



The Beta Lab

NEW! ControlTL™ MiniTT1™ / FlexTT5™ Beta Firmware Version 4.374

November 19, 2009

Beta Firmware Version: 4.364 - 4.374

New Key Features:

Automatic Camera Detection: Camera model detection is now truly automatic. This feature obsoletes the need to select your camera model via the PocketWizard Utility. This gives you optimized High Speed Sync straight out of the box. On the Misc Tab, leave your camera model set to Auto (default) to use this feature. If you select your camera model then you will get the exact same features as with Auto, but you will not be able to switch your MiniTT1 or FlexTT5 to another camera model without first selecting it in the Utility. Always turn OFF your radio when switching cameras even if they are the same model.

Optimized HSS Crossover Auto Detect: We changed the optimized HSS crossover point to auto detect based on camera type. This allows the 5D and the 5D Mark II to sync at all shutter speeds with Canon Speedlites right out of the box without needing to use the PocketWizard Utility.

"High Speed Sync (FP Flash Sync) Begins At" will automatically be set to 1/320 for the 5D and 5D Mark II, and 1/400 for all other camera models. This feature is automatically engaged by default, or can be set by selecting "Auto" for "High Speed Sync (FP Flash Sync) Begins At" in the PocketWizard Utility. Selecting a different HSS crossover point overrides the auto setting.

Other New Feature:

FEC (Flash Exposure Compensation): FEC can now be set directly on a Speedlite in the shoe of a remote FlexTT5.

Compatibility:

Added Metz 58 AF-1 Canon compatibility

This flash now works with the ControlTL system. NOTE: Pre-flash boost mode (local and remote) must be manually disabled when using this flash. Other limitations may apply. Metz firmware v3.0 (July 17, 2009) only.



Bug Fixes/Refinements:

- **Pre-Flash Boost refinements:**

Pre-flash boost mode has been enhanced independently for use on a MiniTT1 or a FlexTT5:

"Local Pre-flash Boost Mode" is used on a MiniTT1 or FlexTT5 when used as a transmitter. This setting controls pre-flash boost for the local flash on top of the camera. This setting defaults to "Auto" - when the flash head is tilted away from 90°, pre-flash boost is automatically engaged.

"Remote Pre-flash Boost Mode" is only used for a remote FlexTT5 triggering a Speedlite. This setting defaults to "Force" - pre-flash boost is always used for a remote FlexTT5 regardless of the flash head position. Changing this setting on a transmitting FlexTT5 on a camera will not affect pre-flash boost on remote FlexTT5 radios - they will engage pre-flash boost per their own settings.

Pre-flash boost is compatible with the following flashes:

580EX, 580EX II, 430EX, 430EX II, 270EX

Pre-flash boost automatically disables on the following flashes which are not compatible with pre-flash boost:

220EX, 550EX, 420EX

Pre-flash boost is not compatible with the Metz 58 AF-1 Canon. When using this flash you must set both pre-flash boost modes to "Disable Pre-flash Boost."

- The issue regarding white balance color shifting occasionally at HSS shutter speeds when using a FlexTT5 as a Transmitter on a camera has been fixed.

(End of documentation on ControlTL beta firmware version 4.374)

Beta Firmware Version: 4.300 - 4.364

Compatibility:

Added Canon 7D compatibility

New Key Features:

Rear Curtain Sync: We've added Rear Curtain Sync capabilities with the ability for you to set the shutter speed at which rear curtain sync is engaged. The default setting is set at 1/100 second so any time you are at that shutter speed or slower, rear curtain sync will be engaged. You can adjust this setting (or turn it off) in the PocketWizard Utility under the "Sync Timing" tab.

We found in testing that the Canon system rear curtain sync timing is actually not at the precise end of the shutter opening, but actually slightly before (Fig 1 & Fig 1A). We have been able to improve on this timing to put the flash at the very end of the exposure (Fig 2 & Fig 2A).



Fig 1 - Canon Rear Curtain Sync - note leading edge of the motion blur. 5D mk II camera used for example.

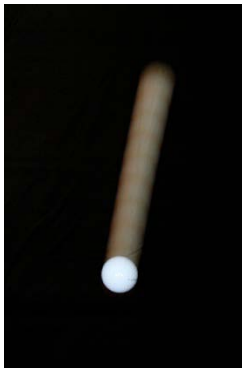


Fig 2 - PocketWizard Rear Curtain Sync - note the absence of any leading edge blur. 5D mk II camera used for example.



Fig 1A - Canon Rear Curtain Sync - note leading edge of the motion blur. 1D mk III camera used for example.



