gloves, steel toe boots, hard hats, ear plugs, harnesses, high viz clothing etc.
PPE Regs	The Personal Protective Equipment Regulations 1992, governs the type, suitability maintenance etc. of any protective equipment worn by a person at work. Part of the SIX PACK of regulations
Pre-Fade	Input or output of signal before the Channel or GROUP fader
Pre-set (1)	A set of manual channel faders on a lighting desk, controlled by an overall MASTER fader, allowing a pattern or scene of lights to be made ready or "pre-set" before a cue
Pre-Set (2)	A general state of readiness of people or equipment for a "STANDBY" or "GO" cue.
Pre-Set (3)	The position of a moving flown PIECE between fully OUT and the final IN-DEAD performance position, allowing the better execution of the final move.
Pressing	The act of compressing a Ferrule, or the compressed ferrule itself
Pressure Operated Microphone	A mic with a sealed chamber to the rear of the diaphragm. The capsule response equally to sound pressure waves arriving from all directions since the pressure differential across the diaphragm is measured against a fixed value. Such a mic has an Omnidirectional polar pattern
Pressure Gradient Microphone	A mic in which both sides of the diaphragm are open to the atmosphere. Sound waves arriving from front or rear will give a high differential on either side, those coming from the side (90 degrees off-axis) will generate little or no pressure difference on either side of the diaphragm, and hence no signal. Such a mic will have a classic Figure of -8 Polar Pattern
Production Manager	The person in overall charge of scheduling, budgets Health & Safety etc. Responsible for appointing contractors, staff and crew. A highly responsible position at the top of the management pyramid.
Production Rehearsal	The period when all elements of a show (lighting, sound, staging etc.) are brought together with the performer prior to a show opening or touring. Full PR's require huge venues and facilities - they are expensive and stressful for all concerned.
Profile	A type of Generic lighting fixture, common in theatres, with an Ellipsoidal mirror behind the bulb and one, or two lenses, which allow the beam to be brought to a focal point at around the mid-point of the lamp body. Objects introduced into the focal plane will project an image of their profile – hence the name of the lamp. Most commonly metal blades are slid in and out to trim the beam

	with hard edges, Gobos can be introduced into the beam path at this point to project patterns & images. Most profiles allow for variation in beam angle and sharpness of focus. See also Fresnel and PC
Programming	Increasingly common activity of data input to lighting desks to achieve complex cues and movements of light. Usually completed prior to performance.
Promoter	The person or company who has put up the money for the production and who stands to make a profit or loss from the event. The Promoter is the ultimate financial authority and can be involved in artistic decisions at all levels.
Promoter	The person, company or organisation responsible for staging a show, they book the band and venue and collect the ticket receipts. In effect everyone ends up working for or on behalf of the promoter.
Propagation	The physical phenomenon whereby sound waves are transmitted through a medium such as air. A key element of the science of Acoustics
Proscenium	The Proscenium or Proscium arch is the opening between a traditional theatrical stage and the auditorium. The "Prosc" Arch spans the stage towards the downstage side, with the Apron projecting into the auditorium
PSA	The Production Services Association, the trade association representing music industry production personnel.
PSE	Portable Sanitation Europe. Trade association representing toilet and sanitation suppliers
PSU	Power Supply Unit. (see Ballast)
Public Liability	Insurance designed to cover an operator for accidents or injuries to members of the public harmed by the operator's activity. Also extends to other contractors not in the direct employ of the operator. A legal requirement for any business including the SELF EMPLOYED
Pull-Lift	A ratchet handled chain hoist fitted with a short chain. See also BEE-BEE or COME-ALONG
Punter	Slang term for members of public attending a show or event. Often has a derogatory connotation. Also known as Billies, Hillman's and Treble Absorbers
Putlog	A length of scaffold tube, usually about 5ft long, flattened at one end. Originally used for constructing access scaffolds to brick walls. (Flattened end fits in mortar gap between bricks).
PUWER	Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (1992). The law governing all items of work equipment, plant and other mechanical devices
Pyro	Slang term for generic pyrotechnic or stage firework type effect. Covers a multitude of visual and sound types
PZM	Pressure Zone Microphone. Also known as a BOUNDARY MICROPHONE. The PZM consists of a metal plate very close to which is mounted a back electret capsule. The space between the plate and the capsule is the Pressure Zone. PZM's are robust and have a clean OMNI-DIRECTIONAL response. Must be mounted on a boundary such as wall, floor or table. Often used in theatre, and conference applications. See also Dynamic Mic, Condenser Mic

Q	A measure of the bandwidth affected by an audio Filter. A high "Q" results in a narrow "focused" filter. A low "Q" gives a general broad effect. See Equalisation and Notch Filter
Q-Patch	Generic digital software patch produced by Avolites. Allowed analogue desks to address a series of dimmers.
