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XMS Flash

User Guide

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BW-6550 XMS User Guide



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Congratulations on purchasing your new Bowens product.

Thank you for choosing the XMS range flash system.

The Bowens XMS monolight has been designed to meet the exacting high standards demanded by today's working professionals, whilst remaining simple and intuitive to use. Engineered for speed, power and reliability, the XMS system is the result of combined state-of-the-art technology, cutting-edge aesthetics and years of working closely alongside photographers.

The XMS1000 is a 1000WsA/C powered flash system, with integrated radio trigger, remote control functionality and high speed sync mode. It operates on the worldwide 2.4GHz radio frequency band and has 32 channels and 5 groups available. The XMS can also be controlled via optical/IR transmissions.

This unit is fully digital, ensuring consistent flash to flash power, colour temperature and short flash durations.

In order to obtain the full benefit from your purchase, please take a few moments to familiarise yourself with this user manual.

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Electrical Safety

- This unit should only be connected to a mains socket outlet with a protective earth connection or to a suitably protected battery/mains inverter.
- Only use Bowens mains cables or extension cables.
- The mains cable and plug is regarded as an emergency disconnect device and should always be readily accessible so that it can be quickly removed.
- Do not open or disassemble the unit as it operates with a high voltage and contains capacitors that can remain electrically charged for a considerable time after the unit is turned off or is disconnected from the mains.
- Always disconnect the unit from the mains and avoid touching the flash tube or modelling LED when changing reflectors or fitting an umbrella.

Precautions

- Always study and understand this user guide and accompanying safety instructions before using this unit.
- Make sure that the Bowens Instruction and Safety Instructions always accompany this unit.
- Bowens products are intended for professional photographic use only and should not be used for any other purpose.
- Always remove the protective cap from the unit before use.
- Do not point the unit too close to persons or use the unit without the supplied protective glass dome.
- Do not use the unit if the glass dome has become visibly damaged to such an extent that its effectiveness is impaired. e.g. cracks or deep scratches.
- Do not touch any hot parts with bare fingers. The glass dome, modelling LED, flash tube and certain metal parts can become very hot. Allow the unit to cool before touching any user changeable parts.
- Equipment should only be serviced, modified or repaired by authorised and competent service personnel.

Environmental Safety

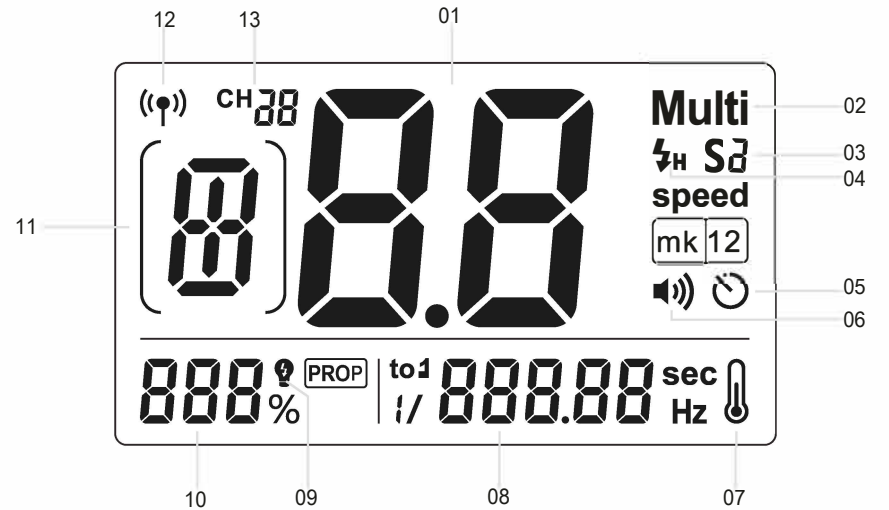
- Do not place or use the unit where it could be exposed to moisture, dripping, splashing, extreme electromagnetic fields or in areas with flammable liquids, gases or dust.
- Do not expose the unit to rapid temperature changes in humid conditions as this can lead to internal condensation.
- When transporting the unit between cold and warm conditions always allow the unit to acclimatise for at least two hours before connecting to the mains.
- Do not obstruct the ventilation slots in any way with filters, diffusing materials, etc.
- Do not place any form of material over or close to the glass dome, modeling lamp or flash tube.

