

BETA 8 LANTERNS

THE BETA 8 LANTERN WAS ORIGINALLY ONLY AVAILABLE AS A 60W SLI/H LINEAR LANTERN BEFORE SOI/SOX VERSIONS WERE AVAILABLE. IT WAS KNOWN AS THE "AMBERLINE JUNIOR" BEFORE BEING CALLED BETA 8. "AMBERLINE" WAS THE NAME GIVEN TO THE LINEAR LANTERN RANGE (INCLUDING THE LARGER LINEAR LANTERNS). SOI/SOX TYPES WERE KNOWN AS "AMBERS". THE "AMBERLINE" NAME STUCK WHEN THE SOI/SOX VERSIONS LATER BECAME AVAILABLE, BUT HARKS BACK TO THESE LANTERNS "TRUE" HISTORY AS LINEAR LANTERNS.

NOTES FOR ANYONE CONSIDERING BUILDING A 60W SLI/H LANTERN OR USING A 60W SLI/H LAMP.

I RECENTLY SAW THAT (SOMEWHERE ON A WEBSITE?) SOMEONE HAD PUT TOGETHER A 60W SLI/H BETA 2 USING A 90W SOX CHOKE. BE WARNED THIS WILL CAUSE EARLY FAILURES WITH BURNED-OUT ELECTRODES! I HAVE FOUND THE BEST BALLAST FOR THE 60W LAMP IS A 65W FLUORESCENT CHOKE. THIS MUST BE A TRUE 65W CHOKE. MORE RECENT 58W VERSIONS WILL UNDER RUN THE LAMP TOO MUCH. WHILE THE 65W CHOKE WILL SLIGHTLY UNDER-RUN THE LAMP (BY ABOUT 60mA) THIS IS O.K. AND PROBABLY GIVES A DISTINCT LIFE-ADVANTAGE. LINEAR LAMPS DO NOT SUFFER FROM "ARGON-LIFE" PROBLEMS WHICH CAN AFFECT U-SHAPED (SO/SOI/SOX) LAMPS AND THEY CAN STAND AND IN FACT, BENEFIT, FROM SLIGHT UNDER-RUNNING. I HAVE SEPERATE INSTALLATIONS (OF WHICH MUMS ALLEY-WAY LIGHT IS THE ONLY REMAINING ONE, UNFORTUNATELY, SINCE 2001 - AND WON'T BE DISAPPEARING ENTHUSIASTS OF LINEARS WILL BE PLEASED TO HEAR) ON AVERAGE THE LAMPS WOULD LAST BETWEEN 2 TO 3 YEARS ALL NIGHT BURNING, WHICH IS GOOD AS THEY WERE RATED AT 6000 HOURS ORIGINALLY.

ALSO, AVOID USING ELECTRONIC STARTERS OR SOX IGNITORS (WHICH WILL PROVE INTERMITTENT & UNRELIABLE) AND USE A GOOD QUALITY "UNIVERSAL" FLUORESCENT STARTER (4-65W SIZE) WHICH WAS THE ORIGINAL SPEC, IN ANY CASE, FOR 60W SLI/H LAMPS.