Quad-Link	An assembly of a MASTER-LINK and two smaller ovals, permanently fixed, which forms the nexus of a four-leg bridle or lifting sling. Also known as a SPREADER CHAIN
Queen Poles	The ring of secondary support poles in a large marquee which tension the canvas and gain maximum height for the structure.
Quick-Link	Connecting device similar to a CARABINER, but which opens by means of a threaded sleeve on one side of an extended oval, allowing eyes or other links to be introduced
R.C.D.	Residual Current Device. An electronic circuit breaker designed to detect leakage of current from the circuit and stop the flow of electricity. Excellent protection against shock.
Racks	See Dimmer.
Radio	Slang term for a WIRELESS SYSTEM transmitter. As in "Stick a radio on him". Could refer either to a RADIO MIC or to an instrument pick up. See also BELT PACK
Radio Mic	A WIRELESS SYSTEM microphone allowing great mobility since it uses no cabling. Commonly used for vocalists and comperes. Variety of types available, see Handheld and LEVALIER
Rag Slag	Slang term for Wardrobe mistress.
Raked	A stage with an incline towards the audience for better sightlines. An auditorium with an incline towards the stage. Seating with stepped levels
Rappel	"Lowering oneself down a mountain by means of a double rope" (Collins N.E. Dictionary), loosely used as an alternative to ABSEIL
Ratchet Strap	A webbing strap, often used to secure loads on trucks, with a rotary tensioning device that is prevented from un-tensioning by a ratchet mechanism.
Rat Run	A permanent buried duct used to carry cabling, usually to front of house position. Sometimes simply a twin set of barriers demarking the position of cabling.
Rat Stand	Trade name used to refer to illuminated music stands. Often employed by orchestras and big bands. Rat stands are heavy, but very reliable and stack easily.
Rated	Any appliance that is marked with a SWL Rating
Rating	All lift appliances must carry a SWL indicating the safe limit to which it can be loaded. This figure must be permanently marked or stamped onto the item. Any device with such a mark is deemed to be Rated and can be used for commercial operation. Items without a rating - such as sports carabiners - must not be used commercially
RCPA	Regional Concert Promoters Association
Reamer	A tool used to re-shape the ends of lightweight trussing. In use truss tubes can become deformed making spigot insertion or removal impossible. A reamer allows the truss to be joined once more.

Rear of House (RoH)	The backstage and storage areas of a theatre.
Reeve	To thread a rope or chain through a multiple pulley or chain block. A twist introduced in the chain, or following the wrong path would result in the assembly being "wrongly reeved"
Reflection	The bouncing of sound waves from a surface – giving rise to the phenomenon of Reverb. Central to the study of Acoustics
Reverb (1)	The acoustic phenomenon of reflected sound in a room or environment. Reverberant sound signals give the listener an impression of acoustic space and placement. In close-miked situations where little or no reverberant information is picked up, reverb is applied to the signal artificially to make it sound more "natural" and give ambience. See SPRING LINE, PLATE, REVERB ROOM and REVERB 2
Reverb (2)	Used to describe any device creating or mimicing the acoustic phenomenon of reverb. In concert applications reverb is usually added by means of an OUTBOARD unit at the FoH position. Modern digital reverbs allow adjustment of all the parameters associated with reverberant spaces, and provide a powerful and flexible tool for the engineer
Reverb Room	Bare-walled, acoustically reflective rooms with a speaker at one end and a microphone at the other. Still used in broadcast applications to apply reverberant effects to a signal
Revolve	A large turntable system built on or into a stage floor.
Rider	(Technical Rider) Information sent to a venue or promoter detailing requirements for stage, sound and lights. Other sections of a rider (Hospitality Rider) may detail requirements for dressing room, hotels, travel and catering facilities.
Rifle Mic	Slang term for a microphone with a very narrow POLAR PATTERN, rejecting all OFF-AXIS sounds and allowing the operator to "focus" the mic on particular sources. Common in theatrical and broadcast applications where background noise can be extremely problematic
Rigger	The person responsible for assembling and installing load bearing structures and trussing. Most commonly found working at height. Specialist riggers will work alongside PA and lighting teams, carrying out hazardous aerial work.
