



PHOTOFLEX®

StarFlash® Family Instruction Manual



PHOTOFLEX.COM®

QUALITY • INNOVATION • CUSTOMER EDUCATION

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Figure 1. The StarFlash® 650watt

The StarFlash® comes with:



StarFlash® lamp cover

Tilt SwivelMount

Extra Fuses

Sync Cable

Power Cord

Instructions Contents

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Read full instructions before use.

This equipment must be grounded.

Disconnect supply before changing modeling lamp or flash tube.

Do not use in wet or hazardous atmosphere or near flammable material.

Opening strobe housing voids warranty.

Repairs must be made by a qualified technician only.

The StarFlash® by Photoflex® is a monobloc, or self-contained, flash unit. The power supply and flash heads are in one unit, making it easier to use for location shooting than floor-generator power-pack type strobes.

Please read and understand the safety precautions and product instructions before using your StarFlash® strobe.

Please read - Safety Precautions...

Make sure the power is turned off and the power cord is NOT plugged into a power receptacle when removing or inserting the modeling lamp or the FlashTube.

Do not touch the FlashTube with bare hands. The salts and oils in your skin will degrade the glass envelope creating a risk of exploding the FlashTube. Use gloves whenever removing or inserting the FlashTube.

Do not use the StarFlash® with a broken FlashTube or modeling light.

Do not use the StarFlash® if it has been dropped or damaged. Refer to Photoflex® for service before using.

Do not insert screwdrivers or other objects into the housing. There is risk of electrical shock.

Connect power cord only to 3 pin, grounded outlets.

Do not alter the power cord. Removal of ground pin will create an unsafe environment for using the StarFlash®.

Do not remove the power cord when the power is on as this can be hazardous.

Do not perform any internal service to the StarFlash®. Please refer to Photoflex® for service.

Avoid load imbalance of the strobe head and SoftBox when mounted on a light stand.

StarFlash® Basics

Examine Parts

Check that all components are included in the shipping box. The box should contain:

- StarFlash® head
- Lamp cover (in position on the StarFlash® head)
- Tilt SwivelMount
- Power cord
- Sync cord
- 2 extra fuses (1 fuse should be in the fuse holder of the strobe head)

Removal of Lamp Cover

The StarFlash® comes with a cover to protect the FlashTube and modeling light. This cover is in place when the StarFlash® unit is shipped.

Before using the StarFlash®, remove the lamp cover and inspect the FlashTube and modeling lamp for damage (Figure 2).

To remove the lamp cover, press the tab on the top of the StarFlash® to disengage the locking mechanism.

Rotate the lamp cover counter-clockwise about 1/16 turn. Carefully pull the lamp cover away from the strobe unit; avoid contact with FlashTube or modeling lamp.

Notice that the lamp cover has three square pins around the perimeter of its base. To put the lamp cover back in position, line these pins up with the corresponding notches in the strobe heads front collar. Place the lamp cover pins into the collar notches, then rotate the cover clockwise about 1/16 turn until the cover locks into position.



Figure 2. StarFlash® lamp cover

For increased lamp protection, we recommend always leaving the lamp cover in position until you are ready to power on the StarFlash® unit.

Using Reflectors

Two styles of reflectors are available for the StarFlash®. A 6 inch umbrella reflector (#SB-SF6UR) is available for use with photographic umbrellas. A 7 inch standard reflector

