

# Flash X-Tender... (The Better Beamer)

From Walt Anderson. *The extra "flash power" you need!* Packs flat, weighs 3 ounces, sets up in 30 seconds and gains up to 3 full f-stops! The light that would normally be wasted is focused back into your frame, allowing your flash to reach distant subjects and boosting its power. It is designed to be used with lenses 300mm (film equivalent) or longer. When used with TTL flash, exposure is automatically handled by your camera and flash, and no special compensation is required. Improved design features the new Quick Attach Strap for quick easy mounting on your flash, replacing the more cumbersome elastic band of earlier models. Protective lens pouch included. You can shoot at much greater



distances and/or with smaller apertures. Your flash recycles faster and flash batteries last longer too! The rugged, injection-molded plastic side supports are attached to the flash head by a sturdy Velcro band. The rigid side supports firmly hold the Fresnel screen in place. *Ideal for wildlife, sports, news, or any situation where you use flash with long lenses. Great for adding a catchlight to the eyes of distant subjects.*



Flash X-tender on Canon 550 flash. Shown with Canon 100-400 lens with F-6 Wimberley flash bracket and Wimberley Sidekick bracket



**Some tips...** Typical subjects usually look best when the flash is set at about minus 1.3 up to minus 1.7 f-stops. Flash stronger than this may look "over-flashed." The Flash X-tender support arms are bent at an angle at the flash head. You should line up this bend with the front lens of your flash unit. Doing so will hold the Flash X-tender Fresnel lens the proper distance from the flash head.

The output is usually best when the flash head is manually zoomed to about 50mm. Scratches or dirt on the Fresnel lens will degrade performance. Store the lens in its protective pouch when not in use. The Fresnel Lens is flexible, but *will crack if bent too far.* (Replacement lenses and other parts are available)

We recommend the use of a flash bracket and TTL off-camera shoe cord. With the right flash bracket you can mount the flash higher to minimize red eye and eliminate shadows from your lens hood. You can maintain the flash in an upright position even when you rotate lenses with tripod collars to vertical. You can also precisely tilt the flash up or down, to better aim the flash for near or far subjects. Our favorite flash arms are from Wimberley (<http://tripodhead.com>) or Really Right Stuff ([www.reallyrightstuff.com](http://www.reallyrightstuff.com)).

With lenses shorter than 300 mm (on film and full-frame digital) or 200mm on 1.5/1.6x digital, you may get a "hot spot" in the center of the image (which might work in certain images). You can preview this by manually firing the flash and observing where the light hits, or by taking a test image and viewing the results.



Sandhill Crane. Over 100 feet away. 1/250 at f4.5 with TTL set at -1.3 with Canon 20D and Flash X-tender on Canon 550 Flash.

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## Available in Five Sizes... \$40 each

**FX-1:** Nikon SB-24 and SB-28; Canon 430EZ and 199D; Minolta 5200 and 5400; Pentax 5000 AF. The Canon 380 flash measures 1 1/2 and will work with shims. The measurement between the ears of a FX-1 is 1 9/16 inch.

**FX-1B:** Nikon SB 80 & SB 80DX. Same as the FX-1 but includes extra shim for adjustments. Use with Nikon SB-50 not recommended. No Model is a perfect fit for the Canon 420 EX (the FX-1B is the closest fit for this older Canon flash).

**FX-2:** Canon 540EZ and 550EZ; Nikon SB 25 and SB 26; Sigma EF 500. The Minolta 5600 HS needs extra shim material wrapped around front of unit (not included) The measurement between the ears of the FX-2 is 1 3/4 inch.

**FX-3:** Canon 580EX flash.

**FX-4:** Nikon SB-800 and SB-600

**FX-5:** Canon 430EX

**Caution:** The Fresnel lens acts like a magnifying glass. **Don't point it directly towards the sun** because the focused rays can cause flammable materials to ignite, burn your skin, or melt and deform the plastic on your flash unit. Don't leave tripod unattended.

**X-tenders are \$40 each**  
Plus \$5.95 Priority Mail Shipping



**Synergistic Visions**  
P.O. Box 2585  
Grand Junction, CO 81502

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