



Making Flash Easy

Understanding How to Use the Flash as a Powerful Photographic Tool

A. Introduction

B. Importance of the Flash

- a. Only controllable light source for most situations
- b. 4 Benefits of **Fill Flash** (using the flash when it would appear to the camera and the photographer that there is enough light)
 - i. Fill in shadows (reduce contrast)
 - ii. Add catch light to portraits
 - iii. Correct color-cast
 - iv. Reduce background brightness

C. What to Look for in Purchasing a Flash

D. How to Use the Flash

- a. Quantity versus Quality of Light
- b. What makes softer light?
 - i. Larger light source
 - ii. Indirect light source
- c. Controlling the Quality of light
 - i. Built-in Flash
 - ii. Straight-on flash
 - iii. Bounce flash
 - iv. Bounce flash with bounce card
 - v. Bounce flash with diffusion dome
- d. Shutter speed

- i. Highest shutter speed usable with flash is 1/200 or 1/250th for most cameras
 - ii. Normal operating shutter speed with flash is 1/60
 - iii. Lowering the shutter speed below 1/60 allows for more ambient light (slow sync flash)
- e. Controlling the Quantity of light
- i. Flash compensation
 - ii. ISO (400)
- f. Other Flash/Camera Settings
- i. White balance (Auto WB)
 - ii. Flash Mode (TTL)

E. Camera Exposure Modes and Flash

- a. Program (P)
- i. Auto everything with flash
 - ii. Maximum flash distance (both direct and with bounce dome)
 - iii. Fill flash pictures outside in sun and shade
- b. Shutter Priority (S or TV)
- i. Slow sync flash for recording more ambient light (shutter speeds below 1/60th)
 - ii. Maximum flash sync speed for stopping motion (up to 1/200th)
- c. Aperture Priority (A or AV)
- i. Preferred shooting mode gives control over depth of field and takes care of shutter speed
 - ii. Keeps camera from dropping to the lowest aperture giving up depth of field like it would likely do in Program mode

d. Manual (M)

- i. Full control over aperture and shutter speed while flash is still automatic
- ii. Used for situations where nothing is changing and consistency is the priority (but remember, the flash in TTL is still in automatic and can vary)

F. How Camera Settings are Simplified by Using Flash

	Settings with Flash	Settings for Available Light
Mode	A or AV (P outside)	A or AV
Aperture choice	Any aperture desired	Lowest possible if low light (F1.8, 2.8, etc.)
Shutter Speed	1/60 (set automatically)	1/60 to handhold or need tripod
ISO	400	1600 or higher (if low light)
Focusing Mode	AFS or One Shot	AFS or One Shot
AF Area Mode	Auto Select	Single Point (Manual point ctrl)
White Balance	Auto	Custom or Preset
Exposure Compensation	Start at 0	Start at 0
Lens selection	General range zoom	Fixed max. aperture - prime
Camera support	Not needed	Possibly tripod or monopod

G. Questions and Answers

Other Notes:

