

J.R. CLANCY  
GLOSSARY



Wenger® | J.R. CLANCY

# A

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## **A-Guide**

A-shaped aluminum members fixed in parallel rows for guiding arbors or clews. They are intended for use on counterweighted systems employing compensating chains and in zones of high seismic activity. This is a Clancy product.

## **Acoustical Reflector Panel**

(Cloud) A reflective panel hung in the auditorium, generally above the audience, that is used to direct sound into desired zones. Often decorative in nature.

## **Act Curtain**

A curtain (sometimes designed for a specific show) that is opened to signal the beginning of a performance. The Front Curtain is often used for this purpose.

## **Acting Area**

The stage area used by actors for performances.

## **Actuator**

1. Any mechanical or electrical control device (a push button) that initiates an action.
2. A screw jack or a hydraulic or pneumatic cylinder used to cause an action like opening a door.

## **ADA**

The Americans with Disabilities Act. It requires access to public spaces by people with disabilities.

## **AIA**

American Institute of Architects.

## **ANSI**

American National Standards Institute

## **Apron (Forestage)**

The area of the stage located just in front of the proscenium.

## **Arbor**

A carriage or rack that contains weights, usually flame cut steel or cast iron, in sufficient quantity to balance a load.

## **Arbor Pit**

An area located below an opening in the stage floor that permits greater travel for counterweight arbors and pipe battens.

## **Arbor Release**

A part of the fire curtain rigging that permits the fire safety curtain arbor to move and the fire safety curtain to close. The release is usually controlled by the fire line system.

## **Arena**

A performance space with seating all around the performers. Examples include theaters, basketball courts, and indoor rodeos.

## **ASA**

Acoustical Society of America

## **As Built Drawings (Final Drawings)**

Equipment or layout drawings that show equipment as it was built and intended to be installed. They may not reflect actual, as installed, conditions.

## **ASTC**

American Society of Theater Consultants

## **Audience**

The area of the theater where visitors sit to view a stage performance.

## **Auditorium**

A hall or seating area within the hall where the audience views a performance.

## **Austrian Curtain**

A curtain that is raised (opened) with brailed lifting lines and is sewn with both vertical and horizontal fullness.

# **B**

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## **Backstage**

The stage area that is located beyond the sight of the audience. Usually behind curtains and other masking devices.

## **Balcony**

A raised platform extending out from a wall, often used for additional rows of seats in an auditorium.

## **Bar Joist**

A beam fabricated using lightweight rolled or fabricated sections that is used for long spans under light loading conditions.

## **Batten**

A bar, usually made from steel pipe, from which scenery, lights and curtains are hung.

## **Belaying Pin**

A wood or steel rod, inserted into a hole in a pin rail, that secures ropes attached to a load. They are typically removable.

## **Bi-Parting Drape**

A curtain that opens from the center to either side.

## **Black Box**

A room (often painted black) that is intended for performance and lacks a permanent configuration, seating, or fixed performance area. Provision for performance lighting and props or curtains is often made.

## **Boom**

A vertically mounted pipe used for stage lights.

## **Border Curtain**

A curtain used to define the top limit of the stage and to mask or hide lights and unused scenery and curtains.

## **Box Boom**

Originally a vertical pipe in a seating box used for stage lights, but now used to indicate any side lighting position.

## **Brail Curtain**

A curtain that is raised (opened) with brail type lift lines and is sewn flat or has horizontal fullness.

# **C**

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## **Catwalk**

A walkway for access to a distant point (usually overhead).

## **Centerline**

The center of the stage running upstage/downstage.

## **Certified Rigger**

A rigger who has passed the "Entertainment Technician Certification Program" (etc/p) exam and is recognized as competent to do rigging for a period of time. This certification is based on both experience and a written test. Regular re-certification is required.

## **Clew**

Device that connects several ropes or cables to one, usually stronger, rope or cable.

## **Contour Curtain**

A brail or Austrian curtain rigged so that each lift line may be operated separately to form different shaped openings.