Radio Frequency - This equipment makes use of the radio spectrum for triggering and remote control and therefore receives and emits radio frequency energy. Ensure that all specifications within this document are followed, especially those concerning operating temperature and supply voltage range. Make sure that the unit is operated according to local regulations. The frequency spectrum that this unit uses is shared with other users so interference either with this unit or with other users is possible.

Final Disposal - This unit contains electrical and electronic components that could be harmful to the environment. Follow local legal requirements for disposal of waste, for instance WEEE directive for electrical and electronic equipment on the European market at the end of the product life.



- 1. Display Screen
- 2. BEEP ON/OFF
- 3. Flash Mode/ User Menu
- 4. Open/ Test Flash
- 5. Rotary Control Dial
- 6. SyncMode/ High-Speed Sync
- 7. Group/Channel
- 8. Modeling Lamp
- 9. Modifier Release Latch
- 10. Light Sensor
- 11. Power Switch
- 12. AC Power Socket
- 13. Fuse
- 14. Angle Adjustment Handle
- 15. 3.5mm Jack sync
- 16. Glass protective cover
- 17. Mounting Bracket



- 1. Flash Power
- 2. Sync Mode
- 3. Optic Slave Flash
- 4. High-Speed Sync
- 5. Sync Delay
- 6. Beep
- 7. Over-Temperature Protection
- 8. Flash Duration
- 9. Modeling Lamp
- 10. Modeling lamp step
- 11. Radio Group
- 12. 2.4G wireless transmission
- 13. Radio Channel

Rearpanel Controls

PUSH BUTTONS:

Primary (Top) Functions:

BUZZ	- ON/OFF
MODE	- Selects flash mode (M,Multi)
TEST	- Open / test flash.
SYNC	- Selects syncmode (2.4 Ghz radio, Optical transmission,
GROUP	Photocell).
LAMP	- Toggles through available radio group settings (A-E).
	- Toggles through available modelling lamp output settings.

Secondary (Bottom) Functions:

MENU	- Selects advanced user menu
HSS	system.
CHANNEL	- Selects High-Speed Sync mode.
	- Selects radio channel settings (1-32).

Unless specified all buttons operate as follow:

- Single press to toggle through available options for primary (top) function.
- Press and hold to select secondary function.

ROTARY CONTROL DIAL:

Turn the Rotary Control Dial clockwise or anti-clockwise to adjust function / setting values. Push to confirm setting / values.

FUNCTIONS OVERVIEW:

Unscrew the Angle Adjustment Handle to unlock the Stand Mount.

Remove the Stand Mount from the storage channel.

Place the XMS1000 on top of a suitable support stand.

Secure the XMS1000 in place by turning the Stand Mount Thumbscrew.

Adjust the XMS1000 to the desired angle and tighten the Angle Adjustment Handle to lock in place.

Reflector Removal and Mounting

1. To remove a reflector/ light modifier, pull the Modifier Release Latch away from the front end of the unit.
2. Turn the modifier and pull away from the main unit.
3. To attach a modifier, align the reflector mount with the mount on the flash head push together and turn to click/lock in place.

Umbrella Mounting

1. Open your chosen umbrella and slide it into the umbrella mount.


Power

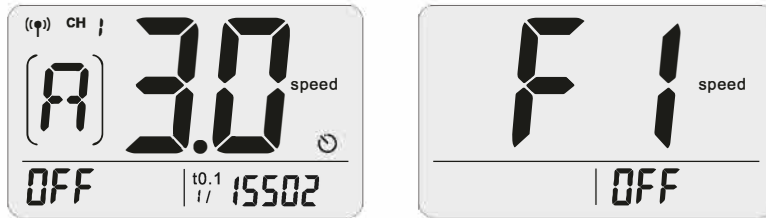
- To turn the power ON, press and hold the POWER button.
- To turn the power OFF, press and hold the POWER button.

