



ALIEN BEES RINGFLASH

The AlienBees™ Ringflash Operation Instructions

The ABR800 is a 320 True Wattsecond, self-contained ringflash for serious photographers. The ABR800 is made in the USA, designed by Paul C. Buff and manufactured by Paul C. Buff, Inc.™

Your Absolute Satisfaction Guarantee and Factory Warranty

Paul C. Buff, Inc.™ offers a **60-Day Absolute Satisfaction Guarantee** on the ABR800. If, for any reason, you are not completely satisfied with your purchase, you may return your unit within those 60 days for a complete refund, minus shipping charges. The ABR800 additionally carries a **2-Year Factory Warranty**. The obligation of Paul C. Buff, Inc.™ is limited to the repair or replacement of products that have become defective under normal use, as outlined in the manual. The warranty does not apply to the flashtubes or modeling lamps as these become exhausted based on normal use (except in the unusual case of an unexpected manufacturer's defect). Should you experience any difficulties, please contact us so that we can assess your predicament and let you know if we need to bring in your unit for repair.

Our Toll Free Customer Service Line: 1-800-443-5542
Email Our Customer Service Team: info@paulcbuff.com

Our Customer Service Team is here, ready to take your call Monday through Friday, from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm, CT. No question is too big or too small! We bees aim to please!

PAUL C. BUFF, INC.™ 2725 Bransford Avenue Nashville, Tennessee 37204
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v.01/2015



Safety Precautions

For your safety, please note these warnings:

WARNING! This unit contains **no user serviceable parts** and should not be disassembled except by a qualified technician. Please **do not attempt to disassemble** or service this unit on your own. The only parts that you may replace yourself are the flashtubes and modeling lamps, though caution must be taken here as well and the unit must be powered down while these items are replaced (instructions for replacement of these items are included in this manual). Always **turn your unit OFF and unplug it** whenever attaching or removing any accessories (such as the reflector, diffuser and camera platform) and whenever you are replacing the modeling lamps or flashtubes.

The unit may only be connected to a **3-wire grounded AC outlet** to avoid shock hazard. Do not connect the unit to ungrounded outlets, or to two-wire extension cords or adaptors that eliminate the ground prong.

Do not allow any unattended children around this unit (or any other studio flash equipment) as potentially dangerous conditions may result including burns and electrical shock hazards. **Please be safe with your equipment!**

Most cars are capable of traveling 120 MPH on a winding gravel road and do not place limits on your ability to do this. But common sense indicates that if you drive this way you, are probably going to ruin your car and perhaps your life. Even if you don't have a wreck, if you do this for a long period of time, you will surely overheat the engine and burn it up. That said, the ABR800 units (as well as our other products) have safe operating parameters that are difficult to place limits or user controls upon and it is up to the user to exercise reasonable caution in heavy-use and/or unusual shooting situations.

Heat Considerations: The ABR800 has high intensity modeling lamps that produce considerable heat, as well as flashtubes and internal electronics that must dissipate 320 Ws for each flash. An internal fan removes the heat from these sources in most configurations in normal use. However, if the unit is flashed each time it recycles and the modeling lamps are left continuously on at full brightness, operating under these conditions requires the dissipation of about 500 watts of heat. While the unit can tolerate this for short periods of time, it cannot do this indefinitely without overheating and being damaged. This is aggravated with accessories such as grids, gels, diffusers and softboxes that restrict the airflow. In order to guide the user, we conducted a series of tests on an ABR800 fitted with the cover / diffuser, the honeycomb grid and a gel.

TEST 1 – Long Term Shooting: The modeling lamps were set to the Model = Ready Mode to reduce the heat load during firing. The ABR800 unit was fired continuously at Full Power once every 20 seconds. Under these conditions, the temperature of the grid and diffuser eventually stabilized at 200°F. The unit is designed to allow for temperatures up to 250°. Beyond this, there is concern for user-burns and damage to components. Conclusion: This configuration is generally acceptable. Shooting rates could likely be increased to about 1 shot per 10 seconds on a long term basis without damage. However, additional care should be taken if the unit is facing downward as this will increase the amount of heat flowing back into the electronics. Common sense suggests feeling the outside of the ABR800 housing occasionally during shooting. If it feels extremely hot to the touch, you should let the unit rest for a while. You can reduce the amount of heat build up by setting the Modeling Lamps to Proportional (Tracking Mode) and by setting the lamps to Model = Ready Mode.

TEST 2 – Burst Shooting: We next fired the ABR800 once per second in Model = Ready mode. The unit was already at 200°F at the beginning of this test. After 100 shots, the temperatures reached the 270°F point. The unit was allowed to rest for 5 minutes with the modeling lamps still on Full brightness and the temperatures returned to 200°F. Conclusion: Burst shooting should be limited to about 50 consecutive shots in 50 seconds, followed by a 3-minute rest period.

TEST 3 – Destruction Testing: In this test, we turned the model lamps on (Model = Ready OFF) and fired at Full Power once per second. After 150 flashes in 150 seconds, the diffuser reached over 300°F and began to soften and melt. In this test, the electronics continued to function, but this sort of overuse is obviously not acceptable and can result in serious damage to the unit.

General Recommendation: Based on these results, a prudent operating routine would be to limit Full Power operation with modeling lamps (preferably in Model = Ready Mode) at a long term rate of no more than 20 flashes per minute, or to a burst rate of no more than 50 flashes followed by a rest period. If the unit is used at less than Full Power, particularly with the modeling lamps OFF or in Proportional (Tracking) mode, proportional higher usage rates can be tolerated. If the unit feels very hot to the touch, a rest period with the modeling lamps off is indicated.

Each unit arrives with a 15-foot, grounded power cord that connects to the ringflash unit on the back control panel with a down-angle, standard IEC connector and must then be connected to a **120 VAC, 50-60 Hz power outlet**. The units are rated at 3 amps average current, and may briefly peak at 16 amps input current at the very beginning of the recycle period. The units will draw less average current if the flashpower is set for lower output and the modeling lamps are off. Depending on the modeling setting, the units require approximately 1 ampere to illuminate the lamps and maintain the flash between shots.



When shooting in an environment where a suitable AC power source is not available, we recommend the use of our **Vagabond™ Portable Power System** (please see our website or call us for details). Our Vagabond™ systems are designed specifically for Paul C. Buff™ units to provide a convenient, lightweight, self-contained battery power source at a very low cost. In addition, the Vagabond™ batteries can be recharged from any source of commercial AC power nearly anywhere in the world. Multiple Vagabond™ units may be purchased for the price of a single generator or high power true sine wave inverter system.



Please contact us to learn more about using a Vagabond™ system with your units!

