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Metz MZ 58311C

Metz MZ 58311C 58 AF-1C Flash for Canon Cameras

Instruction Manual

Introduction

This manual provides detailed instructions for the proper use, setup, and maintenance of your Metz MZ 58311C 58 AF-1C Flash unit. Designed for Canon cameras, this advanced flash offers versatile lighting solutions, including e-TTL I & II compatibility and wireless master/slave functionality. Please read this manual thoroughly before operating the device to ensure optimal performance and safety.

Safety Information

Always observe the following safety precautions to prevent damage to the flash unit or personal injury:

- Do not expose the flash unit to water or excessive humidity.
- Avoid direct eye contact with the flash light, especially at close range, as it can cause temporary vision impairment.
- Do not attempt to disassemble or repair the unit yourself. Refer all servicing to qualified personnel.
- Use only recommended batteries and power accessories.
- Keep out of reach of children.

Package Contents

Verify that all items are present in the package:

- Metz MZ 58311C 58 AF-1C Flash Unit
- Protective Pouch
- Mini USB Cable (for firmware updates)
- Instruction Manual (this document)
- Flash Stand

Product Overview

Familiarize yourself with the components of your Metz 58 AF-1C flash unit.



Figure 1: Front view of the Metz MZ 58311C 58 AF-1C Flash unit. This image displays the main flash head, the secondary fill flash, the control panel area, and the hot shoe mount at the base. The "Metz 58 AF-1 digital" branding is visible on the front.

The flash unit features a main flash head that can be swiveled and tilted for bounce flash photography, a secondary fill flash for subtle fill light, and a clear LCD display with intuitive controls for mode selection and settings adjustment. The hot shoe mount ensures secure attachment to compatible Canon cameras.

Setup

1. Battery Installation

The Metz 58 AF-1C operates on four (4) AA-size batteries. For best performance and recycle times, use high-quality NiMH rechargeable batteries.

1. Locate the battery compartment cover on the side or rear of the flash unit.

2. Slide or open the cover according to the indicator.
3. Insert four AA batteries, ensuring correct polarity (+/-) as indicated inside the compartment.
4. Close the battery compartment cover securely.

Note: When using an external power pack, batteries may not be required inside the flash unit, reducing overall weight during extended shooting sessions.

2. Mounting to Camera

To attach the flash unit to your Canon camera's hot shoe:

1. Ensure both the flash and camera are powered off.
2. Slide the flash's mounting foot into the camera's hot shoe slot.
3. Tighten the locking wheel or lever on the flash unit's foot until it is securely fastened to the camera. Do not overtighten.

3. Firmware Update

The Metz 58 AF-1C features a mini USB port for user-upgradable firmware, allowing for compatibility with future camera models or performance enhancements. Always check the official Metz website for the latest firmware versions and instructions.

1. Download the latest firmware file from the Metz support website to your computer.
2. Connect the flash unit to your computer using the provided mini USB cable.
3. Follow the specific instructions provided with the firmware download for the update process.

Operating Modes

The Metz 58 AF-1C offers various operating modes to suit different photographic needs. Use the control buttons and LCD display to navigate and select modes.

1. e-TTL I & II Automatic Flash

This mode provides automatic flash exposure control by communicating with your Canon camera. The flash emits a pre-flash to measure the scene's light and sets the appropriate power output for optimal exposure.

- Attach the flash to your camera and power both on.
- Select the e-TTL mode on the flash unit's display.
- The flash will automatically adjust its output based on camera settings and scene conditions.

2. Wireless e-TTL Master or Slave

The 58 AF-1C can function as a master unit to control other compatible Canon or Metz slave flashes, or as a slave unit triggered by another master flash or the camera's built-in flash.

- **Master Mode:** Select "Master" on the flash. You can set groups and channels to control multiple off-camera flashes.
- **Slave Mode:** Select "Slave" on the flash. Ensure the flash is set to the correct group and channel to receive signals from the master unit.

Note: The wireless communication uses infrared signals. Ensure a clear line of sight between the master and slave units for reliable operation.

3. Manual Mode

For precise control over flash output, select Manual mode. You can set the flash power from full power down to very low power settings, typically in 1/3 stop increments.

- Select "Manual" mode on the flash display.
- Adjust the flash power output using the control buttons.

- Use a light meter or test shots to determine the optimal power setting for your scene.

4. Secondary Fill Flash

The integrated secondary flash provides a subtle fill light, especially useful when the main flash head is bounced off a ceiling or wall. This helps to add catchlights to eyes and reduce harsh shadows.

- The secondary flash typically activates automatically when the main flash head is tilted upwards.
- Its output can often be adjusted or disabled via the flash's menu system.

Maintenance

Proper maintenance ensures the longevity and reliable operation of your flash unit.

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the flash body. For the flash tube and sensor, use a lens cleaning cloth and solution if necessary, avoiding abrasive materials.
- **Storage:** When not in use for extended periods, remove the batteries to prevent leakage. Store the flash in its protective pouch in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.
- **Battery Care:** Always use fresh, high-quality batteries. If using rechargeable batteries, ensure they are fully charged before use and discharged periodically to maintain their capacity.

Troubleshooting

This section addresses common issues you might encounter with your Metz 58 AF-1C flash.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Flash does not fire.	Batteries are dead or incorrectly inserted; Flash is not securely mounted; Flash is powered off; Camera settings are incorrect.	Replace or reinsert batteries; Ensure flash is firmly attached to hot shoe; Power on flash; Check camera's flash settings (e.g., flash disabled, slow sync).
Flash output is too weak/strong (under/overexposure).	Incorrect e-TTL compensation; Manual power setting is wrong; Subject is too far/close; Secondary flash interference.	Adjust flash exposure compensation (FEC) on flash or camera; Adjust manual power setting; Ensure subject is within flash range; Adjust or disable secondary flash if causing issues.
"Zoom Err" message displayed.	Internal mechanism issue with the zoom head.	Power cycle the flash. If the error persists, contact Metz customer support for service. This may indicate a mechanical fault.
Wireless mode not working.	Incorrect master/slave settings; Different channels/groups; Obstruction between units; Low battery.	Verify master/slave settings on all units; Ensure all units are on the same channel and group; Remove obstructions; Replace batteries.

Specifications

Feature	Detail
Model Number	MZ 58311C
Compatible Mountings	Canon

Feature	Detail
Connectivity Technology	Wired (Hot Shoe), USB
Wireless Communication Technology	RF (for wireless control)
Dimensions (L x W x H)	8.8 x 6 x 3.8 inches
Item Weight	1 pounds
Power Source	4x AA Batteries (or external power pack)
Special Features	USB Upgradeable Firmware, e-TTL I & II, Wireless Master/Slave, Secondary Fill Flash

Warranty and Support

For warranty information, technical support, or service inquiries, please refer to the official Metz website or contact your local authorized Metz dealer. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

Manufacturer: Metz

Date First Available: October 2, 2001

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