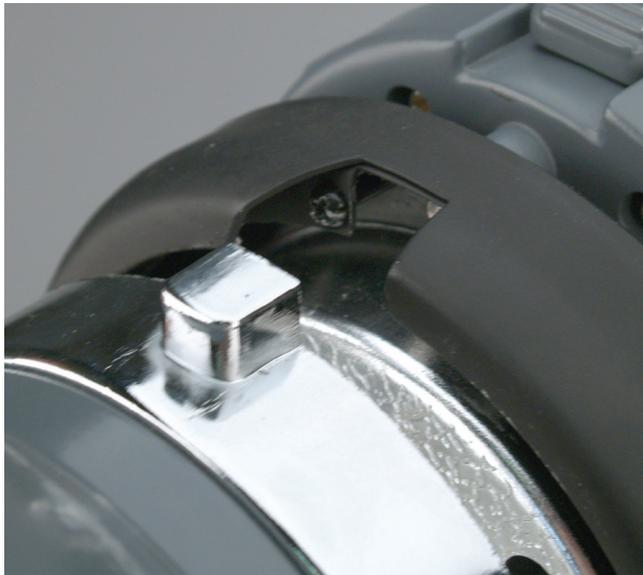


Figure 3. StarFlash® reflector

(#SB-SF7SR) is available for standard strobe use when an umbrella or SoftBox will not be used.

Reflectors (available separately) attach to the StarFlash® in the same manner as the lamp cover.

Notice that the reflector has three square pins around the perimeter of its base. To put the reflector in position, line these pins up with the corresponding notches in the strobe heads front collar. Place the reflector pins into the collar notches, then rotate the reflector clockwise about 1/16 turn until it locks into position.

To remove the reflector, press the tab on the top of the StarFlash® to disengage the locking mechanism. Rotate the lamp cover counter-clockwise about 1/16 turn. Carefully pull the reflector away from the strobe unit; avoid contact with FlashTube or modeling lamp.

Using the Tilt SwivelMount

To attach the Tilt SwivelMount to the StarFlash® unit, line up the top, front of the swivel to the bottom, rear of the strobe unit. Fit the channel of the swivel onto the bottom of the strobe unit. Slide the swivel toward the center of the strobe unit bottom. Lock securely into position by turning the channel locking wheel clockwise.



Figure 4. To attach the SwivelMount

The tilt handle on the back of the Tilt SwivelMount is used to make adjustments to the tilt angle of the strobe unit. To freely adjust the tilt angle, unlock the tilt handle by turning counterclockwise. Once in the desired position, lock the tilt handle securely by rotating clockwise.

A Tilt SwivelMount also has an umbrella receptacle with locking knob and a light stand post receptacle with locking knob.

To attach an umbrella to the Tilt SwivelMount, line up the end of the umbrella post to the receptacle on the swivel. With the umbrella post in position, secure in place by turning the umbrella locking knob clockwise.



Figure 5. To attach an umbrella to the SwivelMount

To mount the Tilt SwivelMount to a light stand post, place the post receptacle on the bottom of the swivel onto the standard post of the light stand. Secure to the post by turning the post locking knob clockwise.

The Rear Control Panel

The rear control panel of the StarFlash® is where all adjustments are made for operating the features of the strobe unit.

- A. Main power switch
- B. Slave sensor
- C. Flash power regulator
- D. Ready status light
- E. Slave off/on switch
- F. Audible alert on/off button
- G. Test/discharge button
- H. Modeling light full/variable power switch
- I. Sync cord input
- J. Receptacle for power cord
- K. Fuse receptacle

