

**What the original Wireless Flash E-booklet was going to consist of (which I firmly believe is exactly the *wrong* approach!)**

1. Introduction
  - a. What you need to know to get started
  - b. How it Works
  - c. How to enable wireless flash on your camera
  - d. Getting your first shot
    - i. "P" mode
    - ii. Maximum shot-to-shot time
  - e. Will it work without line-of-sight?
    - i. Indoors – yes. Outdoors – perhaps. See later on in this book.
  - f. Tools of the trade – various ways of diffusing your flash
    - i. Bounce Card / Ceiling Bounce
    - ii. Cloth
    - iii. Umbrella
    - iv. Softbox
    - v. Beauty Dish
    - vi. Shoot-through umbrella
    - vii. Paper tube
    - viii. Velcro on the Flash head
    - ix. Light stands, fixtures, and VAL (Voice-Activated Lightstands)
  - g. The Various Flash Models
    - i. Talk about 20 flash on the A900 – it's the old protocol
    - ii. New vs. old hotshoe and adapters
  - h. Introduce the idea behind old and new wireless protocols.
2. Some Samples of what Wireless Flash can do
  - a. Include setup diagrams for each shot
  - b. Do a sunset shot with a subject (bench?) lit with wireless
  - c. Show examples from seminar
3. Easy (And cheap!) Studio Setups
  - a. 1 flash - Black or Ambient Backdrop
    - i. Modeling Light
  - b. Classic 2-flash Portrait Lighting
  - c. White Background
    - i. Cheap Backdrop Material
  - d. In all cases
    - i. Long lens – between 100-200mm (after 1.5x conversion factor, that is)
    - ii. Doesn't have to be white lens – you'll probably be stopping down to f/11
    - iii. Ambient light useful for helping the camera to focus. Won't show up in shot with low ISO and small f/stop.
  - e. Manual or Automatic flash output?
4. In the Field
  - a. Various on-location shots and how I did them. (Strobist-style)
    - i. Kua under pier
    - ii. Wheat shot
    - iii. Mixing board
    - iv. Wine Bottle shots

- b. Outdoor Portraits
      - i. Umbrella
      - ii. Long Lens at f/2.8
      - iii. Subject in the shade
- 5. Technical Stuff
  - a. How it Works
  - b. Will the pre-flash bursts affect my exposures?
    - i. Infrared Filters
    - ii. HSS
  - c. Your shutter and the Flash Sync Speed
  - d. Shutter speed controls ambient light; f/stop controls ambient and flash
    - i. Flash produces greater output to compensate
  - e. Balancing Ambient Light and Flash
    - i. Adjust the ambient to be your fill level – about 1-2 stops under.
    - ii. Flash white balance in AWB, Daylight, and Flash WB
  - f. White Balance
    - i. Choose either “Daylight” or “Flash WB” (Flash WB is a tad yellower; Daylight is technically accurate.)
  - g. External Power
  - h. Groups and Channels
    - i. How to change them
  - i. Ratio flash using the old protocol (i.e., move one of the lights further away)
  - j. HSS Flash
    - i. and the “Fire” command
  - k. Multi-flash (pull from A900 book)
- 6. The Advanced Protocols
  - a. Models A700 and higher coupled with 58 flash
  - b. Groups
  - c. Intermixing old and new protocol flashes
  - d. How to do ratio
- 7. FAQ
  - a. How many wireless flashes should I get?
    - i. You can do a professional studio setup with only one!
  - b. Hints for triggering flashes outdoors
    - i. Try shielding the receiver from direct sunlight
    - ii. Radio slaves
      - 1. PocketWizards don’t do TTL
      - 2. You’ll need a physical adapter for the Sony hot shoe.
        - a. Cheap mechanical flash shoe adapter
        - b. [http://cgi.ebay.co.uk/Flash-Hot-Shoe-Adapter-for-SONY-F58AM-Minolta-Flashes\\_W0QQitemZ110322053502QQcmdZViewItemQQptZUK\\_CamerasPhoto\\_CameraAccessories\\_CameraFlashUnits\\_JN?hash=item19afb4f17e](http://cgi.ebay.co.uk/Flash-Hot-Shoe-Adapter-for-SONY-F58AM-Minolta-Flashes_W0QQitemZ110322053502QQcmdZViewItemQQptZUK_CamerasPhoto_CameraAccessories_CameraFlashUnits_JN?hash=item19afb4f17e)
  - c. What about Lazy Eye?
    - i. Talk about the Metz flash
  - d. Are Nikon or Canon wireless Flashes Compatible with the Minolta / Sony system?
    - i. No. They’re proprietary, just like the lenses.

- e. Any benefit to graduating to real monolights?
    - i. You can use smaller f/stops and you can have faster shot-to-shot times.
    - ii. But they're also much bulkier, power-hungry, non-portable, and of course there's no TTL.
  - f. A friend has a Nikon flash / a flash that can work in Slave mode. Can it work with the Sony system?
    - i. Only if your popup flash can be put into manual output mode (and even then, on the lowest setting.) I believe the A700 and A77 are the only Sony cameras that can do this as of this writing.
  - g. Does the metering mode matter when it comes to flash exposure?
    - i. Yes (provide examples)
8. Additional Resources
- a. Strobist.com and the "On Assignment" archive