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## Canon Speedlight 430 EXII

# Canon Speedlite 430EX II Instruction Manual

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## INTRODUCTION

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This manual provides detailed instructions for the safe and effective use of your Canon Speedlite 430EX II flash unit. Please read this manual thoroughly before using the flash unit to ensure optimal performance and to prevent damage.

The Canon Speedlite 430EX II is an advanced external flash designed to provide powerful and versatile lighting for your Canon EOS camera. It features E-TTL II automatic flash metering, high-speed synchronization, and wireless slave functionality, making it an essential tool for various photographic situations.

## SETUP

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### 1. Battery Installation

The Speedlite 430EX II operates on four AA-size alkaline or Ni-MH batteries. Ensure batteries are inserted with correct polarity.



Figure 1: Canon Speedlite 430EX II. The battery compartment is located on the side of the unit, typically requiring a slide or latch mechanism to open.

1. Open the battery compartment cover located on the side of the flash unit.
2. Insert four AA batteries, matching the positive (+) and negative (-) terminals as indicated inside the compartment.
3. Close the battery compartment cover securely until it clicks into place.

## 2. Attaching to the Camera

The Speedlite 430EX II attaches to the hot shoe of your Canon EOS camera.

1. Ensure both the camera and the flash unit are turned off.
2. Slide the mounting foot of the Speedlite into the camera's hot shoe until it stops.
3. Rotate the lock lever on the Speedlite's mounting foot clockwise until it is firmly secured. Do not overtighten.
4. To detach, rotate the lock lever counter-clockwise and slide the flash unit off the hot shoe.

### 3. Initial Power-On

After attaching the flash, turn on the camera, then the flash unit.

1. Turn on your Canon EOS camera.
2. Slide the power switch on the Speedlite 430EX II to the "ON" position.
3. The flash will perform a self-test, and the ready lamp will illuminate when charging is complete.

## OPERATING THE SPEEDLITE 430EX II

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### 1. Basic Flash Modes (E-TTL II)

The Speedlite 430EX II primarily operates with Canon's E-TTL II automatic flash metering system, which automatically sets the optimal flash output.

- **Automatic Mode:** When attached to a compatible EOS camera, the flash will automatically switch to E-TTL II mode. The camera and flash communicate to determine the correct exposure.
- **Flash Exposure Compensation:** Adjust the flash output relative to the camera's exposure. Use the flash's controls or the camera's menu to set compensation.

### 2. Bounce Flash

Bouncing the flash off a ceiling or wall can create softer, more natural-looking light by diffusing the flash output.



Figure 2: Canon Speedlite 430EX II with its flash head tilted upwards, demonstrating the bounce flash capability. The head can also swivel horizontally.

- The flash head can be tilted upwards up to 90 degrees and swiveled horizontally up to 180 degrees to the left and 90 degrees to the right.
- Point the flash head towards a neutral-colored ceiling or wall (white or light gray is ideal) to reflect the light onto your subject.

### 3. Wireless Slave Function

The Speedlite 430EX II can function as a wireless slave unit, triggered by a master flash (e.g., another Speedlite, a Canon camera with integrated master function, or a Speedlite Transmitter).

1. Set the Speedlite 430EX II to slave mode using its controls.

2. Ensure the master unit is set to transmit and is within range and line of sight of the 430EX II's sensor.
3. The slave unit will fire in sync with the master unit, allowing for off-camera lighting setups.

## 4. Manual Flash Mode

For precise control over flash output, the Speedlite 430EX II can be set to Manual mode.

- In Manual mode, you can set the flash output from full power (1/1) down to 1/64 power in 1/3-stop increments.
- This mode is useful for studio setups or when consistent lighting is required regardless of subject distance or ambient light.

## 5. High-Speed Sync (FP Flash)

High-Speed Sync allows the flash to be used at shutter speeds faster than the camera's maximum flash sync speed, enabling wider apertures in bright conditions.

- Activate High-Speed Sync through the flash's menu or the camera's flash control settings.
- Note that flash output decreases significantly when using High-Speed Sync.

# MAINTENANCE

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## 1. Cleaning

Regular cleaning helps maintain the performance and longevity of your Speedlite 430EX II.

- Use a soft, dry cloth to wipe the exterior of the flash unit.
- For stubborn dirt, slightly dampen the cloth with water or a mild, non-abrasive cleaning solution. Avoid using organic solvents.
- Gently clean the flash window and sensor areas with a lens cleaning cloth or brush.
- Ensure the hot shoe contacts are clean and free of debris.

## 2. Storage

Proper storage protects the flash unit from damage and extends its lifespan.

- Remove batteries if the flash unit will not be used for an extended period to prevent leakage.
- Store the flash unit in a cool, dry place, away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.
- Use the provided soft case or a padded camera bag for protection during transport and storage.

# TROUBLESHOOTING

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This section addresses common issues you might encounter with your Speedlite 430EX II.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
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Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Flash does not fire.	Batteries are dead or incorrectly inserted. Flash is not securely mounted. Flash is turned off. Camera flash settings are disabled.	Replace batteries or check polarity. Re-mount and secure the flash. Turn on the flash unit. Check camera's flash function settings.
Images are too dark (underexposed).	Flash output is too low. Subject is too far away. Flash exposure compensation is set to negative.	Increase flash exposure compensation or use Manual mode with higher power. Move closer to the subject or increase ISO. Adjust flash exposure compensation to 0 or positive.
Images are too bright (overexposed).	Flash output is too high. Subject is too close. Flash exposure compensation is set to positive.	Decrease flash exposure compensation or use Manual mode with lower power. Increase distance from subject or use a diffuser. Adjust flash exposure compensation to 0 or negative.
Flash takes too long to recycle.	Batteries are low. Using full power flashes repeatedly.	Replace batteries with fresh ones (preferably Ni-MH). Allow time for the flash to cool down between bursts.

## SPECIFICATIONS

Key technical specifications for the Canon Speedlite 430EX II.

- **Model:** Speedlight 430 EXII
- **Dimensions (W x H x D):** 2.83 x 3.98 x 4.8 inches (7.19 x 10.11 x 12.19 cm)
- **Weight:** 11.6 ounces (approx. 329 grams) without batteries
- **Power Source:** 4 AA-size alkaline or Ni-MH batteries
- **Compatible Mountings:** Canon EOS Hot Shoe
- **Flash Sync Speed:** Up to 1/200 second (varies by camera model, High-Speed Sync available)
- **Included Components:** User Manual, Warranty Information, Battery
- **Date First Available:** June 14, 2011

## WARRANTY & SUPPORT

For warranty information and technical support, please refer to the documentation included with your product or visit the official Canon website.

- **Warranty:** Your Canon Speedlite 430EX II comes with a limited warranty. Details regarding coverage period and terms are provided in the Warranty Information document included in the product packaging.
- **Technical Support:** For assistance with product operation, troubleshooting, or repairs, please contact

Canon customer support. Contact information can be found on the Canon website or in your product documentation.

- **Online Resources:** Visit the official Canon website ([www.usa.canon.com](http://www.usa.canon.com)) for product registration, software downloads, FAQs, and additional support resources.