## **Counterweight**

- (n) Weights, usually flame cut steel or cast iron, that are placed in counterweight arbors to balance the weight of loads hung on battens.
- (v) The act of adding or removing weight from a line set in order to achieve a balanced system.

## **Counterweight Arbor**

See "Arbor."

## **Counterweight Assist Hoist**

An electric hoist whose capacity is augmented by the addition of a counterweight arbor.

## **Counterweight Rigging**

A rigging system where the load is balanced by a counterweight so that only a small force is required to overcome friction and move the load.

## **Counterweight Set**

A rigging system where the load is balanced by a counterweight so that only a small force is required to overcome friction and move the load.

## **Crossover**

A scenic or architectural location to move from one side of the stage to the other without being seen by the audience.

## **Cue**

A trigger for an action to be carried out at a specific time.

## **Curtain**

Any fabric panel that is hung as part of a scene or to mask unwanted views.

## **Curtain Track**

A formed or extruded shape that contains moving carriers and supports drapery. They often have a cord or other means to open and close the drapes.

## **Cyclorama**

1. Curtain at the rear of the performance area used to represent the sky or distant areas.
2. Set of borders, legs, and drops used to define the limits of a performance area.

# **D**

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## **Dead Hung**

Directly fixed to the structure or attached at a fixed elevation using chain, rods, or cable.

## **Dead Load**

The permanent or non-removable part of a system load (i.e. the weight of a batten versus the load hung from it).

## Double Purchase

A rope or cable that passes from a lifting device (arbor, winch, or person) over a block, to a block attached to the load, and tied off at the previous block, is double purchased. The system allows twice as much load to be raised for a given effort, but the rope or cable must be pulled twice as far, so total work done remains the same.

## Down Stage

The area of the stage that is closest to the audience. See “Raked Stage.”

## Drive Shaft

A rotating component that conducts power from an engine or other power source to a drum, pulley, or gear.

## Drop

An unframed curtain that is lowered to a stage from the flies, often serving as background scenery.

## Drum Hoist

A hoist with a drum for wrapping cable as it is taken up. One end of the drum is typically supported by a bearing while the other end is connected to the output shaft of the gear box.

# E

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## Egress

A path or walkway leading to an exit.

## Electric

A name given to a pipe batten used to support lighting equipment in a theater.

## Elevation

1. The height above or below an arbitrary point in a building (generally the stage floor).
2. (View) Similar to a section drawing but showing a cutting plane perpendicular to the centerline. Often shows proscenium wall as seen from upstage.

## Elevation Drawing

A drawing that shows the vertical face of an object or system.

## Emergency Stop Circuit

This should be a failsafe, separately wired circuit in rigging control that stops all controlled machinery in an emergency. The circuit can be triggered by depressing Emergency Stop pushbuttons and by various automatic sensors and limit switches. To re-start it is necessary to take one or more specific actions to begin motion.

# F

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## **Factor of Safety**

The ratio between the rated working load of a component or system and its minimum ultimate breaking strength.

## **Failsafe**

A device or design that fails to a safe state. It does not mean that it will not fail.

## **Fail Safe Brake**

A brake that will fully engage and resist motion of the device if power or control signal is lost. For example: a spring applied, electrically released brake.

## **Fall Arrest System**

A device that engages to halt a person or other load that has exceeded a predetermined speed, indicating a falling condition.

## **Field Check**

A visit made to an installation project for obtaining project measurements, checking its status, and finding potential conflicts.

## **Fire Safety Curtain**

A curtain that closes automatically in event of a fire to prevent heat, smoke and flames on the stage from reaching the audience. The curtain may be closed when the space is not occupied to prevent unauthorized access and to prevent falls from the edge of the stage.

## **Fire Line**

Fire lines are installed around the perimeter of a stage-proscenium arch to hold the fire safety curtain open. Fire lines connect the curtain to all manual electrical and heat activated devices that release the safety curtain.

## **Fixed Speed**

A winch that operates at a single speed with no ability to modify the speed. Fixed speed winches are typically used for low speed setup or heavy load applications.

