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FlexFlash Instruction Manual • Models SB–FLXFLSH400W, SB–FLXFLSH200W, SB–FLXFLSHE400W, SB–FLXFLSHE200W





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FlexFlash Comes with:



Protective Lamp Cover



Seven Inch Reflector



Power Cord



Sync Cable



Spare Fuse stored inside Fuse Drawer



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Contents

Safety Precautions	page 2
Setting up the FlexFlash with Accessories	page 2 – 3
FlexFlash Operation.....	page 4 – 6
Data Sheet	page 7

The FlexFlash™ by Photoflex is a monobloc, self-contained flash unit. The power supply and flash head are in one unit, making it easier to use for location shooting than floor-generator power-pack type strobes. The FlexFlash utilizes 90 - 260v AC auto voltage detection for worldwide use.

PLEASE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS AND PRODUCT INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE USING YOUR FLEXFLASH STROBE.

Safety Precautions

Make sure the power is turned off and the power cord is NOT plugged into a power receptacle when removing or inserting the modeling lamp or the flashtube.

Do not touch the flashtube with bare hands. The salts and oils on your skin will degrade the glass envelope creating a risk of exploding the flash tube. Use gloves whenever removing or inserting the flash tube.

Do not use the FlexFlash with a broken flashtube or modeling light.

If the FlexFlash has been dropped or damaged, refer to Photoflex for service before using.

Do not insert screwdrivers or other objects into the housing. There is risk of electrical shock.

Connect power cord only to 3 pin grounded outlets.

Do not alter the power cord. Removal of ground pin will create an unsafe environment for using the FlexFlash.

Do not remove the power cord when the power is on as this can be hazardous.

Do not perform any internal service to the FlexFlash. Please refer to Photoflex for service.

Avoid load imbalance of the strobe head and SoftBox when mounted on a light stand.

Setting up the FlexFlash with Accessories

Installing the Modeling Lamp

The FlexFlash comes with a cover to protect the flashtube and modeling light. To remove the lamp cover, press the button on the top of the FlexFlash to disengage the locking mechanism. Rotate the lamp cover counter-clockwise 1/16 turn. Carefully pull the lamp cover away from the strobe unit. **Figure 1**



Figure 1

The cover is in place when the FlexFlash unit is shipped. Before using the FlexFlash for the first time, with the power cord disconnected, remove the lamp cover and install the modeling lamp which is packaged separately. The modeling lamp may be left in the unit after use, however be sure to allow the lamp to cool prior to attaching the protective cover. **Figure 2**

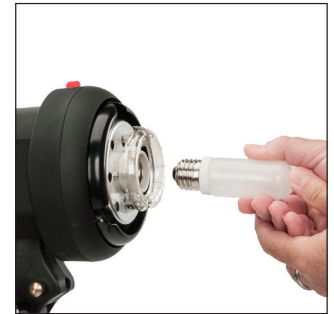


Figure 2

Notice that the lamp cover has three square blocks around the perimeter of its base. To put the lamp cover back in position, line these blocks up with the corresponding notches in the front collar of the strobe head. Place the lamp cover blocks into the collar notches, then rotate the cover clockwise 1/16 turn until the cover locks into position. For increased lamp protection, we recommend always leaving the lamp cover in position until you are ready to turn on the FlexFlash unit.

Using Reflectors

The FlexFlash includes a seven inch multipurpose reflector which is good for use with umbrellas or by itself for direct lighting applications. The reflector will also accept the seven inch grids (sold separately, SKU: SB-SFGRIDS). The reflectors or any S-type accessories attach to the FlexFlash in the same manner as the lamp cover. Notice that the reflector has three square blocks around the perimeter of its base. To put the reflector in position, line these blocks up with the corresponding notches in the front collar of the strobe head. Push the reflector blocks into the collar notches, then rotate the reflector clockwise about 1/16 turn until it locks into position.

To remove the reflector, press the release button on the top of the FlexFlash to disengage the locking mechanism and rotate the reflector counter-clockwise about 1/16 turn; then carefully pull the reflector away from the strobe unit; avoid contact with flash tube or modeling lamp. **Figure 3**



Figure 3

Using SoftBoxes

The FlexFlash can be used with SoftBoxes using the Photoflex Strobe connector SC-B9017TR, which will fit all Photoflex SoftBoxes. To ensure the safest assembly and protect the modeling lamp and flash tube, it is recommended that the assembled SoftBox and connector be placed on a clean floor or carpet.

Attach the Flexflash to the connector by pushing it down into the connector, then rotate it clockwise until it locks into place.

