

Modern Classic SLR Series
Contax TLA30 Flash Unit - Instruction Manual

Introduction: Every 35mm photographic system usually has a flash unit that shines in specification. The Olympus has a great flash in [Olympus T-32](#), Nikon has a [Nikon SB-16A/B](#) which is almost 20 years old, Canon has a [Canon 300TL](#) which incidentally, was the one and only non-AF TTL flash unit Canon has ever produced for the FD-mount system, Pentax has also provide their users with an impressive [Pentax AF 280T](#) etc. As you can observe, most of these non-AF flash units have a guide number at around 30; they were usually equipped with a flexible flash heads and supported by a host of system accessories which makes them an all rounder for all sort of applications which includes bounce, synchro-sunlight and even close up photography. Another prominent features for these ever popular flash models is their ability to support TTL, Auto and Manual flash control which enables many positive possibilities such as multiple TTL-flash setup which previously can be a very tedious process to setup and getting assuring results. Most of these *evergreen* flash models were originally being introduced during the the mid of the eighties, they sailed through the turbulence of the AF revolution and remains in the product list of the respective camera manufacturers even today.



Contax also has its own flash that equally can excite many of its loyal users, it is the **TLA30 Auto Flash Unit**.

Description of Parts

The TLA30, when used with the [Contax RTS II Quartz](#) and other Contaxes with direct TTL auto flash metering system, enables automatic electronic flash photography by means of "direct TTL auto flash metering" using the camera's light sensor that automatically controls the flash exposures in which the light through the lens is directly read from the film surface, this is often called "TTL OTF" which stands for "Through the Lens, Off the Film" metering, a technique first pioneered by Olympus in their [Olympus OM2n](#) camera in 1975. Because of the direct TTL auto flash metering system, you will find it easy to employ such advanced techniques as bounce flash, diffuse flash, close-up flash, as well as multiple flash using multiple flash units and extension systems. And being equipped with normal auto and manual flash functions, it can be used for electronic flash photography with other cameras as well.

I have been struggling on a decision earlier whether to include a user's manual of this fascinating flash unit in the Contax RTS website. I think it is essential and went to purchase a copy of this manual from an online auction, I hate to do all the stupid work of scan, retouch and restoring closest to their originality. This is not an entirely easy task and very time consuming (the **most boring and unproductive** work among all was the scanning process ..) but as this flash does has its uniqueness and features which makes it an important system component in the CONTAX 35mm photographic system. This may well supplement many Contax photographers, especially those who owns Contax camera models that support TTL flash photography - So, I hope you too can also spend sometime familiarize yourself with the contents of this instruction manual so that you will be able to operate the device properly and enjoy long years of trouble free use. Lastly, there is not such thing such as a perfect flash unit, if you were to ask me what features has been omitted from its impressive specifications in this TLA30, I thought if it can incorporate a tiny secondary flash as fill-in flash would be lovely. ..

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< **Preparation** before Shooting >

< **Battery Installation** >

The TLA30 Auto Flash Unit is powered by four 1.5 V AA-size penlight batteries, alkaline-manganese or manganese, or by four 1.2 V rechargeable Ni-Cd batteries of the same size. The use of high performance alkaline-manganese batteries is particularly recommended.



- 1) Slide the battery compartment cover out as illustrated and remove it.
- 2) Insert the four batteries into the battery compartment according to polarity markings "S" and "E" inside the compartment. Then replace the cover. The flash unit will not function unless the polarity is correct.

Test Flash To test the flash unit, first set the power switch to "ON" and then press the combination Flash-Ready Lamp/Test Button control when it lights red. When not using the flash unit immediately afterwards, reset the power switch to "OFF" to conserve the batteries.

Precautions: * Recycling time will slow down as the batteries weaken. When the flash-ready lamp fails to light within 30 seconds of the previous flash, it means the batteries are inadequately charged. When this occurs, replace all four batteries at the same time. Mixing of old and new batteries will shorten battery life.

** Battery performance will deteriorate temporarily when batteries are exposed to near subzero temperatures. When using the flash unit in cold areas, it is recommended that the batteries be protected from the cold by keeping the flash unit in a bag or in some cold weather gear, or that a set of fresh batteries be kept on hand. Batteries thus weakened will regain their power and become serviceable again upon being returned to normal temperatures.

*** Battery contacts contaminated with oil or sweat can cause poor electrical contact. Wipe the contacts clean with a dry cloth before use to ensure maximum performance.

< **Mounting the Flash Unit** > The TLA30 is designed to function only on cameras with a hot shoe (Direct X) contact.



Loosen the shoe locking ring and then slide the flash unit base all the way into the accessory shoe for positive contact. * Make sure that the flash unit base is firmly pushed all the way into the shoe; otherwise, contact will not be ensured.

Functions:

Firmly secure the flash unit by turning the locking ring as far as it will go in the direction of the arrow.