Ringflash Synchronization

Using the included sync cord, you can **directly connect the ringflash to your camera**. The supplied sync cord has a 1/8-inch plug to connect to the sync jack on the ringflash back panel and a PC sync to connect to your camera's PC outlet. If your camera does not have PC sync, the sync cord can be connected through your hot shoe with an adapter (for our Hot Shoe Adapter, please see our website). With the ringflash and camera directly connected, the unit will only take its cue to fire from the camera, when the camera's shutter is pressed. The ABR800 can additionally be fired using the **built-in slave tripper** which will detect and reliably fire the unit whenever it "sees" any flash of light from another flash unit - tripped 50+ feet away. This slave allows you to connect one light in your setup to your camera, leaving the other lights to fire with this slave. The unit will fire at its prescribed settings simultaneously with the connected unit. The slave is disengaged whenever a sync cord or blank "dummy" plug is inserted into the sync jack. Using the **remote control jack**, you can also connect a Paul C. Buff™ remote to control the firing and/or flashpower and modeling. Additionally, our CyberSync™ 2.4GHz Radio Remote Control system may be used for wireless firing.

Using The Ringflash With Your Camera

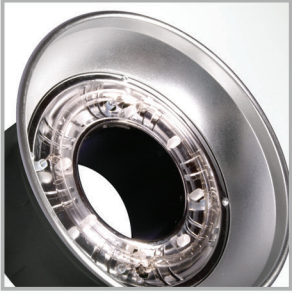
As with virtually all studio flash units, your camera must be set to the **manual exposure mode with any pre-flash turned off** when using the ABR800. Exposure should be determined using a flashmeter and/or histograms and the camera should be set to "**flash sync speed**" (typically 1/125 second). When using the ringflash, you cannot leave your camera in automatic mode as its **internal meter will not be able to detect the light** that will be emitted and will thus be set to an inaccurate shutter speed and aperture, causing your picture to be overexposed. Furthermore, when in automatic mode, many cameras have TTL metering that will send out a pre-flash to read the light, and that signal/flash may fire the unit via the built-in slave before the shutter actually opens, causing incorrect exposure. When using the ringflash and various light modifying techniques, the best way to ensure a proper exposure is to use a **high quality flashmeter**. There are several manufacturers who offer excellent meters, allowing you to enter the specific settings that you've chosen for a shot and read the amount of light present. You can use the meter's "test/arm" option or you can connect the sync cord and select the "cord" option. The meter will indicate the appropriate settings so that you may set your camera accordingly. A reading from the camera position or from the subject position may be used to determine an overall scene reading. Depending on the subject, you may additionally want to take spot meter readings.

Our customer service team can help you determine how best to use the unit with your particular camera. Please call us on our Toll Free Line at 1-800-443-5542 or send us an email at info@paulcbuff.com if you would like assistance. We're here, happy to help you, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm, Central Time.

ABR800

the AlienBees™ Ringflash

What Arrives With Your Ringflash?



The Ring Reflector

The ABR800 arrives with our standard **wide-angle reflector**. This flat field reflector measures 10 inches in diameter, having an 80° beam spread. The reflector is made of high-temperature, high-strength polycarbonate with a chrome-filmed interior. The supplied reflector provides **even coverage with the widest of lens angles** - a must for interior and architectural shots. Additionally, the reflector is designed to hold our accessory 20° honeycomb grids (sold separately) for “Hollywood Style” lighting and for other low key effects. Use of the included diffuser with the grid spot prevents stray light from falling on the lens. The internal cooling fan along with intelligent thermal management prevents heat build up, allowing the reflector with accessories to be used with full modeling lamp brightness.



A Set of Eight Modeling Lamps

Eight 10-Watt, 24-Volt Modeling Lamps are used in each unit, mounted coaxially on-axis with the flashtube to provide true “**What-You-See-Is-What-You-Get**” previews. Proprietary voltage regulation circuitry provides effective modeling output comparable to a 150-Watt lamp. With matched light patterns and diffusion, the output of the lamps will match the pattern of light that you will see on film or digital image. The long-life, high-efficiency bulbs have a 500 to 3000 hour lifespan and may be replaced by the user.

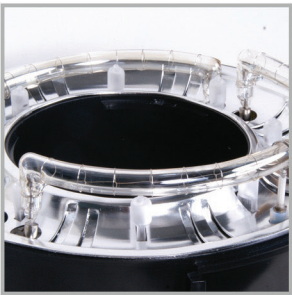
*For replacement lamps, please see item **10W**, a set of 8 lamps, available on our website.*



A Pair of Half-Circle Flashtubes

The ABR800 uses two 10mm, 6-inch diameter flashtubes that work as a pair, with both tubes required to create a complete circular flash. The tubes have an expected lifespan of 250,000 to 1,000,000 flashes and upon exhaustion or breakage, the user may easily replace them.

*For replacements, please see item **ABRFT10MM**, available on our website. As the unit requires two half-circle flashtubes, you may purchase a single ABRFT10MM flashtube, or purchase the pair. For best results, we recommend replacing both at the same time.*



Our 15-foot Power Cord

As the ABR800 requires AC power, each unit comes with our heavy-duty 15-foot power cord, with a three-wire grounded plug to connect to a standard **120 VAC, 50-60 Hz power outlet**. The cord connects on the back panel of the unit with a standard IEC connector and has a low-profile, **down-angle connector** that fits inside the recessed power cord socket to prevent any interference with the camera body.

*If a longer cord is desired, we also offer an optional 25-foot cord, though this cord does not have the down-angle connector. For the longer, optional cord, please see item **UPC25**, available on our website.*



Our 12-inch Sync Cord

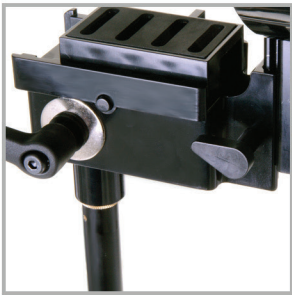
Our 12-inch sync cord arrives with each unit, so that you may connect the ringflash to your camera. This sync cord has a **1/8-inch miniplug** on one end to connect on the back panel of your ringflash, with a **PC-connection** on the other end to connect to your camera. With the sync cord, your ringflash will only take its cue to fire from you when your shutter is pressed.

*If your camera does not have a PC outlet, the sync cord can be connected through your hot shoe with an adapter or our CyberSync™ 2.4GHz Radio Remote Control system may be used. For more information please contact us. You can call us or visit us online at **www.paulcbuff.com***



Our Front Cover / Diffuser / Gel Holder

Each unit arrives with our front cover, fitted around the flashtube and lamps on the faceplate of the unit. This frosted cover functions as a **safety piece** to protect the flashtube and modeling lamps while in transit. While in use, the cover functions as a **diffuser**, softening the total light output. The cover / diffuser additionally serves as a **gel holder**, having a raised center retaining lip to which one can attach our doughnut shaped gels (*sold separately as the ABRW/DF6*).