To remove the connector and SoftBox assembly, press the release button on the top of the FlexFlash to disengage the

locking mechanism, while rotating the connector counter-clockwise 1/16 turn. Carefully pull the FlexFlash away from the SoftBox assembly; avoiding contact with the flash tube or modeling lamp.

Figure 4



Figure 4

Using Umbrellas

The Tilt Swivel Mount has a pass hole with an umbrella tightening screw for the umbrella shaft. The FlexFlash accepts both 8mm USA and 7mm European shaft sizes. **Figures 5 & 6**



Figure 5



Figure 6

Placing the FlexFlash on a LiteStand

Back out the knob at the bottom of the swivel to allow enough room for the top of your LiteStand to be inserted into the swivel. Make sure that the stud is fully inserted into the receiver and secure the assembly to the LiteStand post by hand tightening the set screw, turning clockwise. Make sure that the tightening handle on the swivel is securely tightened to prevent unwanted tilt. **Figure 7**



Figure 7

Positioning the Light

Height Adjustment – Use the LiteStand telescoping sections to get the desired height for the light.

Angle Adjustment – the tilt swivel mount will allow for about 170° angle rotation. Use the lockable handle on the swivel to make this adjustment. Unlock the tilt handle by turning counterclockwise, freely adjust your angle. Once you have the desired position, tighten the handle securely by rotating clockwise. **Figure 8**



Figure 8

Note: The tilt handle is spring loaded so that it can be pulled outward and repositioned after tightening.

FlexFlash Operation

The Rear Control Panel

The rear control panel of the FlexFlash is where all adjustments are made for operating the features of the strobe unit. The Buttons will control navigation and selections shown on the LCD display.



- A. Main power switch
- B. Slave sensor/Pre-Flash control button
- C. Flash power adjustment buttons
- D. Power on indicator light
- E. Audible recharge indicator on/off button
- F. Test/discharge button
- G. Modeling light function button
- H. Modeling light power adjustment buttons
- I. Sync cord input
- J. AC power cable input
- K. Fuse holder drawer (one extra held inside)
- L. Modeling lamp fuse holder
- M. Slave sensor



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The rear control panel of the FlexFlash allows all of the operating features of the flash to be controlled from this one area. Below is a more detailed description and instruction for use for each of these features.



A. Main Power Switch - Make sure the switch is turned off (O) when plugging in the power cord and when removing or installing a flash tube or modeling light.



B. [Photocell] Slave Sensor – There are three user selectable options for this feature:




a. Slave sensor off. Use this setting to prevent another photographer's flash from triggering your unit, when you are using a sync cord or wireless trigger.



b. Slave sensor on. Use this setting to trigger your unit with another flash.



c. Pre-Flash Recognition. Use this setting, following the instructions below to set pre-flash recognition when using a TTL Flash to trigger your unit.


c.1. Push the eye  icon button on the rear instrument panel until you land on the **EYE** on the LCD display, then hold the button down for four seconds. The LCD screen will show a decimal display.



c.2. For manual pre-flash setting, use the power up or down buttons to set the number of pre-flashes for your camera.



c.3. For automatic pre-flash recognition, follow the steps below to set the FlexFlash to recognize how many pre-flashes your camera uses:

Step c.3.1. Push the eye icon  and when you land on the **EYE** on the LCD display, hold it down for four seconds.



Step c.3.2. The LCD screen will show a decimal display. Using the down arrow go to the **00** setting. The display will blink indicating it is ready to automatically sense the camera's pre-flash.



Step c.3.3. Take a test picture with your camera to train the FlexFlash. After the shot is taken, the FlexFlash will display the number of pre-flashes used by your camera. The FlexFlash will be set to remember your camera's pre-flash, even after the FlexFlash is powered off.

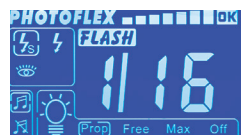


C. Flash power adjustment buttons

The power level can be set for decimal display using 1/10th step adjustments 2.0 – 6.0; or the power can be set for a fractional display using 2/10 step adjustments 1/64 – 1/1. To change the display format from fractional to decimal, turn off the power, then re-power the unit on while holding down both up and down power control buttons.



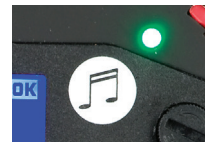
Digital Display



Fractional Display

D. Power Indicator Light

This light will be green when the unit is powered on. It will turn red indicating the unit is in power save mode when the unit is left inactive for 20 minutes.