CONTAX TLA 30 Flash Model			
Flash Mode		Type of Flash Operations	GN (ASA/ISO 100, m)
AUTO	TTL	Direct TTL flash (Using a Contax camera with direct TTL auto flash metering system.) Electronic flash exposure is automatically controlled by camera's built-in sensor. Couples at all apertures of the lens in use.	30 - 4 (Continuously variable)
	Green Red	Normal Auto Flash Couples at aperture indicated by green or red mark. Electronic flash exposure is automatically controlled by sensor on front of flash unit.	30 - 4 (Continuously variable)
MANUAL	F	Manual Flash Operation "F" denotes full output, -1/4" and '1/16- denote 1/4 and 1/16 of full output, respectively.	30
	1/4		15
	1/16		7.5

(1) **Film Speed Index**

The white index marks " Δ ", " $\frac{1}{4}$ " and " $\frac{1}{16}$ " are used in setting the ASA/ISO film speed for the film in use. Use the " ∇ " index for TTL auto flash, normal auto flash, and manual flash at (F) full output.*When using 1/4 and 1/16 of full output in manual flash, set the film speed to the " $\frac{1}{4}$ " and " $\frac{1}{16}$ " index marks respectively.

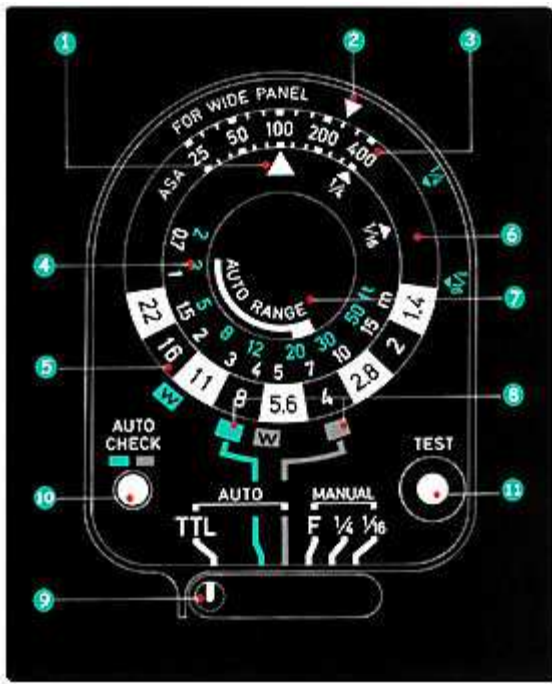
(2) **Wide Panel Index**

The orange colored marks " $\frac{1}{4}$ ", and " $\frac{1}{16}$ " are used as film speed index marks for the film being used when making flash exposures with the Wide Panel (wideangle panel).

(3) **Film Speed Scale**

(4) **Distance Scale**

(5) **Aperture Scale**



(6) **Exposure Computer Dial** By setting the ASA/ISO film speed scale to the speed of the film in use, it is possible to read out the following exposure data: (a) In the TTL Auto mode, the flash range for the aperture in effect-, (b) In the Normal Auto mode, the coverage aperture readings and the flash ranges for the given apertures,- and (c) In the Manual Flash mode, the correct aperture reading for the selected flash-to-subject distance.

(7) **Auto Flash Range Guide** In the TTL Auto and Normal Auto modes, the Auto Flash Range Guide shows the effective flash range for the coverage aperture, Align the white band's extreme right (Thick white band) with the coverage aperture reading on the Exposure Computer Dial. The white band indicates the effective flash range for the given aperture.

(8) **Normal Auto Flash Mode Index Marks (Red and Green)** The red and green index marks indicate the coverage apertures to use in the Normal Auto mode.

You can also [Download a Copy](#) of the PDF file (516k) for your future reference.

(9) **Flash Mode Selector** The selector is used to switch to any of the three modes, TTL Auto, Normal Auto and Manual flash. Be sure to set the selector precisely on the click-stop position.

(10) **Auto Check Lamp** (For Normal Auto Flash Mode Only) In the Normal Auto flash mode, this lamp is used to indicate whether subject was within effective flash range. After the exposure, it will signal a green after-flash for about three seconds if your subject was within effective flash range; otherwise, the absence of such a signal indicates that the subject was not within the correct flash range. The Auto Check Lamp is not designed to operate in the TTL Auto or the Manual flash modes.

(11) **Flash-Ready Lamp/Test Button** The Flash-Ready Lamp lights red when the flash unit is ready to flash. This control also doubles as a test button for test flashing.

< Basic Electronic Flash Control with Contax TLA 30 >

TTL AUTO Flash Operation

When using the TLA30 with a Contax camera incorporating direct TTL auto flash metering system, merely set the camera to the auto mode and the flash unit to the "TTL" mode. When the flash unit is ready to flash, the camera automatically switches over to the camera's synch speed and two LEDs inside the viewfinder indicate that both the flash unit and camera are ready to flash.



(1) **Set the Camera on the Auto Mode.** The camera is set on the auto mode by turning the shutter control dial to "A".

(2) **Set the Flash Mode Selector to "TTL".** Slide the flash mode selector to the "TTL" click-stop position.



(3) **Set the Film Speed Scale.** Rotate and set the Exposure Computer Dial by aligning the white -,L" index mark with the correct ASA/ISO film speed for the film in use. To rotate the dial, exert fingertip pressure against the two little round-shaped projections placed opposite each other on the dial, making sure to set the scale squarely on a click-stop.



(4) **Check the LED Indicators Inside the Viewfinder.** Turn the flash unit's power switch to "ON", and then press the camera's exposure check button to make a functional check of the LED display inside the viewfinder. When the flash unit has recycled, the camera switches to its flash synch speed (1/60 sec. for the RTS II Quartz) and a "Z" mark in the viewfinder lights to indicate that the flash unit and camera are ready to flash. The shutter speed display flashes the "60" mark at the same time.

Note: In the case of the Contax 137 MA/MD Quartz, make a functional check of the viewfinder LED display by lightly depressing the shutter release button part way down.



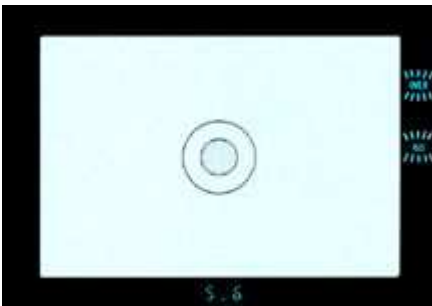
(5) **Set the Aperture.** Rotate the aperture ring to the desired aperture setting. Because of the direct TTL metering feature, you can freely select any aperture within the full aperture range of the lens in use. The effective flash range varies with the aperture setting in use.

For example, if you choose f/5.6 with ASA/ISO 100 film in the camera, you will need to align the extreme right of the white band on the Auto Flash Range Guide with the "5.6" mark on the Exposure Computer Dial. In so doing, you will obtain correct flash exposure over an effective flash range between approximately 0.7 and 5 meters. Your subject will be correctly exposed within this flash range.



(6) **Make the Flash Exposure Focus and press the shutter release.** After the exposure, the "⚡" flash data indicator inside the viewfinder will flash for about a second and then extinguish itself if your subject was within effective flash range. If the indicator fails to light, open up the aperture setting or shorten the flash-to-subject distance and re-shoot.

Note: The "⚡" mark will flash even when your subject is shot closer than the effective flash range. However, in this case, your subject will be overexposed.



a) In addition to flashing at the synch shutter speed, the "OVER" mark inside the viewfinder will also flash as shown when shooting against the light or with daylight synch flash. This indicates that the reading for the correct shutter speed is faster than the synch shutter speed. If the exposure is made in such a situation without any adjustment, the background will be overexposed showing a washed out effect. To overcome this, close down the aperture ring until the "OVER" indication goes away; then, shoot.

b) On completion of the auto flash exposure, the camera reverts to the non-flash auto exposure function until the flash unit has recycled;

c) When checking the after-exposure flash function without film loaded in the camera, lay the flash test sheet supplied with the flash unit over the film plane to ensure sufficient reflection surface.

<Auto Flash with the AE Lock>

When shooting subject against a dusky background or in a room of great depth, often your main subject is properly exposed but the background comes out dark and flat. In this instance you can obtain a more natural and better lighting balance between your subject and background by employing direct TTL Auto flash with the AE Lock of the camera.

1) Set the lens aperture after making sure that the camera's shutter control dial has been set on "A" and the flash unit on "TTL".



2) Compose your photograph in the viewfinder, focus and then set the camera's AE Lock. The exposure is locked at the value appropriate for the subject at the time the lock was set, and the corresponding shutter speed flashes.

Note: In the case of the Contax 137 M/MD Quartz and Contax 139 Quartz, the shutter speed is locked in.

3) When the LED mark "⚡" inside the viewfinder lights, take the picture.

a) The AE Lock can be set either before or after the flash unit has charged.



With AE Lock

Without AE Lock

b) The same effect as when the AE Lock is used can be obtained by leaving the flash unit on "TTL" and setting the camera's shutter speed at 1/60 second or slower. However, with the AE Lock, it is a much simpler task and produces much more expressive results.

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< **Normal AUTO Flash Operation** >

Along with TTL Auto flash in which exposures are controlled by the camera's independent sensor, the TLA30 also offers Normal Auto flash over two aperture ranges, using its foreside sensor to control for correct exposure. When used with a Contax featuring the direct TTL auto flash metering system or even with the Yashica FX-D Quartz, merely set the camera to the auto mode. Upon recycling of the flash unit, the camera will automatically switch over to its flash synch speed and the viewfinder LED will indicate flash-ready status. And, even when its shutter control dial is set at faster than the flash synch speed, the camera will automatically switch to the flash synch speed as soon as the flash unit has completed its recycling.

