

GLOSSARY

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| #0000, four ought cable | Largest available size of stranded wire for electrical service, generally used as feeder cable. |
| #4 black tie line | Sometimes known as “trick line” this small, braided cording is used on the tops of curtains, and for fixing cable to an electric. |
| 1/4" jack | A type of electrical connector used in sound equipment. |
| 2 pin lamp base | The most common type of base used on theatrical lamps. |
| 240 volt service | Most common residential type of electric service with two hot conductors and a neutral. |
| 3.5 inch floppy disk | An older storage format used in an A drive. Still used on Expression® light boards. |
| 3-4-5 method | A way of using a triangle with sides 3, 4, and 5 units to form a right angle. |
| 3 rd octave equalizer | A filter used to boost some audio frequencies and reduce others. |
| 3 pin XLR | The type of connector used on mike cables. |
| 3-phase power | Power feed with three hots, one neutral, and a ground. |
| 4 pin XLR | The type of connector used on scrollers. |
| 5 pin XLR | The type of connector used for DMX cables. |
| 5/16" hex key | The size and type of wrench used to tighten/loosen a coffin lock. |
| 60 cycle hum | Noise in a sound system caused by the natural sine curve of AC power. |
| ACL | Aircraft Landing Light, 28.5 volt lamps used as narrow angled spots. |
| Acrylic sheet | Generic name of Plexiglas®. |
| Address | The numerical position of a unit in a DMX universe. |
| Air compressor | Motor, piston, and tank used to hold compressed air for pneumatic tools. |
| Aircraft cable | A high grade wire rope usually made of stainless steel. |
| Aliphatic resin glue | Yellow carpenter’s glue. |
| Alternating current | An electrical current that flows both forward and backward. |
| Ambient light | Light from a fixture that is not part of the intended output. |
| Ampere | Unit of measurement for electrical current. |
| Angle grinder | A hand-held abrasive tool for smoothing steel. |
| Angle iron | Pre-made steel hardware used to connect wooden corners. |
| ANSI | American National Standards Institute—sets standards for things like lamp sizes. |
| Apex | The point where the three parts of a rigging bridle come together. |
| Apron | The front edge of a stage, or the bottom trim on a window. |

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| Arbor | The frame that holds stage weights in a rigging system, or the shaft holding a saw blade. |
| Arc lamp | A lamp that uses an electrical arc rather than a filament. Example: Xenon or HMI. |
| Arc welder | A machine for welding using an electrical arc, rather than gas, for heating the metal. |
| Arena rigging | Rigging with chain motors rather than a hemp or counterweight system. |
| Argon/CO ₂ mix | The type of gas mixture commonly used for MIG welding steel. |
| Asbestos curtain | A non-flammable curtain used to separate the audience from the stage. |
| ASM | Assistant Stage Manager. |
| Attribute | A quality added to an object in a CAD drawing. |
| Audacity program | A Mac sound editing program. |
| Austrian drape | A type of decorative stage curtain that rises by gathering from the bottom. |
| AutoCAD | A very popular computer drafting program. |
| AUX/auxiliary send | A way of routing audio signals to an alternate path such as a monitor. |
| AWG wire gauges | The diameter of electrical wires, relating to their capacity in amps. |
| Backflap hinge | The type of hinge most frequently used in wooden stage scenery. |
| Balcony | An upper part of a theatre's audience seating. |
| Balcony rail position | A pipe for hanging lights that is attached to the front of a balcony. |
| Ball peen hammer | A metal-working hammer with one flat and one rounded end. |
| Ballyhoo | Moving a followspot around the audience in a swirling fashion. |
| Baluster | One of the uprights in a handrail. |
| Band saw | A stationary saw used to cut curves in wood, plastic, or aluminum. |
| Barge cement | A type of contact cement used for small repairs. |
| Barn doors | Mechanical shutters used on the front of a Fresnel lighting instrument. |
| Barrel bolt | A type of door lock using a steel bar that slides back and forth. |
| Basket | A loop made in the end of a steel arena rigging cable and used to make a connection to a beam. |
| Batten | A pipe over a proscenium stage used to hang scenery or lights. |
| Batten heavy | A condition in stage rigging where the weight on the pipe is more than the weight in the arbor. |
| Bay window | A type of window that projects out from the structure. |
| Bead board | Expanded polyurethane plastic that flakes off in small beads. Often mistakenly called Styrofoam. |
| Beam angle | The size of the angle at which light emanates from a stage lighting fixture. |

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| Beam position | A place for hanging lights in the ceiling of an auditorium. |
| Belaying pin | A pin inserted into a rail used in tying off a hemp rigging system. Works like a cleat. |
| Belt sander | Either a stationary or hand-held machine for smoothing wood. |
| Bent nail | A shop-made pin for hinges, commonly used instead of the original. |
| Binder | One of the three elements in paint, one that causes it to stick to the surface being painted. |
| Black box theatre | A type of theatre that can be configured differently for each show, with regard to the audience/stage relationship. |
| Black steel pipe | A type of pipe originally meant for water pipes, but now often used as a structural material. |
| Blackout | A moment in a play when all the lights go out suddenly, or a black curtain used to mask the upstage area during a scene change. |
| Blade set | The amount a saw blade tooth sticks out from the body of the blade. |
| Bleed-through | An effect where lighting makes it appear as though a scrim has melted away, and the audience can see through it. |
| Blind mode | A method of adjusting cues on an ETC board, that can be accomplished without altering the look of a currently used cue in a rehearsal. |
| Block | A pulley that is bolted in one position and does not swivel, or to set the movements in a play. |
| Blueprint | An older, no longer used method of creating a large print of a drawing with a blue background and white foreground. |
| Board foot | A method of measuring wood by volume, 1" x 12" x 12". |
| Bobbinette | A type of net fabric similar to scrim. |
| Bolt | A mechanical fastener with machine threads that is used in conjunction with a nut. |
| Bolt cutters | Long handled, high leverage tool for cutting small steel rods like bolts. |
| Bondo® | Plastic material used to fill dents in car fenders that can also be used on scenery. |
| Boomerang | Color changing mechanism on a followspot. |
| Border | A curtain used to mask the overhead space of a theatre. |
| Border light | A strip of lights used to illuminate a swath across the stage, or to light a cyc. |
| Bottle | The part of an ETC Source 4 Par that rotates the oval light pattern. |
| Bottom pipe | A ~3/8" pipe used in the bottom of a drop to remove wrinkles. |
| Bow in a board | Curvature along the length. |