The Universal Camera Mounting Bracket

Each ABR800 arrives with our universal mounting bracket, designed to accommodate most popular pro and semi-pro cameras with its wide range of adjustments. With the adjustable camera platform, you can attach your camera to the bracket and slide it **in and out** of the ringflash center hole to find the position that best suits your specific camera. **Side to side** adjustments can be made along the platform as well to center your camera lens while the bracket itself adjusts **up and down** along the ringflash mounting post to accommodate large camera bodies and battery packs, supporting cameras with a 1 to 4.75-inch distance from lens center to camera base.



>>**The Adjustable Camera Platform:** The camera platform offers a grip pad surface where your camera rests, having four horizontal slots for you to securely mount your camera using the provided platform screw that attaches to your camera's tripod socket. The slots provide flexibility for you to choose the best mounting position for your specific camera, allowing you to adjust forwards and backwards among the slots and side to side within each slot depending on your camera body size, lens size and tripod socket position. You can use the platform mounting screw to attach your camera to the bracket, or simply use the platform as a resting place as you free-hold your camera. With your camera attached, you can slide the platform forwards and backwards to move your lens in and out of the ringflash center hole. As the platform screw connection is separate from the rest of the bracket, you can keep your camera attached to the platform and remove it entirely from the ringflash to review images, reload film or take shots away from the ringflash.



>>**Tripod Mounting:** The mounting bracket includes a standard tripod socket so that both the camera and ringflash or just the ringflash may be attached to a standard tripod. As the tripod socket is flush with the bottom of the bracket, you can use your tripod's quick release as well. When using the tripod mount, the stand mount conveniently tucks out of the way.

>>**Light Stand Mounting:** The mounting bracket additionally includes our swivel light stand mount that allows both the camera and ringflash or just the ringflash to be attached to a standard light stand (stands having brass attachment studs up to 5/8-inch).

>> **Handheld Operation:** The lightweight design of the ringflash makes it ideal for hand-holding. With the bracket attached, the additional length of the mounting post provides a convenient vertical handle or the flat bracket base can be held, fitting comfortably in your palm.

To learn more about adjusting and using the various bracket components, see pages 9 - 11.



The Umbrella Adapter

Each unit arrives with our accessory **umbrella adapter**, fitting inside the ringflash center chamber and locked into position using the same twist-and-lock method that is used to attach the diffuser. The adapter allows umbrellas and our PLM™ umbrellas to be used with the ringflash unit when using it as a conventional flash in non-aim-through mode. An umbrella pole slides through the adapter and is tightened into place with the adjustment knob.

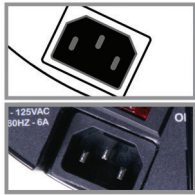
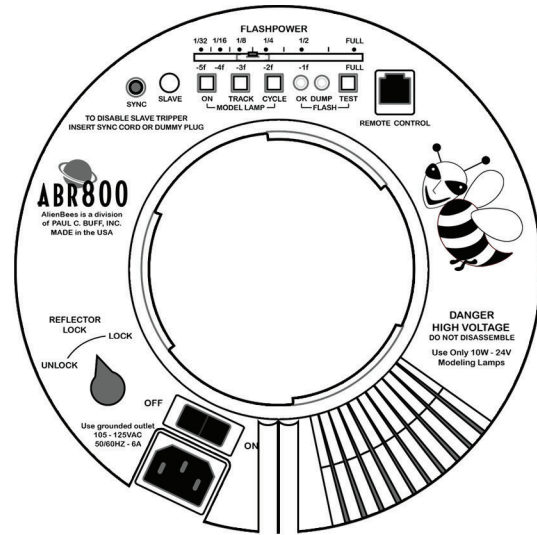
The diffuser / front cover may not be used with the adapter as both pieces use the inner ring of the unit for attachment. The ring reflector, however, may be used with the umbrella adapter.



ABR800

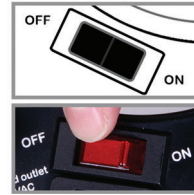
the AlienBees™ Ringflash

The ABR800 Ringflash Back Control Panel



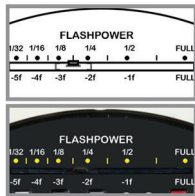
Power Cord Socket

The provided UPCI5 power cord plugs into this female power cord socket then into a suitable AC power source.



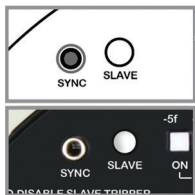
Power ON / OFF

The power ON / OFF switch turns the entire ringflash unit on or off and additionally has a built-in 6 amp circuit breaker.



Flashpower / Modeling Output Control

The flashpower and modeling lamp output are continuously adjustable over a **6 f-stop variability**, with typical accuracy and repeatability of plus or minus 1/10 f-stop. The output is adjusted steplessly from **Full down to 1/32nd of the total power**, in whole f-stop increments and everywhere in between, adjusted with this slide fader showing marked fractions and f-stop increments. This convenient slide fader allows you to adjust the output of your unit simply and quickly, changing the quantity and intensity of the light produced without having to physically move the light source back and forth.

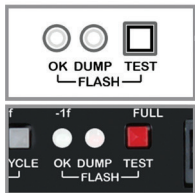


Sync Jack

The supplied 12-inch sync cord has a **1/8-inch miniplug** on one end and a **PC-connection** on the other. The miniplug plugs into this sync jack while the other end of the cord connects to your camera's PC connection outlet or hot shoe adapter.

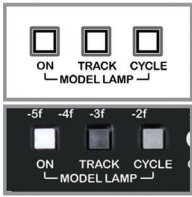
Slave Cell

The slave cell will detect any flash of light and reliably fire the unit **whenever it "sees" any flash of light** from your camera's built-in flash or from another flash unit that is synced to your camera. The slave cell is disengaged whenever a sync cord or blank "dummy" plug is inserted into the sync jack.



Flash OK / Flash DUMP / Flash TEST

After the unit fires (releasing the energy from the capacitors), it will begin recycling. The red **DUMP LED** will light as the unit recycles, then the green **OK LED** will light to indicate that the recycle is complete and that the unit is ready to fire at the prescribed settings. The **DUMP LED** will also light whenever the unit is adjusted from a higher to a lower power setting. The unit will automatically dump this excess charge, or you can push the red **TEST** button to dump the charge instantly. When the green **OK LED** comes on, the unit holds the correct amount of energy for the settings, and is ready to fire.



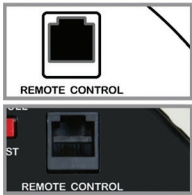
Modeling Lamp Control

The modeling lamps can be set to **full brightness**, set so that their output is **proportional to the flashpower** adjustment, or **turned off**. Additionally, the lamps can be set to indicate the unit's recycle status by going dark when the unit is fired and returning to previous brightness when recycle is complete.

Model Lamp ON (white): This button turns the eight modeling lamps on - the lamps are collectively adjusted or turned all off or all on, depending on the position of the "TRACK" switch (described below).