## **Flat**

A flat piece of theatrical scenery which is painted and positioned on stage so as to give the appearance of buildings or other background.

## **Fleet Angle**

The angle formed between the centerline of a sheave or drum and another sheave or fixed point.

## **Floor Block**

Pulley mounted at the floor to hold a rope or cable in position and to reverse its direction. Floor blocks meant for rope often incorporate a means of adjustment to accommodate changes in length due to loads or environmental conditions.

## **Flown**

Suspended in a manner that permits the equipment to be raised and lowered.

## **Fly**

The act of lifting scenery, lights, and curtains.

## **Fly Gallery**

A gallery or catwalk above the stage floor from which counterweight and hemp (rope) rigging is operated.

## **Fly Loft/Midrail**

The space between the roof and the performance area that is not visible to the audience.

## **Forestage**

The portion of the stage located in front of the proscenium or main curtain line.

## **Front Curtain (House Curtain)**

A curtain used to define the stage location to the arriving audience. It is often the curtain closest to the audience and may also perform the function of an "Act Curtain."

## **Front of House (FOH)**

A generic term for areas of the theater other than the stage, usually referring to the audience and lobby areas.

## **Fullness**

Additional fabric that is added to a curtain to be sewn into pleats. 100 percent fullness means that the curtain would be double its finished width before the pleats are made.

# **G**

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## **Gaffers Tape**

A heavy cotton cloth pressure-sensitive tape with strong adhesive and tensile properties. Generally used for taping down cables and everything else.



## **Gallery**

Any platform above and to the side of the stage floor.

## **Gearmotor**

The combination of a gearbox and motor in a single unit. The motor may also incorporate a brake.

## **Ghost Light**

An electric light that is left energized on stage when the theater is unoccupied and would otherwise be completely dark. It keeps ghosts away, or happy depending on your beliefs. More practically it helps prevent accidents and falls.

## **Green Room**

A lounge for performers and/or technicians.

## **Gridiron (Grid)**

An open floor, usually made from light steel channels or grating, that is located near the roof steel. It provides mounting locations for rigging equipment and access to that equipment for inspection and maintenance.

## **Groundrow**

A low silhouette or painted cut-out representing hills, mountains, distant horizons, city outlines, etcetera., that stands independently usually between the cyc and the upstage performing area.

## **Guide**

To control the movement of rigging devices by means of slides or rollers moving in tracks or on stretched cables.

## **Guide Shoe**

A rolling or sliding device that connects a counterweight arbor or sliding tension block to guide rails to guide its travel.

## **Guide Rails**

Components that confine and control the movement of counterweight arbors and tension floor blocks. See "J-Guide, A-Guide, Lattice Track, T-Guide, and Wire Guide."

## **Guillotine**

A curtain that runs the width of the proscenium and flies in and out.

# H

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## **Hand Line**

A line, usually rope, that is pulled by hand to lift or control the movement of a load.

## **Hand Winch**

A device that consists of a hand crank that rotates a drum or pulley through a torque multiplying/speed reducing mechanism.

## **Head Block**

A pulley mounted to support steel that changes the direction of lift and operating lines between the loft blocks and an arbor or winch.

## **Head Block Beams**

Structural framing designed to support the head blocks and all related loads. Usually consisting of one or two beams and associated bracing members.

## **Heat Resisting Border**

A curtain that is placed between stage masking curtains and a heat source, such as a stage light, to prevent a fire. The heat resisting curtain employs a fabric which is fire proof, rated for high temperatures and spreads the heat from hot spots.

## **Hemp (Rope or Spotline) Rigging**

A rigging system that employs ropes and sandbags instead of counterweight arbors or other devices. Usually used for temporary rigging.

## **Hoist**

A geared mechanism, either hand operated or motorized, for use in raising (vertical movement only) equipment. The gearing produces a mechanical advantage in speed and load capacity.

## **Hoisting Machine**

A powered machine used for raising, lowering, and holding objects.

## **Holding Brake**

A brake use to hold a load in a static condition as opposed to decelerating a load to a stop and holding the load.