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| Bow knot | “Shoe tying” knot used to attach curtains and drops to battens. |
| Bowline | A knot that creates a fixed loop in the end of a line, often used in arena rigging. |
| Box boom position | A place for hanging lights in the box seat area of a proscenium theatre. |
| Box nail | A thinner diameter type of nail as opposed to a common nail. |
| Box set | A realistic interior set, usually with three walls. |
| Box truss | The type of truss often used with chain motors in rigging rock shows. |
| Box-end wrench | The type that fully encircles the nut. |
| Brad | A very small nail. |
| Breakout | An electrical component that segues from multicable to individual jumpers. |
| Brick/stage weight | A steel or lead weight used as counterbalance. |
| Bridle | Two steel cables that adjust the placement of a motor between two beams. |
| Bronzing powder | Ground-up metal powder used to make metallic paints. |
| Bull line | A rope used in safely rigging out-of-balance battens. |
| Bumper | A steel ring used to protect an electric from being hit by other flying pieces. |
| Burlap | A course-weave fabric made from jute. |
| Burr | A metal shard left on a piece from cutting it. |
| Bus bar | A large conductor used to connect many parts, as in a dimmer enclosure. |
| Butt hinge | The type of hinge most commonly used on doors. |
| Cable crate | A box used to hold electrical cable, especially for a tour. |
| Cable pick | A line used to drape electric cables over the stage. |
| Cable ties | Plastic ties used to bundle cables together, often with a ratchet mechanism. |
| Call board | A bulletin board used to display information for a theatre group. |
| Call light | An LED on a headset beltpack used to get a person’s attention. |
| Call the show | Announce the cues for a show to the crew members. |
| Cam lock connector | A type of single conductor connector used on feeder cables. |
| Cambium | The living wood part of a tree, just under the bark. |
| Cane bolt | A rod used to hold rolling scenery in place on the stage floor. |
| Canvas | A heavy duty cotton fabric, similar to muslin. |
| Captured channel | A selected lighting channel on an ETC board. |
| Carriage | The side part of a step unit that holds the treads and risers in place. |
| Carriage bolt | A type of bolt with a rounded head, and no drive for a wrench or screw driver. |
| Carrier | A frame that holds up a group of platforms. |
| Cartridge fuse | A tubular electrical fuse, often used in high current applications. |
| Casein | A binder made from milk products that was once used to create a variety of scenic paint. |

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| Casement window | A window with crank-out sashes. |
| Caster load rating | The amount of weight a caster can hold up. |
| Caster mounting plate | The metal plate on a caster used to connect it to scenery. |
| Caster offset | The amount of difference between the center of the vertical axis of a caster plate, and the horizontal axle of its wheel. That is the amount the caster must move before the wheel starts to rotate. |
| Caster/rigid | A caster that travels only back and forth. |
| Caster/swivel | A caster that pivots so that the unit can move in any direction. |
| Category 5 cable | The type of cable and connector used for Ethernet connections. |
| Caulk gun | A device used to apply caulk or mastic from tubes. |
| C-clamp | A woodworking clamp with a screw thread, or a clamp used to secure lights to a round pipe. |
| Center line | The y axis on a plan view of a stage setting. It runs up and down in the center of the stage. |
| Center punch | A tool used to indent the center of a hole, which is then drilled out. |
| Chain bag | The bag used to hold the excess chain used in hoist motors. |
| Chain hoist | A motor/chain device used to hoist scenery and lights. |
| Chain motor | The same thing as a chain hoist. |
| Chalk line | String in a box filled with chalk, which can be stretched out and snapped, creating a straight line between two points. |
| Chamfer bit | A router bit used to create a decorative edge at a 45 degree angle. |
| Channel | One line of information in a DMX signal. |
| Cheeseborough® | A type of clamp used to connect round pipes with no wrench. |
| Cheesecloth | A loose weave fabric often used to protect Styrofoam construction. |
| Chisel | A sharp-pointed tool used to pare away wood in a mortise. |
| Choke | A type of knot used to grip a pipe, especially with a Spanset type of sling. |
| Chop saw | A large, stationary grinding wheel that cuts through steel. |
| Chopper | One of the controls on a followspot, it chops off the top and bottom of the beam. |
| Chuck | The clamp part of a drill that holds the bit. |
| Chuck key | A wrench used to tighten/loosen a drill chuck. |
| CIE color chart | Displays a spectrum of colors arranged in a circular manner with white in the center. |
| Circuit | The pathway that electricity takes when performing a useful function. |
| Circular saw | Often called a Skilsaw, this power hand tool has a round blade for cutting wood. |

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| Clew | A piece of hardware used to connect several hemp lines together in a hemp rigging system. |
| Clipping | The end result of too much amplification in a sound system. |
| Clove hitch | A knot used to grip a round pipe. |
| Coffin lock | A cam-type piece of hardware often used to connect platforms together. |
| Collet | This clamp on a router, similar to a chuck, is used to hold the bit in place. |
| Color correction gel | Color filter used (most often) to change a 32°K lamp temperature to 56°K. |
| Color filter | A colored glass or plastic plate used to filter out all but a specific wavelength of light. |
| Color scroller | A device used to make multiple light color changes by means of a long string of different filters. |
| Common nail | A nail with a larger diameter shaft than a box nail. |
| Complementary angle | An angle that, when added to another, equals 90 degrees. |
| Complementary color | A color that, when added to another, produces white light. |
| Compression load | A load that presses downward on a structure. |
| Condenser microphone | A type of microphone using the principle of a capacitor and requiring a phantom power supply. |
| Conductor | A wire or some other metal device meant for carrying an electrical current. |
| Cone speaker | A speaker with a paper cone inside that transduces electrical impulses into sound waves. |
| Construction grade lumber | The normal grades of wood sold at a standard lumber yard, mostly the #2 type. |
| Contact cement | An adhesive-like green glue that must be applied to both surfaces and allowed to dry before bonding. Adheres on contact. |
| Control/a | Hot keys for selecting all. |
| Control/c | Hot keys for copying a selection. |
| Control/n | Hot keys for opening a new file in a program. |
| Control/p | Hot keys for print. |
| Control/v | Hot keys for paste. |
| Corner block | The 1/4" plywood forming the connection at the corner of a flat. |
| Corner brace | A structural member used to brace a corner at an angle. A rack brace. |
| Corner iron | A piece of steel hardware used to connect members at a 90 degree angle. |
| Cornice | Decorative trim around the top of a wall. |
| Countersink | The v-shaped depression that a flat head screw fits into so that it is flush with the surface. |

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| Counterweight system | A rigging system in a theatre that uses a counterweight arbor to balance the load on a batten. |
| Covered joint | A type of joint that uses a wooden cover to connect two pieces of wood, like on a flat. |
| Crescent/adjustable wrench | The type of open-end wrench most often used in lighting work because it can be adjusted to fit many different bolt and nut sizes. |
| Cross cut | To cut a piece of lumber across the grain at a 90 degree angle. |
| Cross fade | Move from one look to another without a blackout |
| Cross-buck | A diagonal X brace on a unit of scaffolding. |
| Crossfaders | The sliders on a lighting console used to cross fade. |
| Crossover | A pathway made upstage to cross back and forth out of view of the audience. |
| Crow's foot | A v-shaped mark used to indicate where a board should be cut. |
| Crown in a board | A curve that is frequently placed going up on decking, or inward when making a flat. |
| Crown molding | Molding used to create a cornice. |
| Cue | The time when something should happen. |
| Cue light | A light used to warn stagehands of an impending cue. |
| Cue set rehearsal | A time when cues are set, often called a Dry Tech. |
| Cue to cue | A rehearsal that jumps from cue to cue without using the intervening dialogue. |
| Culling | To go through a material such as lumber and pick out the best or worst pieces. |
| Cup in a board | Curvature across the grain that can be most easily seen from the end. |
| Current | Electron flow through a conductor, measured in Amps. |
| Curved claw hammer | A type of woodworking hammer that can easily remove nails. |
| Cut list | A list of the specific sizes of parts to be cut to construct something. |
| Cut off wheel | A very thin grinding wheel used to cut steel. |
| Cyberlight | A type of moving-mirror light. |
| Cyc light | Lights, like strip lights, used to light a cyclorama. |
| Cyclorama/cyc | A large piece of fabric at the rear of a stage set that can be lit with different colors, most often blue to represent the sky. |
| D-ring and plate | Rigging hardware with parts shaped as the name implies. |
| Dado joint | A means of connecting wood by removing a channel that a secondary part fits into. |
| Daisy chain | To connect parts one after the other in a serial fashion. |
| dB/decibel | Unit of measurement for sound volume or signal amplification. |
| Dead end pulley | The pulley at the end of a traveler track that returns the line to the start. |