Model Lamp TRACK (dark grey): When depressed, the modeling lamps will track the flashpower settings. When released, the lamps will remain at full brightness regardless of changes made in the flashpower.

Model Lamp CYCLE (light grey): When depressed, the modeling lamps will visually indicate the recycle status by going dark when the unit is flashed, then coming back on when the unit is recycled. When re-released, the lamps remain on during recycle. This recycle indication feature may be used whenever the lamps are on, whether the lamps are set to full or tracking mode.



Remote Control Jack

The standard Paul C. Buff™ remote control jack accepts wired or wireless remote control of flashpower; modeling lamp output and triggering. Plugging the provided phone cord of any **Paul C. Buff™ remote control** into the jack causes the unit's flashpower and modeling to be externally controlled. When a cord is plugged in, the rear panel controls are ignored - signals will be received from the remote. Plugging in a remote control does not, however, defeat the slave eye.

Ringflash Specifications

notes on the following page

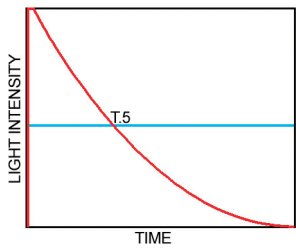
Output	320 True Wattseconds / 14,000 Lumenseconds
Power Variability	6 f-stops (Full to 1/32 power)
Recycle to 100%	1 second to Full Power (proportionately faster at reduced power settings)
Flash Duration (t.5 method)	1/2000 second at Full Power <i>the flash duration becomes somewhat longer as the power is reduced, as with all competitive variable flashpower systems, reaching approx. 1/1200 second at the minimum power setting</i>
Sync / Trigger Voltage	5.6 volts (low current - safe for digital cameras)
Power Requirements	120 VAC, 50 – 60 Hz, 6 Amp Circuit Breaker
Modeling Lamps	a set of eight 10-Watt, 24-Volt bulbs <i>300 to 500 hour lifespan; total output comparable to a conventional 150 Watt lamp (approx. 2,200 Lumens)</i>
Flashtubes	two half-circle 6-inch diameter tubes (10mm) <i>250,000 to 1,000,000 flash lifespan</i>
Color Temperature	5500K at Mid-Power <i>varies +/- 200° at other power levels – typical of studio flash units with variable power</i>
Mounting / Attachment Options	(3) Handheld Operation, Tripod Mounting and Light Stand Mounting
Weight	approximately 2.5 pounds
Dimensions	8 inches (diameter) × 4.5 inches (depth) including the front cover / diffuser
Camera / Lens Compatibility	accommodates most pro / semi-pro cameras with lenses up to 4 inches in diameter
Typical Output (Full Power)	f11 +5/10 (at 10 feet, ISO 100 with the standard reflector) f8 +5/10 (at 10 feet, ISO 100 with the MU30 30-inch Moon Unit™)

ABR800

the AlienBees™ Ringflash

Notes and Additional Info on Ringflash Specifications

TrueWs, EffectiveWs, Lumenseconds and Guide Numbers: Quantity of electrical energy is measured in Wattseconds (Ws), also known as Joules. This rating defines the amount of electrical power discharged with each flash. The actual amount of light (Lumenseconds - Ls) produced for a given number of Ws can vary, depending on the efficacy of the unit or system. In particular, older "box and cable" systems, in certain configurations, often produced considerably less usable light per Wattsecond than do highly efficient systems. In other words, a highly efficient modern 160 Ws unit might yield as much usable light as an older or poorly designed 400 Ws unit. This disparity gave rise to the adoption of the informal "Effective Ws" term by some manufacturers of highly efficient units. *The Effective Ws term is currently discouraged by most professionals due to its arbitrary nature.* Most modern units and systems from reputable manufacturers now offer similar efficiency factors and may generally be compared with reasonable confidence on the basis of True Ws - but there still remain certain low efficiency systems which will boast a high Ws rating yet deliver less light than one might expect. The specification that should be universally used is "Lumenseconds" as this is the only term that actually describes light output. In the absence of this term being widely adopted, the best comparison available to the photographer is the measured output with specifically defined real-world accessories. Regarding the common misconception that Guide Numbers are a good basis for comparison, this is more affected by the angle of the reflector used than by the actual usable amount of light available, and is of essentially no value to the studio flash user. For example, a given studio flash fitted with a narrow 50° reflector will yield a much higher guide number than the same flash fitted with a wider 80° reflector, yet the amount of light emitted is the same in both cases.



Flash Duration (the industry standard for expressing flash duration is referred to as "t.5"): This term defines the length of time it takes for 50% of the total light to be emitted from the flash. Many users confuse this with the exposure time setting on the camera, but they are not comparable specifications. The light output of a studio flash is not a sharply defined on-off function like the camera shutter. Instead, the light intensity trails off after firing the flash as shown in the graph. The light does not suddenly shut off at the t.5 point, but continues to diminish over time. As can be deduced from the graph, a flash duration of, say, 1/1000 second will not stop action as cleanly as would a camera shutter speed of 1/1000 second. A more usable figure for determining the stop-action capability of a flash system would be approximately double the specified t.5 flash duration (approximately 1/500 second for the "t.5 = 1/1000 second" example given).

Sync / Trigger Voltage: When using digital cameras, it is best to check on the maximum sync voltage allowed for your specific camera. Some brands of flash units have sync voltages much higher than ours, some as high as 400 Volts that can damage digital cameras. The sync voltage on all of our AlienBees™ flash units is under 6 Volts, safe for use with digital cameras.

Typical Output Measurements: Typical Full Power exposure at 10 feet (ISO 100) with the standard ring reflector is approximately f/16 at a coverage angle of 80°. The readings may vary when taken in various environments (with various room sizes and conditions) and with various flashmeters, as different brands of meters can vary by as much as 1 whole f-stop in their interpretation of "correct" values.

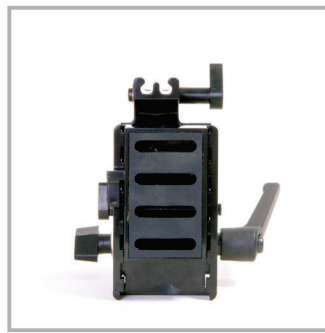
Power Range: The flashpower and modeling lamp output are continuously adjustable over a stepless 6 f-stop variability, with typical accuracy and repeatability of plus or minus 1/10 f-stop. The output is adjusted steplessly from Full down to 1/32nd of the total power, in whole f-stop increments and everywhere in between, adjusted with the slide fader located on the back control panel of the flash unit. The slide fader shows marked fractions and f-stop increments, allowing you to adjust the output of your unit simply and quickly.

