Bowens Lights : Operating Notes.

The Bowens Traveller Light Kit was donated by Simon Hill and is a special to type lighting system made by Bowen LIght UK specially for Calumet Photographic in the 1990's.

The kit consists of three combined flash/modelling lamps in a flight case and three tripods and accessories in a holdall.

Flight Case Contents (See figure 1)

3 x Flash/modelling lamps fitted with transit covers
2x Small reflectors
2x Large reflectors
3x Power supply cables (240v UK standard)
3 x Tripod heads
1x Flash synch radio transmitter + flash synch jack lead

Holdall Contents

3 x Manfrotto tripods
1x Umbrella reflector
1x Soft box kit (front cover, rear reflector, bayonet mounting ring, 4x stays)

An additional mains extension lead and multi socket adaptor will be required for studio operation.

NOTE : When repacking it is very important the lighting units have cooled down before fitting the transit covers
The lamps may be damaged by overheating if the covers are fitted when hot.

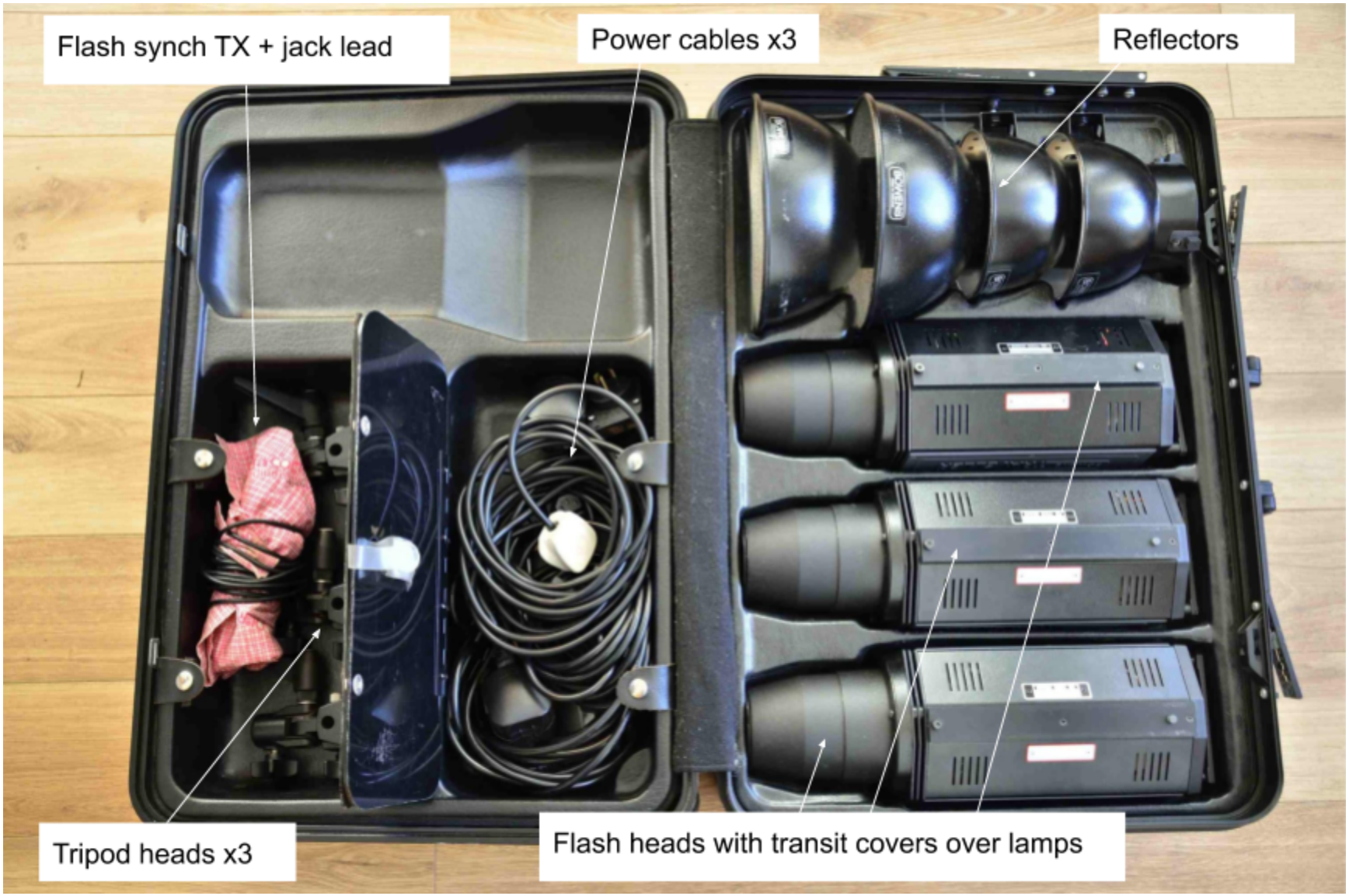


Figure 1 : Flight case packed.

Setting up

