2001 Awards Program
International Laser Display Association

2001 Artistic Judges

Brian Matthews

Brian is a native Floridian and a graduate of the Ringling School of Art and Design in Sarasota, Florida. He served as Art Director for the South Florida Museum and Bishop Planetarium, helping to produce laser lightshows and educational planetarium shows. He was been involved with production of CD-ROM games for children, and creation of graphic content and animation for the Internet. Brian currently freelances in the traditional and digital art field and produces his own online animated cartoon series called *Stonetrek*. He is also a musician and an avid amateur astronomer.

Carol Seidel

Carol has been in the Laser field for 30 years. She began studying lasers on an NSF High School Science Summer Fellowship. Carol studied laser and optics at Caltech under Dr. William Bridges, inventor of the ion laser, and received her B.S . in Applied Physics from Caltech. She also did graduate management studies at Boston University European Campus. Carol has designed laser optical components and developed systems including: many application specific ion laser systems; the first commercial frequency doubled ring dye laser; the first photopically balanced RGB laser for the display industry; and, the Omniscan 2020 laser planetarium projector. Ms Seidel is currently working in engineering on many projects in remote sensing, defense, telecommunications and laser display.

Barton Wells

Bart has been a member of the entertainment industry for the past 18 years. His focus for most of that time has been in lighting for live theater and nightclubs. He was first introduced to the laser industry 7 years ago when he started working at Epcot with the IllumiNations crew. His education was supplemented by having the opportunity to work with Lighting Systems Design Inc., learning both set-up and programming of laser shows over the past 6 years. He is honored to be a part of ILDA as an Artistic Awards judge, and assisting in production at previous ILDA conferences. Bart would like to give many thanks to Melissa Chisholm, Greg Makhov and numerous others who have helped him develop his knowledge and growth in the industry. "Peace to us all, united we will overcome."

2001 Technical Judges

Marc Gingras

Marc is a native of Montreal who grew up in the television and motion picture environment. He went to University to become a Physical Education Teacher. That lasted only 6 months and he went back to the entertainment industry. Marc started out making special effects for movies which, at the time, meant making fog and rain. He started MDG in 1979, making fog generators. He then discovered lasers in discotheques. When Marc looks at the evolution in fog and laser, he is still amazed by the technology of lasers and all of its applications. Marc is still in the fog and smoke after 22 years, and enjoys the different applications that he is confronted with every day.

Stephen R. Heminover

Steve is founder and president of Aura Technologies, Inc., and has been a major contributor to the growth and development of the laser display industry. He is a founding member of ILDA, has served as chair of ILDA's Technical Standards Committee, organized ILDA's first Advanced Technology Workshop in 1992, served as president of ILDA from 1992 through 1995 and is currently a member of the ILDA Board of Directors. Steve has been interested in laser technology since elementary school, and built his first laser as a high school project in 1968. As a student at the University of Illinois at Chicago, fate brought him to the Electronic Visualization Laboratory (EVL), a research lab specializing in interactive, real-time, computer graphics. Heminover wrote the first laser graphics programming language, the first-generation LGRASS, based on an early language by EVL Director, Dr. Thomas DeFanti. Both DeFanti and Heminover have continued to evolve their languages over the years, and still collaborate on various projects.

Greg Hughes

Greg saw his first laser show at the Bishop Planetarium in Bradenton, Florida, in 1980. The show was set to the music of Led Zeppelin and was performed by John and Linda Hare. From that moment he was hooked. He continued working as Technical Director for the Bishop Planetarium and South Florida Museum until 1995. Since then Greg has produced laser shows around the world, including fixed installations and touring shows with countless variations of laser hardware and software packages. He toured for three years with World Championship Wrestling, presenting live lasers on weekly TV broadcasts. Greg is currently producing and programming shows at Peachtree Laser in Atlanta, in addition to his technical duties. He has also served on both the ILDA Awards and Technical committees. Greg has enjoyed 20 plus years in the laser display industry and is looking forward to the rich future ahead.

ISP Beam Module

1st Place
"Movement"
LOBO electronic GmbH

Art-Director: Alex Hennig
Designer: Roman Schütz
Scan Speed: ILDA 30K
Length of Show: 05:15
Music: ATB: Let u go

The basic artistic concept of this show was to support the driving rhythm, reflecting the current style of European dance music. To transport the strength of the music in the visual arrangement, the show mainly consists of simple and especially large beam effects. To set clear contrasts, soft and diffuse light arrangements create a kind of psychedelic, dreamy mood in calm music parts.

