

# LENCARTA

Many thanks for buying the Lencarta Safari Li-on portable flash system.



It's very simple and intuitive to set up and use, but these instructions should make it even easier...

Please check that the following items are included in your delivery:

1. Safari Li-on generator unit
2. Battery
3. Charger with mains lead
4. Carry strap
5. Flash bracket
6. Flash head handle
7. Safari carry case (a free gift, while stocks last)

There will also be either one or two standard flash heads complete with a wideangle reflector and a diffuser, or a ringflash head, depending on your order, plus a removable lead (for each flash head) which goes from the flash head to the generator unit.



Head without reflector fitted



The standard head is supplied with a protective cap, which should always be in place when the head is being stored or transported.

The head cap **MUST** be removed when in use and replaced by either a reflector, other type of light modifier or a softbox.



The first thing to do is to attach the battery to the generator unit. It simply clicks into position and can only go on one way.

Remove the battery by pressing in both release buttons at the same time.

Next, fit the head lead to the flash head, after undoing the protective dust cap fitted to the head. The ends of the lead are different to each other, and only the correct end will fit.

Remove the protective dust cap from either socket A or socket B on the generator unit. Either socket can be used but only socket A can be used to obtain the full flash power. If you have two heads, you can fit both if you wish, one to each socket.

Now switch the generator unit on. Whenever you switch it on it will cycle through a self testing procedure, which will appear on the LED display. If you switch it on **WITHOUT** a flash head fitted the testing procedure will fail to complete, and you'll get an error message instead. If this happens, switch the unit off again, then attach a flash head, then switch it on again.

The LED display will now show the power setting selected, which will vary between 1 and 5. Increase the power by turning the adjustment dial (17) clockwise. This adjustment is extremely precise. When you **increase** the power setting, the LED display will flash momentarily while the unit produces the amount of power needed. If you reduce the power, you should press the test button to dump the excess stored power.

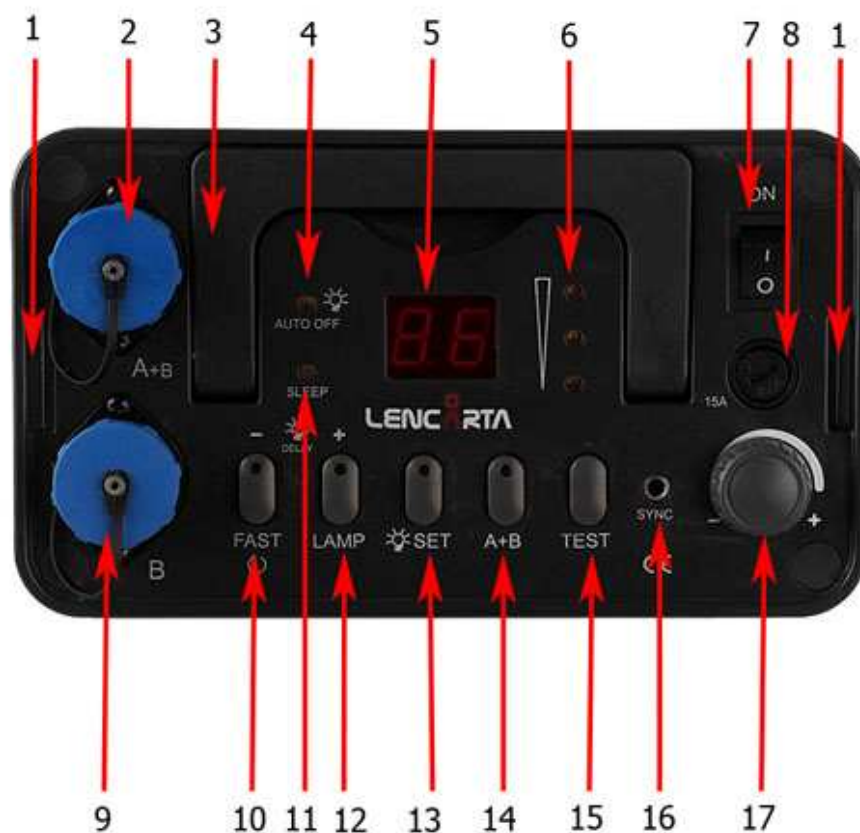
Your flash system is now ready for testing. Press the 'test' button (No.15 on the nomenclature below) and the flash will fire. You will then see the LED display flash while the unit prepares itself for the next shot, and you will hear an audible beep when it is ready to fire again.

