

PRO-CASES

Who said that making racks can't be fun? IPE Technologies came to us for a range of colour coded stacking 19" Stageboxes & Audio Processing Racks for one of their top clients - YouTube's studios based in Berlin. Here is how we delivered our customisation promise in only 5-weeks!

THE COMPANY

IPE Technologies is a long-established Broadcast systems integrator. With clients including BBC, ITV, BT Sports and YouTube.

IPE's team of in-house procurement and logistics staff help to continue the sourcing of relevant equipment worldwide; integrated into the systems that work best for their clients.

With such a sort after client list turning to IPE for their projects; their involvement delivers the best possible solution each and every time.

THE CHALLENGE

The challenge started from the get-go with a tight 5-week timeframe; just before Christmas to add pressure.

The end client YouTube (Berlin) wanted 8 customised 19" racks resembling the colours from a studio screen colour test. Sourcing all of the obscure coloured HPL laminates (including Mimosa, Rouge, Fatal and Bleu Caraibes etc...) from one place was going to come with its complications.

An anomaly for us was the need for no loose lids. With the racks setting up home in a small German studio, there was a primary focus on keeping everything neat and tidy.

This meant no detachable lids that could be left lying around. Also needed was a fold away front-door that couldn't get in the way in confined spaces; with the rear door to be hinged for maintenance only.

Another studio proof request was the wheels on the racks needing to be non-marking and easy to glide along the studio floor with minimal noise. They also needed a stacking function on the tops of each rack with handles either side for pick up and portability.

These cases were to be showpiece standard. Quality materials needed to be used for every little detail, with a high-grade finish to be achieved in the 5-week timeframe.



THE SOLUTION

For the material choice of the customised racks we needed a scratch resistant material with the capability of a decorative surface finish. HPL (high-pressure laminate) was a perfect solution. We sourced the different laminates trying to match the requested colours as closely as possible. We worked tirelessly to find all that was needed to be available for delivery within our timeframe. Some small adjustments had to be made but we worked together with the client to come to a concrete solution.

The fully swivelling braked castors were fitted with easy glide, non-marking rubber tires for no hassle movement around the studio. With castor cups situated in the four corners of the racks top panel; this was for stacking functionality. These castor cups created the needed stacking feature for each rack, and recessed handles were added to either side for pick up and portability.

No loose lids were a must have requirement for this order of racks. We achieved this by firstly making the rear maintenance door hinged with slam-latches for ease of shut; knowing there would be seldom access.

Secondly, with the setting in mind, the front-door was created to tilt 90 degrees open and slide into the rack body leaving maximum space for opening in minimal areas. The hinge slide front-door was smooth and affective; just what YouTube were after.

Every little detail down to the aluminium angle edge protectors, to the fittings of nickel-plated machine-driven steel rivets; all helped to create a showpiece finish for IPE and YouTube.

Although the timeframe was short and hectic, we thoroughly enjoyed working on this order. The feedback received from both IPE Technologies and the end client YouTube Berlin was all positive with the cases put straight to use.

