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QuickGuide to Canon Speedlite 430EX II Modes and Functions

This QuickGuide provides a handy overview of the Canon Speedlite 430EX II's main features and operating modes. As an aid to organization and understanding, we have listed the features available in each operating mode and how to access them. We have also listed the available Custom Functions, which are the same in all mode. For more comprehensive information please refer to the 430EX II Instruction Manual.

CONTROL LAYOUT

LCD Panel

Displays flash mode, flash coverage angle, flash exposure compensation, distance range, manual flash output level, wireless slave channel and slave ID.

Display Illuminator/Custom Function (C.Fn) Button

Press once to illuminate the LCD Panel. Press and hold for two seconds to access the C.Fn Menu. The 430EX II features nine custom functions, listed on the reverse side.

Note: By default, the flash distance range is indicated in meters. To change the distance indicator from meters to feet, change C.Fn 00 from 0 to 1.

Flash Mode Button

Press the [Mode] button to cycle through the two flash modes: E-TTL Automatic and Manual. The display will change with each button press.



High-Speed/Shutter Curtain Sync Button

Press this button until the corresponding icon appears on the LCD panel. When no icon is visible the corresponding function is off.

Zoom/Wireless Selection Button

By default, the 430EX II will automatically adjust its coverage to your lens's focal length. Press this button once if you want to set the flash coverage angle manually. When the flash coverage indicator begins to blink, press the [+] or [-] button to move the coverage indicator up or down in value. An "M" icon appears when the 430EX II is set for manual zooming.

Press and hold this button for two seconds to toggle the flash from flash shoe operation to wireless and back. The flash is in wireless mode when the LCD panel displays a Channel and Slave number. Wireless operation is available when the 430EX II is in either E-TTL Auto or Manual mode.

[+/-] Buttons

These buttons allow you scroll through the options available for a particular feature set. They are active only when a feature has been activated by one of the other buttons.

7 – Select/Set Button

When the flash is in E-TTL mode, pressing this button will activate Flash Exposure Compensation, indicated by a blinking FEC icon. You can then use the [+/-] buttons to add or subtract flash exposure from +3 to -3 stops in 0.3-stop increments. Press the [Select/Set] button to register your choice, at which point the display will stop blinking.

When the flash is in Manual mode, pressing this button will activate manual flash power adjustment, indicated by a blinking fraction. You can then use the [+/-] buttons to adjust flash output from full to 1/64th power in 0.3-stop increments. Press the [Select/Set] button a second time to register your choice, at which point the display will stop blinking.

E-TTL AUTOMATIC MODE

This operating mode uses the camera's light meter to automatically control flash output and exposure. It is best for situations where the flash-to-subject distance and subject brightness are variable. The flash can be attached directly to the camera's hot shoe or connected via Canon OC-E3 extension cable. It can also be operated as a wireless slave triggered either by a master flash unit (such as a 580EX II), a Canon ST-E2 Speedlite Transmitter, or the built-in flash of an EOS 7D, 60D, or Rebel T3i. The following features are available in E-TTL auto mode:

Flash Exposure Compensation (FEC)

Press the [Select/Set] button. When the FEC symbol begins blinking use the [+/-] buttons to add or subtract flash exposure. You can adjust the exposure over a range of +3 to -3 stops in 0.3-stop increments. Press the [Select/Set] button to lock-in your choice, at which point the display will stop blinking. (With most EOS bodies, this can also be set on the camera body.)

Auto Zoom

By default the 430EX II will automatically adjust its flash coverage angle to match the marked focal length of whatever lens is attached to your camera. The auto-settings are 24, 28, 35, 50, 70, 80, and 105mm. Coverage is based on full-frame 35mm format. If you have enabled

C.Fn 09 (Auto-zoom for sensor size) the 430EX II will automatically reduce the angle of coverage to match that of Canon APS-C sensors. This improves lighting efficiency, reduces recycle times and improves battery life.

