



JANDS STAGE CL

JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF CONTROL

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THE STAGE 12/24 FROM JANDS WAS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF A SIMPLE THING, DONE REALLY WELL. THE STAGE CL FOLLOWS IN ITS FOOTSTEPS, YET AT THE SAME TIME IT'S LIKE A BIGGER BROTHER IN THAT IT DOES MORE.

The popularity of affordable LED fixtures has answered a lot of questions for many users, but at the same time it's generated another, bigger question. How to control the darned things? Typically people have gone down one of two paths – they use a standard 2 preset console which leads to confusion about which channel is intensity, and which channel does what colour, and so on. This sucks, but so does the alternative of buying a big moving light console (way more console than you actually need for a few LEDs) and only using a fraction of it. Stage CL represents the middle ground, and it answers the above question.

Physically the console is a bit of a deviation from the traditional Jands engineering we've known and loved, but that



Back panel includes kensington lock slot



Mimic LEDs show you what's going on for each channel

doesn't mean you won't love it. The underside is made from red sheet metal, and the top panel is black plastic. So are the buttons, encoders and faders. The back panel has a 5 pin XLR DMX output, Ethernet port for ArtNet, USB connectors for memory (you can save your show to a USB key for later recall), and 12 DC power input. The power connector should to my mind be a locking 4 pin XLR, but at least there's a cable restraint for the DC socket.

Using the Stage CL is extremely easy, and this is reflective of its intended market. Turning it on, boot-up takes a little longer than expected but it's certainly within acceptable limits. Patching is a simple affair, done using the touch screen and rotary encoder adjacent. A large bank of fixtures exists in the library, and making your own fixture is really easy. I made a profile for some cheapo LED cans without even referring to the destruction manual, and it worked first go. Big props there! Each fixture (or group of fixtures if you duplicate DMX addresses across multiples) is represented by a fader for intensity, and a pair of rotary encoders above which control hue and saturation. Pushing the encoder downward causes a jump through values (colour, and fully saturated/white). Think of it like a channel strip on a mixer. Selecting multiple channels by using the select buttons above faders, you can make the same change to multiple fixtures simultaneously using any of the selected "channel" encoders. Conventional dimming is covered too, with just the fader used to represent a dimmer channel. Team it up with a 4PAK-D and some LEDs for a low power show anyone can operate – even driveway hire clients!

If simple colour changes isn't enough, the Stage CL has

a bunch of inbuilt colour patterns and chases – you get to these from the “colour” page on the main screen.. Chases and colour patterns are applied to whatever fixtures you’ve got selected. Getting back to the home screen at any stage is easy – push the home button beneath the screen.

You can record states to a bunch of places – the faders can act as submasters, there’s a cue list, 4x scene recalls and 4x chase recalls. Record is a 2 button process – hit record, then the thing you want to store your scene in. Fade time from step to step is controlled with a dedicated knob which has a pop-up showing the time in seconds (up to 1000 seconds). A similar knob adjusts chase speed in BPM. Multicolour mimic LEDs above each channel show a representation of the channels output colour. It’s possible to get into cue lists and chases and see an on-screen representation of what each channel is outputting step by step.

Probably the nicest thing about the Stage CL (aside from the price) is the operability – it’s been designed with novice users in mind and in all fairness there’s not really a lot you could do to screw up a show on this console. The lighting brainiacs will no doubt figure a way to make it control basic

moving head functions (I did), but that’s not what it’s about. It’s targeted at schools, nightclubs, community venues and anyone who doesn’t have the experience and/or budget for a bigger console. It’s a fun console to use, and beyond just the target market I think it’s likely to land in the hands of more experienced users, and moreover gain their respect.



THIS IS THE HOME SCREEN



THIS IS THE PATCH SCREEN



AND THIS IS ONE OF THE COLOUR PATTERN SCREENS

BRAND: JANDS
MODEL: STAGE CL
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PRODUCT INFO: WWW.JANDS.COM.AU
DISTRIBUTOR: WWW.JANDS.COM.AU