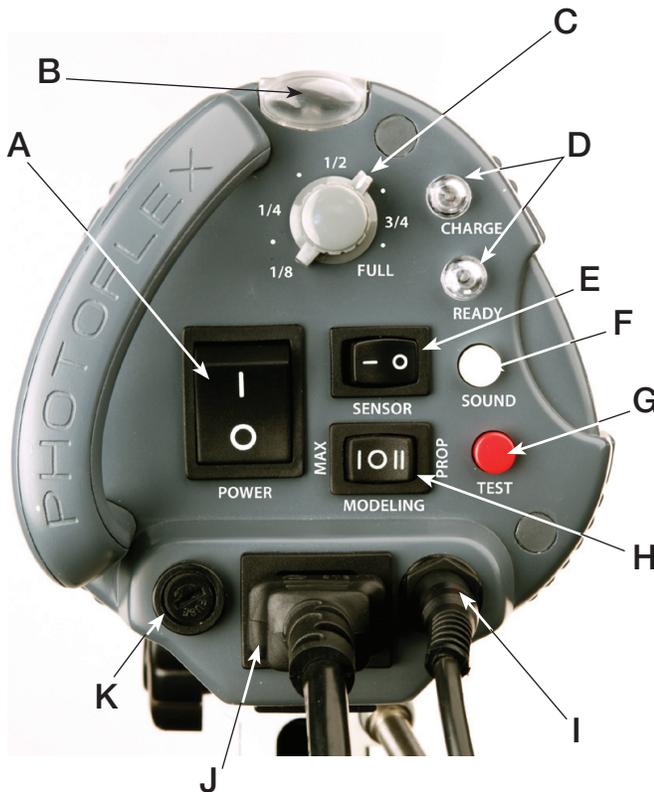


Figure 6. StarFlash® rear control panel

StarFlash® Operations

The rear control panel of the StarFlash® allows all the operating features of the flash to be controlled from this one area. Below is a more detailed description and instruction for use for each of these features.

- A. Main Power Switch - Make sure switch is turned off (O) when plugging in the power cord and when removing/inserting FlashTube or modeling light.
- B. Slave Receiver - Light sensor beneath this cover uses the flash of a synced unit to trigger the flash. Slave Off/On switch must be turned on to work in the slave mode.
- C. Flash Power Regulator - Variable power flash outputs, from full power to 1/8 power, can be set.
- D. Ready Status Light - The lower of the two lights will be red while the unit is charging. The upper lights will be green when the unit is fully-charged and ready to flash.
- E. Slave Off/On Switch - Press this switch to the on position (I) when the flash unit is used as a slave. The switch can be set to either on (I) or off (O) when flash unit is used as the primary synced flash.
- F. Audible Alert On/Off Button - The StarFlash® can be set to sound an audible alert, a beep, when the flash is fully charged for the next exposure. The button is a simple toggle to turn on and off.
- G. Test / Discharge Button - Pressing this (red) button will discharge the unit by firing the flash. This can be used for multiple pop exposures. Press this button to discharge the unit immediately before turning off the main power.
- H. Proportional Modeling Light Power Switch - When set to (O), the modeling light is off. When set to (I), the modeling light is on at full power. When set to (II), the modeling light varies in brightness corresponding with the variable setting of the flash power.
- I. Sync Cord Input - The sync cord (Phono/1/4 inch jack) plugs here and the other end (PC Connector) plugs into your camera.
Note: Some cameras do not include a PC plug for use with sync cables.
- J. Receptacle for power cord - Power cord is supplied for each StarFlash® unit. Use only the cord supplied. Do not remove the power cord when the power is on as this can be hazardous.
- K. Fuse Receptacle - The fuse cover is easily removed with a flat-head (standard) screwdriver.

Setting Up for Shooting with an Umbrella

The StarFlash® can be used for shooting with a photographic bounce or shoot-through umbrella. A reflector accessory should be used to direct the flash output into the umbrella. The StarFlash® 6 inch Umbrella Reflector (item #SB-SF6UR) is designed specifically for use with an umbrella. It attaches to the StarFlash® unit with the same bayonet style system as the StarFlash® Lamp Cover.

Attaching the Tilt SwivelMount

Line the front, top channel on the Tilt SwivelMount with the receiving channel on the bottom, rear of the StarFlash® unit. Slide the swivel onto the channel, positioning it to the center of the unit. Secure in place by hand-tightening the channel locking knob, turning clockwise.

NOTE: The Tilt SwivelMount can be positioned at any point along this channel for optimum load distribution.



Figure 7. Attaching SwivelMount

Setting Up the LiteStand

Loosen the collar at the top of the legs by turning the locking knob counterclockwise. Pull legs out. Tighten the collar by turning the locking knob clockwise. For optimum support, the leg braces should be parallel to the floor.

The stand height can be adjusted with the telescoping center column. To extend a column section, loosen the locking knob for that section by turning counterclockwise. Pull column section out to desired length. Tighten again by turning the locking knob clockwise.