## **House**

See "Auditorium."

## **House Curtain**

See "Act Curtain"

## House Left/Right

The sides of an auditorium as seen by an audience member while facing the stage.

## HVAC

Air handling equipment in a building which consisting of Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning.

## I

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### In (Coming-In)

A batten, at or moving to, a lower position.

### Index Light

A series of lamps in a special housing designed to illuminate the locking or pin rail area.

## J

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### J-Guide

J-shaped aluminum members fixed in parallel rows for guiding arbors or clews.

## K

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## L

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### Leg Curtain

A curtain used to define the side limit of the stage and to mask or hide actors, lights, and unused scenery in the off stage area (wings).

### Lift Line

Any rope or cable located between a load and a winch or counterweight arbor.

### Line Set

A system consisting of one or more lift lines and related components operating together to lift, lower, or suspend a load.

### Line Shaft Winch

Winch with a series of cable drums connected to a gearbox by a common shaft.

### Live End

The end of a rope or part of a device that is active or load carrying.

### Live Load

That part of a system load that may be added or deleted (i.e. lights hung from a pipe batten).

## **Load-In**

Setting up scenery, lights, and all other equipment for a production.

## **Load-out (Strike)**

Removing (striking) scenery, lights, and all other equipment for a production.

## **Load Side Brake (Load Brake)**

A brake in the power train of the winch that is attached to the same shaft as the load, at the output side of the gearbox.

## **Loading Gallery (Loading Bridge)**

A gallery above the stage floor where technicians add and remove counterweights from the arbors. Usually located so technicians have access to arbors when battens are at their lowest positions.

## **Load Sensing**

A mechanical or electrical device that senses the load in a cable or block and produce a signal that can be read by a controlling device.

## **Locking Collar**

A fastening device located on the counterweight arbor rods above the upper spreader plate and counterweights and intended to help keep the weights in the arbor during a hard impact.

## **Locking Rail (Loading Rail)**

A structural railing designed to support rope locks in a way that allows them to be easily operated. It holds the out of balance loads from the rigging system held by rope locks. It also serves as a safety railing for operators and other personnel.

## **Loft Block**

A pulley mounted to the gridiron or support steel that supports and changes the direction of a lift line cable between the load and the head block.

## **Loft Well**

1. An opening in the gridiron designed for the attachment of loft blocks so that lift lines can pass through it.
2. An opening in the gridiron designed so cables can pass through from blocks mounted above without rubbing against the opening.

# M

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## **Main Curtain**

See “Front Curtain.”

## **Masking**

A set of curtains or scenic elements used to define the visual limits of a performance area.

## **Mezzanine**

1. The lowest balcony in a theater.
2. A low-ceilinged story located between two main stories in a building.

## **Midrail**

See “Fly Gallery”

## **Motor (Primary) Brake**

A brake that is mounted at the motor. It has a low torque capacity and fast response. Used for normal stopping and holding duty on a motorized hoist.

## **Motorized Rigging**

A theatrical rigging system using powered winches and other devices to move equipment rather than muscle power.

## **Mouse**

To wrap the end of a rope, cable or turnbuckle to prevent it from unwinding.

## **Mule Block**

A pulley that supports and changes the direction of one or more cables traveling between loft blocks and head block.

# N

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# O

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## **Off Stage**

The stage floor area that is not a part of the acting area and is not visible to the audience.

## **On Stage**

The portion of the stage area visible to the audience, usually defined by masking curtains, scenery, an orchestra shell, or by lighting.

## **Orchestra**

1. A group of musicians who play instrumental selections
2. The portion of the auditorium on the main floor that is closest to the musicians and the acting area.

## **Orchestra Lift**

A moving platform that is used to adjust the elevation of the musicians in relation to the stage and auditorium. Usually operates within the confines of an orchestra pit.

## **Orchestra Pit**

A depressed area between the stage and audience seating area where musicians sit, so the audience can hear the music and see the performance over the heads of the musicians.