Rigging Screw	A tensioning device operated by means of a rotating central barrel from which two threaded bolts extend. The bolts have opposite handed threads, so rotation of the cylinder will either draw the bolts in or extend them. The bolts are available with hook or eye ends. A Rigging Screw must be RATED. Also known as BOTTLE-SCREW or TURNBUCKLE
Rise	The vertical height of between treads on a staircase. See also Going.
Risers	Generic term for single elements of stage platforms or decking. Most commonly used when referring to band set-ups where groups of instruments are placed on a single piece of staging, hence Keyboard Riser or Drum Riser. See also Rolling Risers, Steeldeck
Risk	The potential of a Hazard to cause harm combined with a measure of the severity of outcome. Risk refers to the probability of an incident occurring and the seriousness of its consequences
Risk Assessment	The process of analysing the risks posed to workers and public. RA's are a central part of Health & Safety control and should be understood by everyone working in the industry. A specific requirement of the Management of Health & Safety at Work Regs

	1999. All persons employing 5 or more people must produce written Risk Assessments for activities which present a hazard to workers or others
RMS	Root Mean Squared, a mathematical formula for establishing an average value for constantly varying elements. Most commonly used to measure power, voltage or signal strength. The RMS value of an amplifier will be lower than the Peak Power it can deliver for a short burst or Transient, but is a better measure of how it will perform over time. Similarly AC mains voltage is constantly fluctuating, but provides an average of 230v
Roadie	Almost obsolete (except in USA) term of endearment for any touring crew, usually with pop groups. Now used by people not in the industry and part timers with amateur performers. Not to be confused with locally sourced labour - lovingly known as Humpers, Chimps.
Rolling Risers	Stage sections with lockable wheels. Allows groups of instruments to be built and connected backstage, and then rolled into position. Very common time- and labour-saving device, often used on festival and multi-performer stages. Similar in construction to Trucks, but commonly uses proprietary decking such as Steeldeck with wheel attachments
Roof	Usually the permanent upper structure of a building where rigging operations are carried out. Also the temporary outdoor covering structures built over stages
Rostrum	See risers.
Roundsling	A circular sling usually consisting of a yarn of fine polyester filaments in a tough polyester sheath. The sheath protects against abrasion and UV light damage as well as increasing the D:d Ratio. Roundslings are Rated and usually colour coded. Most have a Headroom of x12. This high factor reflects that such a soft, flexible element is particularly prone to mishaps and abuse.
Routing	A central function of audio mixing desks is to send different input signals to various destinations, for processing, recording, amplification and so on. This process of allocating a Signal Path is referred to as Routing.
Runner	A local person employed by the production team to locate and collect essential supplies in the area.
S.T.A.C Chain	Special Theatrical Alloy Chain, a Rated chain of large links, each big enough to take a shackle, used for fine adjustment of Bridles and Safety fixings in rigging.
S.W.L.	Safe Working Load, the maximum load for which an item is RATED. Commonly it is calculated as one sixth of the theoretical breaking load. SWL's should always be clearly marked on equipment. The SWL may vary depending on the orientation of load or the application to which the item is put. Also known as the W.L.L. or Working Load Limit
Saddle	The forged or cast part of a WIRE-ROPE GRIP, against which wire rope is compressed by tightening of the U-bolt. Saddles must be fitted correctly - always positioned on the (live) STANDING LINE, with the U-bolt against the DEAD side. "Never saddle a dead horse" is a useful aide-memoire to avoid error!
Safety (2)	Generic term for chains or wire bonds used in lighting to connect the yoke of a lamp to a bar. In the event of the clamp becoming detached the safety prevents the lamp from falling
Safety Chain	A short steel chain, usually with spring clips at the end, used in conjunction with an ordinary clamp to provide a safety should the

	clamp fail.
Saftey (1)	Further rigging components installed to duplicate or back-up primary rigging systems, so that flown equipment will not fall in the event of failure in a primary component. Also known as SECONDARIES
Scaff	Abbreviation of Scaffold. Other terms include "Pipe and clip", "Poles and planks" and "Tube and fit".
Scaffier	Term of endearment for someone who builds scaffolds.
Scene	A pattern of lighting levels used for a particular section of a performance.
