

the orbis™ guide

Congratulations on becoming the owner of an orbis™. The orbis™ is a unique modular lighting tool from enlight photo ltd that transforms the harsh light from your SLR flash into beautiful, shadowless light anywhere, every time.

The orbis™ was conceived and designed by professional photographers and specialist optical designers. It enables you to take beautifully lit flash photographs in minutes, with shadowless quality light – an effect identical to that achieved with expensive and bulky studio equipment.

Built from durable, light-weight ABS plastic, the orbis™ is totally portable and casts a flattering diffuse light on your subject. All you need is a standard flash unit and a way to fire your flash off-camera (eg. an off-camera cord, Nikon's CLS, or similar)

Cutting-edge optical design led to the development of patented orbis™ technology that transforms the single light source of your flash into a clean ring of light while minimising light loss.

Pro photographers agree the results are indistinguishable from studio lighting equipment that costs hundreds or even thousands of dollars more. With an orbis™ at your fingertips, it's amazing how many uses you'll find for it.

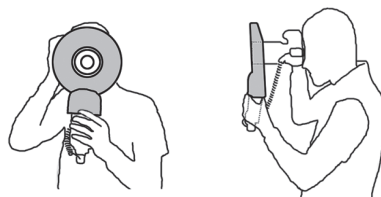
the orbis™ - fall in love with lighting™

orbis™ instructions

Your orbis™ is ready to go - straight out of the box. But before you throw the box away, please take the time to read our recycling notes overleaf.

The orbis™ is simple to use, but for optimum results we recommend that you read the following points before you start:

1. For best results, set your camera to ISO400 and your camera and flash to auto/TTL. Have your camera around your neck.
2. Attach your flash unit to your camera with your off-camera cord or set up your flash to fire wirelessly, with a radio, IR or optical slave system according to the manufacturer's instructions.
3. If you use a radio or optical slave to link the flash to the camera rather than an off-camera cord or your manufacturer's wireless system, you'll need to set the flash power manually.
4. Holding the flash unit so that the control panel is facing you, and the emitters are facing away from you, lock the flash head in the vertical position.
5. Hold the orbis™ in your other hand so that the semi-transparent lens is facing away from you and firmly push the flash into the docking clip at the base of the orbis™. Note that the clip is designed to flex even to fit larger flashes, so don't be afraid to push! (e.g. Canon 580EXII, Nikon SB900).
6. For best results, manually set the zoom function of the flash to the longest focal length. (Not all flash units have this function.)
7. Holding the orbis™ and the flash unit, lift your camera to your eye in either portrait or landscape orientation and position the lens in the orbis™ lens tunnel, like this:



IMPORTANT: The orbis™ docking clip is not designed to secure the full weight of your flash so make sure you grip both the orbis™ and the flash.

Make sure that your fingers are not obscuring the emitters on the flash and that the orbis™ lens is parallel to the camera's film plane.

8. With your flash and camera set to auto/TTL, compose your photograph and press the shutter.
9. Light emitted from your flash unit will be redirected through the patent-pending light tunnel inside the orbis™ to give your subject perfect, shadowless light.

N.B: Never leave your orbis™ attached to a flash for extended periods when not shooting.

If you would rather not hand-hold your orbis™, the orbis™ arm is available to fit the orbis™ to your camera. See our website www.orbisflash.com details.

ESSENTIAL LEGAL SMALL PRINT: Under heavy use of any flash, overheating may be an issue. Consult your manufacturer's flash manual for details. The orbis™ has been designed to work with flashes under normal working conditions. enlight photo cannot be held liable for any damage or injury, from overheating or any other causes, that may occur through use of the orbis™.

orbis™ advanced guide

Photography is an art form, but lighting is an art unto itself. Here are a few important points to help you get the very best out of your orbis™.

Short range photography

When using the orbis™ at short range or in low light, try to ensure that the emitters on the front of your flash unit are angled to cover the centre of your subject. If your camera's auto metering (TTL) is not calculating the correct exposure, try angling the flash head a little off vertical and up toward your subject.

Under-exposure

Some manufacturers have programmed their camera's TTL flash metering to under-expose by as much as half a stop. You may prefer to override this by setting your camera to over-expose the flash (to compensate), or by setting the flash to manual, then metering using a light meter or in-camera histogram (see over for histogram notes). Trial and error with your camera and flash system will enable you to tell whether it under or over-exposes.

Lighting a subject and background with the orbis™

When the distance from a light source doubles, the strength of the light falls by a factor of four. If you are using the orbis™ to light a subject and the background, you need to position your subject close to the background. You'll also find that by using a uniform background you capture an iconic and classic 'halo' shadow around your subject.

Invisible background

If you don't want the background to feature in the photograph, position your subject a good distance in front of the background and set your camera to under-expose the ambient light. That way the orbis™ will light only your subject.

For more tips visit www.orbisflash.com

To get news, tips and tutorials as soon as they're available, click the button on our homepage to sign up to our newsletter. Join the orbis™ flickr group to upload your best orbis™ photos, find us at facebook.com/orbisflash and on twitter @orbisflash.



