

WILSONWERKS ARCHIVES

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ALFON

MODELS 250/MD & 280/MD MULTI-DEDICATED™ COMPUTER FLASH FOR: CANON, MINOLTA, NIKON, PENTAX

WHAT DOES MULTI-DEDICATED™ MEAN?

"Dedicated" Operation means that the flash unit automatically prevents the three most common mistakes made during flash photography:

- 1) Forgetting to set the shutter speed to the "X" setting.
- 2) Shooting before the flash is ready.
- 3) Forgetting to change the lens F/Stop when changing distance from the subject.

Countless pictures have been ruined because of these 3 common errors.

The Flash will automatically set the correct shutter speed to "X" (1/60 - 1/100 second), even if the shutter speed dial has been left at 1/1000 second, or 1 second, or "Automatic", or any setting in between.

At the same time, a red light will go on automatically inside the camera viewfinder to tell you that the flash is charged and ready to fire.

The computer inside the flash unit will automatically deliver the proper amount of light regardless of the subject distance (up to 18-20 feet). You only have to set the lens F/Stop once, initially, to match the ASA speed of the film being used.

"Multi-Dedicated™" means that the Flash will operate in the Dedicated Mode with a "Multitude" of cameras:

Canon® : A-1, AE-1, AV-1, AT-1

Minolta® : XG-Series (XG-1, XG-7, XG-9, etc.)
XD-Series (XD-5, XD-11, etc.)

Nikon® : EM, FE

Pentax® : ME Super, MV-1, MV

Also Fits All Non-Dedicated, Hot-Shoe Cameras

The Alfon Flash Unit operates on each of these cameras just like the Dedicated Flash Unit made or sold by the camera's manufacturer. For the Canon A-1 and AE-1, however, it is not necessary to accurately adjust the ASA Dial on the flash unit (this is an important and required step when using Canon's own flash unit). Instead, the camera lens F/Stop is simply set once, initially, to match the ASA speed of the film being used.

THE FLASH IS FULLY INTEGRATED. NO ADAPTERS OR CORDS ARE NEEDED.

FULL COMPATIBILITY WITH ALL NON-DEDICATED HOT-SHOE 35mm CAMERAS:

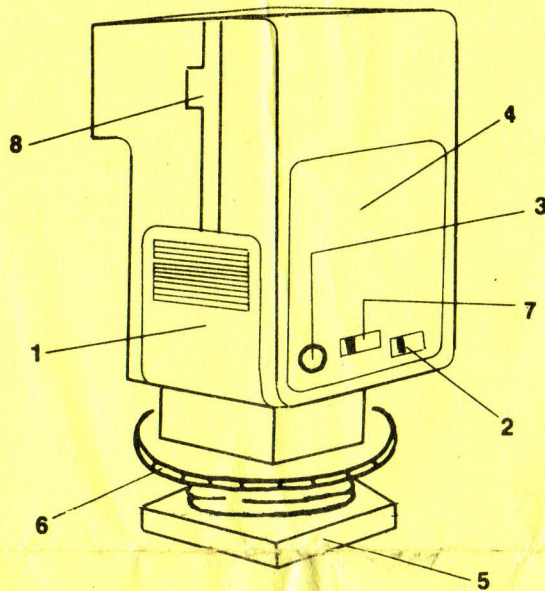
The flash unit can be used on all Hot-Shoe, Non-Dedicated 35mm cameras. A sync cord is not available.

HOW TO LOAD THE BATTERIES:

Open the Battery Door by sliding the door down. Insert "AA" Alkaline Batteries according to the (+) and (-) symbols in the battery compartment. Close the door.

Follow carefully the (+) and (-) symbols shown inside the battery compartment. The flash unit will not charge if the batteries have been inserted incorrectly.

CAUTION:
DO NOT USE Ni-Cad (Rechargeable) or low-cost carbon (so-called "Heavy Duty") batteries.