Tripods.

It is essential for the tripods to be erected for maximum stability and safety. The legs must be splayed to the maximum extent to give the widest possible base for maximum stability. The bracing struts from the centre to each leg will be horizontal as in figure 2.

Under no circumstances should the legs be used as figure 3 !

Figure 2 : Correct leg position

Figure 3 : Incorrect, unstable leg position !

Fitting the lights to the tripods.

The lights are attached to the tripod by the tripod heads, which are clamped to the runner on the base of each light. (See figure 4.)

Figure 4 : Tripod head mounting method (best assembled BEFORE fitting to the tripod)

The tripod head is slid along the runner from the back of the light forward. The safety detente will need to be pressed in to allow clamp to slide along. Move the clamp to the centre of the runner then tighten the clamping screw. It is important the transit cover is kept on to protect the lamps.

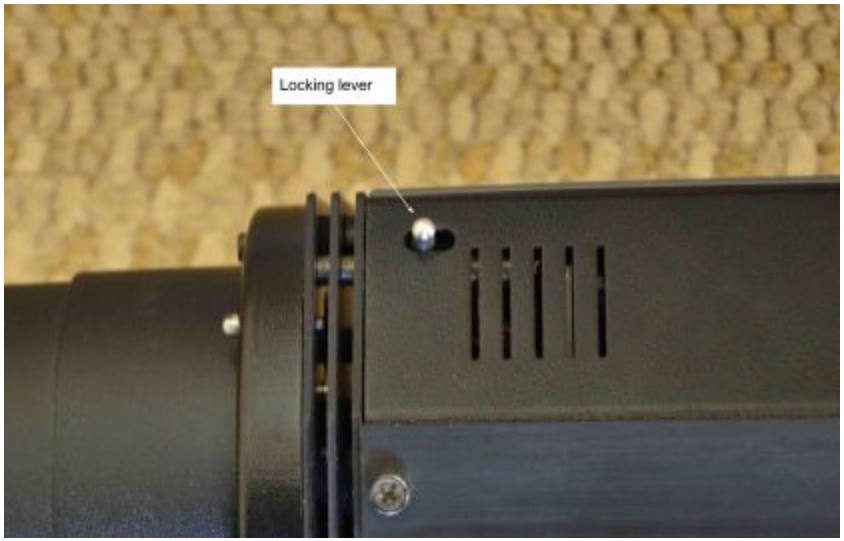
The light can now be fitted to the tripod and the tripod clamping screw tightened.

