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Nikon SB-26

Nikon SB-26 Speedlight Instruction Manual

INTRODUCTION

This manual provides detailed instructions for the safe and effective use of your Nikon SB-26 Speedlight. The SB-26 is an external flash unit designed to enhance your photography with versatile lighting options. Key features include a built-in diffuser card, wide flash adapter, wireless slave flash selector, sync/multiple flash terminal, Red-Eye Reduction lamp, autofocus assist illuminator, and a tilting/rotating flash head.

SETUP

Battery Installation

The Nikon SB-26 Speedlight requires four AA batteries for operation. Ensure batteries are inserted with correct polarity as indicated inside the battery compartment.



Image: Side view of the Nikon SB-26 Speedlight, showing the general form factor and indicating where the battery compartment is typically located.

Mounting the Speedlight

To attach the SB-26 to your camera, slide the flash unit onto the camera's hot shoe mount. Secure it by rotating the locking ring until it is firmly in place.



Image: Close-up of the hot shoe mount on the Nikon SB-26 Speedlight, showing the electrical contacts and locking mechanism.

OPERATING THE SPEEDLIGHT

Power On/Off and Mode Selection

Use the power switch to turn the unit on or off. The SB-26 offers various operating modes, including manual and automatic settings. Refer to the control panel for mode selection.



Image: Top view of the Nikon SB-26 Speedlight, displaying the LCD control panel and various buttons for mode selection and settings adjustment.

Flash Modes and Settings

The SB-26 supports multiple flash modes. While it is not compatible with modern iTTL or CLS systems found on newer Nikon digital cameras, it is best utilized in manual and older automatic modes. It features an optical slave setting for off-camera use.

Adjust flash output using the power levels, which typically range from full power down to 1/64th power. The flash head can zoom from 20mm to 85mm to match your lens's focal length.

Special Features

- **Built-in Diffuser Card:** Pull out the diffuser card for softer light, ideal for close-up subjects or reducing harsh shadows.

- **Built-in Wide Flash Adapter:** Deploy the wide flash adapter for coverage with wider-angle lenses.
- **Wireless Slave Flash Selector:** Use this feature to trigger the SB-26 remotely as a slave unit, synchronized with another flash.
- **Red-Eye Reduction Lamp:** Activates a pre-flash to minimize red-eye effect in portraits.
- **Autofocus Assist Illuminator:** Emits a pattern to aid camera autofocus in low-light conditions.
- **Tilting and Rotating Head:** The flash head can be tilted vertically and rotated horizontally for bounce flash photography, allowing for more natural and diffused lighting.

MAINTENANCE

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your Nikon SB-26 Speedlight, follow these maintenance guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** Gently wipe the flash unit with a soft, dry cloth. For stubborn dirt, use a slightly damp cloth and then dry thoroughly. Avoid using solvents or abrasive cleaners.
- **Battery Care:** Remove batteries when the speedlight will not be used for an extended period to prevent leakage and damage.
- **Storage:** Store the speedlight in a dry, cool place, away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your Nikon SB-26 Speedlight, consider the following common solutions:

- **Flash Not Firing:**
 - Check battery levels and ensure they are correctly inserted.
 - Verify the speedlight is securely mounted on the camera's hot shoe.
 - Ensure the flash is powered on and not in standby mode.
 - Confirm the camera's flash settings are appropriate for external flash use.
- **Inconsistent Flash Output:**
 - Check battery charge; low batteries can lead to slow recycle times and weak flashes.
 - Ensure flash head zoom matches the lens focal length.
 - Review manual power settings if operating in manual mode.
- **Compatibility Issues with Digital Cameras:**
 - The SB-26 is an older flash unit and is not fully compatible with modern Nikon iTTL or CLS systems. It is best used in manual or older automatic modes on digital cameras.

SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Model Number	SB-26
Manufacturer	Nikon

Feature	Detail
Power Source	4 AA batteries
Battery Life	Approximately 6 hours (usage dependent)
Camera Flash Type	External Flash / Shoe Mount Flash
Flash Sync Speed	Up to 1/250 second
Zoom Range	20mm to 85mm
Dimensions (approx.)	8.43 x 6.93 x 4.49 inches (Package Dimensions)

WARRANTY INFORMATION

Specific warranty details for the Nikon SB-26 Speedlight may vary based on the region and purchase date. Please refer to the warranty card included with your product or contact Nikon customer service for detailed information regarding warranty coverage and terms.

SUPPORT

For further assistance, technical support, or service inquiries regarding your Nikon SB-26 Speedlight, please visit the official Nikon website or contact Nikon customer support directly. You can find contact information and support resources on their website.

Note: As an older model, direct manufacturer support may be limited. Online communities and third-party repair services may also be valuable resources.