1. Battery Compartment Cover
2. On/Off Switch
3. Ready Lamp
4. Exposure Table
5. Hot Shoe
6. Locking Ring
7. Multi-Dedicated Switch (Optional)
8. Notch For Optional Zoom Lens

HOW TO USE THE FLASH UNIT

1. PREPARE THE FLASH

Install the batteries. If your flash is equipped with the optional Multi-Dedicated switch then please adjust it to match your camera. Flash models without the switch will adjust themselves automatically to match your camera:

2. Install the Flash on the Camera

The on off switch should be at "off" (red area not showing) before installing or removing the flash from the camera. Also the knurled locking ring should be all the way up. Hold the flash unit close to its foot and slide the flash foot into the camera shoe until it stops. If the contact pins "catch" on the edge of the shoe, you may use the tip of a pencil to push the pins up. Or you may wiggle the flash gently until the foot slides in all the way. If flash is not pushed completely all the way into the camera shoe, the flash may fail to operate correctly. Tighten the knurled locking ring until it locks the flash securely into the hot-shoe. Now you may turn the flash switch to "on" (red area showing).

3. Wait For Ready-Lite

After turning the switch to "on", you will hear a faint humming sound—the flash capacitor is being charged. After 8-10 seconds (with fresh batteries) the Ready-Lite on the rear of the flash should go on. Also, a "Flash-Ready" signal will go on in the camera's viewfinder.

Canon :	A-1:	A letter "F" will light up.
	AE-1:	The meter needle will swing to its stop (or: to F/4).
	AV-1:	The meter needle will point to a shutter speed of 1/60 second.
	AT-1:	No viewfinder indication available.
Minolta :	XG:	A red light (LED) will light up next to the "1/60"
	XD:	The overexposure red arrow (LED) at the top of the viewfinder will light up.
Nikon :	EM:	A red light (LED) next to "1/60" will light up.
	FE:	A red light (LED) at the top of the viewfinder eyepiece will light up.
Pentax :	MV: MV-1	A red "X" will light up.
	ME SUPER:	A red light (LED) next to "1/60" lights up.

4. Adjust the Camera Settings

A. Lens Aperture (F/Stop):

When using a conventional non-computer electronic flash unit, the lens aperture is set according to the output (Guide Number) of the unit and the camera-to-subject distance. In computer flash the aperture is set first and the flash output is controlled automatically by the computer sensor.

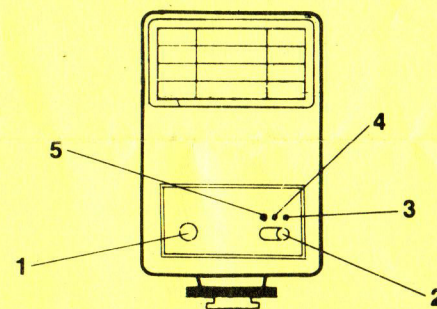
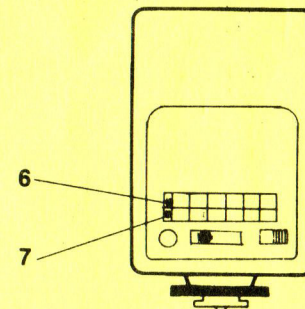
You must adjust the lens F/Stop according to the:

- Film ASA Speed.
- Flash computer power setting: Red or Blue dot.

Find the correct F/Stop from the red/blue exposure table ("Auto") on the rear of the flash unit.

		250/MD	280/MD
Example:	Film:	100 ASA	100 ASA
	Computer:	Red Dot	Red Dot
	Lens F/Stop:	F/4	F/2.8
Example:	Film:	400 ASA	400 ASA
	Computer:	Blue Dot	Blue Dot
	Lens F/Stop:	F/11	F/11

use the red setting to obtain maximum flash range. Use the Blue setting to obtain maximum depth of field.



1. Computer Sensor
2. Computer Switch
3. Red Dot
4. Blue Dot
5. White Dot
6. Red Exposure Table
7. Blue Exposure Table

B. Shutter Speed:

The shutter speed dial should be set to "Auto" (Automatic Exposure) for most pictures. However, you may leave it set at any other speed, except "B". When the flash is ready, the shutter speed will automatically change-over to "X".

Important: for Non-Dedicated cameras be sure to set the shutter speed dial to "X" (usually 1/60 second). Read your camera manual under "flash".

C. Lens Focus:

You must, of course, adjust the lens for the correct distance. The "Maximum Flash Range" of the flash unit on automatic operation can be determined from the calculator.

	Red Setting:	Blue Setting:	Maximum
250/MD	18 feet	12 feet	5.5 meter
280/MD	25 Feet	12 Feet	4.0 meter

Pictures taken at distances greater than the maximum Flash Range will be underexposed (too dark).