Color Temperature: Most pro studio flash units produce a "color temperature" between 5000K and 6000K. However, choosing the "correct" color temperature alone does not assure fully accurate color rendition and neutral colors in a scene will still show slight colorcasts, or deviations from true neutral. While it is the nature of Xenon flashtubes to produce excellent color rendition, there remain small discrepancies in the Xenon flash spectrum that require post processing (in Photoshop or RAW) if perfect color balance and accurate neutrals are to be achieved. This is also true of "color corrected" or "UV coated" flashtubes. Fortunately, with digital equipment, this is easily accomplished. The accessories used, as well as the shooting environment, are usually of more concern than the color temperature of the light source itself. Light modifiers such as umbrellas and softboxes will often change the color balance of the light by as much as 600K, as will the room colors - even if they appear to the eye to be neutral. These, too, can be easily corrected in Photoshop or RAW. With the exception of "constant color" lighting equipment, studio flash units that employ variable output power typically vary in color temperature by about 400K as they are adjusted from Full Power down to 1/32 Power. Even the use of these "constant color" lights will not eliminate the effects of accessories and environments. When flashes are mixed with different accessories it is rare that perfect or consistent color balance will be achieved in the camera unless a "custom white balance" procedure is performed. Perfect color balance can also be achieved using the RAW camera mode where test shots are taken with a known-neutral object (grey card or pure white card or background) included in the scene. Following the test shot, the neutral object can be removed from the scene or, better, placed in a corner of the scene where it can later be cropped out. When the test shots or real shots are opened in a RAW program, it is a simple matter to use the "eyedropper tool" to sample the grey card to achieve a custom white balance. This will calculate a perfect color balance regardless of the effect of the power levels, accessories, etc. If this is done on a test image, the resulting balance setting can be applied to all shots in a sequence taken at the same power levels and with the same accessories. Since it is common in a photo session to change power levels and accessories, the preferred method is to include a grey card in each shot when possible. A similar procedure may be accomplished directly in Photoshop when shooting either JPG or uncompressed modes.

The Universal Camera Mounting Bracket



FRONT VIEW



TOP VIEW

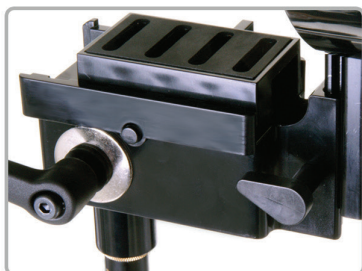


BOTTOM VIEW 1



BOTTOM VIEW 2

The universal camera mounting bracket is the **connection point** for your camera and for each of the mounting options. The all-in-one bracket offers an adjustable camera platform with a grip pad surface where your camera rests, attached to the platform using the provided platform mounting screw. The bracket is easily attached to the ringflash, sliding on the ringflash mounting post with different options to then connect to your tripod, your tripod quick release plate and your light stand.



adjustable camera platform

light stand mount swivel adjustment arm

mounting bracket vertical adjustment knob

light stand mount attachment knob

camera platform adjustment knob

tripod socket

bracket mounting post

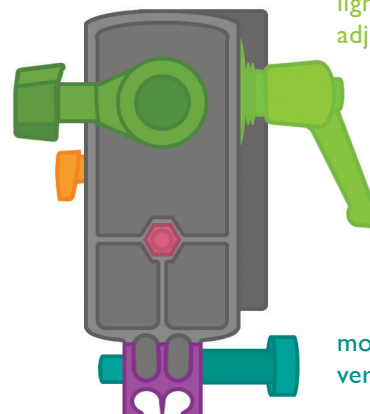
camera platform release latch

camera platform adjustment knob slides forwards and backwards to move the camera in and out of the ringflash center hole

light stand mount attachment knob screws clockwise to tighten around the light stand's brass connection stud

bracket mounting post

BOTTOM VIEW



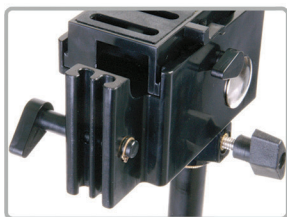
light stand mount swivel adjustment arm

mounting bracket vertical adjustment knob

ABR800

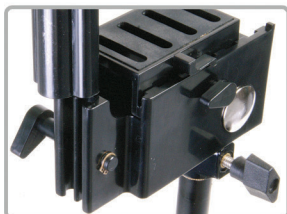
the AlienBees™ Ringflash

The Universal Camera Mounting Bracket



Attaching the Mounting Bracket to the ABR800 Ringflash

The ABR800 arrives with the **bracket mounting post already in place**, attached to the base of the unit on the rear side below the control panel. To attach the mounting bracket to the ringflash, you will simply slide the bracket over the mounting post and secure its position with the vertical adjustment knob. First, position the **mounting bracket** with the padded camera platform facing upwards and locate the two vertical grooves on the front side of the bracket. Place the bracket underneath the mounting post on the ringflash unit and line up the two vertical grooves on the bracket with the two corresponding rounded extrusions on the post. **Slide the bracket on the mounting post** and use the vertical adjustment knob to secure the position. *Before sliding the bracket onto the mounting post, the vertical adjustment knob must be in the straight-down "unlocked" position.*

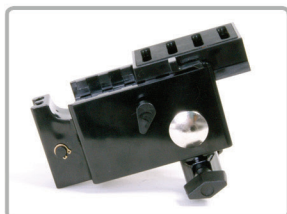


The mounting bracket can be positioned anywhere along this mounting post, accommodating cameras with a 1-inch to 4.75-inch distance from the lens center to the camera base. Depending on this distance present with your specific camera, you can slide the bracket **up and down** along the post until the best position is determined for your camera lens to be centered vertically inside the ringflash center hole. With the position set, turn the vertical adjustment knob clockwise to secure the placement. **Do not overtighten this knob** - the knob is designed so that very light tightening pressure will hold the bracket securely in place on the mounting post.



Attaching the Camera to the Mounting Bracket Camera Platform

The camera platform offers a grip pad surface where your camera rests, attached with the provided platform mounting screw in any of the four horizontal slots. The different slots provide flexibility for you to choose the **best mounting position for your specific camera**, choosing a slot that is closer forward or further back depending on the width of your camera body. Additionally, the slots offer side to side flexibility as the mounting screw can be positioned anywhere along the slot based on the position of your camera's tripod socket. You can use the platform mounting screw to attach your camera to the bracket, or simply use the platform as a resting place as you free-hold your camera. With your camera attached, you can slide the platform forwards and backwards to move your lens **in and out** of the ringflash center hole. As the platform screw connection is separate from the rest of the bracket, you can keep your camera attached to the platform and remove it entirely as needed.