2nd Place
"The Bongo Show"
LaserAnimation Sollinger GmbH

Producer / Digitizer: Stephan Rieck
Music: Played-a-live, Safri Dou
X/Y Scanners Used: 1
Scan Speed: ILDA 30K
Length of Show: 04:00

A one scanner show which, because of the fast percussive music, is especially suitable for larger events such as open air parties, sports events, etc. It contains many cues which can be used for interesting beam sets, e.g. using mirrors.

3rd Place
"Operation Blade"
LaserAnimation Sollinger GmbH

Producer / Digitizer: Stephan Rieck
Music: Operation Blade, Public Domain
X/Y Scanners Used: 1
Scan Speed: ILDA 30K
Length of Show: 03:56

A one scanner show which, because of the aggressive techno music, is especially suitable for larger events, such as open air parties, sports events, etc.

ISP Cel Animation

1st Place
"Franky's Night Out"
Audio Visual Imagineering, Inc.

Animators: David Lawter
       Willie Castro
Inbetweener: Todd Meisel
Digitizers: Priscilla Bernardo
       Todd Meisel
Scan Speed: ILDA 30K
Length of Show: 23:00

This short clip is part of a module in which the monster steps out on the town for a little fun. He grabs some fast food and becomes footloose and fancy free.

2nd Place
"Indian Dance"
Laser Force, Inc.

Animator: Paul E. Nunn
Digitizers: Amy Case
       Chris Stuart
Colorizers: Amy Case
       Rachael Mix
       Carl Graves
Scan Speed: ILDA 30K

This 340 frame hand-drawn animation captures the subtle motions of a ceremonial Indian dance. It is a dance that honors the creatures of Mother Nature and was displayed at one of the Nations largest Indian gatherings.

3rd Place
"Dolphin"
LOBO electronic GmbH

Cells: Christian Gorny
Digitizer: Cabridge Visual Products
Colorizer: Iris Schua
Art Director: Alex Hennig
Scan Speed: ILDA 30K

This animation tries to reach a high level of realism showing a dolphin swimming on a water surface. Special attention has been paid to the physical correctness of the splashing water underlining the natural beauty and strength of this animal.

Honorable Mention
"Pegasus Morphs Into a Jet"
Laser Force, Inc.

Animator: Paul E. Nunn
Digitizer: Chris Stuart
Colorizer: Chris Stuart

Myth becomes machine as a laser sculpted Pegasus comes to life, takes flight and transforms into a modern day aircraft.

ISP Computer Animation

1st Place
"Wolf Head"
Strictly FX

Director:	Doug Cenko
Animator:	Doug Cenko
Digitizer:	Doug Cenko
Producers:	Mark Grega
	Ted Maccabee
Scan Speed:	ILDA 30K

The Wolf head is a combination of a 3D head and raster eyes. This gives the model more depth, and makes it a little creepy!

"Homero"
Lightspeed Design Group

Art Director:	Robert Mueller
Computer Animator:	Robert Mueller
Character Model Courtesy of:	Grupo Mundo
Additional Modeling:	Robert Mueller
Laser Mastering:	Robert Mueller
Digitizing:	Pangolin's *LC Max*
Scan Speed:	ILDA 30K
Length of Show	17:00

The Game Host from our recent production "Extreme Choices", a show designed to stress the importance of making sensible choices in life now…or paying the consequences later. A super-sophisticated, immersive video game is our vehicle for a fast-paced lesson in life. "Homero" was lip-synched with great care and his expressions created to convey as much realism as possible. Because, you see, he converses with each game player in a very personal, in-your-face manner.

The disembodied head was first modeled as a 3D object, then animated through a polygon morphing technique within *3D Studio Max*. The character's lip movements were created to conform with the 15 lip movements (visemes) that make up the English language. Each sound in the digitized sound file was matched against a single viseme, resulting in extremely natural and realistic speech. Eyebrows, eyelids, pupils and head motion were then animated to bring this satirical and occasionally wicked character to life – dramatically. Pangolin's *LCMax* was used to very accurately laser digitize the thousands of laser vector frames.

Designed for 40K at 30 frames per second.