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| Dead hung | A curtain which is statically hung from the grid and does not move. Alternatively, an arena rigging term for a rig with only one down leg, which is not a bridle. |
| Dead-man switch | A switch that turns off automatically when you let go of it. |
| Deck | The stage floor, or a series of platforms that create a floor. |
| Deck chain | A type of large chain used in arena rigging. |
| Deckhand | A stage hand who works the stage, or a grip. |
| De-energized | Not connected to electricity. |
| Delta connection | A triangular method of stepping down 3-phase power voltage, not often used in theatres. |
| Dentil molding | A “toothed” piece of trim often used in a cornice molding. |
| De-rate | To lower the load rating of a line or piece of hardware because of additional stress factors. |
| Desk | Another name for a lighting or sound board or console. The latest jargon term for that. |
| Diagonal pliers | A tool for cutting wires. |
| Dichroic filter | A type of lighting filter that works in the same manner of a prism to split light into different colors. |
| Die | A tool used to put threads on the end of a smooth rod. |
| Diffusion gel | A polyester filter with (usually) no color that is used to spread light out. |
| Dip switch | A type of switch that can be directly mounted on a printed circuit board and was once popular for addressing digital lighting equipment. |
| DC/direct current | A type of current where the electrons flow in only one direction from the negative terminal to the positive terminal. |
| Disconnect box | An electrical device used to turn on circuits at the fuse box. |
| DMX 512 | The computer signal used to transmit information to digital theatre equipment. |
| Donut | A metal plate used in an ellipsoidal light to sharpen the image of a gobo. |
| Double action hinge | A hinge that can move in two directions, like a swinging kitchen door. |
| Double miter joint | A joint mitered in two different directions. |
| Double purchase | A type of counterweight system with an extra pulley on the top of the arbor so that the lift cables are doubled over and the travel of the arbor is cut in half. |
| Double-hung window | A traditional type of window with two sashes hung one over the other. |
| Downstage | Toward the audience. |
| Dowser | The metal plate used to reduce the brightness of a followspot with an arc lamp that cannot be dimmed by lowering the voltage. |

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| Drapes | Stage curtains. |
| Dress rehearsal | One of a series of rehearsals where the actors wear costumes. |
| Drill press | A large, stationary drill. |
| Drive | The type of head used in a screw or bolt, such as Phillips or square. |
| Drop box | A metal enclosure dropped down from the grid, used to house a number of lighting circuits. |
| Drop | A painted piece of fabric hung in the same manner as a curtain. |
| Dry tech | A cue-setting rehearsal at a university where actors are not present. |
| Drywall screw | A type of fastener originally designed to hang drywall, but now used for many different projects. |
| Drywall square | A large T-square. |
| Dummy knob | A doorknob with no latch. |
| Duvetyn | A type of black fabric often used in place of the more expensive velour. |
| Elastomeric | A thick paint-like waterproofing substance often used to seal scenery before painting it. |
| Electrical tape | Vinyl tape used in electrical work, and for color coding different items. |
| Electric | A batten over the stage used for lighting purposes. |
| Electromotive force | The force that causes electrons to move in a wire, measured in volts. |
| Ellipsoidal instrument | A light with an ellipsoidal reflector, sometimes called a Leko. |
| Emphasis® | The ETC system that uses a PC server to enhance the workings of a light board. |
| Energized | An electrical circuit that is connected to a power source. |
| Erosion cloth | A very loose-weave jute fabric once popular for texturizing scenery. |
| Escape stairs | A set of back stage steps used to get down from a platform out of sight of the audience. |
| ETC® | Electronic Theatre Controls, a company that manufactures lighting equipment. |
| Ethafoam rod | A type of foam insulation that is flexible and can be cut into shapes for trim. |
| Ethernet | A networking system used to connect two or more computers in a LAN or Local Access Network. |
| Expanded polystyrene | A type of (Styrofoam) plastic foam made from tiny beads of polystyrene. |
| Extension leg | A metal leg with holes in it that can be used to raise/lower a platform. |
| Extruded polystyrene | A type of (Styrofoam) open cell plastic foam extruded through a die. |
| Eyebolt | A bolt with an eye shape at one end. |
| Face weld | A weld made from the face of one member to the face of another, and not in a corner. |
| Facing piece | A wooden part in a hardcover flat used to connect two pieces of facing material. |

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| Fader controls | The cross faders on a computer light board. |
| Fastener | Hardware used to connect structural parts, such as a bolt, screw, lag bolt, etc. |
| Feed rate | The speed with which the operator can pass material through a machine such as a table saw with maximum efficiency. |
| Feedback loop | A condition where a certain sound frequency tends to be replicated by a sound system that results in a high-pitched squeal. |
| Feeder cable | Large conductors used to feed a dimmer or sound system. |
| Felco/cable cutters | Special cutters for slicing through aircraft cable or other types of steel wire rope. |
| Filament | The part of a lamp that glows and produces light. |
| Fillet weld | A weld between two parts that is made in the corner of their intersection, and not on the flat side. |
| Finger board | A jig used to hold wood in place on a tool such as a table saw. |
| Finger tight | Tightened with only the fingers, and not a wrench. |
| Finish grade lumber | A grouping of lumber that includes the letters A, B, C, and D. Usually only found at a specialty lumberyard. |
| Finish nail | A nail with a small, rounded head meant to be set below the finished surface. |
| Fir | A type of tree often used for lumber purposes. |
| Fire code | A set of rules enforced by a fire marshal, intended to reduce the incidence of fires. |
| Fire curtain | A curtain of (usually) sealed asbestos fibers, separating a stage from the auditorium in a theatre. |
| Fire Marshall | The person who is responsible for interpreting the meaning of the fire code in a specific jurisdiction, and who has the final say in all matters. |
| Fixture | Another name for a light, or lighting instrument. |
| Flag | Wave your hand in front of the light so that its affect can be seen on the stage. |
| Flame proof | A condition that exists in a flammable material where it has been treated with chemicals so that it will not support an active flame. Does not mean non-flammable. |
| Flexible seating | Seats in a black box theatre that can be moved around to suit a particular production. |
| Flood | To spread light out over a wide area, as in a Fresnel lighting instrument. |
| Floor mount | A light on a moveable wooden base. |
| Floral tape | Wax-coated green or brown tape used in flower arranging. |
| Floral wire | Thin green wire used in flower arranging. |