## **Orchestra Pit Filler**

Removable platforms that are used to close off the orchestra pit at the level of the stage or auditorium.

## **Orchestra Pit Lift**

A section of the orchestra pit floor that may be raised and lowered by some mechanical (typically motorized) means.

## **Orchestra Shell**

An enclosure on stage, consisting of walls and a ceiling that reflects sound into the auditorium. Usually decorative in nature.

## **Out (Going-Out)**

A batten, at or moving to, a higher position.

## **Out-of-Balance**

A condition that exists when the weight of a batten, fittings, and attached loads do not equal that of counterbalancing equipment such as counterweight and an arbor. For safe and efficient use, manually operated sets should be balanced to within 50 pounds of neutral.

# **P**

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## **Pileup Winch**

Winch with a drum that has a narrow slot to contain the cable in a single vertical layer. The speed and load capacity varies with each layer of cable. Also called a Yo-Yo winch.

## **Pipe Clamp**

Clamping device that bolts around a pipe for attachment of chain or cable hangers.

## **Pipe Grid**

Horizontal structure hung over a stage or auditorium to support lights and scenery. Made from pipes crossing on right angles at set intervals.

## **Pipe Weight**

The counterweight needed in an arbor to keep an empty batten evenly balanced.

## **Plan (view)**

A 2-dimensional representation of an object or building viewed from above at a certain height off the ground.

## **Platform**

A stationary, standard flat walking surface for actors to perform on. Typically, they are built to be assembled modularly, and typically in 4'x8' sections.

## **Portal**

A portal consists of a header (border) and tabs (legs) that can be moved to adjust the size and shape of the proscenium opening to fit various performance needs. It is usually located just up stage of the front curtain and may have provision for mounting lights.

## **PowerAssist®**

These hoists are designed to drive existing or new counterweight sets by using a closed loop, proprietary rope/chain arrangement to operate between zero pounds up to double the weight fixed in the arbor.

## **PowerLift®**

A J.R. Clancy Product. See “Zero Fleet Angle Hoist.”

## **Purchase Line**

See “Hand Line.”

## **Proscenium**

The dividing wall or barrier between the audience and the stage.

## **Proscenium Arch**

The opening in the proscenium through which the audience views a performance.

## Q

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## R

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### **Raked Stage**

A sloped platform that is lower near the audience for better visibility and higher at the rear, providing the illusion of distance. This is the source for the terms “Down Stage” and “Upstage.”

### **Rail**

The locking rail, or locking rail side of the stage.

### **Recommended Working Load**

The maximum load which J.R. Clancy, Inc. recommends be applied to current, listed products which are in “like new” condition and which have been properly installed, maintained, and operated. “Rated Load,” “Safe Working Load,” and “Working Load Limit” are similar terms used by other manufacturers.

### **Rigging**

All of the hardware used to lift, lower, and hold performance equipment on or above a stage.

### **Road House**

A theater used for touring attractions that stay for a short period and bring some, or all, of their theatrical equipment with them.

### **Rope Lock**

A cam operated device that clamps the hand line that is attached to an arbor in order to prevent movement. Designed to hold the unbalanced load in a set.

### **Run-Away**

Theater jargon which indicates an out of balance batten that is out of the operator’s control.

## S

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### **Safe Working Load**

See “Recommended Working Load (RWL).”



## **Safety Factor**

This is the ratio between "Recommended Working Load" and minimum, or average, failure rating that must be furnished above the RWL to account for all the uncertainties. These can include the actual operating load, shock loads, variations in materials and manufacturing processes, environmental conditions, accuracy of the design theory, and whether failures would endanger human lives.

## **Safety Inspection**

A term used to identify the inspection of theater and entertainment spaces and equipment for finding possible safety hazards and the need for maintenance or possible replacement of equipment.

## **Sag Bar**

A support rail, usually of wood or plastic, that keeps cables from sagging over a horizontal span due to their own weight. Sag bars don't carry any loads.

## **Sandbag**

A fabric bag that can be filled with sand and attached to rope rigging as a counterbalance to the load hung from the set.