ISP Computer Animation (cont.)

3rd Place
"Pangolin ID"
Pangolin Laser Systems

Computer Graphics: Dave Oxenreider
Producer: Patrick Murphy
Developer: William Benner
Music: Andy Haggerman
X/Y Scanners Used: 2
Length of Show: 00:15

This was intended to be used at the beginning or ending of a lasershow to indicate that the producer used Pangolin software in creating the show. A bit like the "Intel Inside" idea.

Honorable Mention (Tie)
"Metamorphosis"
LaserAnimation Sollinger GmbH

Producer: Jörg Isermann
Digitizer: Jörg Isermann
Scan Speed: ILDA 30K
Length of Show: 03:30

This sequence is part of a fairy tale show which shows the metamorphosis of a butterfly into a fairy. The butterfly, the fairy and all flying movements are totally computer animated with no frame by frame animations. This means that wings, head, body and other elements of the characters are animated using curve editors, which makes it possible to influence the movements at any point, similar to computer animated movies.

Honorable Mention (Tie)
"Sea World"
Lightspeed Design Group

Art Director: Robert Mueller
Computer Animator: Robert Mueller
Character Model Courtesy of: Grupo Mundo
Additional Modeling: Robert Mueller
Laser Mastering: Robert Mueller
Digitizing: Pangolin's *LC Max*
Scan Speed: ILDA 30K
Length of Show: 00:32

Designed for Sea World as a demonstration piece for high-speed scanning technology. This sequence was programmed at 80K and at 30 frames a second, which allows for a much greater level of detail in graphics of high complexity.

ISP Graphic Module

1ˢᵗ Place
"La Vida Loca"
Strictly FX

Concept:	Mark Grega
Producers:	Mark Grega
	Ted Maccabee
Animators:	Doug Cenko
	David Kennedy
	Carl Graves
Digitizers:	Jenna MacDanold
	Corey Gilbert
Additional Help:	Andreé Chambers
	Ryan Miller
Music:	La Vida Loca by Ricky Martin
Scan Speed:	ILDA 30K

This was done as an entertainment piece for festivals and some of our install venues. The Strictly FX Art Department worked on the visuals after being given the concept and general direction from Mark Grega. It is always fun to see what comes out of a group effort like this!

2ⁿᵈ Place
"Belle Nuit"
LaserAnimation Sollinger GmbH

Producer:	Stephan Rieck
Digitizer:	Stephan Rieck
Music:	Belle Nuit, Ô Nuit d'Amour,
	Jacques Offenbach
Scan Speed:	ILDA 30K
Length of Show:	03:47

This is an attempt to visualize an operatic aria with laser. This style of music is seldom used in the laser show context. All effects were purposely kept very soft.

ISP Graphic Module (cont.)

3rd Place (Tie)
"Dead Man's Party"
Audio Visual Imagineering, Inc.

Producer: Ricardo Barros
Programmer: Ricardo Barros
Digitizer: Priscilla Bernardo
Music: Dead Man's Party by Oingo Boingo
Scan Speed: ILDA 30K
Length of Show: 23:00

The popular song by Oingo Boingo was the inspiration for this fun and energetic module. Dancing skeletons highlight the visuals as the party heats up.

3rd Place (Tie)
"One More Time"
Strictly FX

Director: Doug Cenko
Animator: Doug Cenko
Digitizer: Doug Cenko
Producers: Mark Grega
                       Ted Maccabee
                       David Kennedy
Music: One More Time by Daft Punk
Scan Speed: ILDA 30K

This piece started (and arguably remained) an abstract module. We wanted to see how far we could push the anthropomorphization of objects like simple squares and circles. It is pretty amazing how some very simple motions are translated as gestures and cause a viewer to not only see the object as alive, but to sympathize with it.

Honorable Mention
"Rhapsody in Balloon"
Laser Force, Inc.

Concept by: Paul E. Nunn
Animator::   Paul E. Nunn
Digitizer: Amy Case
Programmer: Amy Case
Colorizers: Amy Case
                       Rachael Mix
Music: Rhapsody in Blue by Gershwin
Scan Speed: ILDA 30K
Length of Show: 04:08

This piece follows the path of a boys' lost balloon into his imagination. The innocent red balloon confronts all of the boys' dreams and nightmares on its adventure back home.

