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Sekonic 401-358

Sekonic L-358 Flash Master Light Meter User Manual

Model: 401-358

1. INTRODUCTION

The Sekonic L-358 Flash Master is a digital light meter designed for accurate flash and ambient light readings in both incident and reflected modes. It provides essential exposure information for photographers to achieve precise lighting control and consistent results. This manual outlines the setup, operation, and maintenance of your L-358 meter.



Image 1.1: The Sekonic L-358 Flash Master Light Meter. This image displays the meter's main body with its Lumisphere, LCD screen, and control buttons, providing an overview of the device.

2. SETUP

2.1. Battery Installation

The L-358 requires one CR123A Lithium battery for operation. To install the battery:

1. Locate the battery compartment cover on the back of the meter.
2. Slide the cover to open the compartment.
3. Insert one CR123A battery, ensuring correct polarity as indicated inside the compartment.
4. Close the battery compartment cover securely.





Image 2.1: Rear view of the Sekonic L-358 with the battery compartment open. This image shows the location for battery insertion and the DIP switches for custom settings.

2.2. Custom Functions (DIP Switches)

The meter features DIP switches for custom function settings, located within the battery compartment. These switches allow configuration of various operational parameters, such as shutter speed and aperture readout intervals (full, half, or third-stop). Refer to the markings next to the switches for specific configurations.

2.3. Optional Radio Flash Triggering

The Sekonic RT-32 Transmitter Module (sold separately) can be installed into the battery compartment for wireless flash triggering. This module supports 32 digital coded channels and Quad-Triggering Zones, compatible with PocketWizard® radio triggering systems. Installation involves inserting the module into the designated slot within the battery compartment.





Image 2.2: Packaging for the Sekonic Radio Transmitter Module. This image shows the box for the optional RT-32 module, which enables wireless flash triggering with the L-358.

3. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

3.1. General Controls

The L-358 features a Jog Wheel for settings adjustment and a large LCD for clear readout. Buttons for Power, AVE./ΔEV, ISO 1, ISO 2, Mode, and Memory are provided for various functions. Familiarize yourself with these controls for efficient operation.



SEKONIC



POWER AVE./ Δ EV



ISO 1



ISO 2



MODE



MEMORY



FLASH MASTER
L-358





Image 3.1: Front view of the Sekonic L-358. This image highlights the LCD screen, control buttons (Power, AVE./ΔEV, ISO 1, ISO 2, Mode, Memory), and the Jog Wheel for adjustments.

3.2. Ambient Light Metering

- **Incident Light:** For incident light readings of three-dimensional subjects, extend the Lumisphere. This measures the light falling on the subject, providing accurate exposure settings that render colors and tones naturally.



Image 3.2: Sekonic L-358 with the Lumisphere extended. This configuration is used for incident light measurements, capturing the light falling onto the subject.

- **Reflected Light:** For reflected light metering, use the included Lumigrd. The Lumisphere can be retracted to use the flat diffuser for contrast readings or to attach the Lumigrd. This measures light reflected from the subject.



Image 3.3: The Lumigrid attachment for the Sekonic L-358. This accessory is used for reflected light measurements, focusing on light bouncing off the subject.

3.3. Flash Light Metering

The L-358 supports flash metering with a synch cord or cordlessly. In cordless mode, the meter automatically resets after each reading, facilitating quick adjustments to flash brightness. The multi-flash function allows accumulating multiple flash pops to achieve the desired exposure or depth of field.

3.4. Analyzing Function

This function measures ambient and flash light simultaneously, indicating the percentage of flash in the total exposure. This is particularly useful for balancing mixed lighting scenarios. Adjust the ambient-flash mix using the Jog Wheel to achieve the desired effect.

3.5. Contrast Function

To set up lighting ratios or check scene evenness, take a reading of a key light or reference area and press the AVE./ΔEV button to establish it as a standard. Subsequent readings will display the brightness difference (in EV) between the current measurement and the established standard.

3.6. Memory and Averaging

The meter can store up to 9 readings in memory. These stored readings can be used for averaging to determine an overall exposure, or for contrast evaluations across different parts of a scene.

3.7. Dual ISO Settings

The two dedicated ISO buttons (ISO 1 and ISO 2) allow for quick switching between two different film speeds or sensor sensitivities. This feature is useful for comparing exposures with different ISO settings or when working with multiple film types.

3.8. Cine Readings

For motion picture applications, the L-358 calculates cine readings, supporting a wide range of frame rates from 2 to 360 frames-per-second. This provides precise exposure control for video production.



Image 3.4: Close-up of the Sekonic L-358 LCD display. This image illustrates how exposure values, ISO, and other settings are presented on the meter's screen during operation.

4. MAINTENANCE

4.1. Care and Handling

The L-358 is designed to be dust-proof and splash-proof (JIS Standard Water Resistance Class 4), offering protection against light moisture. However, it is important to protect the meter from heavy rain, immersion in water, extreme temperatures, and physical shock to ensure its longevity and accuracy.

