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Metz 30BCT4

Metz Mecablitz 30BCT4 Shoe Mount Flash Instruction Manual

Model: 30BCT4

1. Introduction

This manual provides detailed instructions for the proper use and maintenance of your Metz Mecablitz 30BCT4 shoe mount flash unit. Please read this manual thoroughly before using the flash to ensure optimal performance and safety. The Mecablitz 30BCT4 is designed to provide additional illumination for photography, compatible with cameras featuring a standard hot shoe mount.

2. Safety Information

- **Do not** look directly into the flash tube when firing, as it can cause temporary vision impairment.
- **Do not** use the flash in environments with flammable gases or liquids.
- Keep the flash unit dry. **Do not** expose it to rain or moisture.
- Use only the specified battery type (AA). Ensure correct polarity when inserting batteries.
- Keep out of reach of children.
- **Do not** attempt to disassemble or repair the unit yourself. Refer to qualified service personnel.

3. Product Overview

Familiarize yourself with the components of your Mecablitz 30BCT4 flash unit.



Figure 3.1: Front and side view of the Metz Mecablitz 30BCT4 flash unit, showing the flash head and hot shoe mount.



Figure 3.2: Side view of the flash unit, highlighting the control panel with ISO, aperture, and distance scales, along with mode switches.

Key Components:

- **Flash Head:** Emits light.
- **Control Panel:** Dials and switches for setting flash parameters (ISO, aperture, mode).
- **Hot Shoe Mount:** Connects the flash to the camera.
- **Battery Compartment:** Holds the power source.
- **Ready Light:** Indicates when the flash is charged and ready to fire.

4. Setup

4.1 Battery Installation

1. Locate the battery compartment cover, typically on the side or rear of the unit.
2. Slide or unlatch the cover to open the compartment.
3. Insert four (4) AA-size batteries, ensuring correct polarity (+/-) as indicated inside the compartment.
4. Close the battery compartment cover securely.



Figure 4.1: The battery compartment of the Mecablitz 30BCT4, showing slots for four AA batteries.

4.2 Mounting the Flash to Your Camera

1. Ensure your camera is turned off.
2. Slide the flash unit's hot shoe mount into the camera's hot shoe slot.
3. Tighten the locking wheel on the flash unit to secure it firmly to the camera. Do not overtighten.

5. Operating Instructions

5.1 Powering On/Off

Locate the power switch on the flash unit. Slide it to the "ON" position to power on. The ready light will illuminate once the flash is charged. Slide to "OFF" when not in use.

5.2 Setting Flash Modes

The Mecablitz 30BCT4 typically offers manual and automatic modes. Refer to the control panel (Figure 3.2) for specific settings.

- **Manual Mode (M):** In this mode, you manually set the flash output. This requires knowledge of guide numbers and exposure calculations.

- **Automatic Mode (A):** The flash uses a built-in sensor to measure the light reflected from the subject and automatically adjusts its output.
    - Set your camera's ISO to match the ISO setting on the flash unit's control panel.
    - Select an aperture value on the flash unit (e.g., f/8, f/11) based on the colored scales.
    - Set your camera's aperture to match the selected value on the flash.
    - Ensure your camera's shutter speed is set to or below its flash sync speed (e.g., 1/250s).



Figure 5.1: Close-up of the control panel, showing the ISO dial, aperture settings, and mode selector switch.

5.3 Taking a Photo with Flash

1. Turn on the flash unit and wait for the ready light to illuminate.
2. Ensure camera and flash settings (ISO, aperture, shutter speed) are correctly synchronized for the chosen flash mode.
3. Compose your shot and press the camera's shutter button. The flash will fire automatically.

6. Maintenance

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the exterior of the flash unit. For stubborn dirt, slightly dampen the cloth with water. Do not use solvents.
- **Battery Care:** Remove batteries if the flash will not be used for an extended period to prevent leakage.
- **Storage:** Store the flash unit in a cool, dry place, away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.

7. Troubleshooting

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Flash does not fire.	Batteries are dead or incorrectly inserted. Flash is not powered on. Flash is not fully charged (ready light off). Flash not securely mounted to camera.	Replace batteries or check polarity. Turn on the flash unit. Wait for the ready light to illuminate. Re-mount and tighten the flash.
Photos are too dark (underexposed).	Incorrect flash settings (ISO, aperture). Subject is too far away. Flash output too low (Manual mode).	Verify ISO and aperture settings match on flash and camera. Move closer to the subject or increase ISO. Increase flash output (if applicable in Manual mode).
Photos are too bright (overexposed).	Incorrect flash settings (ISO, aperture). Subject is too close.	Verify ISO and aperture settings. Increase distance to subject or use a smaller aperture.

8. Specifications

- **Model:** Metz Mecablitz 30BCT4
- **Mounting Type:** Hot Shoe Mount
- **Compatible Mountings:** Canon, Nikon, Sony (standard hot shoe)
- **Flash Sync Speed:** Up to 1/250 second (camera dependent)
- **Power Source:** 4x AA Batteries
- **Item Weight:** Approximately 14.1 ounces (400 grams)
- **Dimensions (approx.):** 5.91 x 3.94 x 3.15 inches (15 x 10 x 8 cm)

9. Warranty and Support

For warranty information and technical support, please refer to the official Metz website or contact your local authorized Metz dealer. Keep your purchase receipt as proof of purchase for any warranty claims.
Note: This manual provides general operational guidelines. Specific performance may vary based on camera model and environmental conditions.

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