ISP Graphic & Beam Module

1st Place
"Carol of the Bells"
Strictly FX

Director:	Doug Cenko
Animator:	Doug Cenko
Digitizer:	Doug Cenko
Concept:	David Kennedy
	Doug Cenko
Producers:	Mark Grega
	Ted Maccabee
Music:	Carol of the Bells
Scan Speed:	ILDA 30K

With "Carol of the Bells", we were trying to create an abstract module that doesn't use traditional laser abstracts, and was tightly choreographed to the music. We used sounds to cue visuals, and volume to cue colors. The beams fundamentally use the same graphics to set itself apart from the typical beam show. This piece resonates.

2nd Place
"Digital Get Down"
Audio Visual Imagineering, Inc.

Producer:	Jason Longenecker
Programmer:	Jason Longenecker
3D Modeling:	Ricardo Barros
	Chuck Rau
Digitizer:	Priscilla Bernardo
Music:	Digital Get Down by N'Sync
Scan Speed:	ILDA 30K
Length of Show:	30:00

The popular music of N'Sync, and the Internet, became the inspiration for this module. A man and woman meet in cyberspace and love heats up causing a system overload.

ISP Graphic & Beam Module (cont.)

3rd Place
"Music"
Audio Visual Imagineering, Inc.

Producer: Ricardo Barros
Programmer: Ricardo Barros
2D Animator: David Lawter
Digitizers: Priscilla Bernardo
                            Todd Meisel
Music: Music by Madonna
Scan Speed: ILDA 30K
Length of Show: 30:00

This module quickly became a crowd favorite as the screen and beam display compliment the new techno sounds by Madonna.

"MicroManiac"
Laser Spectacles, Inc.

Producer: Tim Walsh
Music: Void Failure
Scan Speed: ILDA 30K
Length of Show: 08:00
Clip Art: Andreu Ibanez (10%)
                            LaserAnimation Sollinger GmbH (10%)

This piece was inspired by a clients' desire for a memorial to honor a deceased friend. The friend was wheelchair bound, and a brilliant computer engineer. He was called "Micromaniac".

I had always wanted to do a fun 3D piece based on the idea of a wheelchair bound person flying around the universe having fun in imaginary ways. The entire show is produced in stereoscopic 3D.

Beams / Atmospherics

1st Place
"Living Drums"

Honorable Mention

LOBO electronic GmbH

Designer: Roman Schütz
Art Director: Alex Hennig
Music: Safri Duo: Played Alive
Scan Speed: Non-Standard Speed
Length of Show: 4:00

From the very first moment the LOBO design team heard this song, it was clear that it could be the basis for a really spectacular beam show. Roman Schütz took the challenge to transform this strong arrangement of live bongo percussion sounds into laser light.

Roman managed to enhance the strong emotional appeal of the percussion passages with orgies of mirror effect patterns, while also managing a distinctly varying contrast of soft and diffuse spatial effects. In many passages, when seen in fresh fog, you completely lose your orientation.

Due to ever changing, and mostly irregular, drumming patterns no copy and paste operations could help, making timing a very time-consuming task.

2nd Place (Tie)
"Classglass"
LDS Light Design GmbH

Programming:
  1st Part   Marcus Schmieder
                                 Chris Walsh
  2nd Part   Simon Böttcher
Music: Victory / Bond
Scan Speed: ILDA 30K

Length of Show: 03:30

This show represents the vitality of the audio trade. It reflects the sound and lightness of the strings with pulsing laser light. The show is like the band "Bond", sexy and vital.

2nd Place (Tie)
"Aurora"
LOBO electronic GmbH

Designer: Bernhard Settele
Music: Ratty - Sunrise
Scan Speed: Non-Standard Speed
Length of Show: 03:50

Aurora is a typical dance floor show, produced for the software contract which includes a monthly delivery of one beam show on actual music titles, for a fee per show.

The idea behind the show was to capture the massive energy behind the soundtrack primarily in movements. The aggressive synthesizer parts should drive spectators and dancers to ecstasy, while the calm vocal parts, supported mainly by deep blue show laser waves, should generate a calm atmosphere. Changing the color gradually from blue to orange builds up tension, and the bridge to the powerful finally. The show mainly uses complementary contrasts.

