SPEEDLITE 600EX-RT

A quick look: The new flagship of the Canon Speedlite system features a completely up-dated LCD menu system that makes it much easier to use. Additionally, the 600EX-RT opens up new territory with radio-enabled wireless communication between master and slave. Conveniently, the 600EX-RT is fully backward compatible with preceding genera-tions of Speedlites that use optical wireless.

The World's First Radio-Enabled Speedlite

1. **Flashhead**—Contains the flashtube and the zoom mechanism that pushes it forward and backward. The 600EX-RT automatically senses the focal length of compatible EOS lenses and adjusts the position of the flashtube to match—from 20mm to 200mm.

2. **Optical transmitter**—When used as an optical master, the flashtube of the 600EX-RT sends the instructions to the slaves through a coded series of pulsed flashes.

3. **Catchlight panel**—A plastic card that pulls out with the wide-angle panel. When bouncing flash off a ceiling, the catchlight panel throws a tiny bit of light forward.

4. **Wide-angle panel**—A plastic diffuser that pulls out. Spreads the flash to about the field of a 14mm lens.

5. **External power socket**—Plug in an external battery pack to provide faster recycling.

6. **Bracket fitting**—A threaded socket that, unfortunately, is not sized for the industry-standard ¼"-20 thread.

7. **Screwlock PC terminal**—The connection point for triggering cables, such as those used by third-party radio triggers.

8. **Contacts**—These five pins connect to the terminals on an EOS camera's hotshoe.

9. **Locking pin**—The pin drops down into a receiver when the locking lever is moved. It is spring-loaded so that it will also work with generic hotshoes.

10. **Weather-sealed mounting foot**—The rub-ber gasket around the metal foot provides a water- and dust-resistant connection between Speedlite and camera.

11. **AF-Assist beam emitter**—In low-light or low-contrast situations, the 600EX-RT can emit a red pattern on which the camera will try to focus. The approximate range is 2' to 33' at the center and 2' to 16' along the edges of the flash's illumination area.

12. **External metering sensor**—In External Auto or External Manual, this sensor captures light bouncing off the subject and shuts the flash off when it thinks that enough light has been gathered.

13. **Optical wireless sensor**—When the Speedlite is working as an optical slave, this sensor must be aimed at the master to receive instructions.

14. **Filter sensors**—When either of the two Canon-supplied color filters (gels) are used with the filter holder and the cam-era's white balance is set to AWB or Flash, these sensors tell the camera which gel is in place.

15. **Bounce angle**—The flashhead can be tilted upward to 90º. There are detents (notches) at 45º, 60º, 75º, and 90º. Between 0º and 45º the head can be posi-tioned by hand, but not locked.

16. **Flashhead release button**—Pressing this button enables the flashhead to tilt –7º to 90º and to pan 180º right and left.

17. **Battery compartment**—The 600EX-RT holds four AA batteries.

18. **Button labels**—The lower edge of the LCD displays the purpose of each of the Func-tion buttons.

19. **Power switch**—Off, Lock, and On. Lock deactivates the buttons and dials.

20. **Flash exposure confirmation lamp**—When shooting in E-TTL mode, this lamp glows green for 3 seconds if a good exposure has been obtained. The lamp is inactive when shooting in other modes.

21. **Locking lever**—Slide this lever to the right to lock the Speedlite into the hotshoe. Press the button and slide to the left to release.

22. **Select dial**—Turn this dial to rotate through various menu options.

23. **Select/Set button**—Press this button to select a menu option.

24. **Flash Ready lamp / Test button**—This but-ton has five functions. It glows red when the flash is fully charged and ready to fire. It glows green when the flash is partially charged and capable of a Quick Flash. Press it to fire a test flash. If the Speedlite is working as a Wireless Master, pressing it will also test-fire Slaves by Group. This but-ton can also be configured to activate the Modeling Light via Custom Function-02.

25. **Mode button**—Press the button to cycle through the five non-wireless shooting modes: E-TTL, Manual, Multi, External Auto, and External Manual. When the Speedlite is set as a radio master, the button cycles through the four radio-wireless shooting modes: E-TTL, Manual, Multi, and Group. When the Speedlite is set as an optical master, the button cycles through three optical-wireless modes: E-TTL, Manual, and Multi. The button is deactivated when the Speedlite is a slave.

26. **Wireless / Linked Shooting button**—This button cycles the Speedlite through non-wireless (normal), Radio Master, Radio Slave, Optical Master, and Optical Slave. When the Speedlite is in non-wireless mode, hold the button down for several seconds to activate Linked Shooting.

27. **Function buttons**—The purpose of each of these four buttons changes as the mode and wireless settings change (see the following section for more information).

28. **Interactive LCD panel**—The 600EX-RT brings a new, interactive menu to the Canon Speedlite system. This is a great improvement over previous generations of Speedlites. Menu options change in response to Mode and Wireless settings.

29. **Link indicator**—When operating in Radio Wireless, the color of this light indicates whether the Speedlite is communicating with other units—either as master or slave.

■ **LCD backlight**—Push any button to illumi-nate the LCD backlight.