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| Flush trim bit | A router bit used to trim off excess laminate, or thin plywood facings. |
| Flux | A coating on a welding rod that prevents oxidation, or a magnetic field. |
| Fly house | The structure over a proscenium theatre that houses the rigging equipment. |
| FOH position | Front of house position. A place for hanging lights over the audience. |
| FOH, front of house | The auditorium or lobby. |
| Followspot | A light operated by a stagehand, which can follow the movement of actors on the stage. |
| Forced perspective | An exaggerated drawing that shows objects larger in the foreground and smaller in the background. |
| Frame | An enclosed flat structure, used with others, to form a more complex unit with the advantage of being easily stored. Alternatively, a metal folder that encloses a lighting gel. |
| Frame number | On a followspot, the number of the frame holding a gel color. |
| Framing | The skeletal parts of a structure that hold it together. |
| Framing square | A 16" x 24" steel or aluminum square. |
| Freehand | To run a board through a saw without a guide. Very dangerous on some saws. |
| French door | A door with lights, or windows in it. |
| Fresnel | An older type of lighting instrument. |
| Front light | Light that comes from the front of the stage, or another name for a followspot. |
| Full-scale pattern | A pattern that is drawn out to be the same size as the finished object. |
| Full-body shot | A followspot that completely covers the actor. |
| Fullness | The amount of extra material in a curtain that creates folds or pleats. |
| Fusible link | A chain link designed to come apart at a certain temperature, presumably in a fire. |
| Gaffer's tape | A type of cloth duct tape used in theatre and movies. |
| GAM® | A company that manufactures gels, gobos, and other lighting supplies. |
| GamChek® | A device for checking faults in an electrical circuit, especially one with a pin connector. |
| Garage Band | A Mac program for editing sound. |
| Gas flow regulator | A device that regulates (among other things) the flow of welding gas from a tank. |
| Gate | The space in an ellipsoidal instrument where gobos and shutters do their work. |
| Gel | Another name for a color filter. |
| Gel frame | The metal frame that a gel fits into, so that it can be used on a lighting instrument. |

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| Gel string | A long string of color filters connected together for use in a scroller. |
| Genie® | A company that makes personnel lifts, or a lift itself. |
| Geometrical optics | The study of how light behaves as rays. |
| Ghost light | A light placed on the stage for safety reasons when it is dark. |
| Glow tape | A type of tape that glows in the dark after being charged by a light source. |
| GO | The word used to tell a stagehand to take a cue. |
| Gobo | A thin metal plate used in an ellipsoidal light to cast a patterned shadow on the stage. |
| Gobo rotator | A machine used to spin patterns. |
| Grand drape/main | The main front curtain on a stage that hides the set from the audience. |
| Grid | A metal structure over the stage used to support the rigging. |
| Grit # | A number that indicates the roughness of sandpaper or grinding wheels. |
| Grommet | A brass ring used to re-enforce a hole in a curtain where ties are placed. |
| Ground | The wire in a circuit used to drain away current in case of a short circuit. The point of 0 voltage potential in an electrical circuit. |
| Ground row | A row of lights on the stage floor used to illuminate a cyclorama, or the masking for those lights. |
| Half lap joint | A joint formed by removing half the thickness of each member using the dado method. |
| Half-hour | The time half an hour before the show starts that is often the call time for stagehands and actors. |
| Hammer drill | A drill that moves in and out as well as rotating. Often used in concrete. |
| Hamper | A rolling cloth bin used to store curtains. |
| Hanging clamp | A metal clamp used to suspend a traveler track. |
| Hanging iron | A steel strap with a D-ring on it used to rig scenery to fly. |
| Hardboard/Masonite® | A building material sold in thin sheets made from glue and sawdust. Often used to cover a floor or deck. |
| Hard-covered flat | A flat with framing set on the edge, which is covered with plywood. |
| Hardwood | Wood from a broad-leafed deciduous tree. |
| Head shot | A followspot beam that covers only the head of the actor. |
| Headset intercom | The means of communicating back stage via headphones. |
| Heartwood | The center of a tree, inside the cambium. |
| Heat control knob | The knob on a MIG wire welder that controls the voltage output, and thus the heat of the weld. |

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| Heat distortion | Expansion in the metal of a welded structure causes the parts to become mis-aligned. |
| Hemp rigging | Rigging done with old-style hemp ropes or a modern substitute, as opposed to a counterweight system with arbors and aircraft cable. |
| Hertz (Hz) | The unit of measurement for frequency. |
| High end frequency | A high pitched audio frequency. |
| Hinge pin | The pin in a barrel of a hinge that holds the two halves together. |
| HMI | Hydrargyrum medium-arc iodide lamp used in some lighting instruments. |
| Hog trough | A type of stiffener. |
| Hole saw | A drill bit for large holes made in the manner of a saw, with many small teeth. |
| Hollow core door | A door manufactured with very thin lauan panels over a mostly empty interior supported by cardboard inserts. |
| Home position | The “normal” position or person that a followspot operator returns to after a cue. |
| Hook up sheet | The list of what channels are connected to which dimmers, and operating which lights. |
| Horn/driver loudspeaker | A type of speaker for high end sounds. |
| Hot | One of the AC conductors responsible for the pushing and pulling of electrons. |
| Hot keys | A grouping of two or more keys on a keyboard used to instantly perform a more complex function. |
| Hotdog | The oblong shape of a PAR lamp’s light. |
| Hotwire machine | A device that heats a wire for the carving of foam. |
| House mix position | The place in the auditorium where a sound mixer is located. |
| House is open | Announcement made when the audience is allowed into the auditorium and all activity on stage should cease. |
| HPL | The ANSI code for a type of bipin lamp with a large metal heat sink used in most ETC fixtures, and others. |
| Induction | The process in which electrons are caused to flow by a magnetic flux. |
| Inert gas | A gas like argon or xenon that does not react with other substances and/or has special properties. |
| Input module | One of the channels on a sound mixing console. |
| Inside diameter, ID | The interior size of a pipe. |
| Instrument | Another name for light or fixture. |
| Insulator | A substance that is considered to not conduct electricity. |

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| Iris | A set of metal plates that close in when they rotate and block the passage of light rays. |
| Jablokov candle | An early type of arc light. |
| Jaxsan | A material for coating scenery before painting, like elastomeric. |
| Jigsaw | A kind of hand-held saw used to (mostly) cut curves. |
| Joiner | A person who works as a carpenter, or a machine that mills the edges of boards. |
| Joint compound | A filler used in drywall work. |
| Jumper | An extension cable for lighting work. |
| Kerf | The part of a board reduced to sawdust during the cutting process. |
| Keystone | A thin wooden block used to connect a T-shaped intersection on a soft-covered flat. |
| Kickback | The name for the action where a piece of wood is thrown backward by a circular saw blade. |
| Knuckle buster | A clamp that can be put on an operating line to keep a lineset from flying in too far. (They are very hard on the line, and may cause it to fail after a while.) |
| Ladder | In lighting work, a metal structure on the end of a pipe that allows an extra number of fixtures to be hung. |
| Lag bolt | A fastener with a hexagonal bolt head and a screw thread. |
| Laminate | To glue thin pieces together to make one solid structure. |
| Lamp | Can refer to either a light bulb, or a lighting fixture. |
| Lamp base | The end of a bulb that fits into the socket. |
| Lamp rack | A rolling rack for light storage. |
| Landing | The part of a stairway that changes the direction the steps run. |
| Lap joint | A woodworking joint where the faces of two pieces are joined together. |
| Lateral stress | A stress acting on a structure from the side, rather than from above as with a compressive load. |
| Lauan | A type of mahogany wood, or thin sheets of plywood made from it. |
| Lavaliere microphone | A small mic worn on the body. |
| Leg | A curtain used to mask the offstage space. |
| Legend | The explanation of icons on a light plot, as expressed in an inset. |
| Leko | An older name for an ellipsoidal reflector spotlight. |
| Lens tube | The barrel of a light, the tubular section that holds the two lenses. |
| Light plot | A plan view drawing that shows how lights are arranged on the stage. |
| Lighting director, LD | In a music show, the person who designs and runs the lights. |
| Lighting tower | A freestanding vertical structure used as a lighting position. |