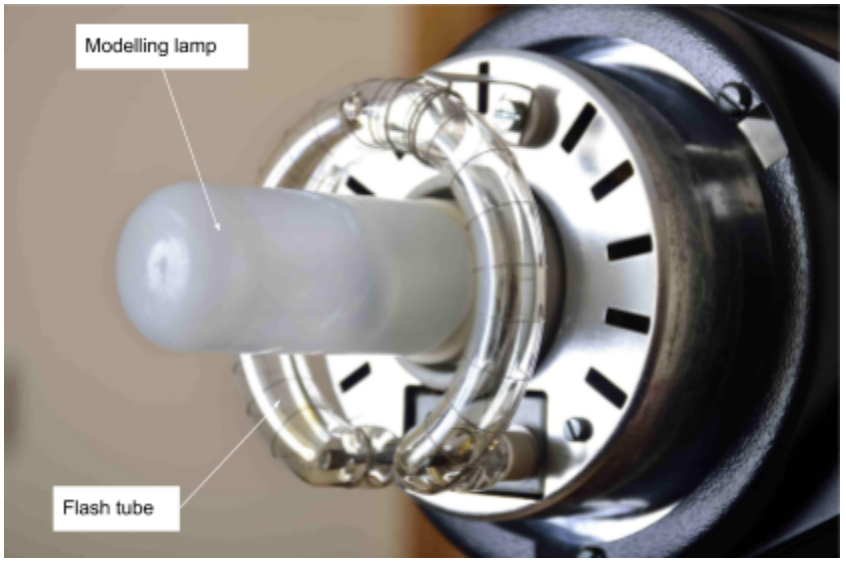
When fitting the light to the tripod make sure the light is lined up over one of the legs as in figure 5. This will prevent the weight of the light from tipping the tripod.

Figure 5 : Position the light over a tripod leg for stability.

Fitting the reflector.

The reflector and other accessories are attached to the light using a 3 point bayonet fitting. Remove the transit cover by pulling back the locking lever and rotating the cover anti-clockwise. Carefully remove the cover taking care not to touch the lamps