**an engaged,
responsive company
creating practical,
inventive products.**

Our goal is to produce innovative products for photographers that are well-built, durable, portable and affordable.

Owned and run by an ex-full-time pro photographer, **enlight photo** understand what photographers need. We know first-hand how important versatile, reliable equipment is.

We aim to bring innovative photography products to market, designed specifically for the working photographer and serious amateur.

enlight photo cares about photography and about our products. We also care about the environment in which we live and work.

Have you ever considered what happens to your refuse when it leaves your house? Try and picture in your mind's eye how much household waste is processed in your street, your town. Everything we can do in our lifestyles to minimise waste makes the town, city and country we live in a better place. And a better place to live is a better place to photograph.

enlight photo aims to have as little environmental impact as possible.

That's why we strive to ensure that none of **enlight photo's** products have unnecessary packaging. The orbis™ is durable and designed to withstand the rigours of regular use. It doesn't need to come packaged in plastic, nor in several nested boxes. Our packaging is simple to help you get rid of it without throwing it in the dustbin. If you have a garden, rip the box up and let it compost. No garden? Rip the box up and mix it into the soil of a pot plant, or underneath soil in new pot plants to help with aeration. Or perhaps you recycle already, in which case just flatten the box and leave it for recycling day.

enlight photo's environmental policy is not just about packaging. We minimise paper and plastics use in our offices and use time management and 'off' switches to lower our power bills. All this without compromising the quality of our products or our lives. In fact, we think it improves it.

We're not perfect, but we strive to do all we can.

Please help us to make a difference.

digital camera histograms

What is a histogram and what does it have to do with an orbis™?

The orbis™ works just as well with film and digital cameras, but the chances are you're a digital user. One of the most useful things about digital cameras is the ability to review your photographs using the LCD screen on the camera back. The problem with LCD screens is that they are small and vary significantly in brightness and quality. On a bright day it's even harder to use them effectively to judge your exposures. To help judge focus, make sure you know how to zoom into your image in the preview mode to check that the image is really sharp. To judge exposure effectively, you need to understand the histogram.

A histogram is a graphic representation of the exposure of the photograph.

As every photograph is a composition of light and dark, to judge the exposure you need to assess the balance of light and dark. The histogram enables you to do this at a glance, regardless of how bright a day it is or how your preview screen may be set.

Check your camera's manual to find how to display the histogram in the preview or 'PLAY' mode.

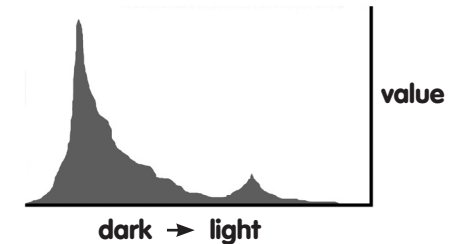
The horizontal axis of the histogram shows wavelength i.e. light and dark, and the vertical axis represents a value or amount at any given wavelength. The far left of the histogram represents total darkness and the far right represents over-exposed highlights. This means that by checking whether there is any data at the far left, or far right, of the histogram you can tell at a glance whether there are any drastically under or overexposed areas of the image. The histogram will reliably give you this information when a simple glance at the image on your preview screen won't.

If you have under-exposed your image, you need to increase the power of the flash or open the aperture, and do the opposite for over-exposed images.

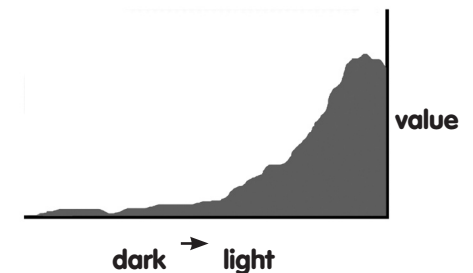
Check out the following example histograms;

histogram examples:

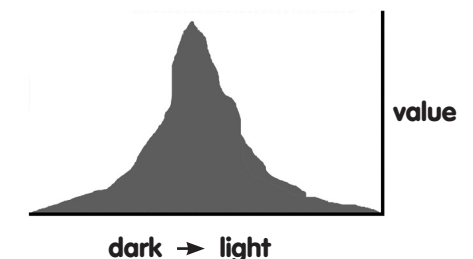
Here is an example of a histogram from a dark image; there is very little information at the light (right) end of the histogram. This may not be a bad thing of course, if your image naturally contains a large dark area. Note that the grey shaded histogram area returns to the bottom of the graph at the left hand side, showing that, although dark, there are no terminally underexposed areas of the image.



This example of a histogram is from a light image; there is very little information at the dark (left) end of the histogram. The shaded area does not return to the bottom of the graph at the light (right) of the histogram, indicating that some of the image is terminally over-exposed; no detail will be visible on the image. This is known as "blown highlights".



This is an example of a histogram from a well-exposed image, with no blown highlights or terminally underexposed areas.



www.orbisflash.com