1) **Set the Camera on Auto Mode.** The camera is set on the auto mode by turning the shutter control dial to "A".



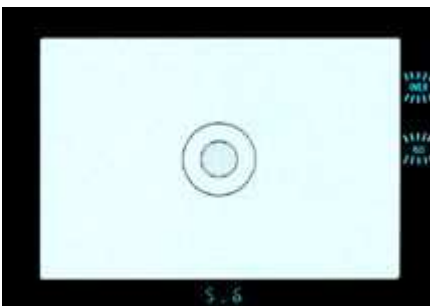
2) **Set the Film Speed Scale.** Rotate and set the Exposure Computer Dial by aligning the white "A" index mark with the correct ASA/ISO film speed.

3) **Set the Aperture.** Set the aperture ring to either of the two settings indicated by the red and green index marks for the Normal Auto flash mode. For instance, when using an ASA/ISO 100 film speed, the correct coverage apertures will be f/8 and f/4. Check the Auto Flash Range Guide for the correct flash range for the applicable aperture. When the extreme right (thick white band) of the white band is aligned with the index mark for Normal Auto flash, the white band indicates the flash range for the flash unit. For instance, you should keep your flash -to-subject distance between 0.7 and 4 meters approximately and between 1 and 9 meters approximately for flash exposures at f/8 and f/4 aperture settings respectively as indicated by the green and red index marks.



4) **Set the Flash Mode Selector.** Slide and set the Flash Mode Selector to a Normal Auto index bar corresponding to the color (red or green) of the index mark used to select the correct coverage aperture.

5) **Checking LED Display Inside Viewfinder.** Turn the flash unit's power switch to "ON", and press the camera's exposure check button to see if the LED display inside the viewfinder lights. The display here is the same as that seen in the TTL Auto mode).



6) **Take Your Picture.** Focus and press the shutter release. After the exposure, the Auto Check lamp will light up green with an after-flash (about three seconds) if your subject was within the effective flash range. To check for flash range before making flash exposure, press the Test Button while holding the flash unit in position identical to that during actual exposure.

Note: Since the camera's direct TTL metering function is operative even in the normal auto flash mode, you will sometimes see the after-flash mark "A" pulsate. Thus, be sure to check for correctness of the flash range by using the flash unit's Auto Check lamp.



< **Normal Auto Flash with the AE Lock** > Normal auto flash photography with the camera's AE Lock is possible using the same operations employed in the TTL auto flash mode.

< **Using the TLA30 with Other SLR Cameras** > Set the camera shutter speed to that recommended in the instruction manual for the camera in use, Then, follow procedures outlined in steps 2 through 6. Since the viewfinder display will not be operative in this case, use the test lamp on the flash unit to make your flash-ready check, and the auto check lamp to make your after-flash check.

< **MANUAL FLASH OPERATION** >

When you want to take flash photographs at certain fixed flash outputs depending on your photographic intentions or the prevailing picture-taking situation, you have the option of using any one of three manual flash modes, the "F" mode for full output, and the "1/4" and "1/16" modes for reduced outputs. When used with a Contax featuring the direct TTL auto flash metering system or the Yashica FX-D Quartz or equivalent camera bodies, merely set the camera to the auto mode as in the case of normal auto flash operation. As soon as the flash unit has completed its recycling, the camera will automatically switch to its flash synch speed and the viewfinder LED will indicate flash-ready status. And, even if the camera is set at higher than its flash synch speed, it will be automatically switched to its flash synch speed when the flash unit has completed recycling.

1) **Set the Camera on Auto Mode.** The camera is set on the auto mode by turning the shutter control dial to "A".



2) **Set the Flash Mode Selector.** Slide and set the Flash Mode Selector at a click stop for "P", "1/4" or "1/16". The guide numbers are 30, 15 and 7.5 for the 'F', "1/4" and "1/16" settings respectively, at ASA/ISO 100, meters.

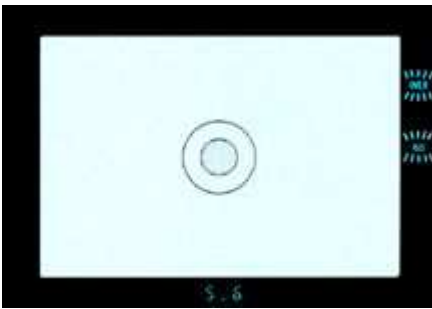
3) **Set the Film Speed Scale.** Rotate and set the Exposure Computer Dial so that the correct ASA/ISO film speed aligns with the index mark corresponding to the selected manual flash output. (When using the full manual output, set the dial at the white "A" index mark.)