Manual Zoom

Press the Zoom Button once. When the coverage angle indicator in the upper right corner of the display blinks, use the [+/-] buttons to manually increase or decrease the angle of coverage. The choices are 24, 28, 35, 50, 70, 80, and 105mm. Coverage is based on full-frame 35mm format.

High-Speed Sync

When you select this option the 430EX II will flash stroboscopically, in sync with the shutter as it crosses the focal plane. Although this allows the 430EX II to synchronize with shutter speeds higher than 1/200 or 1/250 second, it also reduces light output as shutter speeds move progressively past the normal maximum sync speed.

Second-Curtain Sync

The 430EX II normally triggers the instant the first shutter curtain opens. If you select Second-Curtain Sync the flash will trigger immediately before the second shutter curtain closes.

Keep in mind that given a fixed ISO setting, the longer the shutter speed you use, the more effect that ambient light and any resulting pre-flash motion blur will have on the image. With first-curtain sync any ambient light blurring will happen after the flash exposure. With second-curtain sync any ambient light blurring will happen before the flash exposure.

MANUAL MODE

This operating mode allows you to manually adjust the light output to the setting of your choice. This mode is best for situations where the flash and subject are at a fixed distance and the subject has a fixed brightness. When you are in this mode you will be able to make the following selections:

Manual power adjustment

Flash power settings are manually adjustable from full

(1/1) to 1/64 in 0.3-stop increments. Press the [Select/Set] button to activate manual flash power adjustment, indicated by a blinking fraction. Use the [+/-] Buttons to adjust manual flash power from full to 1/64th power in 0.3-stop increments. Press the [Select/Set] button a second time to register your choice.

Manual Zoom (refer to E-TTL instructions)

High-Speed Sync (refer to E-TTL instructions)

Second-Curtain Sync (refer to E-TTL instructions)

WIRELESS OPERATION (E-TTL OR MANUAL)



When the 430EXII is set to this option it will function as a remote slave flash unit controlled by a master flash unit such as a Canon 580EX II or ST-E2 Speedlite Transmitter. The master and slave(s) must be set to the same communication channel. Slaves set to a different channel than the master will not trigger. You can select from four channels, numbered 1 – 4.

Slaves can also be grouped so that, for example, one group (A) is the main light source, a second group (B) provides fill light, and a third group (C) illuminates the background. You can assign the 430EX II to any one of three groups: A, B, or C.

To set the Communication Channel:

1. Press (but don't hold) the [Zoom/Wireless] button until **CH.** will blink.
2. Use the [+/-] button to select a channel (1 – 4).
3. Press the [Select/Set] button to register your choice.

To set the Slave ID:

1. Press (but don't hold) the [Zoom/Wireless] button until **SLAVE** blinks.
2. Use the [+/-] button to select a slave ID (A, B, or C).
3. Press the [Select/Set] button to register your choice.

CUSTOM FUNCTIONS (ALL MODES)

C.Fn	Function	Setting	Description
00	Distance indicator display	0	Meters (m)
		1	Feet (ft)
01	Auto power off	0	Enabled
		1	Disabled
02	Modeling flash	0	Enabled (via depth-of-field preview button)
		1	Enabled (via test-firing button on flash)
		2	Enabled (via either button)
		3	Disabled
07	Test firing with autoflash	0	1/32 power
		1	Full output
08	AF-assist beam	0	Enabled
		1	Disabled
09	Auto zoom for sensor size	0	Enabled
		1	Disabled
10	Slave auto power off timer	0	60 minutes
		1	10 minutes
11	Slave auto power off cancel	0	Will wake up from sleep within 8 hours
		1	Wake up from sleep up to 1 hour only
14	Flash range/aperture info	0	Maximum distance
		1	Aperture display

To set a Custom Function:

1. Press the [+] button to scroll upward through the custom functions or [-] to scroll downward.
2. When you have selected the C.Fn you want to change, press the [Select/Set] button. The current setting will begin blinking.
3. Press the [+] or [-] button to move the setting up or down in value.
4. Press the [Mode] button to register your change.