

# ACME STAGE BLINDER IP BL-200 WW2

By Julius Grafton



**O**n some shows, the only thing the lighting operator is actually controlling are the blinders. Someone else has programmed a massive show running on timecode. The operator bumps the blinders on and off to suit the show dynamic.

Those traditional blinders were no more than a pair of DWE 4515 – paired up 110v lamps, each pulling 650 watts. I seem to recall they were the driving lights for enormous diesel locomotives!

Like many things in lighting, blinders can be annoyingly overused. So it helps that the ‘new era’ digital versions offer much more than the ‘on/off’ old ones.

LED opens up a whole new world for all forms of lighting instruments, so meet the ACME BL-200 WW2, (which means warm white, version two). The first version did a sterling job, but this version has a new feature. More on that in a mo.

ACME is a huge manufacturer from China who make product for several major brands as well as under their own mark.

Out of the box I was impressed with the fast rigging system which is very versatile. Units interconnect using twist pins that are captive on wires – two at the top, and two at the bottom, so they don’t get lost. A spring loaded locating biscuit allows units to be hung and connected together vertically.

You can vertically hang a maximum of ten units. Then you are unlimited in the

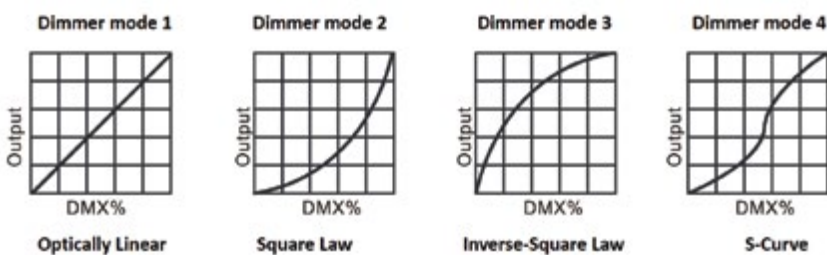
horizontal. Each unit comes with one hanging bracket which doubles as a handle. This can be pinned to the top, or the side of a unit. The unit weight is 6.8kg.

This is a big deal: these are IP rated, at IPX4 standard- which means it will endure splashing water from any direction. I take this to mean it will withstand random weather events but it isn't designed for permanent outdoor exposure.

With 1, 2, 4 or 6 DMX channel control you can control each engine separately. Using all 6 channels you can dim fine, you have flash rate control, strobe, and overall dimming.

Each unit has two LED engines, at 125 watts each. The pair of LED engines can be angled several steps within the case, so you could have vertical pairs pivoted in different directions. Does that make sense? Check the photo at top right.

Here's the new feature: it has tungsten emulation! From full bore 'blinder' mode in warm white at 2700 degrees kelvin, the Tungsten emulation kicks in during the 16 bit



dimming and drops the colour temp down to 1200 degrees k.

With that 16 bit dimming, you have a choice of selectable dimming curves: optically linear; square law; inverse square law; and S curve.

It now has a 3 year warranty.

Once the DWE lamps go out of manufacture (most lamps are on the way out), then a device like this will really take off.

**Brand:** Acme  
**Model:** BL200WW2  
**Pricing:** Around \$750  
**Product Info:** [www.acme.com.cn](http://www.acme.com.cn)  
**Distributor:** [www.ulagroup.com](http://www.ulagroup.com)