

KAM LED Powerbar

Add some dramatic lighting effects to your live gigs with this highly portable and very powerful lighting rig from KAM... **Words:** Tim Slater

It never ceases to amaze how many bands don't bother to factor in lighting when assembling and costing up the various elements – PA, backline etc – that are necessary to get the show on the road.

Not every venue can be relied upon to include its own lighting system either and the feeble glow of two 60 watt mock-Victorian wall lamps isn't exactly going to help enhance anyone's performance. Secondly, from an audience's perspective good lighting helps to create an atmosphere whilst also adding a more professional gloss to any half decent live show. Compared to the practical necessity of needing a decent PA system lighting can seem like a bit of an extravagance, not to mention a lot of extra gear to carry, but the KAM LED Powerbar is a highly portable lighting rig that adds stunning lighting effects whilst also being well within the tight budget of a typical semi-pro musician or band.

LED technology is what has made this KAM system possible and so appealing. Compared to a set of old fashioned par cans – the 'proper' lights with bulbs and everything –

LED par cans are a fraction of the physical size and weight. To be fair, there is still something pretty impressive looking about a full set of old school par cans beaming down onto the stage but the Powerbar LED system quickly puts forward a convincing argument regarding its own unique advantages. The KAM Powerbar system is essentially a complete portable lighting rig that comprises four flat LED par cans mounted on a central crossbar, plus a separate collapsible tripod stand, power cable and a remote footswitch. The crossbar and LED par cans fold neatly away in a flightcase while the lighting tripod has its own separate nylon zip-up bag. We can vouch for the setup advantages of this highly flexible and lightweight setup; we erected the complete Powerbar rig (ooh! Mrs!) and had it plugged in and working in less time than it takes to make a cup of tea.

Lights fantastic

Besides serving as a mount for the fully adjustable individual LED par cans the central crossbar also houses the electronics that control the Powerbar's functions. Sound-to-light starts the lights' chase sequence as soon as an external sound source is picked up by the microphone built into the crossbar. The mic is linked to a rotary control that sets the light's sensitivity to the incoming sound and the results are very impressive. Individual LED colour, brightness and sequencing can be adjusted via a digital control on the crossbar and DMX in and out connections connect the Powerbar to other external DMX-compatible systems such as fog machines or moving laser lights. DMX is essentially a MIDI-style digital operating system that is the industry standard for all modern lighting systems and the DMX facility

– even on a relatively modest little rig like this one – makes it easy to add extra bits to the whole lighting/special effects setup and control them all via DMX if the performer is inclined to do so.

The Powerbar's included foot controller unit connects directly to the central crossbar via a five-pin cable and is pretty much essential for synchronizing the lightshow properly with the performance. Between-song blackouts or holds can be selected remotely and the lights' sequencing can toggle between the aforementioned Sound-On mode or a choice of presets. It's very easy to use and there is really nothing to go wrong, even in the unlikely event that you make a



KAM LED Powerbar

SRP £589.95

All prices include VAT

CONTACT

KAM

T: 01582 690600

W: www.kam.co.uk



In the bag: The tripod stand stashed neatly in its lightweight nylon gigbag

mistake and call up the wrong preset selecting the right one is simply a matter of tapping in your preferred preset number via the footswitch until the correct preset comes up.

The LEDs themselves provide a stunning lightshow; each par can features seven separate LED clusters and the brightness, diffusion and range of colours provides plenty of variation and movement with the added advantage that LEDs don't produce enormous quantities of heat. Standard par cans fitted with conventional bulbs can feel pretty intense and uncomfortable, especially in small venues when the performers are forced to gently roast directly in the full glare of the stage lighting.

The LED Powerbar feels great to use in every respect; it is light, hassle free (negating the maintenance of fragile light bulbs and coloured gels) and the price feels about right, especially considering that it is pretty much the state of the art, at least as far as compact self-contained lighting rigs go. **PM**

WHY SHOULD I WANT ONE?

If you or your band/show lacks lighting you need it NOW! The KAM Powerbar is portable, easy and cheap to maintain and includes everything necessary to set up a professional looking lighting rig in one use-friendly package. A sensible investment for any band, we reckon.