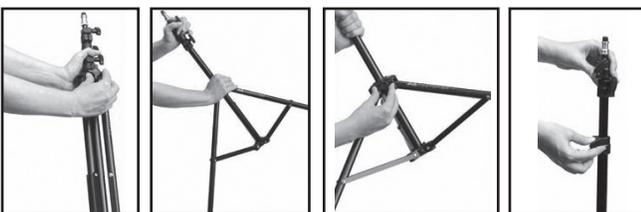


Figure 8. Setting up the LiteStand

Placing the StarFlash® on the LiteStand Post

Line up the post receptacle on the bottom of the Tilt SwivelMount to the post on the LiteStand. Place StarFlash® and swivel assembly on the LiteStand post. Secure assembly to the LiteStand post by hand-tightening the set screw, turning clockwise.

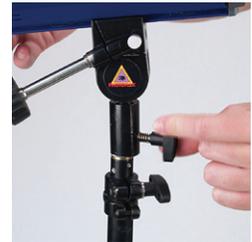


Figure 9. Placing the StarFlash® on LiteStand

Removing the Lamp Cover

The Lamp Cover is secured using a standard bayonet style locking system.

To remove the cover, push the locking lever on the top of the StarFlash® unit back with one hand while holding the cover with the other hand. Carefully (do not damage the underlying lamps) rotate the cover counterclockwise about 1/16 turn. Pull the cover away from the StarFlash® unit taking care to not touch the lamps.



Figure 10. Removing the lamp cover

Attaching the Reflector

The reflector uses the same standard bayonet style locking system as the lamp cover.

Carefully slide the reflector center over the modeling light/FlashTube. Line up the three square posts at the base of the reflector with the receptacles on the front collar of the StarFlash® unit. Insert the reflector into the collar. Turn the reflector clockwise about 1/16 turn until it locks into position.



Figure 11. Attaching reflector

Opening the Umbrella

The umbrella opens like a standard rain umbrella. Pull open the Velcro® strap that holds the umbrella closed. Reach under the material to locate the metal collar on the post. Slide the collar up the post and the umbrella will open. The umbrella will lock in place when the metal collar is pushed over the metal locking tab on the post.



Figure 12. Opening the umbrella



Attaching the Umbrella

The umbrella post will set below the rim of the reflector. Locate the umbrella receptacle hole on the Tilt SwivelMount. Set the post into the receptacle. Secure the post to the swivel by turning the locking knob clockwise.

Figure 13. Attaching umbrella

Positioning the Light

Change the position of the light set up by:

- Adjusting the height of the light. Use the LiteStand telescoping sections to get the desired height for the light source.
- Adjusting the umbrella post depth. Optimal light output is achieved when the rim of the umbrella sits approximately on the same plane as the front of the StarFlash® unit.
- Adjusting the angle of light. The Tilt SwivelMount will allow a 170° angle rotation. Use the lockable handle on the swivel to make this adjustment.



Figure 14. Positioning the light

Powering Up

Plug the receiving end of the supplied power cord to the cord receptacle on the StarFlash® control panel. Plug the other end of the power cord to the wall receptacle. Press the main power switch to the on (I) position.

The StarFlash® unit will begin to charge (red light on control panel shines). When charged, the audible alert will sound (if activated) and the green light on the control panel will shine.

Operating the StarFlash® Unit

See The Rear Control Panel and StarFlash® Operations on page 5 for operating instructions.

Setting Up for Shooting with a Strobe Reflector

The StarFlash® can be used for shooting with a parabolic strobe reflector head on the front of the StarFlash® unit. The StarFlash® 7 inch Standard Reflector (item #SB-SF7UR) is designed specifically for the StarFlash® unit when using without an umbrella. It attaches to the StarFlash® unit with the same bayonet style system as the StarFlash® Lamp Cover.

Attaching the Tilt SwivelMount

Line the front, top channel on the Tilt SwivelMount with the receiving channel on the bottom, rear of the StarFlash® unit. Slide the swivel onto the channel, positioning it to the center of the unit. Secure in place by hand-tightening the channel locking knob, turning clockwise.

NOTE: The Tilt SwivelMount can be positioned at any point along this channel for optimum load distribution.



