



AC/DC "Black Ice" World Tour 2008/09

Lighting Design by Cosmo Wilson, Dave Hill, Patrick Woodroffe

Lighting Contractor: Upstaging Lighting & Transport

Picture Credits: Steve Jennings

After an eight-year stretch, Columbia Records' rock regal AC/DC is 'Back in Black!' The long-awaited *Black Ice World Tour* surely was set to shimmer and shake everybody all night long!

According to co-lighting designer Dave Hill, the tour took its theme from the new AC/DC track, *Rock 'n' Roll Train*, with the stage featuring five curved trusses reminiscent of a railroad station's roof beams. "The stage was designed with this in mind," explained Dave, "and the five curved trusses represent the roof beams of a railway station." The lighting rig, pre-programmed at Upstaging, incorporated 5 x 100 feet wide arched, custom-fabricated trusses, which were configured to form the curved array of lights. First on the list of gear, supplied by Upstaging Lighting & Transport, were Coemar's Infinity Wash XL lights.

The tour marked the first time that the band's lighting director Cosmo Wilson toured with the grandMA console. A main system and backup were on hand to control the extensive lighting package required for the large set and AC/DC's over-the-top performance.



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The grandMA consoles were plugged into the excitement of AC/DC's long-awaited tour. Other lighting fixtures controlled by grandMA were 48 Clay Paky Alpha Beam 300, 36 Vari*Lite VL3000 Spots, and Coemar, Lycian, Elation, Zap Technology, Martin and Color Kinetics lighting fixtures.

The setup included 59 sections of Upstaging's patented Hud Truss. The Infinities, along with most of the other moving lights, were permanently mounted in the 10-foot sections of truss. Specifically tailored hinges maintained the exact curve at each locale. Ron Schilling served as crew chief.

Hill used 16 Infinity Wash XLs on each of the trusses 1 to 4, with another 12 on the floor "for more beams and energy."

With superior brightness to their name, Coemar Infinity Wash XL lights offered an effects wheel for creating texture and aerial effects with wash light, a ground breaking new colour mix system that is able to achieve CMY and RGB colours (CMY-s, exclusive Coemar patent), and narrow to wide zoom ranges (5-84 degrees total) in one unit. Various lens options, electronically adjustable lamp power, and a beam shaper rotating and indexing at 360 degrees, were available for the Infinity Wash XL lights.

Hill maintained that earlier before, he and fellow lighting designer Patrick Woodroffe had decided that this show "should be a little less hectic than the last one, and the effects wheel within the Infinity allows me to do that. The split rotating beam," he said, "creates energy just with the beam movement."



Extravagantly bright and powerful lights are laid on each of the trusses, and on the floor for more beams and energy.