4) **Set the Aperture.** Focus and set the aperture ring to the coverage aperture read out from the Exposure Computer Dial as applicable to the desired flash-to-subject distance. For instance, when you have selected the "F" flash mode with ASA/ISO 100 film in the camera, the correct aperture for a flash-to-subject distance of 5 meters will be f/5.6. When not using the Exposure Computer Dial, you can compute the correct aperture by using the following formula:

GN (Guide Number) divided by Subject Distance = f-number.

5) **Take Picture After Checking Viewfinder LED Display.** Turn on the flash unit's power switch. Press the exposure check button to see if the "✓" mark inside the viewfinder will light, and then effect exposure. The display here will be identical to that seen in the TTL auto mode. When the shutter control dial is set to "X", or to 1/60 sec. or slower, the LED display will flash the setting in effect.



Note: Since the camera's direct TTL metering function is operative even in the manual flash mode, you will sometimes see the after flash mark "✓" pulsate. However, since you are shooting at a fixed output level, you may disregard this pulsation.

For guide numbers, use the following chart as a reference. (Bracketed GN for Wide Panel use.)

Film Speed (ASA/ISO)		25	32	40	50	64	80	100	125	160	200	250	320	400
Guide Numbers	F	15 (9.5)	16.5 (10.5)	18.5 (11.5)	21 (13)	23.5 (15)	26.5 (16.5)	30 (19)	33.5 (21)	37.5 (23.5)	42 (26.5)	47.5 (30)	53 (33.5)	60 (38)
	1/4	7.5 (4.5)	8 (5)	9 (5.5)	10.5 (6.5)	11.5 (7.5)	13 (8)	15 (9.5)	16.5 (10.5)	18.5 (11.5)	21 (13)	23.5 (15)	26.5 (16.5)	30 (19)
	1/16	3.5 (2.3)	4 (2.6)	4.5 (2.9)	5 (3.3)	5.5 (3.7)	6.5 (4)	7.5 (4.5)	8 (5.0)	9 (5.5)	10.5 (6.5)	11.5 (7)	13 (8)	15 (9)

< **Sequential Flash** > With the Flash Mode Selector set at the low manual setting of "1/16" (GN 7.5, ASA 100, m), the TLA30 can be used for synchronized sequential flash at a speed of three frames per second (using the RTW W-3) for a duration of about six frames. The Normal Auto and TTL Auto modes can also be used for sequential flash provided the output is equal to or less than GN 7.5, ASA 100, m. For sequential flash, be sure to use four fresh alkaline dry batteries to ensure satisfactory performance.

< **Using TLA30 with Other SLR Cameras** > Set the camera shutter speed to that recommended in the instruction manual for the camera in use. Then, follow procedures outlined in steps 2 through 5. Since the viewfinder display will not be operative in this case, use the test lamp on the flash unit to make your flash-ready check.

Usage **Precautions:**

When using a camera other than a Contax with direct TTL auto flash metering system, the TLA30 will operate in the Manual mode with a Guide Number of 30, at ASA/ISO 100m.

* When not using the flash unit, always turn off the Power Switch to avoid battery drain. When not using the flash unit for long periods of time, remove all four batteries. Also, periodically test the flash unit to keep the capacitor in top working condition.

** DO NOT leave the flash unit exposed to direct summer heat (uncovered on the beach, in a car parked in direct sunlight, etc.) for long periods of time. This could result in damage to the flash system.

< **Advanced Flash Techniques** >

< **Exposure Compensation** >

In the TTL Auto flash mode, the TLA30 couples with the Exposure Compensation Dial system of the camera, permitting you to take exposure compensated flash photos. Use the function to compensate flash exposure when you want to intentionally under- or overexpose, or when you otherwise cannot obtain a correct exposure due to extreme lighting contrast between your main subject and its background.



Increasing Exposure When you want to intentionally overexpose in such instances where mirrors or white colored furniture with highly reflective, bright surfaces dominate the scene you can compensate for correct exposure of subject by increasing the exposure.

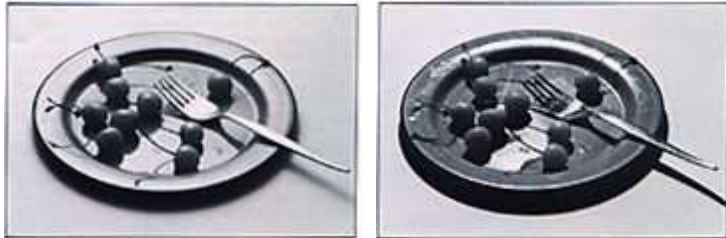


Decreasing Exposure When you want to intentionally underexpose in such situations where your subject is shown against a background completely dominated by dark-toned walls or furniture, you can compensate by decreasing exposure. # In the Normal Auto or Manual flash modes, the Exposure Compensation Dial system will not function for flash operation. In this instance, you can attain exposure compensation by changing the lens aperture setting.