Figure 15. Attaching the SwivelMount

Setting Up the LiteStand

Loosen the collar at the top of the legs by turning the locking knob counterclockwise. Pull legs out. Tighten the collar by turning the locking knob clockwise. For optimum support, the leg braces should be parallel to the floor.

The stand height can be adjusted with the telescoping center column. To extend a column section, loosen the locking knob for that section by turning counterclockwise. Pull column section out to desired length. Tighten again by turning the locking knob clockwise.

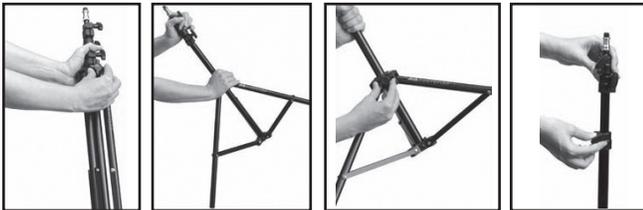


Figure 16. Setting up the LiteStand

Placing the StarFlash® on the LiteStand Post

Line up the post receptacle on the bottom of the Tilt SwivelMount to the post on the LiteStand. Place StarFlash® and swivel assembly on the LiteStand post. Secure assembly to the LiteStand post by hand-tightening the set screw, turning clockwise.

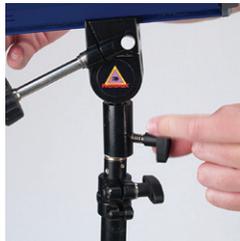


Figure 17. Placing the StarFlash® on LiteStand

Removing the Lamp Cover

The Lamp Cover is secured using a standard bayonet style locking system.

To remove the cover push the locking lever on the top of the StarFlash® unit back with one hand while holding the cover with the other hand. Carefully (do not damage the underlying lamps) rotate the cover counterclockwise about 1/16 turn. Pull the cover away from the StarFlash® unit taking care to not touch the lamps.



Figure 18. Removing the lamp cover

Attaching the Reflector

The reflector uses the same standard bayonet style locking system as the lamp cover.

Carefully slide the reflector center over the modeling light/FlashTube. Line up the three square posts at the base of the reflector with the receptacles on the front collar of the StarFlash® unit. Insert the reflector into the collar. Turn the reflector clockwise about 1/16 turn until it locks into position.



Figure 19. Attaching reflector

Positioning the Light

Change the position of the light set up by:

- Adjusting the height of the light. Use the LiteStand telescoping sections to get the desired height for the light source.
- Adjusting the angle of light. The Tilt SwivelMount will allow for about 170° angle rotation. Use the lockable handle on the swivel to make this adjustment.



Figure 20. Positioning the light

Powering Up

Plug the receiving end of the supplied power cord to the cord receptacle on the StarFlash® control panel. Plug the other end of the power cord to the wall receptacle. Press the main power switch to the on (I) position.

The StarFlash® unit will begin to charge (red light on control panel shines). When charged, the audible alert will sound (if activated) and the green light on the control panel will shine.

Operating the StarFlash® Unit

See The Rear Control Panel and StarFlash® Operations on page 5 for operating instructions.

Setting Up for Shooting with a SoftBox

The StarFlash® can be used for shooting with a SoftBox on the front of the StarFlash® unit. The StarFlash® Strobe Connector (item #SB-B9017SFC) is required for using with a SoftBox. It attaches to the StarFlash® unit with the same bayonet style system as the StarFlash® Lamp Cover.

Building the SoftBox



Figure 21.
Insert rods

Place SoftBox face down on a flat, clean surface.

Open Corners - If closed, open all four Quick Release Corners® (QRC) (NOTE - QRCs are not available on all SoftBox sizes.) Pull VELCRO® brand fastener tabs open at each corner so that rods extend freely.

Insert Rods - Notice that the connector has eight rod receptacle holes. The LiteDome® and other rectangular SoftBoxes use only four of these receptacle holes. (The remaining four holes are for use with the OctoDome®, an eight-rod SoftBox.)