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| Line level input | A higher voltage input to a mixing board, one needing to be “padded.” |
| Line voltage | Different from a line level input, line voltage is the mains, or 120VAC supply from a wall socket. |
| Liquid Nails® | A construction adhesive or mastic. |
| Live load | A load on a structure that changes because the load itself is moveable, as actors are. |
| L-jack | An L-shaped brace used to hold up scenery. |
| Loaders | Persons who are charged with loading stage weights into an arbor. |
| Loading gallery | The walkway at the top of the fly tower where weights are loaded and unloaded. |
| Lockset | The knob and latch used on a door make up one lockset. |
| Loft | The open area above the grid in a fly tower. |
| Look | The appearance of the lights at a particular point in a play. |
| Loose connection | A condition where the wires in an electrical device are disconnected, or nearly so. |
| Loose knot | A knot in a board that is no longer connected to the board. |
| Loose pin hinge | A hinge where the pin holding the two halves together is removable for disassembly. |
| Low end frequency | A bass tone. |
| Machine thread | The type of thread on a fastener that is meant to be used with a bolt. |
| Magic triangle | A triangle with sides 3, 4, and 5 units in length will form a right triangle. |
| Magnetic square | A tool often used to form a temporary jig when welding steel tubing. |
| Main drape | The front curtain in a proscenium house. |
| Marry battens together | Connect two or more pipes to load more weight when the arbor is too small. |
| Masking | Curtains used to hide parts of the backstage area. |
| Masking tape | Paper tape meant to cover surfaces that should not be painted. |
| Mastic | A thick adhesive material such as Liquid Nails. |
| Medium Density Overlay, MDO | A type of plywood with slick paper on the outside veneers. |
| Mesh gobo | A gobo made by small perforations rather than by the normal method. A mesh gobo works better when the pattern is delicate and contains half-tones, such as a cloud. |
| MIG welder | A Metal Inert Gas welder, sometime known as a wire welder. |
| Mezzanine | The first balcony in a theatre. |
| Mike level signal | A very low voltage input to a mixing board. |
| Microphone | A transducer used to change the energy of sound waves to electrical energy. |

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| Milled size | The finished, smoothed-off size of a piece of dimensioned lumber. |
| Miter box | A box with slots in it used to make angled cuts. |
| Miter cut | A cut made at an angle other than 90 degrees. |
| Miter guide | A guide used to make miter cuts on a table or band saw. |
| Miter saw | A saw with a rotating table often used to make miter cuts. |
| Mixing console | A board with multiple inputs that can be added together at different levels; that create a final, blended output from the board. |
| Mogul bipost base | A lamp base with two very large pins used for high-wattage bulbs like the CYX. |
| Mono | Having only one channel, as opposed to stereo which has two. |
| Motorized winch | A winch that uses a cable drum to move scenery up and down. Not a chain motor. |
| Moving mirror fixture | An intelligent light fixture that moves its light beam with a mirror. |
| Moving yoke fixture | An intelligent light fixture in which the entire head of the light rotates on a yoke. |
| Multi cable | A cable with multiple independent conductors housed in one insulated package. |
| Multiplexing | Sending more than one signal on the same line at one time, usually through short bursts, or packets of information. |
| Muslin | A traditional scenic fabric, often used to cover soft flats. |
| Nail gun | A (usually) pneumatic tool that fires nails into a board. |
| Nail set | A small hand tool used to set finish nails below the surface of the work. |
| Needle nose pliers | Pliers with pointy, needle-like ends. |
| Neutral | The capacitor-like conductor in an AC circuit that is not one of the hots. |
| Neutral density gel | A type of gel that filters all wavelengths equally, and thus reduces the amount of output from a light without changing the color. |
| Newel post | A large decorative post used to secure a handrail at the top or bottom of a stairway. |
| Ni-Cad battery | A type of rechargeable battery made from those metals. |
| Nicropress® sleeve | Another name for a swage fitting used to secure wire rope. |
| Node | A point in an ETC lighting system used to convert an Ethernet signal to a DMX signal. |
| Nominal size | The name size of a piece of dimensioned lumber, such as a 2 x 4. |
| Office brad | A brass clip used to hold papers together, but also to secure the gel in a gel frame. |
| Ohms | The unit of measurement for resistance. |
| Oleo | A type of drop that rolls up from the bottom. |

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| One ton motor | A chain hoist rated at 2000 pounds. |
| One-by | Any piece of dimension lumber that is nominally 1 inch thick. |
| Open circuit | A circuit that has become severed at some point and through which electrons will not flow. |
| Open-end wrench | A wrench that is open at one end, and is not a box-end wrench. |
| Opera clamps | Clamps used to secure a drop to a batten after it has been rolled to reduce its height. |
| Operating line | Also known as a purchase line, one of the large hand lines on a counterweight system. |
| Orchestra pit | The lowered floor section for musicians between the stage and the audience seating. |
| Orchestra seats | Seats on the lower level of a proscenium theatre. |
| Oriented-Strand Board, OSB | A sheet good similar to plywood made of overlapping wood chips. |
| Outside diameter, OD | The outer diameter of a hollow pipe, as opposed to the inner diameter. |
| Over haul | To purposely or accidentally fly a pipe past its normal in trim, and all the way to the floor. |
| Oxyacetylene welding | Welding done with those two gasses and a torch. Now more commonly used for cutting. |
| Paint base | Vehicle and binder pre-mixed in a can and ready for the colorant. The deepest base can be used in scene painting by adding your own colorant in the shop. |
| Painter's tape | Blue masking tape, which has less adhesive than the standard brown type. |
| Pallet | A low platform used with a push bar to move scenery on and off stage. |
| Pan | Moving left to right as opposed to up and down. |
| Panel door | A door made of stiles and rails with panels in between. |
| PAR can | A simple lighting fixture using a Parabolic Aluminized Reflector lamp. |
| Parallel circuit | A circuit that has a separate path running to each load, according to Ohm's laws. |
| Particle board | A type of non-structural panel made from sawdust and glue. |
| Pass door | A door near the proscenium wall that leads from the backstage to the front of house. |
| Passage lockset | A knob and latch arrangement that has no lock on it. |
| PCC microphone | Phase Cardioid Condenser mike used along the front of the stage to pick up group sounds. |
| Phantom power | Usually +48VDC, a power supply for condenser microphones like the PCC. |
| Phase- A, B, C | The names of the three separate phases in 3-phase power. |