Scene Dock	The part of a theatre set aside for storage of FLATS and other large items of SET
Scissor Lift	A type of MOBILE ELEVATING WORK PLATFORM, where a fixed platform is raised or lowered by means of extruding hydraulic scissor arms. Often called a MAGIC CARPET
Screw Eye	Similar to an EYE-BOLT, but with a timber-thread rather than a nut & washer fixing. Used for attachments to scenery etc. NOT to be used as an item of lifting gear - the eye itself may not shear, but the strength of the fixing into wood will always be unknown
Scrim	A woven mesh fabric, usually black or white in colour. Often used to cover speaker stacks or for projections and other lighting effects
Scroller	Slang term for a Colour Changer which uses motorised spindles to select a given colour from a pre-made Gel String
Septic	Term of endearment for Americans. Derives from Cockney rhyming slang.
Series Patch Lead	A short cable used on analogue dimmers to connect from two to eight dimmers in series.
Series Split	A plug which is connected to two sockets in such a way that the power runs from one outlet to the next in series. The result is a halving in voltage at the outlets - commonly used for 110V lamps such as ACL's
Set	General term for any physical construction on stage, it can range from a simple dais and lecturn at a conference through to elaborate reconstructions of rooms and scenery in theatrical productions
Shackle	A RATED lifting component designed to connect together items of equipment, consisting of a PIN and BELL. Various shapes and sizes can be found made from steel, alloy, stainless steel and so on. Only those bearing an SWL mark should be used in lifting systems
Sharkstooth	A material used for fabric scrims.
Sheave	A grooved pulley wheel over which a rope runs in a BLOCK. A block with many pullies is known as "multi-sheaved"
Shelf-Filter	A shelf-filter – often simply called “A Shelf” is an electronic Filter that acts on all frequencies above or below a predetermined point. Most commonly used on mixing consoles to eliminate unwanted high or low frequency noise. Normally shelf filters will attenuate at the rate of –24dB per octave from the activation point. See also High-Pass, Low-Pass and Notch Filter

Shoulder	Alternative name for the KNUCKLE of a shackle. Also the enlarged portion of an EYE-BOLT between the thread and eye which allows for a degree of lateral loading. See also COLLARED EYE-BOLT
Shutters	Metal blades that project into the beam path of a profile lantern, allowing beam shaping. In moving lights allows a strobe effect.
Sidfills	Full-range speakers positioned at the side of stage giving a general mix to musicians.
Signal-to-Noise	The Signal-to-Noise Ratio is the relationship between the unwanted hiss generated in a system and the actual musical or audio signal itself. A high S/N generally indicates a higher quality sound component. The S/N ratio is determined by subtracting the average noise level from the average signal level. Therefore, if the primary signal is 20dB and the noise level (in the absence of signal) is 2dB, the signal to noise ratio is 18dB.
Signal Path	The route or routes taken by a signal throughout an audio system. A single signal might well be split and follow a number of routes through the system as it is sent to various devices for effects, recording, playback, dynamics control and so on. The process of allocating a Signal Path is referred to as Routing
Sightlines	The extreme boundaries of area where the audience can see the stage with an unobstructed view.
Site Manager	On outdoor events someone take specific responsibility for the provision of site services and infrastructure such as site layout, fencing, electrics, water etc. They will liase with Local Authorities & Police to get a PEL.
Six Pack	Group of six Health & Safety regulations that are published by the HSE in similar format. The most important specific safety laws. The six elements are PPE Regs, Health & Safety Management Regs, Display Screens Regs, Manual Handling Regs, Work Equipment Regs, and the Workplace Regs.
Skill Saw	Term used by those who can't pronounce "Circular Saw". Notable for the fact that it requires less skill than a handsaw. Originates from the trade name ' SkilSaw'
Sleeve	A fitting for "butt-joining" two scaffolding tubes by clamping them externally. The internal fitting is commonly called a Banana Clip. See Couplers.
Smoke Fluid	The liquid used by a SMOKE MACHINE to produce the fog effect. Generally oil based and available in either bottles or pressurised containers depending on machine type.
Smoke Machine	A device for producing a fog or smoke effect on stage. Generally works by heating an oil based Smoke Fluid in a chamber which then squirts from the front of the machine as a vapour.
Snap Hook	An unrated connecting device similar to a CARABINER with a sprung gate. Also known as a CARBINE-HOOK
Soca	See Socapex.
Socapex	Trade name for aluminium multipin connector where a threaded sleeve joins the two portions. Available in a variety of formats for lighting, sound and signal transmission. Very common.