Position the flat side of the connector at the center of the SoftBox. Insert the first rod into one of the rod receptacle holes. Insert the second rod into the hole diagonally opposite the first hole. Insert the third and fourth rods. (For OctoDome®, insert the remaining four rods.)

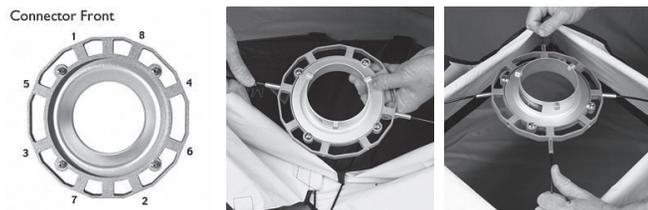


Figure 22. Insert rods

Close QRC - Starting with any of the four rods, flex rod to pull SoftBox corner to the tip of the rod. Use one hand to pull QRC flap over rod tip while the other hand is flexing the rod. Secure flap to its VELCRO® counterpart. Repeat this process for the remaining corners.



Figure 23. Close QRC

Close Rear Flaps (optional for rectangular SoftBoxes) - The rear flaps can be closed by pulling them toward the connector and attaching with the VELCRO® sewn into each flap. The SoftBox is built and ready to attach to your strobe light head.

Attach Rear Cowling (optional for OctoDome® SoftBoxes) - The rear cowling can be attached by pressing in position with the sewn-on VELCRO® strips. The SoftBox is built and ready to attach to your strobe light head.

Figure 24. For more detailed step by step instructions on SoftBox set up, go to photoflex.com then the page for your particular SoftBox.



Removing the Lamp Cover

The Lamp Cover is secured using a standard bayonet style locking system.

To remove the cover push the locking lever on the top of the StarFlash® unit back with one hand while holding the cover with the other hand. Carefully (do not damage the underlying lamps) rotate the cover counterclockwise about 1/16 turn. Pull the cover away from the StarFlash® unit taking care to not touch the lamps.



Figure 25. Removing the lamp cover

Attaching the StarFlash® Unit to the SoftBox Connector

The connector that the SoftBox is built on secures to the StarFlash® unit using the same standard bayonet style locking system that is used for the Lamp Cover.

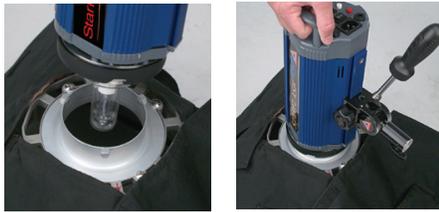


Figure 26. Attaching the StarFlash® Unit to the SoftBox connector

To attach the SoftBox assembly to the StarFlash® unit, place the SoftBox face down on a clean, flat surface. Carefully insert the StarFlash® unit, front end first, into the center ring plate of the SoftBox connector. Line up the three square pins on the connector plate with the receptacles on the front collar of the StarFlash® unit. Insert the flash unit into the connector. Rotate the flash unit clockwise about 1/16 turn until it clicks into secure position.

Attaching the Tilt SwivelMount

Line the front, top channel on the Tilt SwivelMount with the receiving channel on the bottom, rear of the StarFlash® unit. Slide the swivel onto the channel, positioning it to the center of the unit. Secure in place by hand-tightening the channel locking knob, turning clockwise.

NOTE: The Tilt SwivelMount can be positioned at any point along this channel for optimum load distribution.



Figure 27. Attaching the SwivelMount

Setting Up the LiteStand

Loosen the collar at the top of the legs by turning the locking knob counterclockwise. Pull legs out. Tighten the collar by turning the locking knob clockwise. For optimum support, the leg braces should be parallel to the floor.

The stand height can be adjusted with the telescoping center column. To extend a column section, loosen the locking knob for that section by turning counterclockwise. Pull column section out to desired length. Tighten again by turning the locking knob clockwise.