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| Phillips | A type of screw drive that looks like a plus sign, invented for use with power screwdrivers. |
| Photometrics | The study of how light works on the stage and with lighting instruments. |
| Photoshop | A photo editing program. |
| Piano hinge | A long, continuous hinge designed for wide and heavy doors like a piano top. |
| Pick line | A rope used to pick up the weight of a bundle of lighting cable. |
| Pickle | A hand-held controller for chain motors or other similar devices. |
| Pigment | The color used in paint. |
| Pigtail | The male cable and connector leading to a lighting instrument. |
| Pin connector | A type of connector with heavy duty brass pins, peculiar to theatre work. |
| Pin rail | A large diameter pipe used with belaying pins in a hemp house, or the entire area of rigging. |
| Pin wire | Large diameter steel wire used to temporarily connect loose the two halves of a backflap hinge. |
| Pinch cleat | Two angle cut boards that nest together and allow a unit to be easily hung on a wall. |
| Pipe | Another name for a batten made of Schedule 40 steel pipe. |
| Pipe pocket | An opening in the bottom of a drop where the bottom pipe rests. |
| Pipe weight | The proper term to call out when an arbor has been unloaded. |
| Pipe wrench | A wrench with teeth on it meant to grip a round pipe. A monkey wrench. |
| Places | A call by the stage manager that means the show is about to start. |
| Plan view | A technical scale drawing viewed as if from above. |
| Plano-convex | A lens that is flat on one side and curved outward on the other. |
| Plaster line | An imaginary line running across the stage from left to right, just to the rear of the proscenium opening. Often likened to the X axis on a graph when laying out the stage. |
| Platform | A scenic unit used as flooring. |
| Playback | Recorded sounds that are played on a sound system for the audience to hear. |
| Pliers | A tool with jaws and handles that grips odd objects with great force through leverage. |
| Plinth block | The bottom section of door trim in a Victorian setting. |
| Plugging strip | An electrical enclosure on a batten with many electrical outlets. |
| Plumb | Something that is straight up and down, as opposed to level which is flat. |
| Plywood | A wooden panel made from many veneers glued together to form a 4x8 sheet. |
| Pneumatic | Powered by compressed air. |

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| Power Grab® | A brand of mastic-type adhesive. |
| Pre-fade listen button, PFL | A button on a sound mixer's input channel that allows the user to hear the sound on a specific channel before bringing up the fader. |
| Preset | A means of setting up a lighting look in advance of using it. |
| Primary in a transformer | The coil of wire that is in series with the incoming voltage. |
| Production book | A stage manager's book containing a prompt script, contact sheet, notes, etc. |
| Production meeting | A meeting to discuss the technical elements of a theatrical production. |
| Production stage manager | A stage manager who has added administrative duties with a particular group. |
| Prompt script | A script marked with cues and blocking for a show. |
| Prop box | A (usually) shop-made wooden box used to hold the props used in running a show. |
| Proscenium | The opening that separates the stage from the auditorium. |
| Pull | A term that describes a cue for a flyman on the rail. |
| Pulley | A device with at least one sheave meant to change the direction of travel for a rope. |
| Purchase line | The thick rope used to control a counterweight-rigged lineset. |
| Push stick | A handle used to move a pallet on and off stage. |
| Pythagorean Theorem | $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$ |
| QLab | A sound playback program for Mac computers. |
| Quarter-sawn | A board that is cut from the tree so that the grain direction reduces cupping. |
| Quartz glass | A type of heat resistant glass used to make high wattage lamps. |
| Quick link | A chain link with nut that moves back and forth, allowing it to connect two chains. |
| Rack brace | A diagonal brace used to strengthen a structure against lateral forces. |
| Radial arm saw | A type of saw most frequently used in cross-cutting lumber. |
| Rags | A slang term for curtains used in masking the stage. |
| Rail | The area of backstage used in controlling the rigging system. |
| Rake | Decking made to slant toward the audience. |
| Random orbit sander | A seemingly rotating sander that actually oscillates in many directions, leaving no discernable swirl pattern on the work. |
| RCA connector | A type of connector often used on CD players. |
| Rear projection screen | A translucent material used to rear project slides or video. |
| Reciprocating saw | A saw like a Sawzall®, that cuts with a back and forth motion. |
| Rectifier | An electrical unit used to change AC current into DC current. |
| Reflector | A mirrored surface used to reflect light in an organized way. |

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| Refraction | The bending of light rays, most often through a lens. |
| Resettable padlock | A padlock whose combination can be re-set for security reasons. |
| Resistance | The amount of difficulty electrons encounter in flowing through a conductor, measured in Ω s. |
| Reveal | An amount of thickness added to the edge of scenery to make it seem more solid. |
| RFU | Remote Focus Unit used with a light board. |
| Rigging | Most often meaning the ropes, pulleys, etc., used in a theatre. |
| Rigid caster | A caster that does not rotate along the vertical axis. A “dumb caster.” |
| Rip cut | Cutting a board along its length, or with the grain. |
| Rip fence | A guide used in making rip cuts. |
| Riser | The part of a stair that goes up between two treads. |
| Rope thimble | A metal device inserted at the end of a rope where it forms a loop. |
| Rosco | A company that makes many theatrical products. |
| Roscolene® | A type of color filter material made by Rosco. |
| Rota lock | Hardware used to connect two pipes together. |
| Roto lock | Technical name for a coffin lock, as per the original manufacturer. |
| Rotary cut veneer | A veneer for making plywood that is cut in a rotary fashion, around the log. |
| Rough opening | A hole in a flat that something like a door will fit into later. |
| Rough-cut lumber | Lumber that is not milled, or planed down to an exact size. |
| Round-over bit | A router bit used in making rounded corners that are free of splinters. |
| Router | A tool that spins one of many different bits, so that the edges of the work are affected. |
| RSC lamp | Recessed Single Contact lamps have one terminal at each end of a long, tubular shape. |
| Run the chain out | Term meant to indicate making sure that the hook at the end of a chain motor’s chain is at its fully extended position so that it is ready for its next use. |
| Running foot | One linear foot of lumber, as opposed to one board foot of lumber. |
| Safety cable | A short piece of wire rope used to secure a light fixture to a batten. |
| Sample rate | The speed at which a digital device looks at an analog signal. |
| Sandbag | A weight used in a hemp system. |
| Sanding belt | An endless loop of sandpaper used on a belt sander. |
| Sash | The movable part of a double hung window. |
| Sash cord | A supple, woven exterior cotton rope used back stage, originally meant for windows. |

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| Saturation | The intensity of color in a gel. |
| Scaffolding | Also known as staging, a portable metal frame used like a ladder by workers. |
| Scale rule | A three-sided measuring device used for making scale drawings. |
| Scenery netting | A net with 1 inch holes used to make cut drops. |
| Schedule 40 pipe | The most common type of steel pipe used for plumbing, but also as structural steel. |
| Schematic | A drawing that represents the placement of electrical components. |
| SCR | Silicon Controlled Rectifier, an early type of thyristor used to control voltage electronically. |
| Screw eye | A piece of hardware with a metal eye at one end and a wood screw thread at the other. |
| Screw gun | A drill used to install (usually) Phillips head screws. |
| Screw | A fastener with a pointy end that makes its own hole in the work. Not a bolt. |
| Scrim | A net-like fabric used on stage to create a hazy look or a bleed through. |
| Sculpt or Coat® | A highly viscous coating used to create a texture on scenery. |
| SeaChanger® | A device that fits on the front of a light and changes color dichroically. |
| Secondary in a transformer | The coil of wire in series with the output voltage pressure. |
| Selvage edge | The extra-thick edge of a piece of fabric. |
| Series circuit | An electrical pathway where all the loads are connected one after the other on the same conductor, and the current must flow through one to get to the other. |
| SFX program | A PC program for sound playback on a computer. |
| Shackle bell | The large, rounded part. |
| Shackle hub | The part the pin fits through. |
| Shackle pin | The removable shaft. |
| Shaper | A woodworking tool used as a sort of stationary router. |
| Sharpie® marker | A lacquer-base type of permanent marker. |
| Sheave | The wheel in a pulley that holds the rope. |
| Shim | A thin piece of wood or metal used to increase distance, or fill a gap. |
| S-hook | A metal rod bent into that shape and used to connect chains or screw eyes. Non-rated hardware. |
| Shop built | Something hand made in a shop, as opposed to being bought from a manufacturer. |
| Short circuit | A condition that occurs when a wire comes loose, and an electrical current finds a shorter path of lesser resistance. Generally blows a fuse or trips a breaker, turning off the circuit. |

