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QuickGuide to Canon 270EX II Speedlite Features

The purpose of this QuickGuide is to provide a concise review of how to operate the features and functions of the Canon 270EX II Speedlite. Unless otherwise noted, the following instructions require your Speedlite to be mounted to your camera's hot shoe. This will allow your camera to communicate with the 270EX II and for you to make flash settings with the camera's menu system.

Flash Control via the Camera Menus

Any control of the Speedlite 270EX II beyond simple automatic E-TTL exposure requires a camera body with External Flash Control Menu capability, such as the EOS 40D ~ 60D; Rebel XS/XSi, T1i, T2i, T3, T3i; EOS 7D, 5D Mark II, EOS-1D Mark III / Mark IV, and EOS-1Ds Mark III (as of mid-2011).

E-TTL II Auto Flash Set-up

For cameras with built-in flash:

1. Press the camera Menu button.
2. Select the first Shooting Menu (first camera icon on the left).
3. Select [Flash control] or [External Speedlite control].
4. Select [External flash func. setting]. Press Set.
5. Set [**Flash mode**] to [**E-TTL II**]

This step is not necessary for cameras that have no built-in flash. It is also not necessary if you have not previously changed the default flash settings on your camera.

Key Features and Controls

Flash head – Emits flash and AF-assist beam

Wireless sensor – Senses triggering and control signals from master flash unit

Remote control transmitter – Emits signal for remote triggering of compatible cameras

Bounce angle index marks – Has marks for 60º, 75º, and 90º

Flash ready light
Power switch
  OFF: Turns off power
  SLAVE: Activates wireless slave mode
  ON: Turns on power

Remote release button – Allows remote triggering of EOS Digital Rebel, Rebel XT, XTi, XSi, T1i, T2i, T3i, EOS 7D, and 5D Mark II (as of mid-2011)

Camera Exposure Mode Settings

The 270EX II will function in any of the camera exposure modes below. The maximum speed at which your camera can synchronize with the flash exposure is represented by "1/x sec" (such as 1/200 with EOS Rebel models).

Mode	Shutter speed	Aperture
Full Auto, P, A-DEP	Set automatically (1/x sec. – 1/60 sec.)	Automatic
TV	Set manually (1/x sec. – 30 sec.)	Automatic
AV	Set automatically (1/x sec. – 30 sec.)	Manual
M	Set manually (1/x sec. – 30 sec., Bulb)	Manual

The mode you choose will depend mainly on the balance you prefer between the flash exposure and the ambient light exposure. Longer shutter speeds will allow longer ambient light exposures to help prevent dark backgrounds; however, long exposures also risk blur from subject or camera motion. Smaller apertures provide more depth-of-field but require more flash power and reduce the maximum flash range.

Flash Coverage

The flash head can be manually extended or retracted to better match the flash coverage to the camera and lens in use. Refer to the table below for recommended settings.

Camera type	Head Normal	Head Extended
APS-C size sensor (Rebel series, 60D, 7D)	17mm or longer lens	32mm or longer lens
Full-frame sensor (EOS 5D & 1Ds series)	28mm or longer lens	50mm or longer lens

E-TTL II Flash Range

The flash range will vary depending on the ISO, the angle of coverage, and the maximum aperture of your lens. If you see a blinking < ⚡ > icon in your viewfinder then your subject is too far away. You should either move closer or increase the ISO. Do not use the 270EX II in the extended position with lenses that have a focal length of 30mm or less, otherwise the edges of the frame will be noticeably darker than the center.

E-TTL II Flash Range with 18-55mm EF-S f/3.5-5.6 IS Zoom

ISO	Normal Position		Extended Position	
	18mm	55mm	18mm	55mm
100	1 – 6.3 m 3.3 – 20.6 ft	1 – 3.8 m 3.3 – 12.9 ft	—	1 – 4.8 m 3.3 – 15.9 ft
200	1 – 8.9 m 3.3 – 29.1 ft	1 – 5.5 m 3.3 – 18.2 ft	—	1 – 6.8 m 3.3 – 22.5 ft
400	1 – 12.6 m 3.3 – 41.1 ft	1 – 7.9 m 3.3 – 25.7 ft	—	1 – 9.6 m 3.3 – 31.8 ft
800	1 – 17.7 m 3.3 – 58.0 ft	1 – 11.1 m 3.3 – 36.3 ft	—	1 – 13.6 m 3.3 – 45.0 ft
1600	1.5 – 25.1 m 4.9 – 82.6 ft	1 – 15.7 m 3.3 – 51.6 ft	—	1 – 19.3 m 3.3 – 63.6 ft