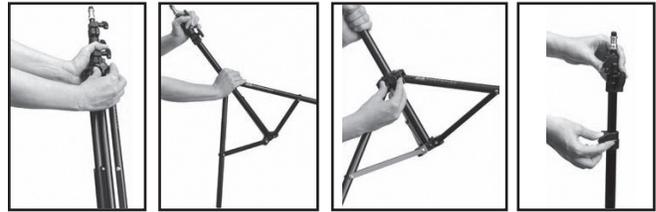


Figure 28. Setting up the LiteStand

Placing the StarFlash®/SoftBox Assembly on the LiteStand Post

Line up the post receptacle on the bottom of the Tilt SwivelMount to the post on the LiteStand. Place StarFlash® and swivel assembly on the LiteStand post. Secure assembly to the LiteStand post by hand-tightening the set screw, turning clockwise.

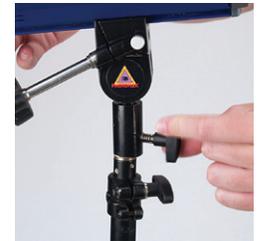


Figure 29. Placing the StarFlash® on LiteStand

Positioning the Light

Positional adjustments to the light set up by:

- Adjusting the height of the light. Use the LiteStand telescoping sections to get the desired height for the light source.
- Adjusting the angle of light. The Tilt SwivelMount will allow for about 170° angle rotation. Use the lockable handle on the swivel to make this adjustment.



Figure 30. Positioning the light

Powering Up

Plug the receiving end of the supplied power cord to the cord receptacle on the StarFlash® control panel. Plug the other end of the power cord to the wall receptacle. Press the main power switch to the on (I) position.

The StarFlash® unit will begin to charge (red light on control panel shines). When charged, the audible alert will sound (if activated) and the green light on the control panel will shine.

Operating the StarFlash® Unit

See The Rear Control Panel and StarFlash® Operations on page 5 or operating instructions.

StarFlash® Strobe Datasheet	Model 150watt	Model 300watt	Model 650watt
Domestic Item #	SB-SF150watt	SB-SF300watt	SB-SF650watt
Export Item #	SB-SFE150watt	SB-SFE300watt	SB-SFE650watt
Flash Power	150 w/sec	300 w/sec	650 w/sec
Flash Power Adjustment	Full power to 1/8 power	Full power to 1/8 power	Full power to 1/8 power
Control of Output FlashTube	5f stops range incremental	5f stops range incremental	5f stops range incremental
Recycle Time 110volt/220volt	1-2 seconds	2-3 seconds	4-5 seconds
Modeling Light 110volt/220volt	Halogen 250watt JDD	Halogen 250watt JDD	Halogen 250watt JDD
Color Temperature	5600+/-290kelvin	5600+/-290kelvin	5600+/-290kelvin
Flash Trigger	Infrared Cell, (slave) Sync Cord, Manual	Infrared Cell, (slave) Sync Cord, Manual	Infrared Cell, (slave) Sync Cord, Manual
Ready Light Indication	Yes	Yes	Yes
Audible Confirmation	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cooling Fan	Yes	Yes	Yes
Circuit Protection	Yes – 5 x 20 style 6.3 amp (110volt) Yes – 5 x 20 style 6.3 amp (220volt)	Yes – 5 x 20 style 6.3 amp (110volt) Yes – 5 x 20 style 6.3 amp (220volt)	Yes – 5 x 20 style 6.3 amp (110volt) Yes – 5 x 20 style 6.3 amp (220volt)
OctoConnector Mount	SB-B9017SFC	SB-B9017SFC	SB-B9017SFC
Size (LengthxWidthxHeight inches/cm)	14.25x5x5.5 inches 36.2x12.7x14 cm	14.25x5x5.5 inches 36.2x12.7x14 cm	15.5x5x5.5 inches 39.4x12.7x14 cm
Weight (pounds/kgs)	6.0lb. 2.72kg	6.5lb. 3.0kg	7.1lb. 3.2kg



220volt-240volt - SB-SFE150watt | SB-SFE300watt | SB-SFE650watt
110volt-120volt - SB-SF150watt | SB-SF300watt | SB-SF650watt



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