
05 – Wireless TTL bounce flash

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Wireless TTL capability in a camera & flash system, allows you to control a remote flashgun with your camera, or the flash on your camera. It allows you the freedom and control of TTL flash, but as off-camera lighting. This gives you much more flexibility right on the spot. If your camera and flash system have this capability, it really is worth your time and effort to figure out how to use it.

I use wireless TTL flash in a fairly simple way during weddings, though. I use it to expand from just a single on-camera flash. With wireless TTL flash I can shoot fast and get my flash off my camera for more control over the direction of my light than bouncing my flash might give me.



Here I first tried a test shot, bouncing my flash to my right behind me. It looked flat, and I wasn't happy with the way the wall was blown out in the mirror. I keep two cameras on me at all times – each with a speedlight attached. And either of those speedlights are ready to be used as a master or slave. In this instance I had my assistant stand in the corner away from the bride and me, and he had to point the flash (still on the camera), towards the wall and ceiling to the front and left of the bride. I disabled the output from my own camera's speedlight, but allowed it to trigger the slaved speedlight that my assistant was holding.

specific settings:

Canon 1Dmk2N; Canon 580EX speedlight; Canon 24-70mm f2.8 L
1/100th @ f5 @ 500 ISO // manual; evaluative metering // TTL
flash: +0.3 exp comp

An important thing here to keep in mind, is that using a diffuser cup over my speedlight would've thrown too much light forward – giving it a clearly artificial look. The way I used it here, the light looks natural – as if it might have been soft light from a large window.

In this photo, there is very little ambient light – it is pretty much all just flash. In fact, just a single speedlight as my light source – but I drastically improved my results by doing two things:

- bouncing my flash off a wall and ceiling, thereby softening the light, and
- moving my source of light away from the camera, thereby creating more directional light.