Clay Paky Sharpy

Nothing bodgey about the new genre-busting Sharpy.

Text / Paul Collison

IF YOU WERE WONDERING about the whirlwind of excitement that blazed through Sydney and Melbourne in February, it was Italian lighting manufacturer Clay Paky, showing off its latest innovations to lighting professionals. Recently re-forming with Australian distributor Show Technology, Alberico D’Amato from Clay Paky was the all-smiling ringmaster showing off his trove of exciting new moving lights. Among an impressive array of new features and fixtures, was a little surprise packet called, Sharpy. What a fuss it caused!

Clay Paky has most certainly been the most innovative lighting manufacturer in recent times. Its amazing beam fixtures redefined the moving light and spawned a plethora of ‘me too’ copy-cat fixtures. Now Clay Paky has done it all again with the Sharpy.

ULTRA LUX

If there are three types of moving lights – profile/spot, wash and beam – then the Sharpy is more likely to fit into the ‘beam’ category. With a killer 0° to 3° beam angle, the Sharpy produces a beautiful, sharp, almost parallel beam. It simply needs to be seen to be believed. What’s more, it is bright – the specification says 55000lux at 20m. Hold your hand in front of the light at a few meters and you can actually feel the intense heat in the beam. Place your hand on the fixture and you notice the unit is barely warm, indicating that the vast majority of energy is being transferred through the optical system, rather than out of the back of the unit. The optical field is certainly peaked, however, given that the beam is so small, this doesn’t present a problem. There is no haloation to speak of, resulting in an immaculate, strong beam that could easily outdo older searchlight generation 10 times the size of the Sharpy, and beam – then the Sharpy is more likely to fit into the ‘beam’ category. With a killer 0° to 3° beam angle, the Sharpy produces a beautiful, sharp, almost parallel beam. It simply needs to be seen to be believed. What’s more, it is bright – the specification says 55000lux at 20m. Hold your hand in front of the light at a few meters and you can actually feel the intense heat in the beam. Place your hand on the fixture and you notice the unit is barely warm, indicating that the vast majority of energy is being transferred through the optical system, rather than out of the back of the unit. The optical field is certainly peaked, however, given that the beam is so small, this doesn’t present a problem. There is no haloation to speak of, resulting in an immaculate, strong beam that could easily outdo older searchlight generation 10 times the size of the Sharpy.

After being blown away by the beam of this fixture, it’s the physical size that really makes you look twice. At only 16kg and barely 500mm high and 300mm wide, the Sharpy is a fixture that can easily be hung anywhere. Sharpy is tiny compared to its bigger 1500W cousins, and this size comes with huge advantages. Because Sharpy is so light and small, the pan and tilt speed is fast. The inertia of its head movement is minimal allowing for amazing movement, unprecedented in a moving head – the rapid movement of simultaneous pan and tilt is reminiscent of moving mirrors. Used in numbers, this fitting can really begin to get the same kind of snappy movements normally attributed to lasers.

It is quickly apparent that the Sharpy will never be asked to do tricks in the bag of the designer. Some clever texture selections make for some really great effects – it is amazing what can be done with such a narrow beam. The prism mechanism moves up and down the optical chain providing a zoom like effect – a new innovation that provides some more tricks in the bag of the designer.

LOW PROFILE

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Demand has seen delivery times for the new units slip to almost six weeks – a testament to the popularity of the new fixture. Already specified (eight times) on two new television projects, the Sharpy absolutely seems to be ready to make a splash on broadcast television and live events across Australia.

Price

$xxxx

Show Technology: (02) 9748 1122 or www.showtech.com.au

INDUSTRY AGOG

Simon Barrett of Show Technology in Melbourne notes that the Sharpy is a special fixture that has generated a lot of excitement. “It really is a ground-breaking light, a breath of fresh air. The Sharpy is going to allow designers to create some great looks never before seen. We are very excited about the year ahead with the Sharpy.”

In this writer’s mind, not since Marin’s mass market penetration with Mac 500 and 600 Series has there been such an industry-wide buzz. Dramatic? Sure, but true. Tim Hall of ResolutionX in Melbourne was so impressed that his company quickly snapped up 16 Sharpy units after spotting them at PLASA. Tim says “It takes a lot to make my jaw drop, but the brightness of the Sharpy, while being so small and fast is amazing. They are going to people to realise previously-impossible new design concepts. Our Alpha Beam 700s have been hugely popular and we expect the Sharpy to complement them nicely.”

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