**Power adjustment and settings.** The maximum power is 600 joules (or watt seconds). To use the unit at full power, either attach a flash head to each socket or, if only one flash head is in use, attach it to socket A.

Used on its own, **socket A** produces a maximum of 400 watt seconds and **socket B** produces a maximum of 200 watt seconds. To add the 200 watt seconds from socket B to the 400 watt seconds from socket A, you must press button 14, which will then be illuminated. **With this button pressed, all of the power will be sent to socket A.**



The big advantage of this method of power distribution is that, with the linking button (14) pressed and a single flash head fitted to socket A, the full 600 watt seconds of power is supplied to just one flash head. With the button switched off, 400 watt seconds is available to socket A and 200 watt seconds is available to socket B, so you can adjust the power downwards by a half stop when plugged into socket A by switching off button 14, and can reduce it by a further full stop just by plugging a single flash head into socket B if required.



1. Lug for carry strap
2. Socket A, 25 - 600 Ws
3. Fold flat carry handle
4. Auto off indicator for modelling lamp
5. Multi-purpose LED display
6. Battery level indicator
7. On/off switch
8. Fuse
9. Socket B, 12.5 - 200 Ws
10. Fast/normal switch
11. Indicator for sleep mode
12. Modelling lamp on/off switch
13. Modelling lamp timer
14. All power to socket A
15. Test/open flash button
16. Synch/radio receiver/optical trigger socket
17. Click-stop power adjuster

### **The modelling lamp**



The standard flash head has an extremely bright LED modelling lamp , covered by a yellow filter (see photo on the left). This produces a powerful, consistent light at 5500K, ideal for video use as well as its primary function as a modelling lamp. It is not user replaceable but, with reasonable care, it should have a very long life. **LED modelling lamps are very cool running and are very efficient, but they do get hot if used for long periods of time.**

**DO NOT LEAVE THE MODELLING LAMP SWITCHED ON FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME and, after initial setting up, DO NOT LEAVE IT SWITCHED ON WHEN USING A HONEYCOMB OR A FOCUSING SPOTLAMP ATTACHMENT.**

To set the lamp timer:

1. Press 'set' and release (indicator light will come on)
2. Press 'lamp' repeatedly to increase the number of seconds, to a maximum of 99
3. Press 'fast' repeatedly to reduce the number of seconds, to a minimum of 5
4. Press 'set' and release again

Press 'lamp' and release to turn the lamp on without using the timer

Press 'lamp' and release again to switch it on using the timer

### **Recycling speed and battery**

Button 10 controls the recycling speed, and the recycling speed affects the number of flashes that the generator unit can produce before it needs to be recharged.

With the button pressed in, it recycles very quickly and will produce around 404 shots at the full power of 600 watt seconds. With button 10 switched off, it will recycle slightly less quickly but will produce approximately 630 full power flashes to a single charge. At lower power settings, it will produce far more flashes in either mode, for example when it is set to 250 Ws it will produce 1364 flashes on fast recycling or 1986 flashes on normal recycling. Excessive use of the modelling lamp will of course reduce the number of flashes available.

### **Battery indicator**

When the battery is fully charged, the highest indicator light (6) is illuminated. When the middle light is lit, the battery may have very little remaining charge and should be recharged as soon as possible. The Lithium ion battery includes a protective circuit that protects it from complete discharge, and because of this the battery, when it finally runs out of power, does so abruptly.