## **SceneControl®**

Clancy SceneControl rigging controllers use industrial grade PLC computers, touch screen 3-D displays, and industrial grade operators that require an operator to be present at the console when any equipment is moving. An optional load monitoring system stops motion with the detection of any change in load. Cues and presets can be created, modified, stored, and replayed. Targets, speeds, and positions are displayed. Displays show metric units, decimal feet or feet and inches.

## **Scrim**

A curtain made from a semi-transparent material that looks solid when lit from the audience side and becomes almost invisible when back lit.

## **Section (View)**

A 2-dimensional representation of an object or building by cutting away and removing a portion of the object and showing the information on that cutting plane. Typically referring to centerline section where the cutting plane is centered on the middle of the proscenium opening.

## **Set**

1. A system of cables, pulleys, lifting devices and battens that holds a specific set of scenic elements, curtains or lights.
2. The scenery for a performance.

## **Shackle**

A U-shaped device with holes at each end to accommodate a pin or bolt; used to connect a rope, cable, or chain to another device or a hanging point.

## **Sheave**

A component with a groove around its circumference to support and contain a rope or cable and a bearing at its center to permit rotation about a shaft.

## **Sight Line**

The edge or line of view, of what can be seen on stage from the location of the audience.

## **Single Purchase**

A rope or cable passing from a lifting device (arbor, winch, or person) over a block, or series of blocks, to a load is single purchased. Force must be exerted equal to the load to be held or raised.

## **Smoke Pocket**

A slot, usually of fabricated steel that supports a guide system at the edges of a fire safety curtain and that helps to prevent smoke passing around the edges of the curtain.

## **Smoke Seal**

A fabric flap that mounts on the proscenium wall and contacts the fire curtain in order to form a barrier that reduces the passage of air and smoke between the stage and auditorium.

## **Spreader Plates**

A thin plate located on counterweight arbor rods, spaced by the user at 2 foot intervals between counterweights, to prevent the rods from spreading apart under a sudden impact load and releasing the counterweights.

## **Stage**

A platform on which performances are given.

## **Stage Left/Right**

The left and right sides of a stage as seen by an actor standing on stage facing the audience.

## **Stage Lift**

A section of the stage floor that may be raised or lowered to different levels above and below the stage by some mechanical (typically motorized) means.

## **Standby**

A warning to prepare for an upcoming cue.

## **Static (dead) Load**

A load that does not change position or magnitude over time.

## **Stop Batten (Bumper Angle)**

A member mounted to the T or J-Guides that limits the travel of arbors at their top and bottom trim. They are often provided with a wood or rubber bumper to reduce noise and shock due to sudden stops of the arbors.

## **Stopping Brake**

A brake that is activated while the load is in motion and is used to decelerate the load to a controlled stop and hold it.

## **Straight Lift Curtain**

A curtain that can be raised (opened) without folding in any way.

## **SureGrip®**

This rope, available exclusively from Clancy, is constructed using a 3-strand construction combining filament and staple/spun polyester wrapped around fibrillated polyolefin. One strand contains an identifying tape showing the manufacturer's name and address with the year of manufacture.

## **SureGuard II®**

A device that accepts input from sensors and control devices and releases a fire safety curtain in response to these signals. It contains a battery and charger so a short-term power loss will not result in a curtain closure. The name is a trademark of J.R. Clancy, Inc.

## **SureLock®**

A special rope lock made by J.R. Clancy, Inc. designed so it cannot be opened when the counterweight set is more than 50 pounds out of balance in either direction. Also see "Rope Lock."

## **Swaged Fitting**

A fitting that is squeezed in a die so that the material in the fitting cold flows around the strands in the cable to form a tight connection. The excess material will flow out around the edges of the die.

# **T**

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## **Tab**

1. A masking leg that is mounted at right angles to the front of the stage.
2. See "Portal."

## **Teaser**

Another name for a border curtain. It often refers to the first masking curtain on stage and is paired with the "Tormentor" legs.