Power Connection

Use the power cord to connect the flash to an AC power source and turn on the power switch.

Stable Colour Temperature Function

When using this function, the colour temperature changes within $\pm 100\text{K}$ over the entire power range: enter MENU C.Fn-F1 and set it as OFF, which means the colour temperature function is turned on. When adjusting the power output from high to low in M mode,  Flash Ready Indicator will blink (the beeper will alarm for 10 times). Now press the Test Button to discharge, and the flash can be used as normal.



Fo • This function can only supported in M non-high-speed mode.

Wireless; Sync

2.4GHz Radio Sync

The XMS1000 has a built-in 2.4GHz radio receiver to enable full control over the flash via a XMTR radio Trigger.

To set up and use a XMTR radio Trigger 2.4GHz:

1. Press the SYNC button until the radio/ symbol is displayed on the LCD screen.
2. To set the radio channel press and hold the CHN button to select the channel options.
3. Turn the rotary encoder to select the desired channel (1-32).
4. Press the Rotary Control Dial to select the required channel.
5. To set the radio group press the GRP button to scroll through the available groups (A-E).

Photocell

The XMS1000 features a built-in light sensitive photocell for flash synchronisation. The XMS1000 Photocell can be set to fire on the first or second flash detected.

To set up and use the Photocell to trigger the XMS1000:

1. First select either S1 (1st flash) or S2 (2nd flash) Photocell option within the Advanced Menu.

High-Speed Sync

High-Speed Sync allows the flash to sync with shutter speeds up to 1/18000th sec. To set up and use High-Speed Sync:

1. Press and hold the HSS button to turn on High-Speed Sync.
2. Adjust the shutter speed on your camera.
3. To turn off High-Speed Sync press and hold the HSS button.

Further information:

- If the shutter speed on your camera is set to its X-Sync or slower High-Speed Sync will not work.
 - High-Speed Sync will not work in Multi mode.
1. At 1/1 full power, the recycling time of the flash reaches 2 seconds when firing consecutively within 30 times, 3 seconds when from 30 times to 60 times, and 4 seconds when over 60 times. While its recycling time will revert to 2 seconds when the flash stops firing and keep in standby mode for 6 minutes.
 2. If the recycling time of the flash becomes slow, please keep the flash in the standby mode for 6 minutes to prevent the flash being overheated due to consecutive firing.

Wired Sync

3.5 mm PC Sync

The XMS can be triggered via a standard 3.5 mm PC sync lead. Wired sync is always on.

Flash Modes

The XMS has two different flash modes including M, Multi. To select one of the three flash modes press the MODE button on the rear panel of the XMS.

M

To set up and use mode:

1. Press the MODE button on the rear panel until M is displayed on the LCD screen.
2. Turn the Rotary Control Dial to adjust the flash power to the desired level.
3. Press the Rotary Control Dial to set and confirm the desired flash power.

Multi

In Multi mode the XMS can rapidly fire a predetermined number of flashes at set time intervals. This feature can be used to capture multiple images of a single event in one exposure.

To set up and use Multi mode:

1. Press the MODE button on the rear panel until Multi is displayed on the LCD screen.
2. Turn the Rotary Control Dial to adjust the flash power to the desired level.
3. Press the Rotary Control Dial to set and confirm the desired flash power.
4. To set the number of flashes and time interval press the Rotary Control Dial.
5. The time interval value (Hz) will then be highlighted and can be adjusted. Press the rotary dial to confirm desired time interval value and to select the number of flashes required.
6. Turn the Rotary Control Dial to adjust the number of flashes.
7. Press the Rotary Control Dial to confirm the number of flashes.
8. When the unit is fired it will fire Multi, with the set number of flashes at the set time interval.

Calculating your shutter speed when using Multi mode - When in Multi mode, your camera's shutter will need to remain open long enough to capture all of the flashes. The formula below will help you calculate the required shutter speed.

