

Ring Flash Shooting Tips

Many photographers are not familiar with the unique lighting effect of a ring flash. By wrapping the light all the way around the lens, it does not throw shadows on your subject. Inversely, it creates an outline shadow on the background on all sides of your subject. These effects can be regulated by diffusion and various distance combinations from the camera to the subject and the subject on further to the background.

While it's true that the inverse law of light fall off still applies so the light output loses two f-stops when you double the distance; when you work indoors you will notice that the light appears to go further into the background and will seem softer on your subject compared to outdoor use because of the very wide angle of light coverage (almost 120 degrees) that sends significant amounts of light onto the walls and ceiling to bounce back onto your subject and into the background. Remember the wide coverage when shooting with a wide angle (or fish eye) lens and try to avoid over exposing the foreground.

Like any light source, the closer you get to the subject the larger the light is in relation to the subject. This also softens the shadow thrown behind the subject because it does a better job of reaching around the subject. It does create the largest shadow on the background that will get larger and softer as the background is further behind the subject. Moving the Ring Light further away is still shadow less on the subject but is also tighter on the shadow effect. The background "halo effect" shadow is amplified (although tighter around the subject) and is sharper as the subject is moved closer to the background.

Remember that placing arms, legs or other props in front of the subject will cast such a "halo effect" shadow onto the subject.

One of the easiest ways to use the ring flash to shoot candid events or moving subjects is to shoot from further away as the light's "depth of field" increases and less changes to the f-stop or power setting are needed. For example you will see about an f-stop of difference between 3 feet and 4.5 feet but you will also see an f-stop of difference between 18 feet and 24 feet allowing a much greater range of movement without making adjustments. Then let your zoom lens do the walking. Some examples of this can be found at the Downloads Page at www.Lumedyne.com or in the Podcast page at the Pro Learning Center at www.Tamron.com with a video slideshow by D.J. LaDez about shooting a whole wedding with a similar Ring Flash and one lens. Web information as of August, 2006.

Refer to the Ring Flash guide card for more specific information about light output at various distances

At 25ws, f-8 is easily achieved from 4.5 feet for ASA 200

At 400ws, f-8 is possible from 18 feet for ASA 200

At 1600ws, f-8 is possible from 36 feet for ASA 200

Remember to expect a little extra when shooting indoors due to reflected light returning to your field of view.

Feel free to contact Lumedyne with your questions or concerns:

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HRF1 1600ws Ring Flash With Modeling Lights



IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND WARNINGS INSIDE READ FULLY BEFORE OPERATING

Congratulations, this quick guide is designed to help you get the best results from your Ring Flash. It's brief, and has helpful shooting information. It's worth a few minutes to read it fully before using the product.

- 1) Features & Warnings**
- 2) Usage Instructions**
- 3) Ring Flash Shooting Tips**

Your product has a two year warranty but it does not cover broken glass after purchase. We expect many years of performance from this flashtube and if misuse is evident, we reserve the right to not cover the flashtube.

The glass flashtube and cover are fragile. The Head should not be used without the glass cover. The tube should not be handled or removed because over 5000V is sometimes present around the flashtube.

Don't remove the Handle or Glass Cover or go inside it as that could immediately void your warranty.

Features & Warnings



Green "Ready" Indicator
Red "Modeling ON" Indicator



Lightweight and Durable Plastic Reflector Assembly
Reflector and Camera Bracket designed by Hensel™
Insulates against any shock hazard and saves weight in your hands (Only 2.8 lbs)

Universal Camera Support Bracket
Adjusts Up/Down, Forward/Back and Left/Right with the 1/4-20 camera thumb screw
Holds nearly any camera
100mm opening fits most lenses

1/4-20 and 3/8" threaded mounts for tripod or mount

Failure to plug the Head Cord in fully and lightly tighten the threaded ring could result in a short circuit and damage the Pack and Head

NOTE: Some units have writing on the back near the controls that's no longer accurate since Lumedyne replaced all of the internal workings and flashtube. Please follow the warnings listed in these instructions

Flashtube has ten f-stop range from 3ws to 1600ws
Factory tested to over 8000ws per minute
Flashtube is soldered in so it must be repaired at an authorized Lumedyne Repair Facility
Never touch the flashtube, even when OFF because the oils in your skin will damage the tube.