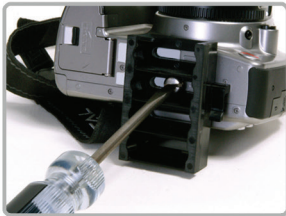
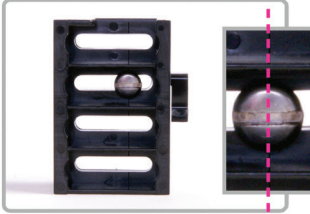
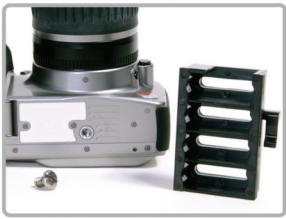
To attach your camera to the platform, you will first **remove the platform from the bracket**. With the platform adjustment knob (located to the left and slightly above the light stand mount silver bolt head) in the unlock position, slide the platform backwards on the bracket. Lift the **release latch** to remove the platform completely.

The Universal Camera Mounting Bracket

Attaching the Camera to the Mounting Bracket Camera Platform *continued...*

Your camera attaches to the platform using the provided **1110841 Platform Mounting Screw** (this screw is found in a labeled bag inside the box with the your ringflash unit). The mounting screw fits **underneath the platform**, through one of the four horizontal slots and attaches to your camera's tripod socket. You will choose the slot that best positions your camera forwards or backwards on the bracket, depending on the width of your camera body and the type of lens that you are using. For most cameras, we recommend using the second slot from the front.

Once you have chosen the horizontal slot, you will then choose the position along the slot where you wish to mount your camera based on the position of your camera's tripod socket in relation to the center of your lens. On the bottom of the platform you will notice that between each slot there are **engraved notches** - these notches mark the center line of the bracket with the platform attached. If your tripod socket is centered directly below your camera lens, you can simply line up the socket with these notches to attach the platform screw. If your tripod socket is off-center, move the platform left and right so that the lens is centered with these notches. With your position set, you will **slide the platform screw between the horizontal slots and use a flathead screwdriver** to tighten it into place inside your tripod socket. You can then reattach the platform to the mounting bracket. To slide the platform onto the bracket, **the platform adjustment knob on the bracket must be in the straight-down "unlocked" position**. Facing the back of the ringflash unit, position the platform with the **release latch on the left side** and slide the platform into place. You will then use the platform adjustment knob to slide the platform forwards and backwards, moving the camera in and out of the ringflash center hole. *You may want to keep the screw loose to test the positioning.*



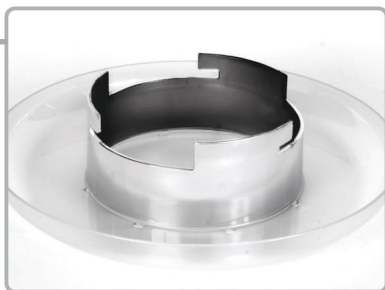
With your mounting bracket attached to the ringflash, you can then choose to **mount the unit to a light stand or to your tripod** as the all-in-one design of the mounting bracket offers both options. To attach your unit to a standard tripod, you will simply use the flush-mount **tripod socket** located on the bottom of the bracket. The threaded socket fits standard tripod screws and quick-release plates. When using the tripod mount option, you can fold the light stand mount out of the way using the stand mount adjustment handle. Loosening this handle will allow the stand mount to be swiveled backwards, tucking beneath and behind the mounting bracket in the cut groove on the back side of the bracket.



The unit can be **mounted to a standard light stand** as well with the included swivel stand mount, fitting light stands with brass connection studs up to 5/8-inch (all Paul C. Buff™ light stands may be used). You will simply slide the brass connection stud on your light stand inside the stand mount center chamber and tighten the stand attachment knob to securely hold the bracket in place around the stud. With the stand attached, you can then use the stand mount adjustment handle to swivel and tilt the position of the unit on the light stand. Loosening this handle will allow you to adjust the position until you find the correct angle. The position is locked when the handle is tightened again. *When adjusting the angle with this handle, be sure to support the ringflash and bracket with your other hand.*



Attaching the Front Cover / Diffuser



When traveling with the unit, the cover should be in place to protect the flashtubes and modeling lamps. The unit will ship with the cover in place for this reason. When in use, however, the ABR800 may be used with or without the diffuser.

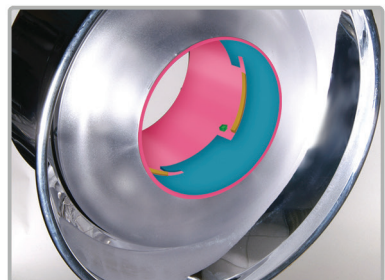


To attach the front cover / diffuser, first ensure that the **Reflector Lock** on the back control panel of the unit is pointing left in the “UNLOCK” position.

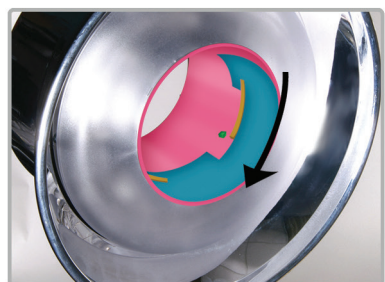


Next, line up the smaller, inside ring of the cover with the smaller, inside ring on the circular face of the ringflash housing. You will notice that there are three protruding ledges positioned around the inside edge of the ringflash housing – these three ledges correspond to the three raised panels on the frosted cover.

Slide the frosted cover inside the center hole of the ringflash housing, allowing the three raised panels on the cover to fit naturally between the three ledges on the housing. Push gently until the cover will go no further and is comfortably seated inside this center hole.



Each raised panel on the frosted cover has a cut insert, making an “L” shape. To position the cover, rotate it around the center hole in the housing towards the raised ledges, allowing them to fit snugly inside the “L” gap. Twist the cover until the housing ledges are caught in the “L” gaps and will go no further.

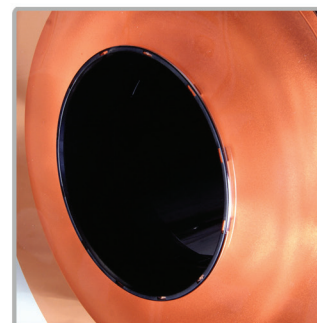
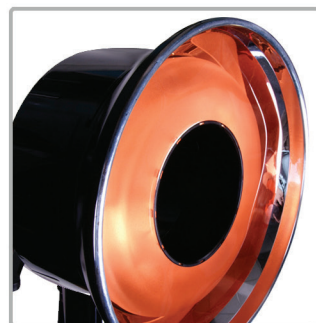


Return to the Reflector Lock on the back panel and turn the knob to the right “LOCK” position. This will **lock the cover / diffuser into place**.

The ring reflector and the front cover / diffuser may be attached and / or removed at the same time or separately. One need not be in place to attach or remove the other.



The front cover /diffuser additionally operates as a **gel holder**, having a raised lip around the center where our doughnut-shaped gels / filters (sold separately as the ABRWIDF6 Set of 6 Diffusion / Warming Gels) attach. Our six gels / filters each have a pre-cut center hole for use specifically with the ABR800 ringflash and diffuser. The diffuser must be in place in order to use the ringflash gels, but the gels may be used with or without the ring reflector in place. Call us or visit us online to learn more about our gels / filters!