The minimum distance for Automatic (Computer) operation is 3 feet. Pictures taken at closer distances will be overexposed (too light). Switch over to "manual" control (the "white" setting on the computer selector switch) for such situations.

NOTE: The maximum and minimum operating ranges stay unchanged for all film speeds (ASA).

5. TAKE THE PICTURE

Before taking the next picture be sure to wait for the Ready Lite to go on again.

For best results, wait an extra 10-15 seconds after the Ready Lite goes on before taking a picture.

If you are not taking another picture soon, remember to turn the on/off switch to "off". This will extend the life of your batteries.

6. Special Situations

A. Non-Flash Photography with the Flash Attached:

When the flash switch is turned to "off", the camera returns to normal, non-flash. Automatic operation (or Manual) You may, therefore, leave the flash attached to the camera even during outdoor photography.

B. Flash at Large Distances:

For taking photos beyond the Auto Flash Range (18 feet max), please switch the Computer Power Control to white (manual). Use the Manual Exposure Calculator on the rear of the flash unit to find your F/Stop.

Example: Film: 100 ASA
Distance: 40 feet
F/Stop: F/2

Be sure to re-adjust the F/Stop every time you change the shooting distance.

C. USING GUIDE NUMBERS TO CALCULATE EXPOSURE

If your film speed or your camera-to-subject distance is not on the Exposure Calculator, please proceed as follows:

Divide the "Flash Guide Number" (you will find it in the table below) by the "camera-to-subject distance". The result is your F/Stop.

$$\frac{\text{FLASH GUIDE NUMBER}}{\text{Camera-to-Subject Distance}} = \text{LENS F/Stop}$$

Example:

Distance: 10 feet Film: 160 ASA
GN Table Shows: 86
To find F/Stop: Divide 86 by 10 = F/8.6

Example:

Distance: 50 feet Film: 400 ASA
GN Table Show: 136
$$\text{F/Stop} = \frac{136}{50} = 2.7$$

Guide Numbers in Feet (ASA—FEET):

ASA Film Speed	25	50	64	80	100	125	160	200	400	800
GN	34	48	54	60	68	76	86	96	136	192

D. CAMERAS WITH AUTOMATIC LENS SETTING ("Auto Flash" Feature)

Some cameras have an automatic feature which sets the correct lens aperture (F/Stop) as you focus.

All you have to do is set the correct guide number (see table above) on the camera's Guide Number Scale (see your camera instruction manual).

Remember to set the Flash Computer Selector Switch to the "WHITE" (Manual) position.

7. HOW TO USE THE OPTIONAL ZOOM LENS

The 3-position zoom lens delivers proper lighting coverage when using camera lenses of focal lengths from 35mm to 85mm.

The zoom lens has 3 "click" positions at:

- Closed position "W" -Wide Angle - 35mm lens
- Middle position "N" -Normal - 50mm lens
- Extended position "T" -Telephoto - 85mm lens

Simply set the zoom lens to the setting that comes closest to the focal length of your camera lens.

The "Maximum Flash Range" of the flash unit is increased by 2 feet when used at the Telephoto ("T") setting:

- Red computer setting: 20 feet maximum (6 meter)
- Blue computer setting: 14 feet maximum (4.3 meter)

The camera lens (F/Stop) should always be set according to the red/blue calculator dial regardless of the flash zoom lens position.

The zoom lens can be removed from the flash unit by first moving it to the "T" position and then pulling out the rear of each zoom track until it snaps out of the notch on the flash unit.

The Zoom Lens can be re-installed but it is not an easy task.

HELPFUL HINTS

(250/280)

1. BATTERIES

- Check batteries for freshness when you purchase them. (Most stores have a battery tester).
- Turn switch to "OFF" between pictures.
- Replace batteries when recycling time exceeds 30 seconds.
- Remove the batteries if not using flash for a long time.
- Loading The Batteries: Please be careful when inserting the batteries. Pushing them in too forcefully will bend the flash contacts downwards and prevent them from making contact with the batteries. If this happens, simply lift the tips of the flash contacts gently with your finger or with a pencil.
- If Your Flash Unit Is Not Charging Properly:
 - Be sure your batteries are fresh Alkaline type batteries.
 - Be sure the batteries are properly inserted, and the switch is "on" (red area must be showing).
 - Check to see if the battery contacts are "collapsed" (bent downwards too much). Lift them if necessary.
 - Try a different brand of batteries. There are differences between batteries.
 - Don't use rechargeable (Ni-Clad) batteries. They could damage the flash unit.

