



RING LIGHT ADAPTERS

A ring light is a special light through which you insert your camera lens. Ring lights are often used for fashion photography and are equally well-suited for macro photography. The look of a ring light is distinctive because it provides a soft light with highlights on the surfaces that directly face the camera and, if the subject is close to a background, a shadow that literally edges the subject.

RoundFlash Magnetic Ringflash

The RoundFlash is one of my favorite Speedlite modifiers to be introduced since the first edition of the *Speedlites Handbook*. Unlike most of the mods in this chapter, which scale their size down to fit a Speedlite, the Roundflash is a full-sized, circular softbox. It measures nearly 18" in diameter and is designed to work with most hotshoe-mounted Speedlites (400-series and up). Don't worry—once you experience the amazing light that the RoundFlash creates (as shown in Figure 14.30)—you will not mind its size on your camera. You can just as easily use the Speedlite mounted on a light stand—which makes the RoundFlash a versatile off-camera softbox as well. Thanks to the ingenious use of super-strong magnets on the tensioning rods that separate the front and back panels, the RoundFlash can be assembled in a few seconds and then packed in an 8" pouch for travel. Check out the details of my shoot *Ring The Lens With Light* in Chapter 19: *Portraits With One Speedlite* to see the stunning light that the RoundFlash creates.

Figure 14.27 The RoundFlash is huge, yet lightweight. Of the three ring light adapters that I tested, I think it creates the most beautiful light. I also appreciate that it folds up quickly and travels in a small nylon pouch.

Figure 14.28 The new design of the Ray Flash 2 is universal—meaning that it will fit a range of Speedlites. Of the three ring light adapters tested, it creates the most noticeable shadow.

Figure 14.29 The Orbis must be hand-held or used with a bracket—which adds a bit of weight and bulk. Nevertheless, it creates beautiful light.



Ray Flash 2

The Ray Flash 2 by Expolmaging is also designed to work with your Speedlite mounted to your camera's hotshoe. This second-generation design takes a universal approach and fits a wide range of Speedlites. Conveniently, the new design also enables the Ray Flash 2 to take up much less space in your gear bag—making it a travel-worthy companion. In contrast, the original models of the Ray Flash were model-specific and had bulky, L-shaped necks.

Orbis

The Orbis takes a generic approach that enables it to connect to "most" Speedlites by slipping over the extended head, as shown in Figure 14.29. The Orbis design also means that the Speedlite cannot be mounted in the camera's hotshoe. Instead, you have to connect the camera and Speedlite via an off-camera cord, preferably an E-TTL cord so that you can maintain full E-TTL control and use your camera's LCD to control the settings. Another distinguishing point of the Orbis is that it must be held—either by the photographer (which takes one hand off the camera), with the Speedlite mounted on a light stand (which means that the light is fixed in position), or by a metal Orbis bracket.

Use A Ring Light Adapter Off-Camera

All three of these mods can be used off-camera on a Speedlite mounted to a light stand. The softness of the light is a function of the size of the mod and how far the flash is from your subject. Of the trio shown here, the RoundFlash will produce the softest light.

Figure 14.30 A quick headshot with the RoundFlash.

Figure 14.31 A quick headshot with the Ray Flash.

Figure 14.32 A headshot with the Orbis.