Attaching the Reflector

The larger, outside ring with the recessed outer lip is the front of the reflector, while the smaller inside ring is the back. This back inside ring has three raised panels along the interior that fit over the front housing of the ringflash unit.

To attach the reflector, first ensure that the **Reflector Lock** on the back control panel of the unit is pointing left in the “UNLOCK” position.

Next, line up the smaller, inside ring with the circular face of the ringflash housing. You will notice that there are three protruding ledges positioned around the top edge of the ringflash housing – these three ledges correspond to the three raised panels on the outside of the reflector.

Slide the reflector over the front face of the ringflash housing, allowing the three raised panels on the reflector to fit naturally between the three ledges on the housing. Push gently until the reflector will go no further and is comfortably seated over the housing.

Each panel on the reflector has a cut insert, making an “L” shape. To position the reflector, rotate the reflector around the housing towards the raised ledges, allowing them to fit snugly inside the “L” gap. Twist the reflector until the housing ledges are caught in the “L” gaps and will go no further.

Return to the Reflector Lock on the back control panel of the unit and turn the knob to the right “LOCK” position. This will lock the reflector into place.

The ring reflector and the front cover / diffuser may be attached and / or removed at the same time or separately. One need not be in place to attach or remove the other.

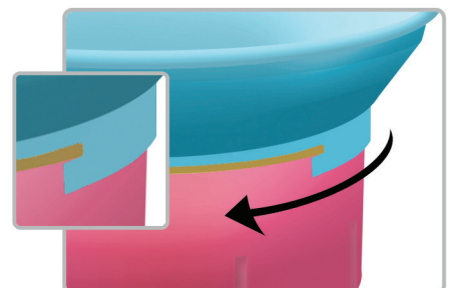
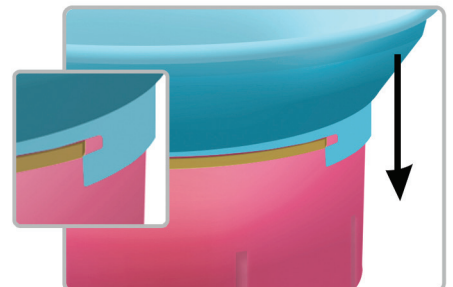
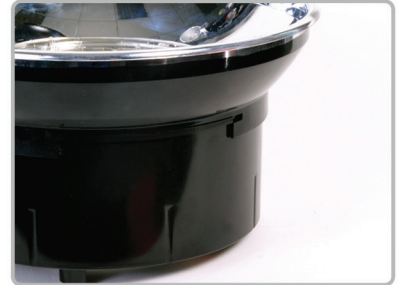
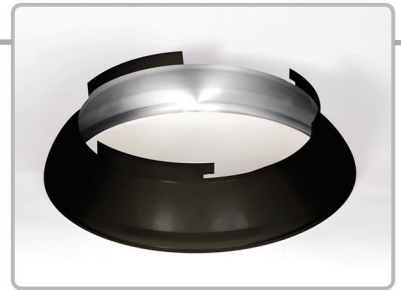


UNLOCK (to the left)
when attaching and removing
the reflector or diffuser

LOCK (to the right)
when the reflector or diffuser
is in place to be used



the ring reflector may be used with or without the diffuser



ABR800

the AlienBees™ Ringflash

Replacing the Modeling Lamps

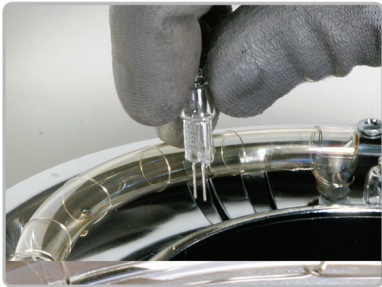
Each ABR800 unit arrives with a set of eight 10-Watt, 24-Volt modeling lamps. The lamps have a 300 to 500 hour lifespan and may be replaced by the user upon exhaustion. To purchase replacement modeling lamps, please see item 10W, a set of eight replacement bulbs available on our website. Should any of your modeling lamps break or exhaust prematurely, you may use the three spare modeling lamps that we include with each unit for replacement.

Always turn your ringflash unit **OFF** and **UNPLUG IT** before replacing your modeling lamps.



Step One: Remove the Exhausted Modeling Lamps

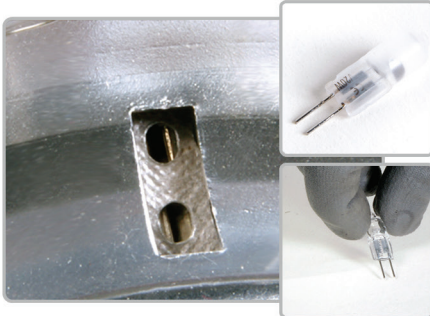
Wearing gloves or using a piece of cloth or tissue, grip the modeling lamp and gently pull it up and straight out of the unit. Working with one bulb at a time, repeat this process to remove the remaining seven lamps.



Step Two: Installing Your New Modeling Lamps

Each modeling lamp has a two-pin base, fitting into the lamp socket in the corresponding two holes. Begin with one bulb, and line up the two pins on the base of the bulb with the two holes in the lamp socket. With the bulb in position, gently push down. The modeling lamp is properly inserted when it is seated all the way down in the unit. Repeat this process to install the remaining seven lamps.

With the lamps installed, you can plug the unit back into the power source and turn it on. If the lamps have been properly replaced, pressing the white "Model ON" button will turn the lamps on. You may then set the lamps to on, off, or tracking and resume shooting.





Our long-life, high-efficiency bulbs have a 500 to 3,000 hour lifespan. The lamps are positioned around the faceplate in **two strings of four lamps**. **When one lamp fails, the other three in its string will also go dark**. This does not mean that the other three have failed as well – if you can locate and replace the one failed bulb, the other three will function properly again. We've **included three extra modeling lamps with each ABR800** for your convenience. Should any of the lamps in your unit prematurely fail, you can locate the failed bulb and replace it with one of the provided spare bulbs.



First, turn your unit OFF and unplug it. Begin with one bulb in the string and replace it with one of the provided spare bulbs. With the first bulb replaced, plug the unit back in and turn it on. If the failed lamp has been located and properly replaced, all of the lamps in the string should now be on. If the lamps in the string are still dark, turn the ringflash unit OFF, unplug it and move on to test the next lamp in the string. Remove the replacement bulb that you just installed and re-install the original bulb that you first removed. Move to the next modeling lamp in the string and repeat the same steps outlined above. Repeat this process until you have located and replaced the failed lamp, allowing all of the lamps to turn on when the "Model ON" button is pressed. As you replace a bulb and turn the unit back on for testing, be sure that the unit is OFF and unplugged before moving on to replace and test another bulb. Wait at least five minutes before removing and replacing the next bulb.



