

## Sigma 149101

# Sigma EF 500 DG Super Flash Instruction Manual

Model: 149101

## INTRODUCTION

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The Sigma EF 500 DG Super Flash is designed for advanced flash photography with both AF 35mm SLR and Digital SLR cameras. This manual provides essential information for proper setup, operation, and maintenance of your flash unit.

Key features include a maximum guide number of 50 meters (165 feet) at 105mm focal length (ISO 100), automatic projection angle adjustment, and a built-in diffuser for wide-angle coverage.

## SETUP

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### 1. Battery Installation

The EF 500 DG Super Flash requires four AA-size batteries (alkaline or Ni-MH recommended). Open the battery compartment cover, insert the batteries according to the polarity indicators, and close the cover securely.

### 2. Mounting to Camera

Slide the flash unit onto your camera's hot shoe until it clicks into place. Secure it by rotating the locking mechanism (if present on your camera or flash) to prevent accidental detachment. Ensure the flash is compatible with your camera's mounting system (e.g., Canon E-TTL, Canon E-TTL II).



Image: The Sigma EF 500 DG Super Flash unit, displaying its LCD panel with ETTL mode and 28mm zoom setting. This view highlights the main controls and display.

## OPERATING MODES

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The EF 500 DG Super Flash offers various operating modes for diverse photographic needs.

- **TTL Automatic Flash Exposure Control:** Enables full-automatic flash photography. This includes E-TTL II for Canon, S-TTL for Sigma, i-TTL for Nikon, ADI for Minolta, and P-TTL for Pentax cameras. The flash automatically adjusts output for correct exposure.
- **Manual Flash:** Allows manual setting of flash output at eight power levels, from full power down to 1/128. Use the control buttons to adjust the power level as displayed on the LCD panel.
- **Wireless TTL Flash Photography:** Supports wireless communication with compatible camera systems for off-camera flash control. Refer to your camera's manual for specific wireless setup instructions.
- **Slave Flash Photography:** The unit can function as a slave flash, triggered by another flash unit.
- **FP Flash Photography (High-Speed Sync):** Synchronizes the flash with high shutter speeds, allowing for flash photography even at speeds exceeding the camera's normal flash sync speed.
- **Modeling Flash:** Emits a series of low-power flashes to help visualize the light distribution and check for shadows before taking the actual shot.
- **Multi-Pulse Flash:** Allows for multiple flashes during a single exposure. The power setting can be reduced from 1/4 to 1/128 in six steps, and the pulse frequency can be set from 1 Hz to 199 Hz.

## CONTROLS AND DISPLAY

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The flash unit features an LCD panel that displays current settings such as flash mode, zoom position, and exposure compensation. Control buttons allow for mode selection, power adjustment, and other functions. A flash-ready signal is visible in the camera's viewfinder when the flash is charged and ready to fire.

## BOUNCE AND SWIVEL FUNCTION

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For creative lighting, the flash head can be adjusted:

- **Tilt:** The flash head can be tilted 90 degrees upwards for bouncing light off ceilings and 7 degrees downward for close-up photography.
- **Swivel:** The flash head can be swiveled 180 degrees to the left and 90 degrees to the right, allowing for bounce flash off side walls or for directing light in various directions.

## BUILT-IN DIFFUSER

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The EF 500 DG Super includes a built-in diffuser. Pull out the diffuser panel to expand the angle of illumination, covering a focal length equivalent to a 17mm lens. This is useful for softening light and covering wider angles.



Image: The Sigma EF 500 DG Super Flash with its built-in diffuser extended, demonstrating its wide-angle light coverage. Also shown are an external softbox diffuser and the flash's carrying case.

## MAINTENANCE

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- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the flash unit. For stubborn dirt, a slightly damp cloth can be used, followed by a dry cloth. Avoid using strong solvents or abrasive cleaners.
- **Battery Care:** Remove batteries when the flash is not in use for extended periods to prevent leakage.
- **Storage:** Store the flash in a cool, dry place, away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.

## TROUBLESHOOTING

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- **Flash Not Firing:**
  - Check battery levels and ensure they are inserted correctly.
  - Verify the flash is securely mounted to the camera's hot shoe.
  - Ensure the flash is powered on.
  - Check camera settings to confirm flash is enabled.
- **Incorrect Exposure (Too Bright/Too Dark):**
  - In TTL mode, ensure camera and flash are communicating correctly.
  - In Manual mode, adjust flash power output.
  - Check for obstructions between the flash and subject.
  - Consider using flash exposure compensation on your camera or flash.
- **Auto Power Off:** The flash incorporates an auto power off system to conserve battery life. If the flash turns off unexpectedly, simply power it back on.

## SPECIFICATIONS

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| <b>Brand</b>                | Sigma                                    |
| <b>Model Number</b>         | 149101                                   |
| <b>Product Dimensions</b>   | 5.6 x 4.9 x 3.2 inches                   |
| <b>Item Weight</b>          | 11.5 ounces                              |
| <b>Compatible Mountings</b> | Canon E-TTL, Canon E-TTL II, Nikon, Sony |
| <b>Included Components</b>  | Built-in diffuser, LCD panel             |
| <b>Color</b>                | Daylight                                 |
| <b>Date First Available</b> | October 21, 2005                         |

## WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

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For warranty information and technical support, please refer to the official Sigma website or contact your local Sigma authorized dealer. Keep your purchase receipt as proof of purchase for warranty claims.