

By Doug Taylor

Set Pieces – The Sign for Your Display



Recognizing a loyal sponsor, celebrating a couple getting married or “flying” an American flag during a patriotic holiday, using a set piece as part of your display can add a special touch that will be remembered.

Set pieces have traditionally been built on a lattice framework with pyrotechnic devices called “lances.” The lance is about the diameter of a pencil and the length would reflect several sharpenings on that pencil. The design is typically laid out with

thin, round bamboo pieces. Once the design is completed, the lances are placed about four inches apart along the bamboo and are then fused together. When it is lit, all of the lances begin to burn in bright colors, spelling the names or design in colors selected by the customer. The lances send out color sparks for approximately 45 to 60 seconds.

In recent years, we have started building set pieces with rope light that permits us

to “light” the set piece without pyrotechnics and maintain that light for an extended period. A typical wedding set piece is eight feet by eight feet with a heart shape inside which the names of the bride and groom are portrayed. Set pieces with a sponsor’s logo have been made with rope light as large as 75 feet long and 32 feet tall. This permits the audience to see it clearly from a long distance.

Set pieces can be animated using delayed timing of the firing of lances or wheels moving on a car design or characters moving. The design found in the accompanying photo is an artist’s rendering of a set piece for the November 18th Light Up Night festival in Pittsburgh. Made using rope light, it is animated with the “150 Years” blinking off and on and the cap of the bottle appearing to pop off the bottle, followed by foam appearing at the mouth of the open bottle.

Set pieces can be simple, inexpensive and still impactful. Or they can be more complex – depending on the goal and budget of the customer. Let our artist work with you to design the right enhancement to your display.

If you have fireworks questions you would like us to address in our column, please email me, Doug Taylor, President/CEO Zambelli Fireworks at dougataylor@zambellifireworks.com.

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The magic of **Zambelli** pyrotechnics has been televised around the world, on “MSNBC Investigates”, the Odyssey Network, the Discovery Channel, The Learning Channel and the British Broadcasting Company.

Blending tradition with innovation, **Zambelli Fireworks** can convert any concept or theme into an unforgettable fireworks extravaganza that leaves a memorable impression on everyone who sees it.