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| Show drop | A decorative, show-specific drop used in place of a main curtain. |
| Shutter | A flat piece of metal used to mask the edge of the beam of light from an ellipsoidal fixture. |
| Shutter cut | The resulting hard-edged line of light/dark. |
| Side arm | A pipe and clamp used to hang a fixture so that it projects outward from a pipe. |
| Sightlines | The idea of what the audience can and cannot see backstage. |
| Sign in sheet | The roster used to keep track of attendance at a show call. |
| Signal path | The pathway that an audio signal takes through the various pieces of sound equipment. |
| SineWave® | A newer type of dimmer that lowers the amplitude of a sine wave, rather than cutting it up. |
| SJ | A type of lightweight rubber insulation used on portable cables, rated to 300 volts. |
| Slab door | A featureless type of door that is completely flat on the front and back. Often a hollow core door. |
| Slag | The oxidized byproduct of arc welding. |
| Sledge hammer | A large hammer used in demolition. |
| Slider | A potentiometer that operates by moving up and down, often used in sound equipment. |
| Sling | A flexible rigging device such as a Spanset®, used to wrap around a truss. |
| Slip joint pliers | Pliers with a special joint that makes the jaws wider or narrower. |
| Slip knot | A type of knot that creates a loop that tightens on its own. |
| SM58 | The most common type of hand-held microphone. |
| Smart, dumb wheels | Slang terms for swivel and rigid casters, respectively. |
| Smoke doors | Doors at the top of a fly tower that open to vent smoke in case of a fire. |
| Smoke pocket | A metal enclosure that covers the edges of the asbestos fire curtain. |
| Snap hook | An unrated piece of hardware used to connect chains or cable. |
| SO | A type of heavyweight rubber insulation used on portable cables, rated to 600 volts. |
| Sobo® | A type of white glue that is especially viscous. |
| Socapex® | A type of connector used for cables with multiple conductors. |
| Socket wrench | A wrench with removable ends for different sizes of bolt heads. |
| Soft goods | The fabric curtains and drops for a show. |
| Soft keys | Function keys on an ETC light board. |

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| Soft-covered flat | A structure framed in a flat manner, where the members are connected with covered joints, and the surface is (usually) muslin. |
| Softwood | Wood from a tree with needle-like leaves. |
| Solid wire | Electrical wire made as one solid piece, rather than from strands like a portable cable. |
| Solo button | Same as a pre-fade, used to test what is on a certain audio channel. |
| Sound Forge Audio Studio® | A sound editing program from Sony |
| Sound reinforcement | The concept of using a sound system to amplify the voices in a show. |
| Soundbooth® | An Adobe sound editing program. |
| Source Four® PAR | A type of ETC light that is similar to a PAR can, but uses an HPL lamp instead. |
| Spade bit | A type of woodworking bit with a flat appearance that creates medium-sized holes. |
| Spanset® | A type of sling made as an endless loop, used in rigging. |
| Speakon® | A type of connector used only on PA speakers. |
| Speed square® | A small woodworking square with a flange on one side. |
| Spherical reflector | The type of reflector used in a Fresnel lighting fixture. |
| Spike | To mark a spot on the stage floor where something goes, or a large nail. |
| Spindle | One of the turned wooden uprights in a banister. |
| Spiral stair | A stairway that curls around a central post. |
| Spot | The concentrated, small-sized option for a Fresnel beam, or a followspot. |
| Spot op | A stagehand who operates a followspot. |
| Spot tower | A shop-built tower backstage for a spot op to work from. |
| Spray 77® | A spray adhesive from 3M often used to attach paper to a substrate. |
| Spreader plate | One of the flat metal bars on an arbor used to keep the uprights in place. |
| Spring clamp | A metal clamp similar to a clothespin in construction. |
| Sprinkler system | A system of pipes and sprinkler heads that automatically sprays water in case of a fire. |
| Square drive | A type of head, other than slotted and Phillips, used on screws. |
| Square tube | Hollow metal tubing often used on scenery in place of dimensional lumber. |
| Square wave | The appearance of a digital signal when graphed according to time/voltage. |
| Stadium seating | Audience chairs on either side of a stage, like a football stadium. |
| Stage door | The entrance for theatre workers other than front of house people. |
| Stage manager's desk | The workplace for a stage manager when calling a show. |
| Stair gauge | Small clamps that fit onto a framing square when marking stair notches. |
| Standby | A warning that a cue is coming up. |

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| Standing part | The long part of a rope when tying knots. |
| Staple crown | The part that connects the two legs. |
| Staple leg | The part that sinks into the work. |
| Static load | A load with no movement. |
| Steel tape | A long tape that is usually not self-retracting. |
| Steel wool | Small curls of steel that look like wool, and are used in a manner similar to sandpaper. |
| Stemmed caster | A caster with a bolt attachment on top, rather than a plate. |
| Stereo | An audio signal or sound with two distinct channels. |
| Stick pricing | Selling dimension lumber by the piece, rather than by the board foot or unit. |
| Stiffener | A separate structural piece added to keep a unit rigid. |
| Stile | Any upright structural member. |
| Stop block | A piece of wood used on the backstop of a saw to make multiple cuts of the same size. |
| Straight claw hammer | A hammer whose claw portion is more suited to prying, not a curved claw. |
| Strain relief | A means of tying or clamping cables so that strain is removed from the electrical termination. |
| Stranded wire | Electrical wire made of many small strands so as to make it flexible and portable. |
| Strap | Another name for a keystone used to make a covered joint at a T connection. |
| Strap hinge | A hinge with wide, strap-like leaves that fit on the face of a door, such as a gate. |
| Stressed-skin | A structure with both a top and bottom covering, engineered to be thin and strong. |
| Strike plate | The metal piece of a lockset that fits into the door jamb for the latch to project into. |
| Strip light | A group of lights in a row, circuited together, often for use on a cyclorama. |
| Sub | A very large diameter speaker and cabinet that are meant for extremely low frequency sounds. |
| Submaster | A grouping of dimmers that is more than individuals, but less than the whole number. |
| Substrate | The structural underlayment of something, the part that a finished veneer fits over. |
| Supplementary angle | An angle that, when added to the original, makes up 180 degrees. |
| Surform® | A cheese grater-like rasp used for carving rigid foams. |

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| Swage fitting | A soft metal piece used to connect pieces of wire rope by crimping it on. Similar in use to a wire rope clamp, but smaller, neater and not removable. |
| Swatch book | A book filled with lighting gel examples from a specific manufacturer. |
| Sweep | A rounded plywood extension added to a flat to create a curved opening such as an arch. |
| Swivel caster | A caster that rotates around a vertical axis. |
| T hinge | A hinge with one butt hinge shaped leaf and one strap hinge shaped leaf. |
| Tab curtain | A curtain that runs up and down stage, or a curtain that swags up and out when opening. |
| Table saw | A circular saw housed in a stationary table, that is very frequently used for ripping lumber. |
| Tack weld | A temporary weld made to hold parts in place while welding, a method that reduces errors due to heat distortion. |
| Tail | The end of a rope, or a short feeder cable attached to a disconnect panel. |
| Tail-down | Tying a piece onto a batten so that it is hanging down on the rope some amount. |
| Tang style blade | A T-shaped jigsaw blade. |
| Target molding | A type of molding insert used at the top of Victorian windows and doors. |
| Tearout | The splintering caused by a saw blade. |
| Tech screw | The generic name for a self-tapping screw for metal such as a Tek® screw. |
| Tech table | A table set up in the house of a theatre used for the tech rehearsals. |
| Teflon tape | A thin, white tape used to seal the threads of a pipe. |
| Tek® screw | A name brand of the generic tech screw. |
| Telegraphing | The effect that occurs when the grain of plywood shows through a painted finish. |
| Template table | A table used to jig up the parts of a structure. |
| Tensile strength | Essentially, the bending strength of a material. |
| Tension pulley | The pulley at the bottom of a lineset that keeps the operating line taut. |
| Terminator | A resistor device used at the end of a DMX daisy chain. |
| Textilene | A very strong, scrim-like synthetic mesh fabric. |
| Threaded rod | A long rod with machine screw threads, but no head. |
| Threads per inch TPI | The number of machine screw threads in 1 inch, such as 16, 20, or 24. |
| Three-quarter shot | Followspot coverage of just the knee to the head. |
| Thrust theatre | A theatre that projects outward, into the audience. |

