Power distribution box in the film crew



Overview

At Rubber Box, we''ve spent over three decades designing and building power distribution boxes that keep the entertainment industry running.

Key Takeaways

Film crew power distribution boxes safely manage and distribute electricity on set, providing reliable, monitored power for lighting, cameras, and other production equipment.

Purpose and Function

Power distribution boxes, often called distro boxes, are essential for film and TV productions to safely distribute electricity from a main source to multiple devices. They allow lighting rigs, cameras, sound equipment, trailers, and catering areas to operate simultaneously without overloading circuits. These boxes are designed to handle high loads, prevent electrical faults, and ensure crew safety in both studio and location environments.

Key Features

Amperage Ratings: Available in a range from compact 16A and 32A units to large 400A systems for major productions. Circuit Protection: Many boxes include GFCI outlets, RCBOs, and overvoltage protection to prevent equipment damage and electrical hazards. Portability and Durability: Housings are often weatherproof, impact-resistant, and made from materials like solid rubber or shock-mounted flight cases for easy transport.

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Monitoring and Control: Advanced units provide real-time voltage and current monitoring, relay-controlled switching, and logging capabilities to track power usage and prevent overloads. Connector Options: Boxes may include Cam-Lok, Bates, stage pin, or 19-pin connectors to match various equipment requirements.

Types of Distribution Boxes

Portable Distro Boxes: Lightweight and compact, ideal for location shoots or temporary setups. Examples include Motion Lab and Lex boxes with multiple duplex outlets and color-coded inlets.

High-

Capacity Units: Designed for large-scale productions, these can feature 48–72 channels, 400A powerlock inputs, and auxiliary outlets for complex setups.

Custom/

Bespoke Boxes: Tailored to specific production needs, including weatherproofing, IP ratings, and specialized layouts for OB trucks or outdoor shoots.

Safety Considerations

Always ensure the distro box is rated for the total load of connected equipment. Use boxes with built-in GFCI or RCBO protection to prevent shocks. Weatherproof and rugged designs are critical for outdoor shoots to protect against moisture, mud, and temperature extremes.

Proper cable management and labeling help prevent accidental disconnections or overloads.

Recommended Brands and Solutions

Upgraded 30A Power Distribution Box: 8x20A outlets, GFCI protection, digital monitoring, rugged and waterproof. Joinfworld 50A Box: 125V/250V NEMA SS2-50 inlet, 30A circuit breaker, individually controllable sockets.

Valid Manufacturing VP

S Distribution System: Type 3R rated, weather-resistant, quiet operation, and multiple connector options. Rubber Box Custom Units: Fully customizable for studio or location, with IP-rated enclosures and high durability. Film crew power distribution boxes are critical for maintaining uninterrupted, safe, and efficient power on set, whether for small studio shoots or large outdoor productions.

Choosing the right box depends on load requirements, portability, environmental conditions, and safety features.

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Article Content

How power distribution works behind the scenes at film and TV sets

At Rubber Box, we''ve spent over three decades designing and building power distribution boxes that keep the entertainment industry running. From small studio shoots to major outdoor productions, our

Power & Distribution

PD consists of the the electrical wiring, the distribution housing boxes (distro box) and the service end/breaker boxes. Power and Distribution set ups vary wildly in

The Lighting Department in Film, Television & Commercial

They manage generators, monitor loads, handle refueling, and coordinate power distribution with the lighting department. On location shoots without house

An Introduction to Power Distribution for Film Lighting

They are usually little black metal boxes with a male and female CEE connector at either end (16A for 2.5KW, 32A for 5KW), a power switch and a slightly insubstantial feeling knob to adjust the brightness.

Best Boy Electric — Lighting & Grip: Salary & Career Path

On large productions, the best boy electric may manage a crew of ten or more electricians without touching a single light fixture themselves. The origin of the term "best boy" traces

Lighting Department in Film Production

The Light Department is a critical component of the film production process, as it has the power to set the tone and mood of a scene, and can even shape how a story is perceived by the

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They follow the instructions of a Gaffer or Best Boy to set up lighting fixtures, work with generators, and manage power distribution. Moreover, an Electric must monitor equipment during

Lighting Department Film Roles

A professional film or TV production will rarely list a lighting department. Instead, they have electric and grip teams, often working as part of the Camera and Electrical Department, or similar.

Power Distribution Planning: Reliable Stage Power

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Begin your power distribution process by developing a detailed plan tailored to your production''s unique requirements. Use a pre-production checklist to catalog all equipment and plot

Electrical Distribution/Distro Boxes

Electrical Distribution / Distro Boxes Invest in a quality distribution box if you''re working away from a set or studio, or in any environment where you need temporary, portable power. Distro boxes are

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Power & Distribution

On a film/tv set the power is run by the lighting department which is most often called the "electric department". On live event crews, multicamera televsision

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An Introduction to Power Distribution for Film Lighting

Thats what a distribution box is for – they are basically a super-rugged portable mini breaker board with power sockets all contained in a black wooden box. On the end will be the red input for the 3-phase

How power distribution works behind the scenes at film and TV sets

Here''s how we keep film and TV productions running smoothly with reliable power distro boxes and over 30 years of industry experience.

Film & TV Stage Power Distribution

Power up your set with reliable solutions. Adaptable to voltage requirements, our distribution networks support your production needs both in-studio and on-location.

Studio-Location Product Series | LEX Innovations

Lex Products delivers portable power distribution solutions for film, motion pictures and television production. Our rugged and compact designs of everything from

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This document is for preliminary research. Verify specifications against current standards, product documentation and project requirements.

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