

## STUDIO LIGHTS

When lighting your set in the TV studio, your first instinct might be to just turn on every light that is up on the grid and see what you have. But it is important to know the different types of lights and what is their purpose. The studio has three types of lights: Fresnels, Scoops and Broads.

**Fresnels** are the most common lights you will see in the studio. It is a flexible light used for many types of productions, and its main characteristic is that it has a lens in front of the bulb. A knob on the rear controls the lens and allows you to adjust intensity of the light by **spotting** or **flooding** your subject. When the knob is set to the spot position, the lens concentrates the light in one small area like a spotlight, creating an intense light with harsh shadows. Flooding the fresnel will cause the light to spread out over a greater area, but with less intensity. Fresnels also have barn doors, which helps you to shape the light and control how far it spreads. You can also attach colored gels, diffusion or black wrap to the barn doors using C47s (wooden clothespins), giving you even more options. Again, fresnels are known for their flexibility. They can be hard or soft lights, spotlights or floods. They can be used for everything from a well-lighted cheerful sitcom to a rock band performance, to a film noir creating lots of shadows.



**Scoops and Broads** are open face lights (no lens) that are great for videos that need bright, even lighting over a wide area, such as talk and demonstration shows. Because there is no lens on these lights, you cannot spot them. Scoops typically cast softer shadows than Fresnel. They are lighter, easier to operate and great for the beginning producer. Broads are rectangular in shape and light a greater area than scoops. Like the scoop, broads do not have barn doors. They do have a slide-in frame mount that sits in front of the light for holding gels or diffusion. Broads can come as a single light or as a strip of three (also known as cyclorama lights). Broads and “cyc” lights are excellent for lighting backgrounds, whether they are flats, curtains or a green screen.

Good luck with your studio shoot, and remember, using the right light for the right situation will increase your production values.