Softening	Material, usually Burlap, placed between a wire rope sling and a beam to protect the sling from damage by the sharply curved edges of the beam
Soft's	Fabrics, curtains, drapes and tabs.

Soft-Eye	An eye made in the end of a piece of rope or wire-rope without inclusion of a THIMBLE
Soleplate	A spreader used to distribute load over an area. Scaffold boards are often used. See Basepad.
Sound Check	The process of setting channel gains, EQ, and line balances for instruments on the stage. Usually completed before the audience enter, it will involve musicians playing as they will in performance to ensure the system is ready for the show.
Space-Frame	A 3-dimensional structure of horizontal, diagonal and (occasionally) vertical struts
Span	The distance between suspension points. Loosely used to mean a chosen length of truss or other structure
Spanset	Trade name for a brand of polyester ROUNDSLING
Sparks	(or Sparkie) Slang term for an electrician.
Spike	1) To mark, on a stage floor, the position of an item of set/scenery. 2) To secure a cable in position on a stage floor ("Spiking").
Spider	A lighting term for the bundle of plugs and cables which connects to a 6-way multicore allowing individual circuits to be plugged in. See also Squid.
SPL	Sound Pressure Level. A measure of the loudness of a sound.
Spot Line	A rope hung from the ceiling of a venue or from trussing, used to suspend or lift objects above the stage.
Spot-Line	A line dropped from a theatre grid. Often used to stabilise items of scenery, flattage, vertical lighting booms and so on
Spreader Chain	An assembly of MASTER-LINK and QUAD-LINKS to form a four-leg bridle. Commonly found on Hi-Ab cranes for lifting bulky items such as portacabins or containers
Spring Line	A type of reverb common in guitar amps. Consists of a spring strung between a pickup point and a drive point that vibrates with signal input. This vibration and subsequent pickup at the end of the spring creates a reverberation effect. Prone to awful noise if the amp cabinet is knocked !
Squid	Slang term for the socket end break-out of a lighting multicore when it terminates in 15 amp outlets.
Stage Left	The left hand side of stage when standing facing the audience. If you're in the crowd it is on the right hand side
Stage Right	The right hand side of a stage when looking at the audience
Stanchion	A vertical supporting column.
Standard	1) A vertical scaffold tube founded at base level. 2) Published document setting out minimum requirements
Standby	A state of readiness to perform a particular CUE. Technical personnel and performers will be asked to Standby in readiness - making sure all equipment is primed and in position for the final GO cue
Standing Line	That part of a rope which does (or will do) the pulling
Star Cloth	A black drape with a series of pigmy bulbs or LED's stitched into it. These produce an attractive "night sky" effect, much loved at receptions, awards and large shows. Expensive Star Cloths allow twinkling programmes and colour changes

State	A particular pattern or position of lighting. See also Memory, Scene
Steel	Slang term for load bearing steel wire rope, as in "Fetch us a ten-foot steel"
Steeldeck	Trade name for modular decking sections 8' x 4' in size. See also Risers
Steelies	Slang term for steel toe cap protective boots.
Steel-Off	To fit SAFETY or SECONDARY steel wire ropes to a flown rig
Step-Motor	A microprocessor controlled electrical motor that moves in a series of discrete increments. Step motors allow movement from one fixed position to another, and are central to all moving light fixtures, controlling parameters such as mirror position, colour and gobo
Stinger	A wire rope sling connected to a Bridle, supporting the next item below. Usually used when short chain hoists are employed in a tall building
Strand	A number of Filaments twisted together. Bundles of strands are then woven to make up the final rope
Strobe	A lighting effect consisting of rapid flashes of light. Potentially hazardous to people with flicker induced epilepsy.
Strops	Fabric loops of particular sizes designed to carry loads. Known also as slings or spansets they should carry a load rating and test data.
Strut	An element of a structure, frequently a scaffold, that works in axial compression.
Sub-Bass	Low frequency speakers.
Sub-Woofer	Low frequency speakers
Sun Flood	Slang term for enclosed, glass fronted halogen flood lights. Available in a variety of sizes from 500Watt to 2Kw
Super Trouper	See Trouper
Swag (1)	Much sought after free promotional goods and gifts distributed on tours or at concert events. Seen as a perk by some and a God-given right by others, generally depending on years in the trade
Swag (2)	Theatrical term for a festoon or swathe of DRAPES
Swages	Hard steel dies which compress FERRULES in a hydraulic press to form PRESSINGS which terminate wire ropes
Sweep	The control of a sound filter that allows the centre point of the filter to be moved up and down the frequency spectrum
SWL	Safe Working Load. If a piece of equipment is designed to carry load it should be marked with the maximum safe load it can carry. This figure must not be exceeded.