2. BACKGROUNDS:

- Keep your subject close to the background. Try to use a bright colorful background.
- Avoid dark walls or large halls.
- Flash pictures taken at night outdoors will be dark. Open the lens aperture setting one or two extra F/Stops.

3. DISTANCE

When shooting at distances greater than 15-20 feet, wait an extra 10-15 seconds after the Ready Lite goes on. This allows the unit to become fully charged.

4. If Your Flash Unit Does Not Flash

- First - Remove the flash unit from the camera.
- Check proper placement of batteries.
- Check ON/OFF Switch (red area visible means "ON").
- If you can hear a humming noise, wait a while longer.
- If Ready Lite finally comes on (after 30 seconds or more) - you need fresh batteries.
- If in doubt about your batteries, ask your Photo Dealer to test them for you.

Remember: The Flash will not fire if the flash on/off switch is at "off"

5. BEFORE YOU GO ON A TRIP OR BEFORE YOU TAKE ANY ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT PICTURES:

Please shoot one roll and check the results.

- Sometimes people's eyes appear red in flash pictures. This is most common when your subject has blue eyes. You can minimize the red reflections by turning on all the lights in the room. Then ask your subject to look directly at one of the room lights (this will cause the eye pupil to close slightly, thus reducing the amount of reflection).

- You can keep your flash capacitor operating at peak efficiency by letting the flash unit charge up about once a month and firing it several times.

SPECIFICATIONS

- Guide Numbers: 34 - (ASA 25)
68 - (ASA 100)
- Auto F/Stops: F/4 & F/5.6 (ASA 100) (and Manual Setting)
- Auto Range: 3 - 18 feet (1-5 meters) (3-20 feet with Zoom)
- Shoe Lock: Positive-Grip screw
- Shoe Contact Pins: 5
- Power Source: 2 "AA" Alkaline cells
- Flash Speed: 1/1000 to 1/30,000 seconds
- Recycle Time: 9-10 seconds (Thyristor: 0.5-8 sec.)
- Number of flashes: Up to 200
- Weight: 5 oz. (w/o batteries)
- Battery Door: "Easy-Slide"
- Size: 4" High x 2 1/4" Wide x 2" Deep

AUTO F/STOP SETTINGS

MODEL 250

ASA Film Speed	25	50	64	100	125	160	200	400
Computer Red Setting	F/2	2.8	3.5	4	4.5	5	5.6	8
Computer Blue Setting	F/2.8	4	4.5	5.6	6.3	7	8	11

Model 280

ASA Film Speed	25	50	64	100	125	160	200	400
Red Setting	F/1.4	2.0	2.5	2.8	3	3.5	4	5.6
Blue Setting	F/2.8	4	4.5	5.6	6.3	7	8	11

MANUAL FLASH OPERATION: Guide Numbers in Feet (ASA-FEET) and Meters (ASA-METERS):

ASA Film Speed	25	50	64	80	100	125	160	200	400	800
GN (Feet)	34	48	54	60	68	76	86	96	136	192
GN (Meters)	10	15	16	18	21	23	26	29	41	58

ALFON LIMITED WARRANTY

(250/280)

Your ALFON Product has been built and inspected with great care. It is warranted by ALFON INTERNATIONAL for a period of Five Years from the Date of Purchase.

1. What is covered by the Warranty

Any part which because of manufacturing defects or poor workmanship fails to function properly under normal use will be fixed at no charge for parts and labor. If Alfion is unable to fix your unit it will be replaced at Alfion's option.

2. What is not covered by the Warranty

Consequential or incidental damages: damages from delay or loss of use of equipment or damaged film (some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you).

Malfunctions resulting from misuse, tampering, unauthorized repairs, modification, or accidents, batteries and/or damage caused by any defect in the

unit.

3. What to do when you need Service

Package the unit carefully in a carton which allows at least 3 inches of packing material on all sides.

Ship it Prepaid and insured by Parcel Post or by U.P.S. to
ALFON SERVICE CENTER
43 Goffle Road
Hawthorne, NJ 07506

Include the following in your package

1. Proof-of-Purchase showing date and place of purchase.
2. A description of the problem.
3. Sample pictures if available.
4. A check or money order for \$3.50 for handling and return shipping costs.

When Service is completed, we will return your unit to you Prepaid.