Abstract

1st Place
"Fight Song"
Laser Fantasy International

Analog: Tracy Goodsmith
Performance: Tracy Goodsmith
Music: Fight Song by Marilyn Manson
Scan Speed: ILDA 12K
Length of Show: 50:00

This little ditty was used near the end of our "RageFest 3.0" show to calm and soothe the audience before we hit them with the really heavy stuff. Have a nice day.

2nd Place
"New Year's Day"
Audio Visual Imagineering, Inc.

Producer: Chuck Rau
Programmer: Chuck Rau
Music: New Year's Day by U2
Scan Speed: ILDA 30K
Length of Show: 45:00

The programmer's main focus was to generate abstract patterns that would work well with constant color changes and heighten the visual experience in a planetarium environment.

Graphic Module

1st Place
"LOBO 2001"
LOBO electronic GmbH

Graphics / Models: Roman Schütz
                         Iris Schua
                         Bernhard Settele
Soundtrack Arrangement: Peter Bastian
Concept::   Alex Hennig
Design: Alex Hennig
Music: Various Artists
Scan Speed: Non-Standard Speed
Length of Show: 07:12

A first version of this spectacle premiered in the LOBO studios for the Welcome Reception at ILDA 2000. ILDA attendees could not have known the final fate of this show. It was made to demonstrate the possibilities of the second-generation LACON-5 workstation at the Musikmesse Pro Light & Sound in Frankfurt. The show, played with LACON's included effects library, its sophisticated sound processing capabilities and especially the Scanline Video and Scanline Text function, provide about four times the resolution of other systems based on x/y galvanometer scanners. All visible content, including the text lines, is projected by just four conventional scanner heads fed by two mixed gas lasers.

2nd Place
"The Sunshine Show"
LaserAnimation Sollinger GmbH

Producer: Stephan Rieck
Digitizer: Stephan Rieck
Animators: Christian Gorny
                    Aura Technologies
                    Stephan Rieck
Music: Something Special, De-Phazz
Scan Speed: ILDA 30K
Length of Show: 03:30
Clip Art: Aura Technologies (10%)

A combination of abstracts and realistic animations which offers many possibilities using two scanners.

3rd Place
"Love at First Kiss"
Audio Visual Imagineering, Inc.

Concept / Design: Willie Castro
                         Chuck Rau
Producer / Programmer: Chuck Rau
3D Modeling: Chuck Rau
2D Animation: Willie Castro
Digitizer: Priscilla Bernardo
Music: The Way You Love Me by Faith Hill
Scan Speed: ILDA 30K
Length of Show: 30:00

Popular chocolate candies reveal their affection in this lighthearted and fun module. The hit single, *The Way You Love Me* by Faith Hill, provided the perfect music for the candy courtship.

Graphic Module (cont.)

Honorable Mention (3 Way Tie)
"Spain - Rockin' Gypsies"
Laser Fantasy International

Animator:	Linda Fullerton
Abstracts:	Tracy Goodsmith
Performance:	Tracy Goodsmith
Music:	Rockin' Gypsies by Willie & Lobo
Length of Show:	40:00

"Spain" is a module out of our new matinee "Colors of the World". This educational program, with a focus on the authentic instruments and sounds that make different countries' music unique and appealing, explores different music and cultures from around the globe.

Honorable Mention (3 Way Tie)

"Help"
Laser Force, Inc.

Concept:	Paul E. Nunn
Animator:	Paul E. Nunn
Digitizer:	Amy Case
Colorizers:	Amy Case
	Rachael Mix
Programmer:	Amy Case
Music:	Help by The Beatles
Scan Speed:	ILDA 30K
Length of Show:	02:30

"Help" takes this classic Beatles tune and transforms it into a "Space Western". Our hero, a cowboy prairie dog, must thwart the plans of the evil robot bank robber, save the townsfolk, and win the heart of his lass, all before George, Paul, John and Ringo play their last chord.

Honorable Mention (3 Way Tie)
"Fatal Destiny"
Laser Force, Inc.

Character Animation:	Paul E. Nunn
Effects Animation:	Carl Graves
Digitizing:	Amy Case
	Chris Stuart
Programmer:	Carl Graves
Colorizers:	Amy Case
	Carl Graves
Music:	Various Artists
Scan Speed:	ILDA 30K
Length of Show:	04:00

"Fatal Destiny" is a prehistoric romp through the evolutionary food chain. Dinosaurs, big and small, learn what it is like to be "hunter or hunted" as they head toward their own fatal destiny.

