

MEDIA RELEASE

G.D.B. International

Immediate release

Shine's Fast Moving Series "The Renovators" Calls For Out-Of-The-Box Thinking.

Shine Australia has installed five Boxx Meridian Zero-delay Wireless Camera Links supplied by G.D.B. International for use in Network Ten's latest series of "The Renovators", "The Biggest Loser" and "MasterChef".

On the set of "The Renovators", the largest purpose-built television set in Australia, stands Nick Parker, Technical Manager at Shine Australia. "This literally is an Australian first. We're working without safety cables..." he grins. And true to his word, there's not a camera cable to be seen.

When the idea for the Ten Network's hit series "The Renovators" was being developed by Shine, Parker knew that the combination of camera cables coupled with large distances and the sheer unpredictable nature of the many and varied proposed contestant "challenges" would not mix well together.

It was Parker's idea to untether the Cameramen - not just one, but five - all working in the same space, all working at the same time, and all free to move in whatever direction the action in front of them dictated. He explained: "On this show, the action is immediate... and so the (camera) guys need to be able to react to that. There's no opportunity for the camo's to rehearse moves and certainly no time for cable-pullers to lay out gear."

Parker pointed to the massive set area. "The standard practice of running cables to the control room just wouldn't have worked in this situation. The camera cables themselves would become a major OH&S hazard. The (camera) guys need to be able to follow the action where-ever it leads without the worry of getting tripped or tangled as they move..." Parker nods at the black box adorned with four small antennas sitting to the rear of one of the cameras used for the shoot. "... and that's what the Boxx systems allow them to do."

Asked if there were any operational procedures that needed to be changed due to the addition of the transmitters to the cameras, Parker commented "As with any rig that the guys need to carry, whether on their shoulder or on a steadicam, the number one consideration is weight. Anything that you add is always an issue. The Boxx transmitters are great. The boys barely even notice that they're on the camera. I think they really enjoy the freedom that the Boxx system gives them....they can go anywhere and everywhere on-set, from here, to there..." Parker turns and gestures to the Production Control Room located some 150 metres distant. "And the best part is that there's absolutely no delay. Back in the Control Room, they don't notice any difference" (to using standard camera cables).

"In fact, it works so well that everyone just forgets that the pictures that they're seeing have all come via wireless camera links. There's no picture or audio latency... and that means no lip sync issues and no vision stutter when switching between sources. Not only does it make the production process easier, it actually saves time, money and man-power. There doesn't seem to be a significant increase in the number of battery changes required so I don't think the additional power required by the transmitters is an area of concern. They're light, they're efficient, they deliver the best pictures of all the links out there - these systems really are a no-brainer."

Parker admits that they were offered alternative solutions. "But all of them had issues of one sort or another - whether it was multi-frame latency, Spectrum Licensing or deficiencies in the output vision. Some couldn't handle having more than one system operational in the same area at the same time, let alone five. They were all show-stoppers as far as I was concerned.

None came close to the overall quality and flexibility of the Boxx Meridians. And they are so simple to set-up and operate. You just turn them on and they work. Did I mention that there is zero latency?" Parker grins, knowing full-well that he has. "You really need to experience it to understand how many problems that this one feature solves.... Everyone who sees and works with the Boxx gear loves it."

Parker mentions the system works offsite as well as in the studio. "Renovators has been using the links for offsite as well as in the studio where traditionally we would have to run cable or not run cable at all due to OH & S issues. With Masterchef around the corner I can't wait to put these into a commercial kitchen and finally have some pictures in a portable control room. We have had to direct from the kitchen sides in the past due to the limits of cables in a commercial kitchen. Having the Boxx links in a Kitchen is going to change everything, better quality content, faster turn around... all in all, saving us money."

Asked if he felt the investment has been worthwhile, Parker smiles and simply says "I'm thinking about what I could do with another five... The reality is now we can not go back to cable."

About G.D.B. International

Established in 1995, [GDB International](#) is an Australian direct importer and national distributor of specialist professional and broadcast audio / video products. We represent a number of well recognised manufacturers of quality products including [Audavi](#), [Azden](#), [Bebob](#), [Boxx TV](#), [CityTek](#), [Cobalt Digital](#), [Cypress Technology](#), [Datavideo](#), [Fast Forward Video](#), [Hawk Woods](#), [Kramer Electronics](#), [Libec](#), [MVG](#), [Stack](#) and [Winnov](#). Our products are centrally warehoused in Canberra and are distributed throughout all states of Australia. We also represent most of our manufacturers in New Zealand.

All products are available through GDB International's extensive dealer network. For further information, please contact GDB International:

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