-  **STRING ONE** - four bulbs in string
-  **STRING TWO** - four bulbs in string

Each ABR800 unit arrives with a **pair of half-circle flashtubes**. These 10mm, 6-inch diameter flashtubes have a life expectancy of 250,000 to 1,000,000 flashes and may be replaced by the user upon breakage or exhaustion. *For replacement flashtubes, please see item ABRFT10MM, a single half-circle flashtube available on our website. As the flashtubes work as a pair, with both required for a complete circular flash, you can purchase one ABRFT10MM half-circle tube or purchase two to replace the entire pair.*

Always turn your ringflash unit OFF and UNPLUG IT before replacing your flashtubes.

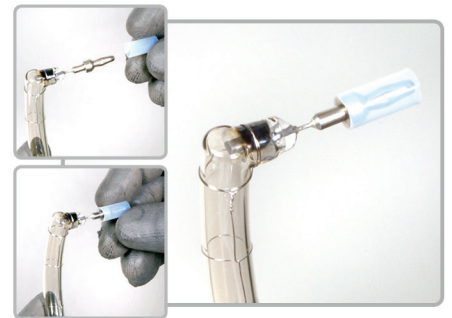
Step One: Remove the Failed Flashtubes

Wearing gloves or using a piece of cloth or tissue, grip the outer ring of one flashtube and gently pull it up and straight out of the unit. Once the flashtube is out of the unit, remove the three plastic insulating sleeves located on the legs of the tube. Be sure to save these - they will be used with your new tube and are essential safety pieces. Repeat this process to remove the other tube.



Step Two: Placing the Insulating Sleeves

Affix the plastic insulating sleeves onto the legs of your new flashtubes. When placing the insulating sleeves, hold the glass ring in your hands with the three metal legs sticking out. Make sure that these three legs are straight. They may need to be straightened with either your fingers or needle-nose pliers.



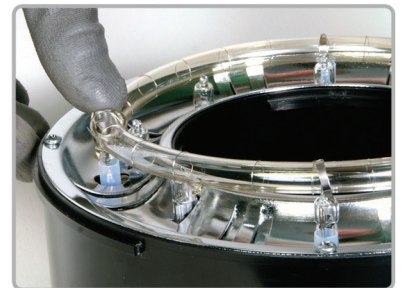
Step Three: Installing Your New Flashtubes

Start with one flashtube and line up each of the tube's legs with the corresponding sockets on the unit.

Insert the tube by gently and evenly pushing until the tube is seated all the way down in the unit. The flashtube should fit snugly and not be touching any metal parts of the flash unit. Repeat this process to insert the other flashtube. With both new tubes installed, you can plug the unit back in and turn it on.



Our flashtubes have a 250,000 to 1,000,000 flashes life expectancy. Earlier flashtube failure is unlikely under normal use.



When replacing either the modeling lamps or the flashtubes, first make sure that the ringflash is turned OFF and that it is unplugged from the AC power source. Wait at least five minutes to ensure that the unit does not have any power stored in the capacitors before handling it. You may want to wait longer if you have been actively using the unit.

When replacing either the modeling lamps or the flashtubes, it is best to **wear cloth or insulated gloves** or use a small piece of cloth when handling your modeling lamps and flashtubes. This will prevent finger oils from smudging the tubes and lamps. Oils deposited on the lamps can cause premature failure.

The innovative design of the ABR800 allows us to offer various accessories that have been specifically designed for use with the ringflash.

The MU30 30-inch Moon Unit™

The 30-inch Moon Unit™ is a lightweight and extremely shallow circular softbox that you can aim the camera through and produce a precisely round circle of light with surprisingly even illumination. The ABR800 / Moon Unit™ combination can be easily handheld for action fashion shooting or mounted on a tripod or light stand. No other portable ringflash can achieve the big round catchlights and large-source beauty dish effects that are so desired - and its miniscule depth and weight make it an instant favorite even away from the camera, in tight quarters that don't allow for the typical 3-foot depth and much greater weight of conventional softboxes.

The MU30-MASKS 30-inch Moon Unit™ Mask Set

Add our exciting Mask Set to alter the shape of the light from the ringflash to become a giant ring, stars, half-moons, sunburst, clouds and a host of other shapes including your own custom creations. The set consists of 12 die-cut black paper masks (8 masks with predefined light patterns and 4 blank masks for creating custom shapes).

The MU56 56-inch Moon Unit™ Foundation Package

This versatile accessory functions as an extremely low-weight, ultra-thin 56-inch octabox (with a variety of front diffusion panel options) for conventional use away from the camera or mounted on-camera for shadow-free aim-through use. The highly adaptable unit can also function as a halo light in various shapes with various degrees of diffusion.

Front Diffusion Fabrics Sold Separately:

- DF56OCH 56" Octagon (with center hole for aim-through use)
- DF56ONH 56" Octagon (without center hole for off-camera use)
- DF50RCH 50" Round (with center hole for aim-through use)
- DF50RNH 50" Round (without center hole for off-camera use)
- DF39SNH 39" Square (without center hole for off-camera use)
- DF39WPNH 39" Window Pane (without center hole for off-camera use)
- DF50RNGCH 50" Giant Ring (with center hole for aim-through use)

The ABRW/DF6 Set of 6 Warming and Diffusion Gels / Filters

The set of center-cut circular gels / filters includes four warming filters and two diffusion filters. The Warming Filters will add a light brown, almost sepia tint to your image, reminiscent of a hazy late afternoon in the summer. They will adjust your light to a soft golden glow which is excellent for outdoor shots and even in-studio portraits. The Diffusion Filters will serve to soften the output, creating a slight foggy blur around the light source.

The ABRHG20 Ringflash 20° Honeycomb Grid

The standard ring reflector (supplied with each ABR800) is designed to hold our 20° honeycomb grid for "Hollywood Style" lighting and for other low key effects. The donut-shaped honeycomb grid will tighten the total beam spread of the reflector from 80° down to 20°.

The ABRBAG Ringflash Carrying Bag

Conveniently carry your ringflash with our Ringflash Carrying Bag! The bag is designed to carry one ABR800 with your front cover / diffuser and your reflector in place, with room to carry your mounting bracket along with the sync and power cords. With its tough nylon exterior and padded interior lining, the bag protects your ringflash as you travel for around-town shoots. The bag includes a comfortable shoulder strap for easy transport with a wrap-around zippered lid bearing our Paul C. Buff logo (12" x 12" x 6" deep with adjustable strap).

The MUBAG Ringflash / Moon Unit™ Carrying Case

This padded nylon case has compartments to hold a combination of any two ABR800 or ZRMI units and 30-inch or 56-inch Moon Unit™ sets with various diffusers. The convenient bag can be adapted to hold various accessories and allows you to carry your entire ringflash setup around town easily (27" x 7" x 11" with shoulder strap and handle).



RINGFLASH ACCESSORIES

