

## Section Seven

### Intercom Systems

Intercom systems (Clear Com) provide the necessary communications between different areas during the performance. The Intercom Base Unit is many times in the control booth providing easy access for the stage manager. The stage manager can then give the directions and cue calls that the rest of the run crew may need. Typically in a theatre the stage manager will need to communicate with the assistant stage managers who will be on stage left and stage right. The Stage manager may also need to communicate with the Lighting board operator and Soundboard operator. The lighting board operator may then need to communicate with the spotlight operators. As you can see a lot of communication is necessary. This is done by the intercom system. The intercom system may have more than one channel to help carry the communications.

#### Intercom Base Unit Two Channel



This intercom base unit has two channels, channel A and channel B. On the left of the unit is where the headset plugs in. The two square buttons in the center are the channel select buttons. The button on the left is for channel A and the button on the right is for channel B. Each channel is made active by pressing the button in. Between the headset plug and channel A button is a round red button that is the call button. When this is depressed a red light will illuminate on each of the individual intercom belt packs. This signals that someone is trying to get your attention.

Above each call button is a volume knob to adjust the volumes of each channel. Over to the far right is another knob, which adjusts the program level. The Program is a feed that is coming from the stage. This is to aid the stage manager is hearing what the actors are saying. To the right of this is a button for the stage announce. The Stage Announce is used when the stage manager needs to be heard on the stage and not just on the intercom system.

## Intercom Head Set



The intercom head set has an earpiece for listening and a microphone for talking. It plugs either into the base unit or a belt pack.

## Intercom Belt Pack



The intercom belt pack is connected to the base unit by a 3 pin XLR cable. The belt pack also has a headset plugged into it. These connections are made on the back of the belt pack. On the front of the belt pack in the center is the call button. Push this and a red light signals the other members of the run crew that you are trying to get their attention. On the front right is the talk button. This button must be depressed for other people to hear you. Press it once to talk. If you press it twice quickly it will stay on. This is not a good idea generally speaking because it lets too much noise filter into the system. On the side of the belt pack near the back is another button that can be pressed in. This is the button to release the XLR cable. You must push this button to get the XLR cable out of the belt pack.

## Intercom Handset (telephone handle)



The Intercom hand set works much the same as the headset except that it has a talk button in the center of the handle that must be depressed to talk. The Handset can either be plugged into the base unit or a belt pack. Many audio engineers prefer the handset instead of the headset. The reason being that the cup over the earpiece hinders hearing.

## Intercom Signal Flasher



The Signal flasher provides a much brighter signal than the belt pack is capable of producing. This is desirable especially if the handset is being used. It also helps when the members of the run crew may be out of distance, having had to leave their belt pack and headset off.