



## EVL Spirit

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Last month I reviewed the new EVL K-Scope lighting effect. This month I'm taking a look at the sister product to this unit, the Spirit. In keeping with my quest to find lighting effects that are refreshing and different to the usual waggly mirror or spotty dish variants, here we find a concoction of 5 rotating metal and glass gobo's, a 9-facet rotating prism and a large colour wheel with 9 dichroic colours plus open white arranged in 4 sets of 'vaness' (more on this later). As this effect bears a lot of similarities to the K-Scope in general design I shall try to focus on the differences and refer back to the review of the K-Scope for anything the Spirit has in common with it.

### Remember those boxes?

Yes, the unit arrived packed inside one of those bomb-proof boxes that is expecting [insert courier of your choice] to be shipping

it via a cement mixer and an epic drop-test marathon before carefully handing it to you on the doorstep. Copious amounts of moulded polystyrene cocoons the effect and a separate moulding contains the power, DMX and supplied safety wire. Opening a box from EVL is a great pleasure as I don't have to reach for the Rennies! Piecing back together what should have been a single item in most other deliveries is becoming a regular occurrence in this household. Anyway, I digress! I unpack, listen out for any rattles (lamp coming loose etc) and proceed to the highly-equipped test bench (my dining table)!

### Getting going

Any lighting effect used in a hostile environment (disco venue) is going to attract the evils of cigarette smoke and other sticky vile intrusions such as the residue from smoke machines and general human fluff. Fan cooling is a necessity, but will invariably pull the rubbish through any poor lighting effect. Luckily the Spirit (and most other EVL

effects that utilise this sculptured body) allows quick and easy access to its innards, just remove four Phillips screws and you're in. This gives access to all moving parts, gobos and colours etc. with ease. As with other discharge lamped-effects from these guys, the lamp hot-spot has been adjusted already and no further adjustment of the lamp should be required until replacement becomes necessary.

A substantial hanging bracket assembly, good sturdy locking knobs and integrated safety eye adorn the base. When attaching a g-clamp and hanging the effect from a t-bar, the weight of the effect doesn't allow for much angle adjustment, which is a tad annoying. All you can achieve is to aim the effect directly ahead, give or take a little movement up or down, as the weight of the

unit acting on the g-clamp is too great. This unit would have to be bolted to the bar or truss to achieve any better angling. Placed on the floor and projected upwards is better though, as the bracket assembly can be used to gain a better angle.

#### In use

Like the K-Scope there is a DIP switch selection on the rear panel to choose from DMX address, auto program, music control and master/slave assignment. At first the instructions seemed a bit contradictory, which sometimes happens with the good old chinglish translations. Although it soon became apparent that 'out of the box' with all DIP switches off, the units are mere slaves. Assign one as a master and they all follow (if daisy-chained together). Owners of the most





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recent EVL Microcontroller (version 4) will find that they have the ability to control the Spirit and K-Scope directly alongside their other EVL products. This lovely little controller brings a wealth of power to the users fingertips, as all you have to do is address the Spirit to 135 and/or the K-Scope to 194 and you're off! There are even complimentary addresses for a two-head show.

If you fancy putting the unit onto your existing DMX controller then there are five channels to consider. These provide control of the colours, gobos and prism effects. The colour wheel (which is a very unique array of dichroic vanes) can be indexed (placed to any static position) as well as allowed to freely rotate in either direction at variable speed creating seamless colour changes. However, the gobo wheel can only be selected and set to rotate (at a set speed) or not. There is no indexing or speed control for the gobo rotation, unlike the K-Scope. Although the gobos do have a variable speed shake option, unfortunately gobo shake is rather out of place on this effect! Thankfully channel 5 allows you to invoke any one of 8 preset auto-programs at will which makes me happy (no unplugging for stand-alone modes!).

The choice of alternating glass and metal rotating gobos is nice the metal gobos can be exchanged for corporate logos but without indexing, getting the logo straight when projected onto a set or stage is impossible. The choice of glass gobos has been well-made as they make for very soothing and hypnotic projections. My favourite is the 'fish-eye' glass gobo with a slow colour scroll, very watery and blows the socks off of any aqua effect I've seen so far! In fact the gobo size and aperture for projection is probably the biggest I have ever seen in a discharge unit like this.

### Conclusion

Yet another quality discharge effect from a solid UK-supplier - into a market that is dominated with halogen product (I made the justification for discharge lamps on the K-Scope review so there is need to do that again). I am hearing more and more of shows that are now beginning to see the light (pun intended!) and realise that discharge-powered effects are now within the reach of the DJ market. EVL's constant research and development and to some extent, unification with controllers like the Microcontroller are making complete pre-programmed shows an easy reality for all sorts of mobile shows.

What with a lot of shows now wanting to project back onto themselves to give a more visual effect to the customer instead of just being a shower of light coming from a stage, serious consideration should be given to effects like the Spirit. Those that use EVL already have a head start!

### PROS

- + Discharge lamp included in the price
- + Another original effect
- + Fits into the EVL controller programming

### CONS

- No indexing to the rotating gobo wheel
- Hanging via G-clamp is a bit awkward.