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Bowens Gemini 500 Pro 2

Bowens Gemini 500 Pro 2 Monolight Kit

USER MANUAL

1. Introduction

Thank you for choosing the Bowens Gemini 500 Pro 2 Monolight Kit. This comprehensive kit is designed to provide professional-grade studio lighting for a variety of photographic applications, including portraits, still-life, and more. This manual provides essential information for the safe and effective setup, operation, and maintenance of your new lighting system. Please read this manual thoroughly before using the equipment.

2. Safety Information

WARNING: To prevent fire or electric shock, do not expose this appliance to rain or moisture. Do not open the casing. Refer servicing to qualified personnel only.

- Always ensure the power supply matches the voltage requirements of the monolights.
- Do not operate the monolights in damp or wet conditions.
- Allow monolights to cool down before handling or storing, especially after extended use.
- Do not block ventilation openings on the monolight units.
- Keep out of reach of children.
- Avoid direct eye exposure to the flash, as it can cause temporary vision impairment.
- Always disconnect power before performing any maintenance or changing accessories.

3. Package Contents

Please verify that all items listed below are included in your Bowens Gemini 500 Pro 2 Monolight Kit:

- 2 x Bowens Gemini 500 Pro Monolights (500 Ws each)
- 2 x Light Stands
- 1 x Softbox
- 1 x Umbrella
- 1 x Sync Cord

- 2 x Flash Tubes
- 2 x Modeling Lamps
- 2 x Power Cords
- 1 x Trolley Case with Casters

4. Setup

Follow these steps to set up your Bowens Gemini 500 Pro 2 Monolight Kit:

1. **Unpacking:** Carefully remove all components from the trolley case. Retain all packaging materials for future storage or transport.
2. **Assemble Light Stands:** Extend the legs of the light stands to form a stable base. Adjust the height to your desired level and secure with the locking knobs.
3. **Mount Monolights:** Place each Gemini 500 Pro monolight onto the spigot of a light stand. Secure the monolight by tightening the locking knob on the monolight's mounting bracket.
4. **Install Flash Tubes and Modeling Lamps:** If not already installed, carefully insert the flash tubes and modeling lamps into their respective sockets on the monolight. Ensure they are seated firmly.
5. **Attach Light Modifiers:**
 - **Softbox:** Assemble the softbox according to its specific instructions (usually involves inserting rods into corners and attaching to the speedring). Mount the speedring onto the monolight's accessory mount and secure it.
 - **Umbrella:** Insert the umbrella shaft into the umbrella holder on the monolight. Adjust its position for desired light spread.
6. **Connect Power:** Plug the power cords into the monolights and then into a suitable electrical outlet. Ensure the monolight's power switch is in the 'OFF' position before connecting to power.
7. **Connect Sync Cord:** For wired triggering, connect one end of the sync cord to the monolight's sync port and the other end to your camera's PC sync port (if available). Alternatively, use a wireless trigger system (sold separately).



This image displays the complete Bowens Gemini 500 Pro 2 Monolight Kit. It features two Gemini 500 Pro monolights mounted on light stands, a rectangular softbox, a reflective umbrella, and the trolley case designed for transport and storage of the entire kit. The setup demonstrates a typical studio lighting arrangement.

5. Operating Instructions

Once your kit is set up, follow these steps for operation:

1. **Power On:** Flip the power switch on each monolight to the 'ON' position. The modeling lamp should illuminate, and the flash unit will begin to charge.
2. **Adjust Power Output:** Use the power control dial or buttons on the monolight to adjust the flash output. The Gemini 500 Pro offers precise control over flash intensity.
3. **Modeling Lamp Control:** The modeling lamp provides continuous light to help visualize the lighting effect. It can usually be set to full power, proportional to flash power, or off. Refer to the specific controls on your monolight.
4. **Flash Duration:** The Gemini 500 Pro monolights feature fast flash durations, as quick as 1/2900 second, ideal for freezing motion.
5. **Triggering the Flash:**
 - **Sync Cord:** If connected, the flash will fire when your camera's shutter is released.
 - **Optical Slave:** The monolight has a built-in optical slave sensor. When enabled, it will fire automatically upon detecting another flash.
 - **Wireless Trigger (Optional):** If using a Bowens wireless trigger system, ensure the transmitter is mounted on your camera's hot shoe and the receiver (if external) is connected to the monolight's sync port.
6. **Recycle Time:** After each flash, the monolight will recycle (recharge) before it can fire again. A ready indicator light will illuminate when the unit is fully charged.
7. **Travelpak Battery System (Optional):** The Gemini monolights are compatible with the optional Travelpak battery system, allowing for portable operation away from electrical outlets. Refer to the Travelpak manual for specific instructions.

6. Maintenance

Proper maintenance ensures the longevity and optimal performance of your Bowens Gemini 500 Pro 2 Monolight Kit:

- **Cleaning:** Disconnect power before cleaning. Use a soft, dry cloth to wipe down the exterior of the monolights and accessories. For stubborn marks, a slightly damp cloth can be used, but ensure no moisture enters the unit. Do not use abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- **Flash Tube and Modeling Lamp Replacement:** These are consumable items. When replacing, ensure the unit is unplugged and cool. Handle new tubes and lamps carefully, avoiding touching the glass with bare hands. Refer to the specific instructions provided with replacement parts.
- **Storage:** When not in use, store the monolights and accessories in the provided trolley case in a cool, dry place, away from direct sunlight and excessive dust.
- **Cable Inspection:** Periodically inspect all power and sync cables for any signs of damage (fraying, cuts). Replace damaged cables immediately.

7. Troubleshooting

If you encounter issues with your Bowens Gemini 500 Pro 2 Monolight Kit, refer to the table below for common problems and solutions:

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Monolight does not power on.	No power supply; faulty power cord; unit switch off.	Check power cord connection; try a different outlet; ensure power switch is ON.
Flash does not fire.	Not fully recycled; sync cord loose/faulty; optical slave not triggered; faulty flash tube.	Wait for ready light; check sync cord connection; ensure sufficient light for optical slave; replace flash tube.
Inconsistent flash output.	Low power supply; unit overheating; faulty flash tube.	Ensure stable power; allow unit to cool; replace flash tube.
Modeling lamp not working.	Lamp burnt out; lamp not seated correctly.	Replace modeling lamp; ensure lamp is fully inserted.

If the problem persists after attempting these solutions, please contact Bowens customer support.

8. Specifications

Feature	Detail
Model	Bowens Gemini 500 Pro Monolight
Flash Output	500 Ws (Watt-seconds)
Flash Duration	As fast as 1/2900 sec
Power System	Operates anywhere in the world
Compatibility	Optional Travelpak battery system
ASIN	B003TDRL6Q
Manufacturer	Bowens
First Available	June 12, 2010

9. Warranty and Support

For information regarding warranty coverage, technical support, or service for your Bowens Gemini 500 Pro 2 Monolight Kit, please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official Bowens website. Contact details for customer service are typically provided on the manufacturer's website.

When contacting support, please have your product model number (Gemini 500 Pro 2) and ASIN (B003TDRL6Q) ready for faster assistance.