Number of flashes / Flash frequency = Shutter speed

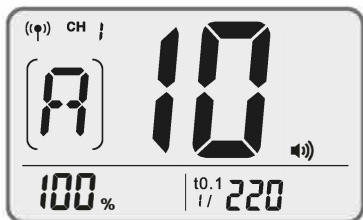
Example: number of flashes @ 20 / flash frequency @ 5 (Hz), then the shutter speed = 4 seconds.

Further information:

- In Multi mode only 8.0 flash power or lower can be selected. Full or 9.0 power can not be selected.
- To prevent overheating and component deterioration, do not use Multi mode repetitively in excess of 10 times. If Multi mode is used in excess of 10 bursts the XMS may automatically disable all flash modes to allow the components to cool down. If all flash modes are disabled due to excessive Multi bursts allow at least 15-20 minutes for the unit to cool sufficiently.

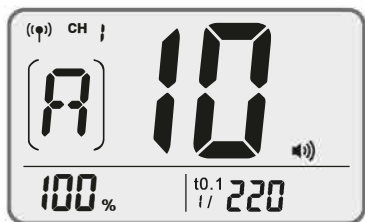
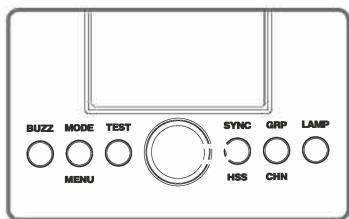
XMS1000 adopts the 2.4GHz wireless frequency.

As a slave unit, XMS1000 can be controlled by the following master units:XMTRC/N/S



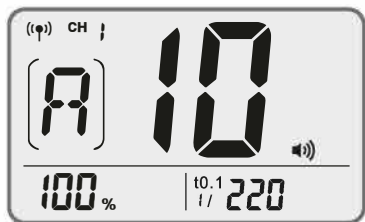
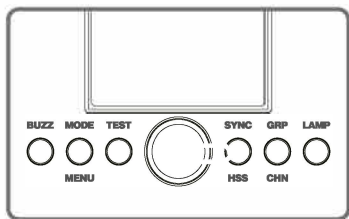
1. Wireless Settings

Press < 9'CH 1 > Wireless Setting Button again until < 9'CH 1 > is displayed on the panel.



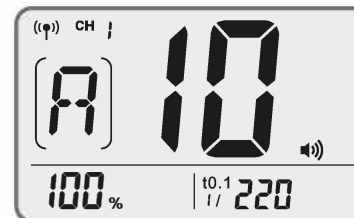
2. Setting the Communication Channel

If there are other wireless flash systems nearby, The channel of the master unit and the slave unit(s) must be set to the same.



3. Setting the Communication Group

Short press the < GR/CH > Button to choose group from A to E.



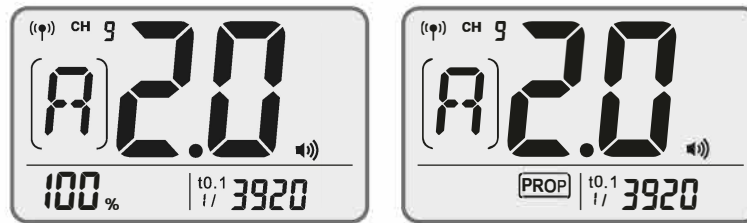
Maximum Flashes in Multi mode:

Flash Output	Hz	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12-14	15-19	20-30
8.0	7	6	5	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2
7.0	7	6	5	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2
6.0	14	14	12	10	8	6	6	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4
5.0	30	30	30	20	20	20	20	10	10	8	8	8	8	8	8
4.0	99	99	90	80	80	70	70	60	60	50	40	40	35	30	
3.0	99	99	99	90	90	80	80	80	80	70	70	60	50	30	
2.0	99	99	99	90	90	80	80	80	80	70	70	60	50	30	

Modelling LED

XMS1000 is equipped with a 38W LED modeling lamp which has two continuous lighting modes.

