

A Lighting Designer's Checklist:

Daylight Control

for your

Television Studio

Do you have windows in your studio?

Need to control the daylight on your talent?



BROADCAST BLINDS
Daylight Control for TV Studios

Introduction



Controlling the Lighting on Your Talent

Lighting directors and lighting designers, you know all about the challenges that come with windows in a studio...

On a dark winter morning at 7am, the windows in your studio look great. But by 8am they might need exterior light reduction. And by noon it's a whole other level of light control. You might have to change a shot or even skip it. But you don't have to be limited by the windows in your studio - use the checklist on the following pages as a starting place for your next studio project.

A Lighting Designer's Checklist - 1

☐ Electrical Requirement

It's likely you'll need to run unswitched line voltage to the best location for your new system. Make sure the supplier or integrator you work with specifies the correct motor(s) for the voltage you need.

☐ Space Planning

Is height a consideration for your facility? You'll want to check that the system does not come into the camera view. And think about side channels - the best installations often have a channel at the side for the material to run in ensuring you don't get unwanted streams of light. You'll also want to coordinate the overall implementation with your set design.

☐ Static

When you have static reduction built into your system, the chance that gels will cling to each other is reduced and that means your gear will last longer. Static reduction saves you time and money.

☐ Future Access for Service

Be sure to plan your design and sets so that the daylight control system can be accessed for service.

A Lighting Designer's Checklist - 2

☐ Reflected Light

Do you have reflected light at any part of the day that will require daylight control or masking? One technique is to use blackout shades that cut the light coming in and are out of camera view.

☐ Daylight onto the Floor

Does bright light come onto your studio floor in a way to be disruptive to your shot?

☐ Number of Levels of Light Control

How many levels of light control are optimally desired and minimally required. As daylight varies you need to vary your response to the exterior light. How much variation do you need through a day?

☐ Light Leaks

You might want to consider about side channels if light leaks are an issue in your facility. The best installations often have a channel at the side for the material to run in ensuring you don't get unwanted streams of light.

A Lighting Designer's Checklist - 3

☐ Reliability + Mission Critical Mindset

It's good to recognize that this is a mission critical system! Be sure your system is reliable. Lighting problems will kill your ratings.

☐ Time Frame

This is not the type of system one can put together in a couple of weeks! We've all heard the old adage, "Prior Planning Prevents Poor Performance." Proper planning of your daylight control systems can take months so it's good to start early! "

☐ Control System

Make sure you're future proof by making forward compatible choices. Select a system that can be controlled using one of the industry standard protocols such as DMX, sACN, and ART-NET.

☐ Control Locations

Whether you need control from across the room, across town, or across the globe, plan your control locations in advance.

A Bit More About Static Reduction



How do you know if you need static reduction for your facility?

Gels are statics magnets, as you know so they attract and take on dust and dirt. You can choose a system that reduces the amount of dust that your gels attract.

When you have static reduction built into your system, the chance that gels will cling to each other is reduced and that means your gear will last longer. Long story short, static reduction saves you time and money.

More Installation Considerations



While the sky is the limit for some studios, other studios have space requirements and challenges.

Factors to consider include:

- Tube size - the size of the tube that your fabric is wrapped on has effect on overall height of the installation.
- Quantity of layers - every wrap of material thickens the overall height of the installation and may affect the space that's required. If you're working on a 30 foot high studio space, the diameter of the rolled fabric will be much more than what's needed for a 12 ceiling, for example.
- Minimizing deflection - deflection is the sag in the tube that the material is rolled on. Deflection adds to ripples in the fabric which are to be avoided. While there always are ripples we want to keep them to a minimum.

Integration and Control



DMX, sACN, and ART-NET are just some of the industry standard control systems out there. You'll want to choose a system that can be controlled using any of those standards.

Make sure you're future proof by making forward compatible choices. That way whatever you install today will work well in the future, too.

And you'll want to consider the number of control points that are needed for your system. You may need to have control in the room, across town, and on the other side of the world.



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Do you have a studio project coming up that might need daylight control? Click below to schedule a time for us to take a look at your project. Let's talk!

[Schedule a 15 min call here](#)

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