Indoor Show

1st Place
"Ostwürttemberg-Show"
LOBO electronic GmbH

Graphics: Bernhard Settele
                            Iris Schua
                            Roman Schütz
Concept & Design: Alex Hennig
Music: Various Artists
Scan Speed: Non-Standard Speed

At the end of the year 2000 there was a large reception at the new facilities of the German State Baden-Württemberg in Berlin. The purpose of the show was to open the South German region "Ostwürttemberg" to new investors. The show focuses on geographic and infrastructural benefits, the region's leading companies (Zeiss, Voith, Weldea…) as well as typical cultural and educational aspects. One of the most important goals was to present the sponsoring companies with their logos and products in a most spectacular and entertaining way.

2nd Place
"Proxi"
HB - Laserkomponenten GmbH

Art Director: Dirk Dudek
Programmer: Dirk Dudek
Music: Proximus w/ Adiemus by Mauro Picotto
Length of Show: 03:34
Clip Art: Johannes Coppes

This show was designed and created for HB - Laserkomponenten's presentation at the Music Fair 2001 Frankfurt, Germany. During the show there are seven different projectors in action. The graphic of the dolphins in the middle of the show was originally projected on our indoor waterscreen. For this video we used our Gaze-Screen for better visibility.

3rd Place
"Citroën C5 Presentation"
Laser Entertainment SRL

Producers: La Buccia
                            Mr. Riccardo Cioni
Creative Director: Filippo Bernardoni
Digitizing/Sequencing: Giuseppe Zabaria
                            Filippo Bernardoni
                            Tara W. Smith
Acrobat Artists: Elastonauti
Music: Original music: Cioni - Head (Remix)
Scan Speed: ILDA 30K
Length of Show: 05:00

This show was designed using different techniques and media: acrobat artists, net gauze screen, water screen and smoke. The show was presented using two lasers (5watt and 10watt RGB) and two Pangolin 2000 Pro Boards (one for each projector). The goal was to present a new innovative car, using technology (lasers) and the "human touch" (acrobat artists).

Outdoor Show

1st Place
"Nam June Paik's Laser Art at Seoul Olympic Park"
Sam Laser Display Company

Producers: Norman Balad
                          Raphaele Shirley
Scan Speed: ILDA 30K

This laser art is made by world famous video and laser artist, Nam June Paik. It was produced to celebrate the Olympic Expo which was held in May 2001 at the Seoul Olympic Park in Korea. The show plays every Friday night.

2nd Place
"Mattel Pre-Toy Fair 2000"
Laser Force, inc.

Producer: Chris Stuart
Digitizers: Chris Stuart
                          Amy Case
Colorizers: Chris Stuart
                          Amy Case
                          Sarah Luszcz
Programmers: Chris Stuart
                          Amy Case
Music: Various Artists
Scan Speed: Non-Standard Speed
Length of Show: 11:00
Clip Art: Lightspeed Design Group (2%)

This show was designed to showcase Mattel's core brands at their annual "Pre-Toy Fair" for all of their International distributors and product designers. Utilizing a blend of lasers, lighting, Pani projectors and pyro, the show achieved a huge success.

Special Application

1st Place
"Pacless"
LaserAnimation Sollinger GmbH

Programmer:	Christian Süßkind
Digitizers::	Stephan Rieck
	Christian Süßkind
Sounds:	Stephan Rieck
Scan Speed:	ILDA 30K

This is a funny interactive one player laser game, suitable for trade shows, discotheques or other events. The goal is to beat the previous player's time on different levels, using different music.

Fenning Award for
Technical Achievement

1st Place (Tie)
Lasershow Converter MAX
Pangolin Laser Systems

Developer/Manager: William R. Benner, Jr.
Software Consultant/Rendering Technology: David Gould

Lasershow Converter MAX software runs as a plug-in to the widely used *3D Studio MAX* computer graphics software. It consists of two programs that run from inside *3D Studio MAX*, to convert scenes into high-quality laser frames and animations.

Technically, *Lasershow Converter MAX* is a Non-Photorealistic Renderer (NPR). Other NPRs include *Illustrate*, *Vecta 3D* and *Swift*. These are plug-ins used for tasks such as making 3D graphics look like hand-drawn cartoons. It is possible to take the output of these NPRs and eventually generate laser graphics. But, *Laser Show Converter MAX* is the only NPR built from the ground up to directly convert computer graphics into laser graphics.