### **Charging the battery**

Simply plug the charger into the battery and then connect it to the mains. The charger may be damaged if it is not plugged into the battery before it is connected to the mains.

### **Battery maintenance**

The battery is maintenance free, and because it is a Lithium-Ion battery it has no memory effect. This means that it can be recharged regardless of whether or not it is fully discharged, without affecting its performance.

### **Air travel**

All Lithium batteries can catch fire if subjected to intense heat, and will burn fiercely if they do catch fire. This is not a problem under any normal circumstances because the battery contains substantially less than the , and as far as we are aware, all airlines are happy to allow a lithium battery to be carried on their aircraft. You may have heard that airlines do not allow lithium batteries to be carried, but the restrictions apply to **commercial** quantities of lithium batteries, not on personal use items or where the battery is an essential part of the equipment, as with the Safari.

### **Carry strap**

A carry strap is included and can be fitted to both lugs (1)

### **Auto power off**

If you forget to switch the unit off after use, it will save power by going into sleep mode, and indicator light (11) will be illuminated. To take it out of sleep mode, switch the unit off and switch it back on again.

### **Error codes**

1. E1 = Low battery. Recharge the battery.
2. E2 = Overheat protection tripped. Depending on ambient temperature, speed of repeated firing etc., the overheat protection can sometimes cut in to protect the unit from overheating. Switch off the unit and allow it to cool down.
3. E3. No flash head is connected. Switch off the unit, connect either one or two heads to either or both sockets and switch on again.

### **Synchronising the Safari Li-on to your camera**

The test button (15) can be used as an open flash button, but the normal procedure is to fire the flash in synch with your camera shutter. There are two normal ways of doing this

- a. Fit a radio transmitter to your camera hotshoe (or plug a synch socket into both the radio transmitter and the camera PC socket) and plug a radio receiver to socket (16)
- b. Fit a synch cable to your camera PC socket and plug the other end into socket (16)

Radio triggers are more convenient, and any battery powered radio trigger can be used as long as it has the standard 3.5mm jack plug fitted to it.

The Safari Li-on does NOT have an optical slave cell, because slave cells are unreliable in normal outdoor lighting conditions and useless in bright sunlight. If you wish to use one or more Safari Li-on units as slaves, you should fit a radio receiver to each unit. You can however, plug an optical slave unit into the synch socket if you wish.

The maximum shutter speed that can be used with the Safari Li-on (and with all other flash equipment) is determined by the specification of the camera used with it, and not the flash equipment itself. As with all flash lighting, when using the Safari Li-on in the studio, the shutter speed is relatively unimportant, but when used outdoors in bright lighting conditions, you should always use the fastest shutter speed that your camera will allow. Cheap radio triggers tend to have an inbuilt delay that limits the usable speed, so should be avoided.

### **Using your Safari Li-on as a powerful hammerhead flashgun**



Your kit includes a handle that can be fitted to the standard flash head, this allows you to hand-hold the head instead of fitting it to a lighting stand, if required. The base of the handle is fitted with a standard screw thread, so it can be attached to a tripod if required.

Your kit also includes a simple camera bracket that screws into both your camera tripod mount and the flash head handle, allowing your Safari Li-on flash head to be used as an extremely powerful hammerhead flashgun.



### **Using your Safari Li-on as a ringflash**

If you have bought a Li-on ringflash kit, or have bought the optional ringflash head to go with your Li-on kit then you have the best ringflash kit on the market!



Mounting the ringflash: The ringflash head can be used with all camera/lens combinations as long as the lens has a diameter of no more than 98mm. Mount it and adjust the brackets so that it's comfortable and allows plenty of room to operate the camera controls. Used without the diffuser, it doesn't matter whether the front of the lens is behind or in front of the flash tube.\*

The ringflash head can be used either on its own, as a pure ringflash, on its own as a fill flash or it can be used in conjunction with a standard flash head.