- There are two modes: Percentage and PROP. Short press the Modeling Lamp Button, and the two mode will be displayed on the LCD panel in sequence:
- 1. Percentage: 10%-100%
- 2. PROP: The modeling lamp's power changes with the flash's power. The bigger power the flash has, the brighter the modeling lamp is.
- Long press the modeling lamp for 2 seconds to adjust the percentage of modeling lamp from 10% to 100%.
- When the over-temperature protection is started, the Modeling Lamp Symbol and Overheating Protection signal will be flashed alternately.



Advanced Menu

The advanced menu allows users to custom sei functions on the XMS: To access the advanced menu and functions:

1. Press and hold the MENU button to access the advanced menu syst!
2. Turn the rotary encoder to highlight the required function.
3. Press the rotary encoder to access the required function options.
4. Turn the rotary encoder to highlight the required function option.
5. Press the rotary encoder to select the required option.
6. Press the MENU button to exit the advanced menu.

Advanced Menu Functions:

Custom Function Signs	Function	Setting No.	Settings & Description	Restrictions
F1	Choose high-speed flash	ON	High-Speed Flash (speed) Mode	M/Multi mode
		OFF	Stable Color Temperature	
F2	Delay flash	OFF, 0.01~30S	Trigger as second curtain	M/Multi mode
		OFF	Mask function is off	
F3	Mask function	mk1	Mask function is on: when setting 2 times' triggering as a period, the first triggering will fire a flash.	M mode
		mk2	Mask function is on: when setting 2 times' triggering as a period, the second triggering will fire a flash.	
F4	Modeling lamp mode	ON	The modeling lamp will not change its status when triggering.	No
		OFF	The modeling lamp will turn off when triggering.	
F5	Flash Sync	OFF	OFF	M only
		S1	S1	
		S2	S2	

Overheat Prevention

To prevent the internal high power consumption components from overheating and deteriorating, once the temperature reaches over 85 °C, the flash will not fire until the flash body cools down when the thermal protection signals (🔥) disappears and the indicator turn on.

Error Codes

In case of failure the following is a list of unit error codes:

ERROR CODE	DESCRIPTION	SOLUTION
E1	Recycling error.	Restart the unit.
E3	Flashtube error.	Restart the unit.

XMS1000	SPECIFICATIONS
Part Code:	BW-6550
Flashtube:	Quartz tube
Modeling Lamp:	38W LED
Rated Energy:	1000Ws
Energy Range:	9-stops (full - 2.01 1000Ws-2Ws)
Power Control:	1/10 rd-stop adjustment
Flash Duration (shortest):	1/20832sec
Guide Number:	128 (100 ISO, with high-efficiency standard reflector) M,Multi
Flash Modes:	reflector) M,Multi
Colour Temperature:	5600 °K ± 100
Recycle Time:	1 sec (to full / 1000Ws)
Flash Delay:	0.01 - 30 sec.
Flash Sync:	High-Speed-Sync (up to 1/8,000 sec), 1st curtain sync, 2nd curtain sync.
Photocell:	Yes. Sync on 1st or 2nd flash.
Flash Exposure	±3-stops in 1/3rd-stop increments
Compensation: MLT Flash:	Max 40 flashes (@2.0 power & 5Hz). Max 100Hz (@40 flashes & 2.0 power)
Ready Indications:	Illuminated lest button, beep
Modeling Control:	10%-100%,PROP
Fan Cooled:	Yes
Display:	DOT matrix
Sync Voltage:	5V
Sync Input:	3.5 mm jack sync input
WIRELESS OPERATION	
Wireless Control Options:	2.4 GHz receiver mode Optical receiver mode
2.4 GHz Transmission Range:	<80m
Optical Transmission Range:	Indoors: 12-15m (39.4 -49.2/t) Outdoors: 8-10 m (26.2 -32.8ft)
Remote Groups:	2.4GHz operation: 5 (A- E)
Remote Channels:	2.4GHz operation: 32 (1-32)
Operating Voltage	
Operating Voltage	AC220V-240V-50Hz
Fuse	5A
Dimensions (L x W x H):	432x174.5x142mm