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Two From Claypaky: Volero Wave and Panify

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When lighting designer Nick Whitehouse wanted to make Carrie Underwood's live concert look big, he chose to use 48 Claypaky Volero Wave moving light battens. The result created the illusion of hundreds of moving heads. The beams scattered across the arena like giant pick-up sticks scattered across a table.

The Volero Wave is a cross between a static LED batten and a tilting moving light with eight 40W RGBW LED light cells; the optics create a 2.9° beam with a sharp edge. Each cell can independently tilt up to 220°, and, equally important, the beams pop. When they move in unison, they create a look reminiscent of the DHA Light Curtain, only brighter and more saturated. It's what allowed Whitehouse to artificially create an intimate space where the floor was curtained off from the rest of the arena.

According to the published photometric data, each beam has an illuminance of about 83 footcandles with a throw of about 50' with RGBW at full. The native correlated color temperature is 8,600K without correction, and a 16-bit CTO channel provides the ability to correct down to 2,500K for a much warmer light.

In addition to producing collimated beams, you can control three layers of color and pixel mapping using what Claypaky calls "Advanced Layers Management." This is offered across a range of the company's line of LED fixtures. In the Volero Wave, three modes are available, ranging from 20 to 38 channels of control. Standard mode treats all eight cells as a single pixel with RGBW color mixing and 64 color presets, although you can turn on pixel mapping using the function channel.

Shape mode gives you 16-bit precision with color selection, the same 64 color presets as in standard mode, and two layers of color: foreground and background. There are also several patterns or chase macros, and, as in standard mode, you can turn on pixel mapping using the function channel.

In advanced mode, you sacrifice 16-bit color for the ability to crossfade between layers, including pixel mapping and the ability to directly access RGBW color mixing on three layers. It uses 37 channels of control.



The Volero Wave has eight 40W RGBW LED light cells that create a tight 2.9° beam.



The Panify can pan endlessly at a speed of 50rpm for loads less than 44lb, or 22rpm for loads up to 66lb.

Other features include 24-bit dimming, strobing and shuttering, and RDM; the unit accepts Art-Net and sACN. It has a built-in two-port switch, which allows you to cascade fixtures in a daisy chain instead of running a single Ethernet cable to each fixture from a switch. There are optional accessories, including frost filters with 1°, 2°, and 3.5° fields, which magnetically attach to the individual cells.

The fixture is about 39" long and about 13" wide. It weighs about 46lb, which means it can be used with the Claypaky Panify, a panning platform that allows you to attach any fixture up to 66lb and rotate it endlessly. (See below.)

The Volero Wave also works with CloudIO, Claypaky's wireless or wired diagnostic tool. The CloudIO device measures about 9-1/2" by 9" by 3-3/4", and it has a 7" LCD touch screen, four digital encoders, and three USB ports. When it's connected to RDMcompatible devices, it can get the RDM information provided by the manufacturer; for CloudIO-enabled devices, it can update fixture firmware, collect statistics, monitor fixture activity, and help diagnose problems and generally maintain a fleet of fixtures.

The Volero Wave is a 400VA electrical load and has PowerCon True1 input and output connectors. When it is powered at 120V, it will draw a maximum of 3.3A; at 208V, it will draw just under 2V. You should be able to safely power three fixtures at 120V or six fixtures at 208V in a daisy chain on a 20A circuit (with 20% overhead). The unit's retail price is \$8,150.

Panify

If you were at LDI 2022 or at ProLight+Sound earlier that year, chances are you saw the Claypaky demo on its stand. Even if you weren't looking for it, you couldn't help but notice the large crowd spilling into the aisles. And you might also have seen Claypaky Volero Waves, which were present in large numbers, panning and tilting, throwing sharp, colored beams around the convention center like bolts of lightning. Except the Volero Wave doesn't pan, it only tilts.

Even if you got a close look at the fixtures, you might even swear you saw an endlessly panning yoke attached to the eight-cell LED batten. And you would be correct, except the yoke is not sold with the fixture. It's a different product that Claypaky calls Panify.

Panify is just the yoke and it's designed to work with any fixture up to 66lb. It looks like a regular moving light without the light head. It has an LED menu display and a connection panel with PowerCon in and out, DMX in and out, and an Ethernet port. The DMX and power are carried through to the yoke, which has a DMX output connector and a PowerCon output connector, both of which connect to the mounted fixture.

The yoke can pan endlessly and, according to the manufacturer, it can rotate at a speed of 50rpm as long as the load is less than 44lb, or 22rpm for heavier loads.

Panify has an IP rating of 66, meaning that it can be installed in outdoor applications as long as the fixture attached to it has an IP rating of 65 or higher. In addition to wired DMX connectors, it also has built-in wireless DMX, and it works with CloudIO.

The base measures just over 15" wide by 11.5" deep, and the yoke is just over 15" wide. The unit weighs in at 30.4lb, and the retail price is \$2,750.

It's a great solution for panifying fixtures that don't already pan, and maybe even for those that do.

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