

Stagehand Terminology: *Equipment*



Road Case – hard case, generally black, designed to travel equipment safely

Truss – grid piece(s), generally aluminum, designed to hang lights, speakers, video screens, etc.

Truss Tools – nuts, bolts, and wrenches to assemble truss pieces

Ammo Can – a small metal box used for storing nuts, bolts, and truss tools

Set Cart/Deck Cart – large carts for transporting set and deck pieces

Decks – stage deck pieces, generally 4x8ft sections

Risers – typically for drums, keyboards, etc. generally two 4ft x 8ft decks to make an 8x8 platform

Coffin Key (or deck key) – tool used to lock stage decks together

Hamper – soft case for housing soft goods: ie drapes, scrims

Scrims – mesh-type fabric for banners, signs, coverings, decorations, projections

Duvetyne (or duve) – black fabric used for covering/hiding/masking objects

Pipe & Drape – drapes, generally black, with base plates, uprights and cross bars (to block off/hide areas)

Truss Teaser – short drape, generally black, designed to hang in front of the truss to hide cables, etc.

Spike marks – assorted color tape placed on the floor to mark out positions of equipment/sets
Marley – rubber-type floor covering, generally black, rolled out onstage (typically for dancers)

Shim – varying sizes of wood (or something similar) to slightly raise legs/set pieces/etc.

Motor/Chain Motor – hangs from the ceiling or grid and is used to lift/lower lights, speakers, video, etc.

Span Set – a fabric loop used for rigging

Gac Flex – a span set with a metal wire inside it

Shackle – metal fitting used for hanging/hoisting

Pickle – a hand-held control device used to raise/lower chain motors

Scaffolding – multi-level plank platform structures used for many different things

Fly Rail System – generally in theaters, the pulley system used to raise/lower set pieces, etc.

Distro/Rack/Dimmer – the case(s) that distribute power and control the dimming of different fixtures

Line Array/Speaker Stack – stack of speakers in the air or on the ground

Monitors/Wedges – wedge-shaped speakers onstage for musicians to hear themselves/their instruments

Gaff tape – industrial strength stage tape, generally black, but comes in all colors

E tape – electrical tape, used for a bunch of things

Ratchet Strap – a tough fabric strap with a ratchet to tighten it, meant to hold cases/equipment in place

Load Bar – a metal rectangular bar used to hold a load in place inside a semi-truck

Pallet Jack – a hand-operated jack used to lift and move pallets and other cases

PPE – personal protective equipment: ie hard hat, gloves, high vis vests, steel toe boots, etc. Teraplast –

protective plastic flooring laid down, typically in a stadium where there is turf or grass Kabuki – meaning

“to reveal” is generally a drape hung in front of a stage, dropped at the top of the show