Note: The unit can be taken out of power save mode by firing a flash to awaken it.



E. Audible Alert On/Off Button

The FlexFlash can be set to sound an audible alert (a beep,) when the flash is fully charged and ready for the next exposure.



F. Test/Discharge Button

Pressing this button will discharge the unit by firing the flash.

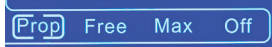


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G. Modeling Light Function Button

This button will allow navigation through the modeling light options such as:



Proportional

Sets the modeling light output to match the intensity of the flash power setting.



Free

Allows independent adjustment of the modeling light to use the unit as a continuous light and not a strobe.



Maximum

Sets the modeling light to its maximum power, remaining at that level regardless of the power setting for the strobe.



H. Modeling light power adjustment buttons

These two arrow buttons will adjust the modeling power up or down when the modeling lamp is set to **Free**.



I. Sync Cord Input

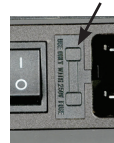
The included sync cord (MiniPhone 1/8 inch / 3.5mm) plugs in here and the other end (PC Connector) plugs into your camera's PC port. Wireless remote triggers will also plug into this port using the same miniphone plug to the wireless trigger.

Note: Some cameras do not include a PC plug for use with sync cables, however adapters are usually available for cameras that have a hot shoe for an external flash.



J. AC Power Cord Input

A power cord is supplied for each FlexFlash unit. Use only the cord supplied. Do not remove the power cord when the power is on as this can create a hazardous situation.



K. Fuse Drawer

The fuse drawer is easily opened with a flat-head (standard) screwdriver. Inside you will see one fuse in use and an extra fuse stored behind it.



L. Modeling Lamp Fuse Receptacle

The fuse holder is easily removed using a flat-head (standard) screwdriver and pushing in while giving a counter-clockwise twist.



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FlexFlash Strobe Datasheet	Model 200 watt/second	Model 400 watt/second
Domestic Item Number	SB–FLXFLSH200W	SB–FLXFLSH400W
Export Item Number	SB–FLXFLSHE200W	SB–FLXFLSHE400W
Flash Power	200 w/sec	400 w/sec
Flash Power Adjustments:		
Decimal Display	1/10th step, 2.0 – 6.0	1/10th step, 2.0 – 6.0
Fractional display	2/10 step, 1/64 – 1/1	2/10 step, 1/64 – 1/1
Recycle time Domestic	.5 – 2 seconds	1 – 2 seconds
Recycle time Export	.5 – 2 seconds	1 – 2 seconds
Modeling Lamp 110volt/220volt	Halogen 120 watt JDD	Halogen 120 watt JDD
Color Temperature	5600 +/- 290 kelvin	5600 +/- 290 kelvin
Flash Trigger	Infrared Cell, (slave) Sync Cord, Manual	Infrared Cell, (slave) Sync Cord, Manual
Ready Light Indication	Yes	Yes
Audible Confirmation on/off	Yes	Yes
Cooling Fan	Automatic Temperature Activated	Automatic Temperature Activated
Circuit Protection 110/220volt	5 x 20 style, 6.3 amp	5 x 20 style, 6.3 amp
Sync Voltage	5 volts	5 volts
Sync Input	1/8 inch / 3.5mm	1/8 inch / 3.5mm
Sync Cable	1/8 inch / 3.5mm – PC	1/8 inch / 3.5mm – PC
Weight (pounds/kgs)	4.80lbs / 2.17kg (incl. power cable & reflector)	5.35lbs / 2.42kg (incl. power cable & reflector)
Size (with protective cap)	13 x 6 x 5 inch / 330 x 150 x 125mm	13 x 6 x 5 inch / 330 x 150 x 125mm
Power Cable USA / South America	Nema 5 – 15 three prong	Nema 5 – 15 three prong
Power Cable Europe	Shuko style	Shuko style
Flash Duration	1/1200 s	1/800 s
Maximum Sync Speed	320 th optical / 250 th radio or wired	320 th optical / 250 th radio or wired
Power Dump	Automatic	Automatic
Working condition	90-260V AC 50/60Hz	90-260V AC 50/60Hz
Temperature	0-40° C	0-40° C
Humidity	80%	80%

PHOTOFLEX® 1 Year WARRANTY

- Warranties only cover manufacturer's defects and workmanship
- We reserve the right to inspect all merchandise returned (end users and dealers) for warranty fulfillment.
- All returns must be accompanied by a receipt showing date of purchase.
- Freight must be paid by the customer or dealer.
- Warranties are valid only from date of Original Purchase.

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