## **T-Bar (T-Guide)**

"T" shaped members placed in parallel rows to guide arbors or clews. Guides may consist of low friction slides or rollers.

## **Tech (Technical Rehearsal / Tech Week)**

Rehearsal during which lights are set and focused and light and sound levels are determined, and scene changes and special effects are rehearsed and timed, etc.

## **Tension Block**

See "Floor Block."

## **Theater (Theatre)**

A place for the exhibition of dramatic, music, or dance performance presentation of information or for discussion with a group, (ex., a classroom).

## **Theater Rigging**

Equipment that is used to hold or move people or other equipment in a theater space.

## **Thimble**

A grooved fitting around which a rope or cable is bent to form an eye. It supports the rope or cable and prevents kinking and wear.

## **Thrust Stage**

A room with seats arranged on three sides around a performance space located against the fourth wall. This wall may be used for scenery, back drops, and acting space.

## **Tormentor**

Another name for a leg curtain. These are the first masking legs located after the main curtain.

## **Turntable**

A revolving stage or stage piece.

## **Trap**

An opening in the stage floor, usually with a removable cover.

## **Trap Room**

The area underneath the stage.

## **Travel**

The path of moving stage equipment and the distance moved.

## **Traveler**

A curtain on a track that can be opened or closed to reveal or mask a portion of the stage.

## **Trim**

(1) A load is “in trim” when the equipment load equals the counterbalancing weight.  
(2) A set or element is trimmed when it has been placed in the desired position within the performance area.

## **Trim Chain**

A length of chain placed between a lift line and a pipe batten or scenic element to connect them and to facilitate minor height adjustment of the load.

## **Truss Batten**

Two or more pipes or other linear members fabricated together with cross bracing in a trussed configuration. Used in place of a pipe batten for heavy loads or extended distances between lift lines.

# **U**

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## **Under Hung**

Hung from the bottom of a beam or structure.

## Up Stage

The portion of the stage that is furthest from the audience. See "Raked Stage."

## Upright

Resting on top of a beam or structure.

# V

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## Valence

See "Border Curtain."

Usually a special border associated with the "Front Curtain." May be permanently fixed within the proscenium arch.

## Variable Speed

A device that is capable of operating at various speeds. The time required to ramp up to the operating speed and back to zero may be adjustable.

## Vomitory

The entrance or exit passages in a theater or amphitheater.

# W

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## Wagon

A platform that can be moved around the stage during a performance.

## Well

Gaps between gridiron members intended for the mounting and support of loft blocks on boundary channels and for allowing the free passage of cables.

## Winch

A machine for pulling and holding equipment using a rope or cable.

## Wings

The portion of the stage area located to either side of the acting area.

## Wire Grid

An open floor that supports lights or provides access to theatrical equipment. It is formed of woven cables attached to, and supported by, a structural frame.

## Wire Guide

Wires placed to control the location and travel of arbors, clews and curtains.

## Wire Rope

A wire rope consists of several strands laid helically about a metallic or non-metallic core. Each strand consists of a number wires also laid helically about a center.

## Working Load Limit (WLL)

See Recommended Working Load (RWL).

## X

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## Y

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### Yo-Yo (Pile-up) Hoist

A hoist type used when space is tight and fleet angles are difficult. The drum contains a narrow slot(s) where the lift line piles up in a single layer. The hoist capacity, speed, and distance traveled vary with each cable wrap.

## Z

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### Zero Fleet Angle Hoist

A hoist with cables that exit the winch at fixed points so that fleet angles do not need to be considered in the rigging layout. This is accomplished by incorporating a moving head block or by making the drum move in relation to the head block per Izenour / Clancy designs dating from the early 1960s.

### Zetex®

Registered Trade name for a woven, high temperature, silica glass fabric used in the making of fire safety curtains. The name is a trademark of Newtex Industries, Inc.



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Phone: 315-451-3440 | 800-836-1885 | [www.jrclancy.com](http://www.jrclancy.com)  
7041 Interstate Island Road, Syracuse, NY USA 13209-9713