< Diffused Flash >

This technique applies to a method where the light is scattered to produce a softening effect by placing a sheet of tracing paper or a thin, white handkerchief between the flash head and subject or directly over the flash head.

Diffused flash can be used effectively when you want a softer lighting effect with close-range portraits, or to reduce reflections when there are metal or glass surfaces within the picture area. To obtain a more pleasing, soft lighting effect, it would be preferable to place a sheet of tracing paper a short distance away from rather than directly over the flash head.



* With diffused flash, less intensive light will fall upon subject due to scattering effect of the light. Thus, allow for underexposure by using a wider aperture setting. ** With diffused flash in the Normal Auto mode, be sure that the line of view from the flash unit's foreside sensor to subject is not obstructed.

< Bounce Flash >

Bounce flash is the technique of aiming the flash head at the ceiling or walls instead of directly at the subject. The result is a softer, more natural lighting as opposed to the harsh lighting of direct flash.



With the TLA30 in at-camera position, the TLA30 flash head can be elevated vertically to a maximum of 900 (click stops at 600, 750 and 900 provided), permitting you to take bounce flash under varying conditions with the use of these features.

And it even tilts 150 downward, making it very handy for parallax-free close-up photography. (When the flash head is tilted downward, a red mark appears on the back of the flash head unit to warn you that the flash head is turned out of its normal straight-ahead position, thus serving as a reminder to re-tilt the head upward when reverting to normal direct flash shots.) In the TTL Auto mode, the light from the subject is metered through the taking lens to ensure you of correct exposure at all times. When the TLA Extension Cord (sold separately) is connected, the flash unit may be used off-camera, permitting you to take flash pictures in the TTL Auto mode at any desired flash position or angle.



* For optimum results it is necessary to consider the reflectance ratio of the bounce surface, the angle of bounce, and the bounce-path distance, and choose your f/number accordingly.

While the exposure will be considerably affected by the conditions involved, satisfactory results can be obtained by using an aperture wider than for direct flash, using a white or gray colored reflection surface.

** In bounce flash, make sure that no direct light from the flash unit strikes the subject.

*** In the Normal Auto flash mode, the TLA30, set at-camera position, will enable you to take correctly exposed bounce flash shots with the flash head positioned at any of the click stop positions because its foreside sensor is being aimed toward the subject. And when using the TLA Extension Cord for off-camera flash, always be sure that the sensor is kept aimed at the subject.

< Synchro-Sunlight Flash Photography >

When shooting outdoor pictures, photographing subject in bright sunlight or in backlit conditions, your main subject will come out with shadow areas or be underexposed.



To overcome this situation, use supplementary light from your flash unit to relieve the shadows and beautifully capture the background at the same time.

Daylight synch flash is effective under the following conditions:

- When photographing subject against the light or a bright window.
- When subject's face is darkened by shadows of a tree or when it is shaded because of sunlight being partially blocked by the

tree limbs.

- c) When a highly contrasting shadow area is produced on subject's face under direct sunlight; and;
- d) When taking portraits in weak light during the earliest and last hours of sunlight.

In the TTL Auto mode, you will be able to change the aperture setting in accordance with the background brightness, thus relieving you of any complicated calculations even when taking daylight synch flash shots

< **Close-up Flash Photography** >

Using the TLA30 with a Contax incorporating a direct TTL auto flash metering system, you can easily take close-up flash shots in the TTL Auto mode by coupling it to macro lenses, adapter rings, Auto Bellows unit, etc.



With the direct light metering feature, you can attain correct exposure for varying apertures and image magnification. However, light cutoff by lens barrel and uneven lighting often occur with close-ups taken from at-camera position. In such instances, you can overcome lighting problems with at-camera close-ups by tilting the flash head vertically downward 150 or you can achieve the same by using a TLA Extension Cord, which is sold separately, and shooting from an appropriate position or angle from off-camera. And even better results can be attained with the use of the Wide Panel that comes packaged with your TLA30 flash unit.

* When taking close-ups, guard against overexposure that tends to occur at certain flash-to-subject distances. ** Since it is very difficult to determine correct exposure for close-ups in the Normal Auto and Manual flash modes, it is recommended that such determination be made by experimenting to find the optimum exposure under varying conditions.

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CONTAX TLA Flash System Accessories

< Wide Panel Flash >

With the TLA30 you can take flash shots with a 35 mm wide-angle lens. Using the Wide Panel, which is supplied as standard accessory with the TLA30, you can extend the coverage to accommodate a 24 mm wide-angle lens.



When the coverage angle is not wide enough for close-ups, you can eliminate flash light vignetting by tilting the flash head downward and converting to the Wide Panel.

Mounting the Wide Panel

(1) Insert the tab on right side of the panel and press it against spring on right side of flash head. (2) Then, press the entire panel to lock into place.

Removing the Wide Panel (1) While pressing in direction of arrow against the tab on left side of the panel, (2) pull the panel toward you.