Swivs	Swivels - See Coupler
Tabs	Movable stage curtains (horizontally or vertically). Abbreviation of "tableaux curtains".
Tab-Track	A horizontal track for suspending movable curtains or cables.
Tag-Line	Similar to BREAST-LINE, a rope attached to an item of flown equipment to control its rotation and swing, or to keep it clear of obstructions
Tail (1)	The end or unused part of a rope

Tail (2)	A short length of single core mains cable used to connect to an electrical supply. Commonly called TAILS because there are more than one or, MAINS TAILS, as in "Have you got the tails to connect into this DISTRO?"
Tail Lift	A truck mounted hydraulic lifting platform allowing easy loading and unloading. Usually operated by sets of controls mounted within the body of the truck or outside by the rear wheel.
Tallescope	A vertical telescopic ladder with one-person cage, hinge-mounted to a wheeled base-frame. Allows easy and safe access to grids and roofs. Requires a flat floor and Outriggers. The ladder retracts and folds for easy storage
Tannoy	Both a trade name for a speaker manufacturer and generic name for small scale speakers used for public, dressing room or stage announcements
Tas	Shorthand for "Tas-Stage", a manufacturer of modular trussing and other systems
Tech Spec	Abbrev. Technical Specification. A list of physical and equipment requirements for a performance. Tech Specs can vary from generalised requests to very specific demands. See also Technical Rider.
Technical Rider	A central part of the contract between band and promoter, the technical rider details all the physical equipment, stage and hardware required for the performance. It should state precisely what is required, who will pay & when it's required.
Techie	Slang term for a stage technician.
Telehandler	Telescopic Materials Handler. A type of forklift with an extending boom arm rather than a vertical mast.
Telestage	Manufacturer and installer of theatrical systems, and original manufacturer of TAS triangular truss. The product is widely referred to by both names
TESA	The Event Suppliers Association. Trade body representing companies and organisations who provide equipment and services to shows and events - generally outdoors
Thimble	A metal U-channel formed into a teardrop shape and inserted into an eye made in rope or wire-rope. It protects the rope from wear and reduces the D:d RATIO, thus maintaining the SWL of the finished sling at the same level as that of the rope itself. Nylon thimbles are common on soft ropes such as cotton, in theatrical and circus applications
Thomas	Manufacturer of modular truss and other systems as in "Get me a 10 foot length of Thomas foot-square"
Threshold	The level of signal strength at which a signal processor begins to operate. Two common level-dependent devices are COMPRESSORS and NOISE GATES. The threshold level is that at which the Compressor begins to operate, or that the Noise Gate opens to allow passage of the signal. Being critical to the operation of such units, Thresholds are set by the user by means of a simple level control
Thrust	An area of stage that projects into the auditorium.

Ticketed (1)	Referring to an event type i.e. open to the public who must buy or obtain entrance tickets. As opposed to free access or private events
Ticketed (2)	Slang term for a person who holds a "ticket", "licence" or other certificate of competence to operate plant or machinery such as forklifts, MEWPS, etc.
Tie	An element of a structure, frequently a scaffold, that works in axial tension.
Tie-clip	See LEVALIER
Time-Alignment	In speaker arrays there may be some difference in the actual distance from the speaker cone to the listener across the frequency spectrum. This may be due to different mounting positions of speaker types within a cabinet, or to the placement of the boxes themselves. In either instance the listener will hear the output of different speakers at different times – this will lead to a muddying of the sound and loss of clarity. Tiny time delays are introduced into the signal chain to offset this difference in physical placement. This same phenomenon is encountered on a much larger scale with Delay Stacks or towers, and the same method is used to deal with it i.e. introduce a time delay to the speakers closest to the listener that matches the physical offset distance
Tirfor	A hand operated steel cable or rope tensioner, originally manufactured by Tirfor of Sweden. A simple ratched mechanism can be reversed to either draw in or pay out the cable. Can be RATED at up to 5 tonne loads. Common on marquees & tents and for tensioning CATENARY wires
Tomcat	Manufacturer of modular truss and other systems, including PAR cans
Total Fabs	Total Fabrications - manufacturer of modular truss and other staging systems
Tour Manager	The person responsible for arranging transport, logistics, technical matters and accommodation on a touring production. They will liase with promoters to ensure riders are met and will work very closely with bands to protect their interests.