Fig 2A - PocketWizard Rear Curtain Sync - note the absence of any leading edge blur. 1D mk III camera used for

You do *not* need to set anything on your flashes including Canon's own Second-Curtain Sync button. Toggling the setting on the flash will not change the setting in the radio.



Pre-Flash Boost Mode: In certain E-TTL situations, especially when shooting in full sun or over long distances, the normal pre-flash is simply not enough for the camera to see. Now, when Pre-Flash Boost is engaged, you get a pre-flash that is two stops brighter. This will approximately double the distance that the camera can make sense of the pre-flash ETT-L information or compensate for the reduction in output caused by a diffuser over the flash or a bounced flash set-up.

Pre-Flash Boost can be engaged by simply angling the flash head in any direction other than the standard 90° position. This allows you to turn on Pre-Flash Boost selectively in a multiple flash situation. The PocketWizard Utility allows you to turn Pre-Flash Boost on full-time (helpful when using diffusers), off full-time, or "auto" mode allowing you to engage it in the field. "Auto" mode is the default setting.

Pre-Flash Boost is only engaged on remote FlexTT5 radios. It is not engaged for the on-camera flash, even if you are using a FlexTT5 as a transmitter.

Other New Features:

- Continuous triggering added for bottom shoe input when in Basic Trigger Mode. This allows you to trigger a remote camera for a continuous motor drive burst. Connect a footswitch or other button via the transmitting MiniTT1 or FlexTT5 radio's hot shoe to use this mode.
- Test button on FlexTT5 Transmitter starts local relay sequence on camera motor drive allowing you to easily test your relay set-up.
- Depth of Field preview remote activation added. When you press the DOF preview button on your camera, your remote flashes will activate their DOF preview mode normally.
- Remote camera pre-trigger/wakeup control from a MultiMAX Transceiver - This allows you to remotely wake-up or sleep your remote camera when it's connected to a FlexTT5 by simply toggling its Zone on a transmitting MultiMAX. Requires an -ACC motor drive cable. Works in Basic Trigger Mode or when receiving on a Standard Channel (un-check "Use ControlTL for Rx Channel" on the Channel tab). Not available on ControlTL channels.

Bug Fixes/Refinements:

- Force Master Mode with a 430EX II has been improved on the Rebel XSi, and possibly other cameras, when triggering a MiniTT1. Corrects an issue where a full power flash (blowout) would occur on occasion.
- Remote Wireless Manual Power Control will now permit maximum output power on all flashes when used in X-Sync mode (HSS mode was not an issue).
- Corrected a situation where pressing TEST on a FlexTT5 made it so you could not trigger for 2 or 3 seconds, but only on a Standard Channel.
- Flash Exposure Lock (FEL) with 5D Mark II has been improved. Corrected a situation where pressing FEL would cause a remote flash to trigger and/or blowouts would occur.



- Improved continuous remote camera triggering operation for the following scenario: FlexTT5 connected to a camera's motor drive port with an -ACC cable and set to a Standard channel and Bottom Shoe Disable mode turned on.
- Improved 50D performance by eliminating an issue with blowouts occurring with on-camera flash set to Master Mode or when using Force TTL Master Mode.
- Corrected 420EX flash periodic random exposure blowouts when used as remote flash on a FlexTT5.
- Improved battery monitoring for MiniTT1 Transmitter.
- Power management changes to reduce risk of battery leakage on FlexTT5 when used with alkaline batteries. The MiniTT1 coin cell is less likely to leak based on its chemistry.
- Corrected 1D Mark III with on-camera flash which had periodic blowouts if put in 10 fps high speed drive mode.
- Corrected a relay mode lock-up issue (camera would trigger continuously) which occurred when TEST was pressed on the remote FlexTT5 in Basic Trigger Mode.
- Corrected possibility of random blowouts if pre-flash RF command was missed by FlexTT5.
- Fixed problems with Bottom Shoe Disable mode where bottom shoe was still responding to shoe data which could cause a remote camera to not trigger.
- Corrected issue where Canon 1D Mark II or 1D Mark IIIn would not trigger from CM-N3-ACC cord.
- Corrected issue where 430EX II would appear to switch out of SLAVE mode automatically as the FlexTT5 was turned on, but did not do so properly and would then not trigger correctly. Switching out of SLAVE mode is the correct behavior - Canon SLAVE mode is not used for remote ControlTL flashes.
- With previous versions of the firmware, using a 5D Mark II with fast aperture lenses imposed a limitation on the narrowest aperture you could use. This issue has been eliminated completely and all apertures should be available with this camera, regardless of the lens used.