

Want to get dramatic lighting effects like this? Then you'll need to invest in some wireless flash kit.



FLASHGUNS

Which set of wireless flash triggers should I buy?

Q I own a Canon EOS 7D and a Canon 580 EX II flashgun. I now need a set of wireless triggers, but I'm put off by the number of options out there. What should I be looking for in a good set of triggers? My budget is up to £80, but I want a set that's easy to use and won't fall apart. Any recommendations?
Sandra Burdock

A Too much choice can be worse than having no choice at all, Sandra, and there are certainly a lot of options when it comes to wireless

triggers. Like most photo kit, budget triggers will often have fewer features than high-end models, but this doesn't mean that you'll have to spend hundreds to get a set that'll serve you well.

Before making any purchase, it's always best to fully understand which features you really need, as there's little point in spending upwards of £200 on a pro set of triggers, only to use them occasionally, or to just a small percentage of their potential.

On the right, we've outlined what a good trigger needs and provided three great options that'll fit into your price range...

Your flashgun fits into the hotshoe port on the top of the receiver.

A PC-sync socket lets you connect your triggers to fire a studio strobe via a cable.

An LED on the front of the unit will illuminate once a successful sync has been established.



Be sure to check that the triggers are compatible with your gear before buying.

The radio frequency is changed using the channel selector.

A Test button lets you check the triggers are syncing correctly.

“ You don't have to spend hundreds of pounds to get a set of triggers that'll serve you well... ”

3 Great value flash triggers

CACTUS V5 DUO

Rather than having a separate transmitter and receiver like conventional radio triggers, the V5 DUO set consists of two transceivers - units that act as both devices in one. There's a switch on the side of each module that allows the user to change quickly between the transmitter and receiver functions, as well as turning it off completely to preserve battery life. Rather than being fit-specific, the V5s are a one-type-fits-all system, eliminating any compatibility issues. Any makes of camera or flashgun that aren't supported are listed on the company's website.



AT A GLANCE

Street price: £37 (€22.30 for extra transceiver)
Type: Radio trigger
Effective range: 328ft (100m)
Power: 2x AAA (1.5V)
Channels: 16
Dimensions: 82x70x37mm (transceiver)
Extras: 4x AAA batteries, 2x flash feet, PC sync cable, connector cable & adaptor
Visit: www.gadgetinfinity.com

The Cactus V5 Duo transceivers are powered by cheap and easy-to-find replaceable AAA cells.

HÄHNEL COMBI TF

Hähnel's Combi TF system not only acts as a means of firing a flashgun off-camera, but also doubles as a wireless shutter release. Siting the receiver (which usually attaches to your flashgun) in your camera's hotshoe port, and connecting the necessary leads to your camera will allow you to fire your camera by pressing the Test button on the transmitter. Half-depressing this will allow you to autofocus your camera, and there's also continuous shooting, Bulb mode and 4secs delay functions. Helpfully, two bright LEDs on the front of each unit light up once a sync has been made.



AT A GLANCE

Street price: £49.95 (€40.99 for extra receiver)
Type: Radio trigger
Effective range: 328ft (100m)
Power: 2x AAA (1.5V) receiver, CR 2032 (3V) transmitter
Channels: 16
Dimensions: 37x79x30mm (receiver), 62x60x25mm (transmitter)
Extras: 2x AAA, 1x CR 2032, camera connector cables.
Visit: www.hahnel.ie

Hähnel's Combi TF system works as a flash trigger or a wireless shutter release.

GODOX REEMIX RM II

The Reemix RM II is a 3-in-1 remote control kit that acts as a studio strobe trigger, a flashgun trigger, and also a remote camera shutter release. The receiver has a handy umbrella mount built into the side for neatly securing either a shoot-through or reflective brolly to diffuse the flash. The receiver has an adjustable foot that features a 1/4in thread, and this allows it to screw directly onto a lightstand or tripod. Using the included sync cable and adaptor, the receiver can be connected to most types of studio strobe to fire it wirelessly.



AT A GLANCE

Street price: £59.99
Type: Radio trigger
Effective range: 328ft (100m)
Power: 2x AAA (1.5V) receiver, 23AE (1.2V) transmitter
Channels: 16
Dimensions: 62x79x38mm (receiver), 30x84x28mm (transmitter)
Extras: 2x AAA batteries, 1x 23AE battery, remote cable, PC sync cable, sync cable & adaptor
Visit: www.godox.com

The versatile Reemix RM II functions as a 3-in-1 remote control kit.

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GEAR KNOWLEDGE

RADIO VS INFRARED TRIGGERS

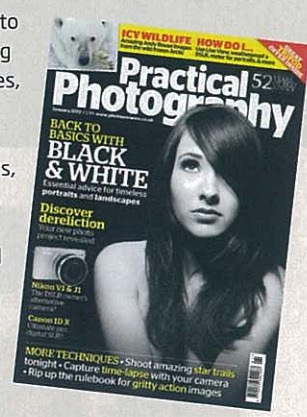
There are two types of wireless trigger - infrared (IR) and radio. Some D-SLRs and flashguns come with IR triggers built-in, and allow you to fire your flash wirelessly straight out the box. Although this sounds great, IR does have its limitations and the transmitter (the camera) will need to 'see' the receiver (the flash) in order to fire. IR also has a relatively small range (between 15ft-30ft) and may struggle to operate in bright sunlight. Radio triggers, on the other hand, use radio waves that can pass through most objects. They operate over much greater distances too, with high-end models offering a staggering 1600ft range, which is why we recommend them.



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