1st Place (Tie)
Schneider Showlaser
Audio Visual Imagineering, Inc.
and
Schneider Laser Technologies AG

Credits: Schneider Laser Technologies AG
          Audio Visual Imagineering, Inc.
Additional Credits: Jenoptik Laser Optik Systeme GmbH

The solid-state *Schneider Showlaser* gives laserists over 16 million colors from a single unit that connects to a standard 220-volt outlet. The *Showlaser's* fiber output is over 10 watts of already-color-balanced, already-color-modulated laser light, ready to plug into scanners. Cooling is self-contained, so laserists need only fill the water reservoir every few months. And, the laser diodes last 10,000 hours, saving time and money compared with replacing or regassing much shorter-lived ion tubes.

The *Showlaser* is not a technology demonstration, or a laboratory curiosity. The *Showlaser* is already in use in US and European laser shows, as the first tool that fulfills the dream of laserists for an easy-to-use, high-power full-color laser source.

Fenning Award for
Technical Achievement (cont.)

2nd Place

ScanMaster2
Dirk Apitz

Idea: Dirk Apitz
Schematics/Layout: Dirk Apitz
Operating System/Firmware: Dirk Apitz

The *ScanMaster2* is an easy to use, stand alone board which connects an entire laser projector to a client computer system via ethernet. The board itself can be mounted directly into the projector, be run in a stand-alone adapter box, or be used in recording and playback systems. It comes with a fully implemented ISP input, outputs and inputs for galvo positioning and monitoring, 8 color outputs, and several digital I/Os connected to a powerful 100MHz DSP with its firmware being open source.

ScanMaster2 can further be driven through a DMX512 input, ROM storage, or an open protocol on ethernet. This enables the user to choose any complient software system.

The system is powerful enough to do realtime interpolation of vectors and curves, geometric and color space processing, galvo safety monitoring, and zone control. The built-in flash-ROM memory can be used to store frames for recall by DMX512 or unattended playback.

The ease of use, open interface and open DSP firmware, vector engine, realtime data streaming, and the scalability through the 10/100MBit ethernet make this versatile board unique.

3rd Place
LACON-5
LOBO electronic GmbH

Hardware: Martin Leippert
GUI: Michael Hoffmeister
Construction: Chris Renner
Product Design: Alex Hennig
Chief Development Engineer: Werner Most

LACON-2, the first standardized interface for defining colors in laser graphics, was introduced in 1987. Then came the legendary *LACON-3*, based on a unique massive parallel hardware architecture, and the first generation of *LACON-5*. LOBO now presents a completely new laser and multimedia workstation. *LACON-5* is ten times faster than its predecessor, and is based on a modular hardware structure that avoids data bottlenecks and allows for almost unlimited expansion. LOBO's new high resolution Scanline laser video feature can directly import video MPEG files (as well as all common bitmap file formats) and display rasterized laser output four times higher in resolution than other systems.

Fenning Award for
Technical Achievement (cont.)

Honorable Mention (Tie)

LaserMAME
lasers.org

Credits: Matt Polak
                Rob Mudryk

LaserMAME is a groundbreaking new piece of technology in that it not only reproduces vector games acceptably into laser in real-time, but that it works on a general basis in allowing all vector games to be converted in this manner. To date, there are 32 separate games that run acceptably in a laser format under *LaserMAME's* engine. Unlike previous laser gaming implementations, *LaserMAME* games are the original game ROM software images. These are run under the base emulator of Multiple Arcade Machine Emulator (MAME), so the game retains all of the flavor from the standard coin-ops implementation.

Honorable Mention (Tie)
Dynamic Image Filtering Utilizing "Beam Brush"
Laser Fantasy International

Designer, Manufacturer: Floyd Rollefstad

A filter effects system was developed and designed to place beam expanding and "softening" elements within a laser graphic. The system introduces a filter into the image scan at very high speeds, and can instantly or incrementally adjust beam softness. The invention utilizes the "beam brush" feature in *Pangolin* to create imagery where soft, filtered effects occur with non-filtered effects on one image channel / scan set. It can also be displayed as a live performance effect during light shows.

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