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| Thyristor | A semiconductor device that controls voltage by switching the current on/ off at specific intervals. |
| Tie line | A type of small rope used to tie curtains and electrics backstage. Often #4 black tie line. |
| Tie off to a cleat | A special type of knot, often used with a belaying pin in hemp rigging. |
| Tilt | To move up and down, as opposed to panning side to side. |
| Tinnitus | A medical condition typified by a ringing in the ears. |
| Titanium oxide | The thickening agent used in most latex/acrylic paints. |
| T-nut | A type of nut that sinks into the wood, leaving a smooth surface. |
| Toggle | An interior brace going from side to side or up and down. |
| Top hat | A round shading device used on a light fixture. |
| Torque | A rotational force. |
| Torque washer | A type of washer with a square hole, meant to be used with carriage bolts. |
| Trammel points | A metal point, and a pencil holder, that when used together with a wooden slat form a large beam compass. |
| Transducer | A device that changes energy from one state to another such as a microphone or a speaker. |
| Transformer | A device used to alter the voltage pressure of an electrical current. |
| Transom light | A window over a door. |
| Transport controls | The buttons that make a playback device pause, play, fast-forward, etc. |
| Trap | A hole in the stage floor with a removable cover. |
| Traveler | A curtain that moves back and forth on a track. |
| Tread | The part of a stair structure where the foot falls. |
| Trim | A set point where something should rest, or the method of setting that point. |
| Trim chain | A short chain used to adjust the height of some rigging. |
| Tripping | To pick a drop up from the bottom so that it flies out further than it would otherwise. |
| Trombone | An adjustment feature on some followspots that changes the spot size by moving the lenses. |
| Trucker's hitch | A knot using several loops that can be adjusted very tightly. |
| Truss | A structural member that stiffens itself by distancing the top and bottom members with a system of uprights and diagonals. |
| Truss spot | A spotlight used from a lighting truss, or some other high-angle position. |
| T-track | The T-shaped track used to guide the arbors of a counterweight rigging system. |
| T-track barrier | A wooden/steel barrier at the top or bottom of the T-track that stops the arbor. |

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| Tube bender | A machine with three wheels that evenly curves round or angular steel tubing. |
| Turnbuckle | A piece of hardware with two opposing eyes that can make small adjustments in the length of an attached cable. |
| Twist drill bit | A type of bit that can be used in wood, metal, or plastic; and that has a spiral appearance. |
| Twist lock connector | Connector that locks together because of the shape of its protruding pins. |
| Two scene preset board | An older type lighting board that has two banks of sliders that can be set with two different looks, which the operator cross-fades between. |
| Two ton motor | A chain motor with a pulley on its hook, and twice the chain, which doubles the amount of load it can pick up. |
| Two-by | Any piece of dimension lumber that is nominally 2 inches thick. |
| Twofer | A lighting cable with two females and one male connector, that connects two lights to one circuit. |
| Under-hung rigging | A type of theatre rigging where the pulleys are hung under beams in the ceiling, and there is no grid or loft. |
| Universal Tinting Color® | The colorants used in creating paint. |
| Universe | The name given to one set of DMX, with 512 channels. |
| Upstage | Toward the back wall, away from the audience. |
| Valance | A decorative curtain hung over the top of the main drape. |
| Vari-Light® | The earliest brand of practical moving light. |
| Vectorworks® | A CAD program with a theatre specific version. |
| Vehicle | The fluid part of a paint. |
| Velour | A type of plush fabric often used to make stage drapes. |
| Vise Grip® clamp | A clamp with that type of handle. |
| Vise Grip® pliers | A type of pliers with a gripping/clamping mechanism in the handle. |
| V-leg | A platform leg made from two pieces of one-by material. |
| Void | An empty space in a sheet of plywood. |
| VOC | Volatile Organic Compound, hydrocarbon substances that are present in oil-based coatings. |
| Voltage | The pressure of electrons in a circuit, a measurement of the Electromotive Force. |
| Voltage divider | Two resistances in series, which divide the voltage pressure between them. |
| Vomitorium | An entrance to the stage through the seating of a thrust theatre. |
| VU meter | A meter that measures Volume Units, related to the volume of a sound. |

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| Waist shot | Light from a followspot that falls from waist to head. |
| Warp | A board that is twisted along its length. |
| Washer | A piece of hardware used with a bolt to spread out the footprint of the head. |
| Webbing | The backing material used on the top of a drop or curtain. |
| Weld penetration | The distance that heat and melting go into a weld. |
| Well-grid | One of the beefed-up structural points on a grid meant for the loft blocks to fall. |
| West coasting | A method of tying a scrim up into a tube with its own ties, for proper storage. |
| Wet cell | A battery with a fluid electrolyte, as opposed to a more viscous gel substance. |
| White pine | A variety of soft, light-colored, easily worked wood for scenery building. |
| White polyvinyl glue | The type often known as Elmer's®. |
| Wing | The part of a stage off to the side. |
| Wing and drop | A type of scenery with units to the sides and back that has great historical prominence. |
| Wing nut | A nut with projections to the side so that it can be finger tightened. |
| Wire rope/Crosby clamp | A clamp used to secure wire rope to itself. |
| Wire speed knob | The adjustment control for how fast wire comes out on a MIG welder. |
| Wire welder | Another name for a MIG welder. |
| Wire wheel | A circular device made from small sections of stiff wire used for burnishing. |
| Woofers | A large diameter speaker used to recreate low end sounds. |
| Work lights | The lights in a theatre that are used ordinarily, as opposed to the stage lights. |
| Working load limit, WWL | The maximum number of pounds that should be placed on hardware. |
| Working piece | A piece of scenery that is meant to fly in and out during a show. |
| Workspace | What you see on the screen when a computer program is opened. |
| WYE connection | The type of 3-phase power transformer most often seen in a theatre. |
| X-acto® Knife | A type of small-bladed knife with replaceable blades often used by artists. |
| Xenon | An inert gas often used in making very bright arc lamps. |
| XLR connector | A type of connector used for microphones, and other equipment. |
| Yarns | The subassemblies found in a twisted or woven rope. |
| Yellow pine | A type of pine often used in woodworking, heavier and somewhat more brittle than white pine. |
| Yoke | The strap that runs around a light fixture, making tilting and panning possible. |
| Z door | A type of door made from slats, with top and bottom braces connected by a diagonal. |
| Zap® | Cyanoacrylate glue – the technical name for “super glue.” |