Wireless E-TTL Flash Operation

The "Slave" function allows the flash to be triggered wirelessly when used off-camera with an EOS DSLR or Speedlite with master flash function. The slave flash must be positioned off-camera and must be within a range of 33 feet (10 meters) from the master flash unit.
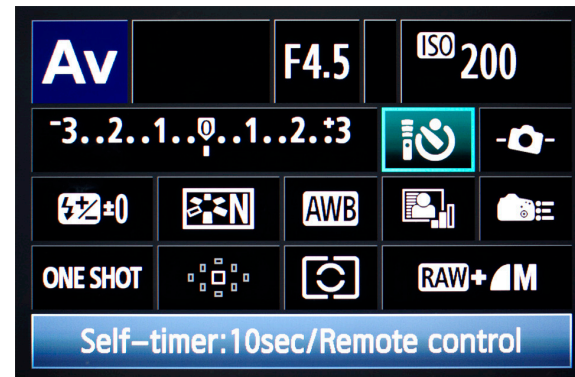
You can use the 270EX II regardless of the transmission channel (1 to 4) on the master unit. The slave ID is set to group A and cannot be changed to group B or C.

1. Set the camera, ST-E2 transmitter or 580EX II Speedlite as the master unit.

2. Set the 270EX II as the slave unit by moving the power switch to <**SLAVE**>.

3. Attach the 270EX II to the mini-stand provided with the flash case and position the flash. When outdoors you must have the wireless sensor aimed directly toward the master unit. When indoors the sensor will react to reflections from nearby walls.

4. Release the shutter.

Wireless Shutter Release

The flash release function uses the 270 EX II's built-in infrared transmitter to remotely fire compatible cameras* with a 2-second delay. You can choose whether to use the 270EX II as a wireless trigger alone or whether to also use it as a wirelessly triggered slave flash.

To trigger camera only

1. Set the camera* to its remote control shooting mode.

2. Set the 270EX II power switch to <**ON**>

3. Point the remote control transmitter on the front of the 270EX II toward the camera, then press the remote release button. The shutter will release two seconds later. The 270EX II will not fire.

To trigger camera* + wireless flash:

1. A wireless E-TTL "master" flash or ST-E2 transmitter must be mounted and active.

2. Set the 270EX II power switch to <**SLAVE**>.

3. Set the camera* to Remote/Self-Timer mode.

4. Point the remote control transmitter on the front of the 270EX II toward the front of the camera, then press the remote release button. The camera will fire two seconds later, which allows time to reposition the 270EX II to illuminate the subject. The on-camera master flash will trigger the 270EX II you're holding to fire during exposure.

Currently available only on EOS Digital Rebel, Rebel XT, XTi, XSi, T1i, T2i, T3i, EOS 7D, and 5D Mark II.

Auto Power Off

The 270EX II will automatically shut off after 90 seconds of idle use to save battery power. Press the camera's shutter button to turn the unit on again. Cancel the auto power off function when using the 270EX II as a wireless slave by pressing the [✳] button on your camera.

AF-Assist Beam

To facilitate autofocus for dark scenes, the 270EX II may fire repeatedly when you press the camera's shutter button halfway. Its maximum AF-Assist range is approximately 4 m/13.1 ft., depending on the ISO setting and maximum aperture of your lens.

Modeling Flash

Pressing the camera's depth-of-field button will fire the flash continuously for 1 sec. This enables you to preview lighting effects on the subject. It is most useful when the flash is positioned off-camera.

Do not fire the modeling flash more than 10 consecutive times. If you fire the modeling flash 10 consecutive times, allow the Speedlite to rest for at least 10 min. to avoid overheating and damaging the flash head.

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