4.2. Battery Replacement

Replace the CR123A battery when the low battery indicator appears on the display. Always ensure correct polarity during installation to prevent damage to the meter.

5. TROUBLESHOOTING

5.1. Exposure Out of Range

If the display shows 'Eu' (underexposure) or 'Eo' (overexposure), the light conditions are outside the meter's measurable range. Adjust the lighting conditions or consider alternative camera settings (e.g., ISO, aperture, shutter speed) to bring the measurement within the meter's operational limits.

6. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Description
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Type	Digital exposure meter for ambient and flash light
Receptor Head	Rotating Domed Head (90° right, 180° left), Retractable Lumisphere
Light Receiving Method	Incident light and reflected light
Receptor Incident Light	Convertible to flat diffuser
Receptor Reflected Light	Lumigrid (54° angle)
Light Receptor Element	2-Silicon photo diodes
Measuring Range (ISO 100) Ambient	EV-2 to EV 22.9 (Incident/Reflected)
Measuring Range (ISO 100) Flash	f/1.0 to f/90.9 (approx. f/124)
Repeat Accuracy	+/- 0.1 EV or less
Film Speed Range	ISO 3 to 8000 (in 1/3 steps)
Shutter Speeds Ambient	30 min to 1/8000 sec.
Shutter Speeds Flash	30 min to 1/1000 sec.
Aperture Range	f/1.0 to f/90.9
EV Display Range	EV -10.0 to EV 40.0
Cine Speeds (fps)	2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12, 16, 18, 24, 25, 30, 32, 36, 40, 48, 50, 60, 64, 72, 96, 120, 128, 150, 200, 240, 256, 300, 360
Memory Function	9 readings
Flash Analyzing Function	0 to 100% in 10% increments
Calibration Compensation	+/- 1.0 EV (in 1/10th steps)
Exposure Compensation	+/- 9.9 EV (in 1/10 steps)
Power Source	(1) CR123A Lithium Battery
Operating Temperature Range	14° to 122° F / -10° to 50° C
Product Dimensions	1.9 x 3.5 x 6.7 inches
Item Weight	8.5 ounces
Model Number	401-358

7. WHAT'S IN THE BOX

The standard Sekonic L-358 Flash Master package typically includes the following items:

- Sekonic L-358 Flash Master Light Meter
- Lumigrid

- Soft Case
- Strap
- Synchro Terminal Cap
- CR123A Battery




Image 7.1: Contents of the Sekonic L-358 package. This image shows the light meter, operating manual, soft case, strap, and other accessories included with the product.




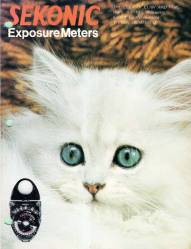
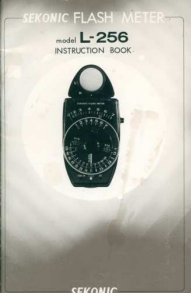
8. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

The Sekonic L-358 Flash Master includes a 3-year warranty, covering parts and labor. For detailed warranty information, technical assistance, or customer support, please refer to the official Sekonic website or contact their authorized service centers.

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Related Documents - 401-358

	<p>Sekonic L-558 / CINE Quick Guide: Features, Settings, and Operation</p> <p>Comprehensive quick guide for the Sekonic L-558 and L-558 CINE light meters, covering custom settings, basic and advanced operations, and measurement modes for professional photography and videography.</p>
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	<p>Sekonic L-308X Light Meter Instruction Manual</p> <p>This document provides comprehensive instructions for operating the Sekonic L-308X light meter, covering its features, functions, and various measurement modes for photography and videography.</p>
	<p>Sekonic SpeedMaster L-858D: Advanced Multi-Function Light Meter</p> <p>Explore the Sekonic SpeedMaster L-858D, a cutting-edge multi-function light meter offering advanced flash duration measurement, HSS capabilities, cine modes, and versatile wireless triggering for photographers and videographers. Includes details on Sekonic's Data Transfer Software and a comprehensive comparison chart.</p>
	<p>Sekonic SPEEDMASTER L-858D/L-858D-U Light Meter Startup Guide</p> <p>A concise startup guide for the Sekonic SPEEDMASTER L-858D and L-858D-U light meters, covering included items, parts identification, basic operations, screen navigation, input methods, measuring modes, tool box functions, and custom settings.</p>
	<p>Sekonic Exposure Meters: Comprehensive Catalog and Guide</p> <p>Explore the full range of Sekonic exposure meters, including models like L-86, L-216, L-98, L-248, L-28C2, L-218, L-206, L-228, L-164B, L-428, and L-256. Learn about their features, specifications, and principles of light measurement for professional and amateur photography.</p>
	<p>Sekonic L-256 Flash Meter Instruction Book</p> <p>This document provides comprehensive instructions for the Sekonic L-256 Flash Meter, covering its features, specifications, operation, and maintenance. It details how to use the meter for incident and reflected light measurements, as well as special applications like slave unit operation and multiple flash illumination.</p>