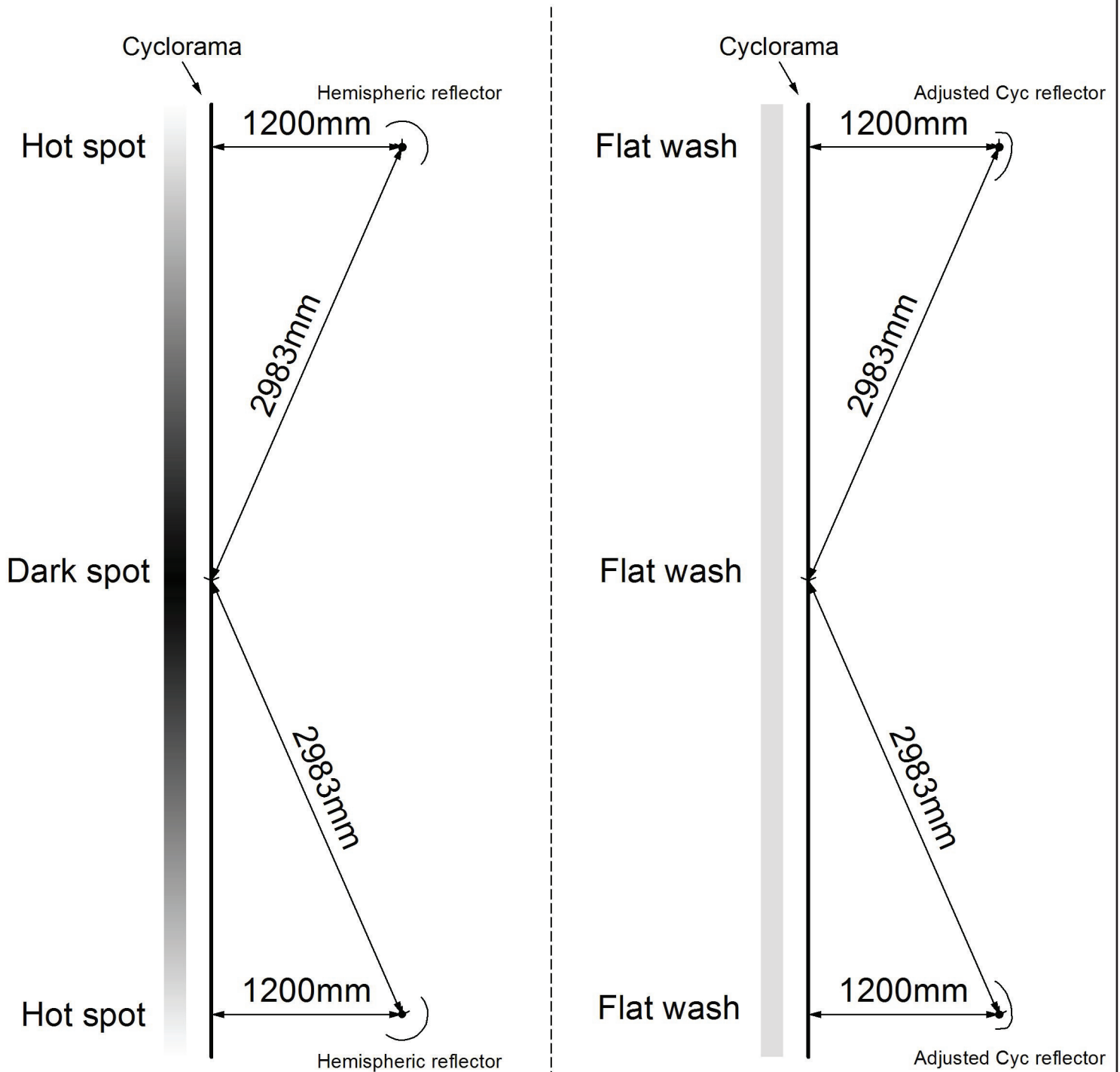


Cyc/Flood Data Sheet

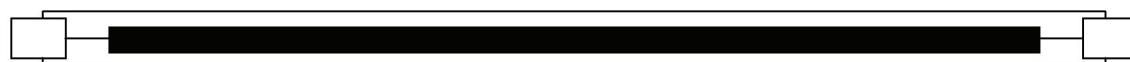
In modern Australian theatre a cyclorama (or cyc) is a plain white 'fillcloth' designed to be washed with light. Some venues have a 'hard cyc', which is simply a wall painted white.

In order to light cycs or other large flat scenery we use flood lights or, more often, a version of a flood light designed specifically for this purpose: The Cyc flood.

The difference between standard floods and cyc floods is the reflector. Standard floods use hemispheric reflectors whilst cyc floods use specially designed asymmetric reflectors which compensate for the increased distance to the middle of the cyc. When paired with cyc floods on the floor (Groundrows) this produces consistent colour across the cyc.



Use Modern floods and cyc floods use linear (two-ended) halogen lamps.



Because these are the same lamps used in domestic and commercial floodlights (the boxy yellow worklights seen on construction sites) they are available cheaply in a wide range of wattages (from 150W up to 1250W). Be careful as cheaper ones will blow extremely quickly. It's always worth spending the extra couple of dollars to buy brand-name linear lamps.

As mentioned earlier cyc units are most effective with a top and bottom pair for each colour. The bottom units are known as groundrows and for theatre productions are often hidden behind a timber groundrow cover. If the space is needed upstage than it is possible to light without groundrows however the wash will fade out towards the bottom of the cloth.

Cyc and flood units are available individually as well as in 'battens' - where multiple units are connected together but there is still a separate plug for each. Typically each unit in a batten is coloured with a different gel. If you had a number of these battens as groundrows for example than you would usually put all the units of the first colour on one dimmer, all the units of the next colour on another dimmer etc... which is why each unit needs to be able to be patched individually.



*A Selecon 4-way HUI Cyc Flood as a Groundrow
Image courtesy of Selecon*

Accessories Cyc and flood units come with gel frames, and whilst rare, can be equipped with colour scrollers. Some manufacturers also produce barn door options for cyc units. These help control spill at the edges of the beam but don't count on them for much else, they will never be able to turn a flood into a fresnel like wash.

Application Cyc floods are usually found lighting backdrops or other flat surfaces. Because of their nearly 180 degree beam spread they are very difficult to control and find little use in other roles. However they can be seen providing work-light for rehearsals and bump ins.

Reference McGrath, Ian. 1991. *An approach to stage lighting*. Corrimal East, N.S.W. : I. McGrath.