Effective flash range in TTL and Normal Auto modes, and guide numbers on the Manual mode are affected when using the Wide Panel because of an increase in angle of coverage. Use the Exposure Computer Dial as directed below to ascertain the correct exposure,

In the TTL and Normal Auto Modes Rotate and set the Exposure Computer Dial by aligning the Wide Panel index mark "▽" with the ASA film speed of the loaded film. Then consult the Auto Flash Range Guide to confirm the flash range applicable to the coverage aperture. In the Normal Auto mode, by rotating the Exposure Computer Dial, align the coverage aperture with either the red or green index positions marked "□", Then set the extreme right of the Auto Flash Range Guide to either one of the "□" positions.

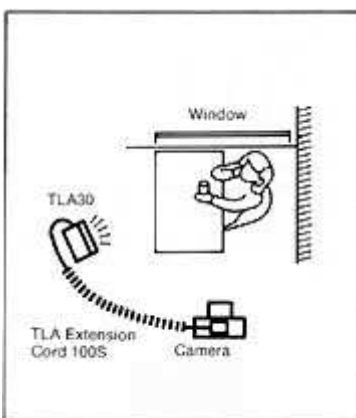
In the Manual Flash Mode Rotate the Exposure Computer Dial, setting the ASA film speed in use to the Wide Panel index mark corresponding to the same flash output value used in setting the Flash Mode Selector. Then read out the correct coverage aperture for the applicable flash-to subject distance and set the aperture accordingly.

< Using the TLA Extension Cord 100S >

When employing the TLA Extension Cord 100S, which is sold separately, the flash unit can be used off camera at different positions and angles, permitting a variety of special off-camera flash techniques not possible with at-camera flash.

Attaching the Extension Cord Insert the clip-on unit into the camera's accessory shoe and then plug the other end of the cord into the Extension Cord Socket of the TLA30 and secure by tightening the locking ring. The flash unit can now be charged and flashed in the off-camera position. And by combining the TLA Multi Connector S, TLA Extension Cord 100SS and 300SS, all of which are sold separately, you can increase the movable working radius of the flash unit for enhanced application. However, the combined length of the extension cords should not exceed 10 meters. * When shooting in the Normal Auto flash mode, be sure to maintain flash unit's sensor on your main subject.

With the flash unit used off-camera, you can obtain the following effects.



1) For portraits, a pleasing "three-dimensional" effect may be produced by holding the flash unit diagonally off to the side at an angle pointing down on the subject. By projecting the flash in this way, you will be able to give variation to the subject's expression and shadow areas.



2) Vignetting and uneven lighting which often occur with close-ups may be eliminated by using the optimum angle and position of the flash for the particular shot. 3) For bounce flash, it is possible to position the flash unit while taking the lighting effects into account.

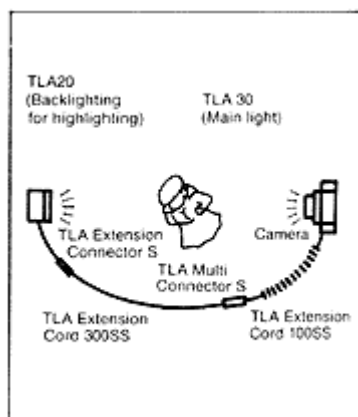
< Using the optional TLA Multiple Flash System >

With the TLA30, you will be able to take multiple flash shots in the TTL Auto mode by using, TLA Multiple Flash System Accessories (TLA-A Multi Connector S, TLA Extension Cords, TLA Extension Connector S, TLA Attachment Adapter),

When using a Contax with direct TTL auto flash metering system, the light from the multiple flash units are metered and controlled for correct exposure by the camera's sensor system after the light has passed through the lens. Multiple flash can be effectively used in the following situations.

a) In cases where a single flash would produce dominant shadows, multiple flash can be used to provide supplementary lighting to fill in or relieve the shadow area. 2) When a flash unit is placed directly to one side of subject to produce a three dimensional effect, a supplementary flash can be employed to help lighten the shadow area that would otherwise be too dominant, thus enabling you to attain a balanced lighting effect. c) For portraits in a room with expansive background depth, where the flash unit is incapable of reaching the background, a single or multiple flash directed at the background will help lighten it.

While there are various other flash techniques available, in any instance, it will be necessary to take into account the best possible position for effectively illuminating your subject.



While the position and angle of flash units for multiple flash are influenced by the prevailing picture-taking situation or your photographic intent, factors basically essential to good lighting effects are based on considerations for lighting balance in which you have made clear distinctions between the functions of main and secondary sources of flash illumination.



The technique generally applied is one of using balanced lighting by varying the flash-to-subject distance of each flash unit. Techniques available for using flash as supplementary lighting are bounce flash, diffused flash, reduced output flash in the manual mode, etc.

* When taking multiple flash in the Auto flash modes, avoid using extension cords with a combined length exceeding 10 meters. Always be sure to check that the Flash-Ready Lamps of all units are lit.