Tower	Shorthand for Access Tower. The vertical component of GROUND SUPPORT systems
Trackway	Trade name but used as a generic term for any temporary roadway. Usually made from large aluminium sheets or rolls, trackway is essential for heavy vehicle movement on soft or muddy ground.
Transducer	Any device with the ability to convert energy from one form to another. Most commonly used when referring to audio decices which convert sound energy to electrical energy (microphones) or electrical energy to sound (loudspeakers)
Transom	A horizontal component in a scaffold, often used to support a deck surface.
Trap	Small covered trap in a stage floor concealing electrical outlets. (See Dip)
Transient	A rapidly rising, but short-lived signal. In audio terms clicks, drum hits and so on are termed transient sounds, whose volume may be far greater than the RMS average signal
Treads	Slang name for steps up to or on stage

Trelco	Slang term for a moulded 3 -way 15 amp socket adaptor used in lighting systems. A single plug with a 3 outlet block connected by a short flex means several fixtures can be plugged in together. Great care should be taken no to overload circuits
Trench	The shallow hole dug to protect cabling running across roads or through crowds. Often used as a verb as in "Trench that multi in for me, Mate"
Trim (1)	The chosen vertical height for flown equipment
Trim (2)	To adjust or calibrate the response of electrical circuits such as lighting dimmers, Load Cells, audio circuits and so on
Trim (3)	To decrease the area of a light beam, as in "Trim the shutter on that profile, to miss the lectern"
Trips	See RCD & MCB
Trouper	Slang term for a tripod mounted arc lamp used as a follow spot.
TRS (1)	Tough Rubber Sheath, term used for any double insulated mains cable – although most commonly lighting cable. A 15 metre TRS usually refers to a 15 metre rubber insulated cable with 15 amp connectors
TRS (2)	Tip-Ring-Sleeve. A type of Jack Plug, with a three connection pin. Commonly used either as a stereo plug (such as in headphone use) or as a Balanced mono plug
Truck	A wheeled platform used for moving items of set or equipment. See also Rolling Risers
Truck Ramp	A moulded alloy ramp used for loading and unloading vehicles. Angled and tapered at each end the ramp allows cases to be wheeled easily. Often stored under a lorry BELLY BOX
Truss	A generic name for modular load support beams - most commonly made from welded aluminium tubes. Truss comes in a variety of lengths and gauges and is often referred to by trade name such as Tri-lite, Thomas, Mini-beam, A-Type, GP etc. An assemblage of truss is referred to as TRUSSING
Truss Monkey	Slang term for person climbing on or erecting trussing systems. Often refers to a LAMPIE who is focusing
Trussing	See TRUSS
Tube & Clip	Generic steel scaffolding tube and right-angle or swivel clip construction, as opposed to modular scaffolding such as Kwik-Form or Layher.
Turnbuckle	See RIGGING SCREW
Twirlies	Slang term for performing members of a ballet group or dancers.
U.D.L.	Uniformly distributed load. A load that is spread evenly along the length of the supporting member (e.g. truss or beam).
Unbalanced	A 2-core system of audio connection where the screen (earth) acts as the signal return. PHONO connectors and two pole JACK PLUGS are used in un-balanced systems. Susceptible to external interference. DI Boxes are often used to convert unbalanced signals into Balanced ones
Underworld	A floor level under a stage floor used to house equipment such as dimmers and amplifiers.

Unity Gain	A setup whereby signal levels are neither boost nor cut as they pass from one item of equipment to another in an audio system. The ideal is to set signal levels at nominal 0dB, or 0.0775volts RMS average strength
Up Stage	The area of a stage furthest from an audience. In olden days stages were strongly inclined for better sightlines. To upstage an actor meant to force them to walk or stand further up the stage than you, allowing you to steal the glory
Up The Truss	Slang term for things that have gone horribly, but often laughably wrong.
Upset	Describes the orientation of a SHACKLE when the PIN is uppermost
Upstage	The position on a stage furthest from the audience. Derives from the time when theatre stages were steeply RAKED and the rear portion of the stage was considerable "up" compared to the front
UV	Ultra violet light or Blacklight. An effect which makes certain fabrics and materials glow strongly without emitting general illumination. Potential health hazards of skin sensitisation from excessive exposure or for people with sensitive skin.