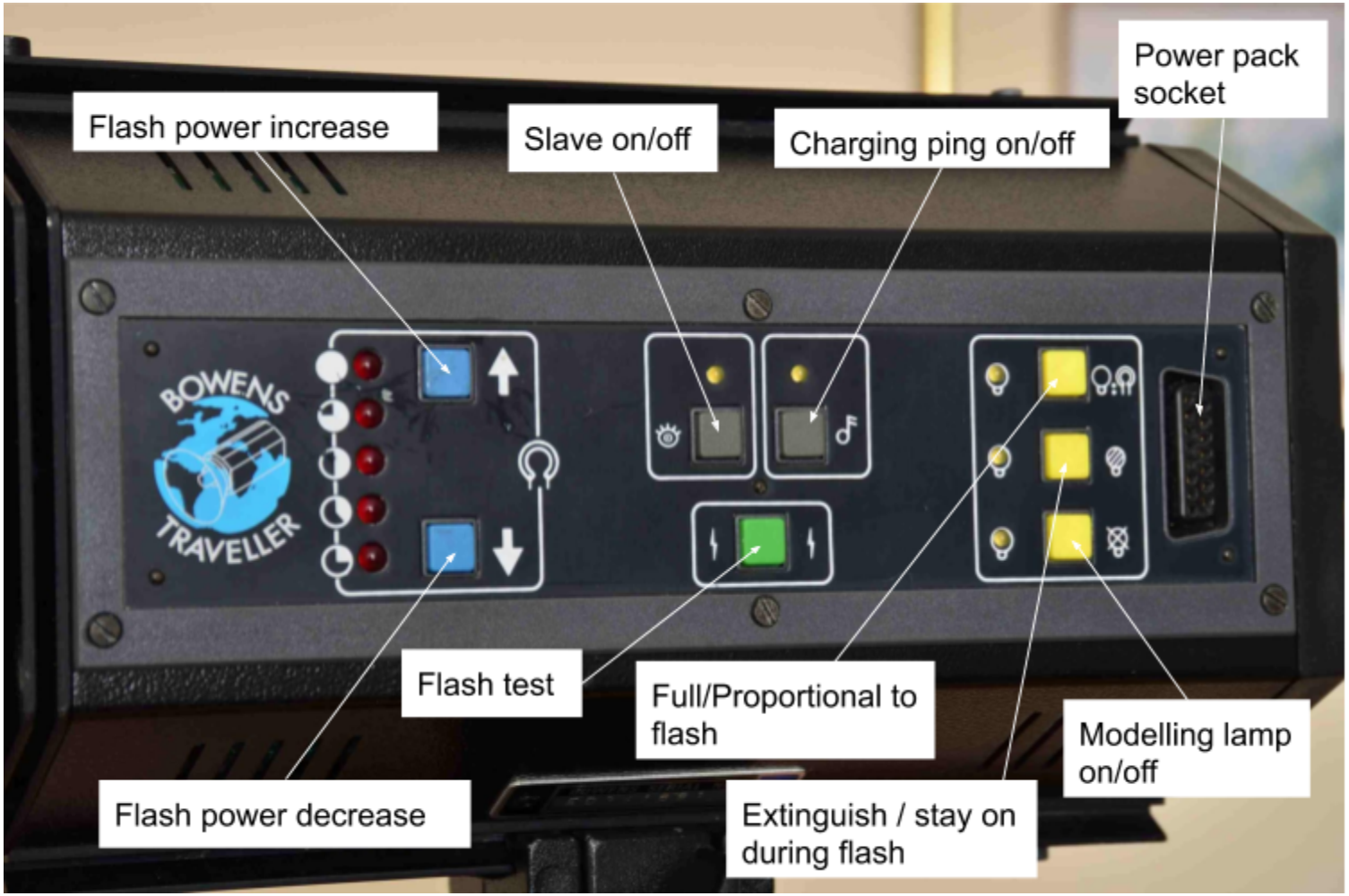


The lamps are very delicate and easily damaged. They should never be left without a transit cover or reflector fitted.

Fit the reflector carefully over the lamps and insert the three mounting lugs into the corresponding slots on the bayonet mount. Rotate the reflector clockwise until it ‘ clicks ‘ into place. Removal is the reverse except the locking lever must be pulled back to release the reflector.
Repeat the process for attaching the other reflectors and soft box.

Using the lighting units.

Side panel controls



Flash power increase/ decrease. (Blue buttons.)

The two blue buttons allow variation of flash power from full power to ¼ power. This is equivalent to ~ 3 stops variation in aperture setting.

Modelling lamp control (Yellow buttons)

Bottom Button :

Toggle lamp ON / OFF

Middle button :

OFF - Lamp extinguishes during flash . ON - Lamp stays on during flash

Note :

In normal use leave switched ON so the lamp does not go on and off with each flash, which will reduce the life of the lamp.

Top button :

OFF- Light brightness proportional to flash power.

ON - Light on full brightness

Flash test (green button)

Press to operate the flash.

Ping (Grey button)

Toggle ON/ OFF. When the ping sounds it means the flash circuit is fully charged for the next flash.
This can become annoying when all three light units are charging.

Slave ON/OFF (Grey button)

When ON this enables the flash in the light unit to be controlled by another light unit. So two units can be ‘ slaved ‘ to a third ‘ master ‘ unit. Synchronisation connection is made via a light sensor on the back of the unit.

Rear Panel Controls

Power ON/OFF

Switches ac power to the unit.

Power input socket.

Connect mains leads from the kit. Input 240 V ac. UK standard 3 pin plug.

Flash synch jack input.

Plug in flash lead from camera. (in this kit the connection to the camera hot shoe is made via the Bowens radio transmitter unit.)

Slave Synch Sensor.

This sensor detects the flash from the other units to synchronise the flash. **This is a light sensor so do not cover.**

Rear Panel Controls


Large reflector fitted to bayonet mount
Tripod mount slide detent
Tripod mount
BOWENS


Small reflector
BOWENS TRAVELLER
BOWENS
Umbrella shaft fitted through reflector bracket and tripod mount