Used on its own as a ringflash, you may wish to plug it into socket B, which will give you a minimum of 12.5 Ws and a maximum of 200 Ws. That's usually plenty of power for a ringflash, but if more power is needed you can of course plug it into socket A, which will provide a minimum of 25 Ws and a maximum of 400 Ws – or, if you press the A+B button, a minimum of 38 Ws and a maximum of 600 Ws.

To get the full 'ringflash effect' of gentle outwardly radiating shadows, you need to be as close as practicable to your subject, although of course if you're very close you may see perspective distortion.

Exposure: With a flash head mounted on a stand, the distance to subject is constant regardless of the distance from camera to subject, allowing the photographer to change position without having to adjust the exposure, but with the ringflash mounted to the camera any change to distance will also affect exposure. Because of this you may wish to use a wideangle zoom, something like a 17-55mm on a cropped-frame camera or a 24-70mm on a full frame camera, and use the zoom to create different effects without changing the distance, instead of moving closer to or further from your subject.

Ringflash diffuser: If you fit the optional ringflash diffuser the light will be softer and the shadows will be less pronounced. Fitting the diffuser will also allow you to easily fit lighting gels between the flash head and the diffuser, to colour part or all of the foreground of a scene or, if a neutral density gel is used, to create less light at the top, bottom or one side of the image. \*However, if you fit the diffuser you must ensure that the camera lens protrudes beyond the diffuser, otherwise there is a real risk of lens flare from light entering the lens, transmitted through the diffuser. If it is impossible to fit it so that the lens protrudes beyond the ringflash, for example if the lens is a 'nifty fifty' or similar, you **must** fit a lenshood to prevent flare.

Redeye: Redeye is caused by light on axis with the camera lens, striking the eye and reflecting straight back. It isn't created by a ringflash but, because the ringflash is directly on axis with the camera lens, it can sometimes be a problem. Using your ringflash in good lighting conditions will normally prevent redeye, and it is usually possible to increase the ambient light levels (by introducing a continuous light, which will not affect your flash in any way)

### **Reflectors, light modifiers and the safety of your equipment**

Where kits are supplied with either one or two standard flash heads, they are also supplied with wideangle reflectors and diffusers. These are especially useful when compact size is important, but the wideangle reflector only produces about half of the effective power of our standard reflector, so you may wish to purchase one or more standard reflectors, the added advantage of our standard reflectors is that they will also accept honeycombs.

All other S-fit accessories and light shaping tools will also fit your Safari Li-on standard flash head BUT you should not fit heavy accessories such as large beauty dishes or very large softboxes, because the plastic construction of the flash head is not designed to cope with the strain of heavy accessories.

Even with smaller accessories such as medium sized softboxes and umbrellas, there is a very real risk of damaging lighting equipment and of causing injury if it is used in windy conditions. As always when shooting outdoors, and especially when using the equipment in windy conditions and/or on uneven ground, it is essential to protect both people and equipment by securing lighting stands with weights and guy ropes, and by securing accessories such as softboxes, small beauty dishes and umbrellas so that they cannot place undue strain on the flash head.

### **Water resistance**

The unit can safely be placed on wet grass because the battery is sealed and has no ingress points on its base. However, the control panel and any flash heads in use **MUST** be protected from water, excessive humidity, sand etc.

### **Safe handling**

All flash units operate at very high voltages and careless use can create a risk of injury or death.

1. Never handle or use the equipment if your hands or the equipment are wet
2. Never handle or use the equipment in excessively humid conditions
3. Never handle or use the equipment if the casing has been damaged or if electric wiring is exposed
4. To avoid risk of both burns and damage to the equipment, never touch either the flash tube or the modelling lamp when hot, and never touch them with your bare hands.
5. Do not incinerate the battery or expose it to risk of fire.