Verlinde	A manufacturer of electric chain hoists and other lifting equipment. See Motors
Vidiot	Provocative term for a Video Operator/Video Camera Operator
Voice Coil	The finely coiled copper wire that is wound around a core at the centre of both Dynamic Microphones and Speakers. In the mic, incoming sound energy causes a diaphragm to vibrate, this is mounted on a movable cylinder around which the voice coil is wound. The coil vibrates within a fixed magnetic field and a tiny current is induced in the coil –this is the original audio signal. In a speaker the reverse operation occurs whereby a current is sent to the voice coil from an amplifier, which reacts against a fixed magnetic field and causes the attached cone to vibrate, radiating sound waves
Vomitory	An access or egress way through banked seating. Sometimes known as a Vom.
W.L.L.	Working Load Limit. See S.W.L.
Warm Up Gig	A show played prior to the commencement of a tour, often in front of an invited or "tame" at a small venue audience. Allows fine tuning of a show before its formal debut
Wedge	A floor mounted angled speaker enclosure designed for musicians to hear their own performance whilst on stage. See Monitors. Most wedges contain two Drivers and are Bi-amped
Wedge-Socket	Wire rope termination commonly seen on crane ropes; smaller versions available for general rigging applications. The major advantage is that the rope is not greatly deformed under load, so that it remains re-usable
Whipping	The binding with thin twine of a rope end to prevent fraying
White Noise	Sound containing all frequencies in the audio spectrum of the human ear, and all at the same volume level. Due to the characteristics of human hearing, the higher frequencies appear to be louder. See Pink Noise.
Wipe	A single moving curtain on a track (wipe track). See also Tabs.

Wire	Metal drawn into a thread of constant diameter, the smallest component of WIRE-ROPE
Wireless System	An audio signal system which relies on radio transmission of the signal rather than conventional signal cable. Either a Handheld mic or a Belt Pack transmitter feeds the signal to a Base Station, allowing a performer to move unencumbered by cable
Wire Rope Grip	The correct term for a temporary U-bolt and saddle assembly used to terminate wire-rope. Also known as a Dog or Cable-Dog
Wireless System	A microphone or instrument signal system that uses radio waves rather than a cable to carry the signal. Generally using either VHF or UHF frequencies. See also Belt Pack, Diversity and Hand-Held
Wire-Rope	Wire Filaments are twisted together to form STRANDS. These strands are themselves wound round a central Core, which may be of fibre or a strand of wires itself. Many types are available in different diameters and weaves. The commonest are 6x19 and 7x19; the first meaning six strands of 19 wires around a central core; the second to six similar strands around a seventh 19-wire core
Wardrobe	Musicians and performers stage clothes and costumes.
Wardrobe Mistress	Person (usually female) who looks after musicians and performers stage clothes and costumes (including washing and ironing).
Workplace Regs	The Workplace (Health, Safety & Welfare) Regulations 1992. The law governing the condition of buildings and general conditions for people carrying out work operations – includes information regarding washing, toilet and rest facilities
Work Positioning	The process of getting to a place of work by means of ropes or other access equipment. Regs require a sit harness to be work during work positioning - but a full body harness must be used if the final workplace requires Fall Arrest
Work Restraint	During work activity at height on a platform, floor or walkway, a Work Restraint belt prevents the person getting near enough to the edge to actually fall. Worn in Cherry Picker cages, MEWPS and so on.
Workers	Generic name for stage or area working lights, allowing crew to rig. Usually independent of normal stage lighting, and switched from stage not Front of House.
Wrap	The Basket or Choke of steel wire-rope or polyester sling, which circles a beam at the top of a rigging assembly, or truss or other load at the bottom of the assembly
X-brace	Opposing diagonal braces used to stiffen a structure
XLR	A Balanced three pin connector which allows for an earth shield independent of the neutral core.
Y-split	A cable with a single plug and two sockets allowing two items of equipment to be connected. If both outgoing cables are wired to the same plug terminals then the split is parallel and no voltage drop is produced. See Series Split
Z	Measure of Impedance of a piece of equipment, as in Hi-Z, Lo-Z microphones.
Zarges	Trade name for an A-frame ladder with an extending section that projects beyond the top of the apex. Very useful for rigging and focusing in awkward spots. Available in a range of sizes

Zip-up Tower	Trade name for modular aluminium Access Towers, with wheels, outriggers and work platform.
Zyper	A product manufactured by Petzl, who make climbing gear and harnesses. A Zyper is a shock-absorbing component introduced between a safety line and a harness to minimise Fall Arrest injuries