** When more than three flash units are hooked up for multiple flash, excessive flash exposure may occur.

*** Normal Auto flash mode is not suitable for multiple flash because of difficulty involved in determining the correct light factor.

TLA Flash System Accessories

TLA Extension Cord 100 This extension cord, measuring 1 meter overall, is used in taking off camera flash with the TLA20 and TLA30. The shoe unit for accepting the flash unit base is provided with a tripod socket underneath.



TLA Extension Cord 100S The TLA Extension Cord 100S, designed for use with the TLA20 and TLA30, is used in taking off-camera flash shots and in connecting to the TLA Multi Connector S for multiple flash shots.



TLA Extension Cords 100SS and 300SS The 100SS and 300SS are used in making multiple flash shots by connecting to the TLA30, RTF 540 TLA Adapter, TLA Multi Connector S, and Extension Connector S. The 100SS is a spiral cord type, measuring 1 meter long-, the 300SS, a straight cord type, measuring 3 meters long.



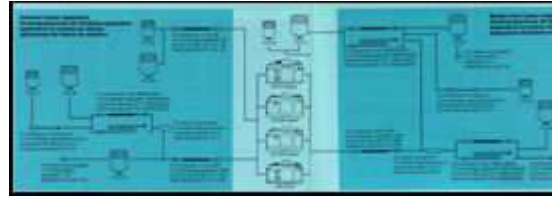
TLA Multi Connector S This unit is specially designed for use with TLA20 and TLA30 in taking multiple flash shots, handling a maximum of three flash units. Depending upon the prevailing picture-taking situation or your photographic intent, you can connect it to Extension Cord 100S, 100SS and 300SS for various multiple flash applications.

TLA Extension Connector S The TLA Extension Connector S, being a connector for linking the TLA20 with Extension Cord 100SS or 300SS, is mainly used for multiple flash applications. The shoe unit which accepts the flash unit base is provided with a tripod socket underneath.

TLA Attachment Adapter This adapter is used when securing the TLA30 to a tripod when making multiple flash shots.



You can considered [Download a Copy](#) of the PDF file (1.9MB) of the entire system chart for CONTAX flash group for your future reference (avoid if you can unless you are looking for certain specific information critically - it will **kill** my line if having multiple simultaneous downloads)



Technical Specifications:

Type: Clip-on auto flash unit with direct TTL control; normal auto flash featuring built-in sensor on flash unit.

Guide numbers (ASA/ISO 100, meters): On AUTO - GN 30 to 4 (continuously variable); on MANUAL - GN 30 at full output; and GN 15 and 7.5 at reduced output.

Control Circuitry: Energy-saving series circuitry with automatic flash cut-off. Mounting: To camera hot shoe directly, or by Extension Cord for off-camera.

Flash Modes: TTL Auto, Normal Auto (with two aperture ranges), and Manual (with three-way guide numbers).

Flash Control: TTL Auto flash - SPD flash metering system housed in camera measures flash directly at the film plane and cuts off flash output for correct exposure (Only on Contax camera with direct TTL auto flash metering system); couples at all apertures with lens 'in use. Normal Auto - SPD sensor housed in flash unit automatically cuts off flash output, coupled at two aperture ranges (f/4.0 and f/8.0 at ASA/ISO 100, m).

Angle of Coverage: 60° horizontal; 45° vertical (coverage for a 35 mm wide-angle lens). Wide Panel: 76° horizontal; 58° vertical (coverage for a 24 mm wide-angle lens).

Color Temperature: Equivalent to daylight.

Power Source: Four 1.5 V AA size penlight batteries (rechargeable Ni-Cd type of same size also usable).

Recycling Times: Using alkaline-manganese batteries approx. 9 seconds (at full output).

Number of Flashes: Using alkaline-manganese batteries - approx. 100 (at full output).

Flash Range-Check: TTL Auto mode - indicated by LED mark "A" inside camera viewfinder; Normal Auto mode - indicated by Auto Check lamp on flash unit.

Bounce Angle: Up to 90° vertical (with click stops at 60° 75°, and 90°), down to 15° vertical.

Effective ASA Coupling Range: ASA/ISO 25 - 880 Flash Test: By pressing Test Button which doubles as Flash-Ready Lamp.

Other Features: Provided with Power Switch and Extension Cord Socket.

Accessories: Accessory Wide Panel, case and test sheet supplied as standard accessories.

Size: 80 (W) x 120 (H) x 60 (D) mm. Weight: 290 grams without batteries.

* Recycling Times refer to the time required for subsequent lighting of Flash-Ready Lamp, firing the unit using fresh batteries. ** Number of Flashes refer to the number of times the Ready Flash Lamp will light within 30 seconds of previous flash when flash unit is fired successively at 30 second intervals. *** The above specifications and design are subject to change without notice.