Protective glass reflector cover must be used- The clear cover ARFC can be replaced with an optional ARFD frosted and diffused glass cover
Further diffusion is available from Hensel's Octi-Ring-Softbox RF90 (Refer to Hensel info)

Modeling circuit has twelve (12) large white LED bulbs
On/Off push button with Red indicator
Helps the camera focus beyond twenty feet away in the dark
Provides ample illumination to see the subject through the camera's view finder
Draws about half of the current (battery draw) of one 25 watt halogen light
Provides about half the illumination as the normal Lumedyne modeling light, but in a focused beam
LED's turn off during the flash exposure and back on when the System is recycled
LED's have almost 10,000 hour estimated life span, so they might never burn out
AC Supply must have low voltage "Modeling" power to operate the Ring Flash correctly
Modeling Light Output is about f-2.8 at one foot for 1/60th of a second at ASA 200



Angle of coverage is almost 120 degrees!

Usage Instructions

Step 1) After carefully unpacking and examining your Ring Flash you should place it face down (glass side down) on a clean flat surface. Save the original packaging as it is intended to be reused to protect your Ring Flash in storage or shipment. Use the two thumb nuts on the back of the Ring Flash to loosely secure the camera bracket to the reflector assembly. It's logical to start with the bracket in the lowest position to help the camera fit into place easier. Loosen the horizontal thumb screws as well. Allow the camera platform to slide all the way forward.

Step 2) Place your camera with the lens of choice into the center of the Ring Flash. This is easiest without any lens hood. If the camera's body reaches the reflector assembly before the lens reaches the working surface then align the 1/4-20 thumb screw to the camera's threaded socket and tighten while holding the camera straight on the camera platform and holding it in the center of the opening. If the lens sits on the flat surface then bring the camera platform up to the base of the camera but do not tighten the horizontal thumb screws yet. Do not worry about the vertical or horizontal adjustments yet, only Left or Right and the camera should be straight. Once the camera is secure on the platform then center the vertical position of the lens in the opening and securely tighten the thumb nuts on the back of the reflector assembly. Finally adjust the horizontal (Forward and Back) position based on hand comfort as you hold the camera normally. Check that you cannot see the inner part of the reflector through the view finder, if so, you'll have to move the camera forward. Once the camera is in place you can reattach a lens hood if desired. If the camera is centered correctly, then you should be able to exchange lenses without issue or realignment.

Lastly, attach the sync cord (sold separately) to one of the dual sync jacks on the Ring Flash. A Household cable will likely be polarized so the cable goes up. Both Jacks are wired together and the sync voltage is low enough to be safe on all cameras (6.5 volts) even directly through the hotshoe. Triggering the Ring Flash will set off other Lumedyne Heads on the same System but not vice-versa so you must trigger to one of the sync jacks on the Ring Flash.

Step 3) Be sure that the power is turned off on the Lumedyne Power Pack you wish to use. Then carefully align and plug in the Head Cable to the Pack Jack. It's important to plug the connector in all the way and to use the threaded ring to lightly lock the connector in place. Do not overtighten. When you turn on the Power Pack, your Head should light up the Green LED in a few moments, indicating the System is ready. If the Red LED lights up, the Modeling Lights are ON and running down your Battery at a rate of one 400ws flash per minute. Press the large button on the back of the reflector, above the handle, to turn the Modeling Lights ON or OFF. Press the small button to confirm that it is flashing correctly (Remember to look away from the flash when testing it, also do not flash too many times while the face of the reflector is on a flat surface). Finally, test the sync connection by test firing your camera.

Step 4) Test the light output of the Ring Flash by checking it at different power levels at different distances. You should measure those distances and confirm them to the Ring Flash Guide Card. You should also note the way that the distance to the subject and the subject to the background both play a large roll in how the shadows (behind) and highlights appear on your test subject. More information about that is on the Shooting Tips page. Once you have noted the light output at various power settings and various distances and confirmed our guide numbers then you are ready to shoot the fashionable shadow less (on the subject) images you chose this head for. We offer a Diffused Glass Ring Flash Cover ARFD that can be installed by a qualified technician with a screwdriver. Due to the high voltage components inside we cannot recommend changing the glass cover yourself. There is also an octagonal Ring Flash Softbox that is available from Hensel that will fit this head. Any Diffusion will lower the light output but you will likely find that you have plenty of power available from the Lumedyne Power Packs. Those Systems that can be Boosted will power this Head up to 1600ws.

Step 5) When you are finished using the Ring Flash Head, either carefully return it to it's original packaging or a suitably protective case that will prevent items from hitting or scratching the glass cover on the front of the unit. Broken glass is not covered under warranty. The Accessory Ring Flash Clear Cover is the ARFC and should be replaced by a qualified technician. Do not use the Ring Flash without a protective cover.

One advantage of an aftermarket case is that you can choose one large enough to leave the camera bracket in place to avoid having to make horizontal and vertical adjustments each time you mount your camera.