

WHITE LIGHTNING'S RC-1 REMOTE CONTROL

Ultra Control in the Palm of Your Hand

by Jack and Sue Drafa

**PHOTOGRAPHIC'S
USER
REPORT**

For every working studio photographer, there are two basic elements of survival: skill and efficiency. While skill comes with education and experience, efficiency requires equipment with which the photographer can feel comfortable, and which will help make the photographic process easier. One such innovation is the RC-1 remote control, designed exclusively for the Ultra series of White Lightning flash units by Paul C. Buff, Inc. This lightweight magic box allows the photographer to adjust the entire lighting system without having to look away from the viewfinder.

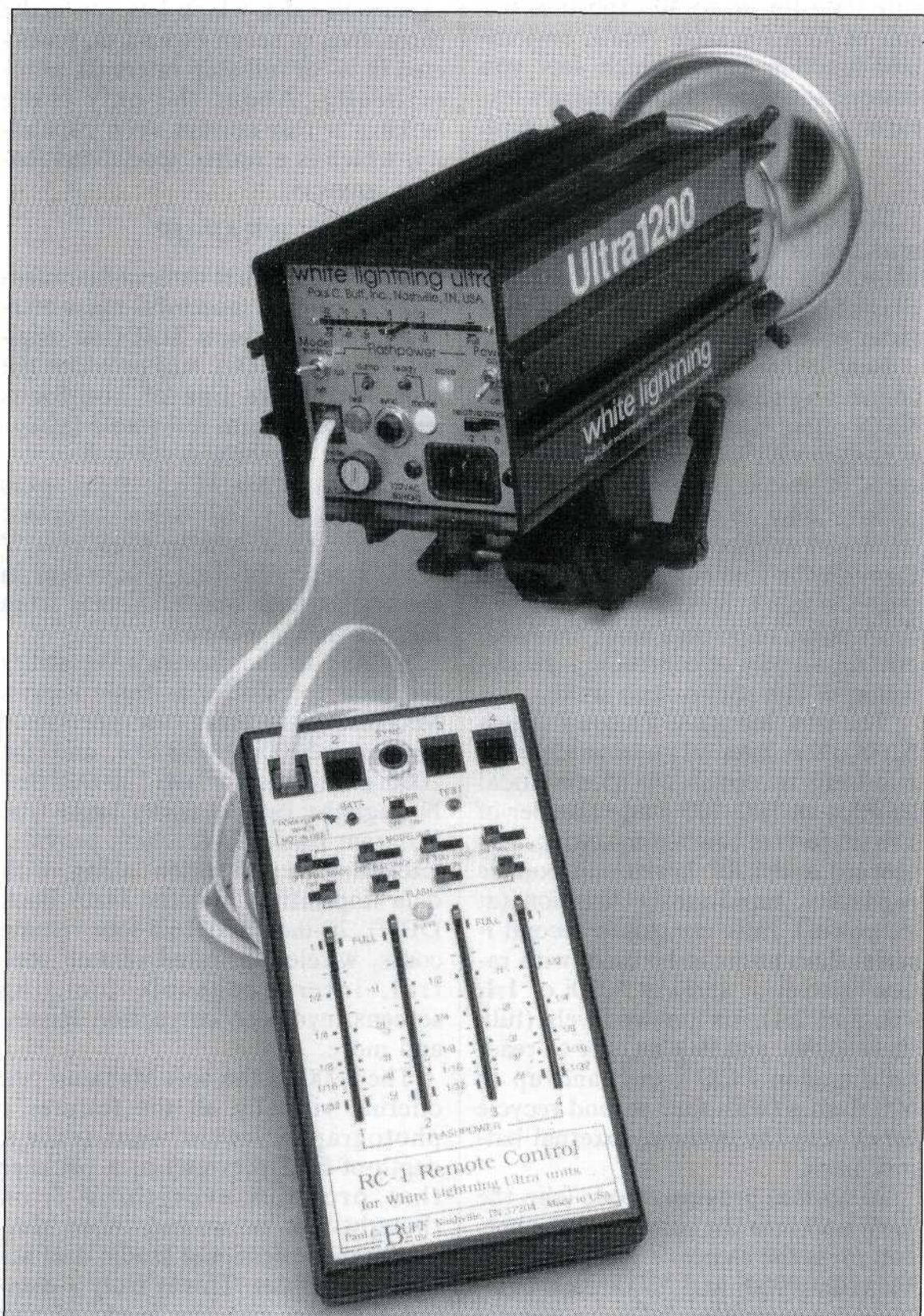
FLASH-UNIT CONTROLS

To help you understand how the remote control works, we will first give you a quick tour of the controls on the White Lightning Ultra unit itself, so that you can see just how much lighting control you can have from a distance using the RC-1.

All the flash controls are located on the back of the flash unit. At the top of the panel, you will find the flash-power control, which consists of a slide bar for stepless power adjustment over a five-stop range from full power down to $\frac{1}{32}$ power. An additional scale indicates the decrease in f-stops.

Below this control you will find a modeling-light tracking switch, which allows you to select proportional tracking, full modeling light regardless of the flash setting, or no modeling light at all. When tracking is selected, the modeling illumination will be adjusted proportionally with the flash intensity, so you can view your subject in a more realistic light.

A dump light in the center of the panel lets you know when you need to dump excess flash power, and the test button directly beneath it lets you do just that. There is also a ready



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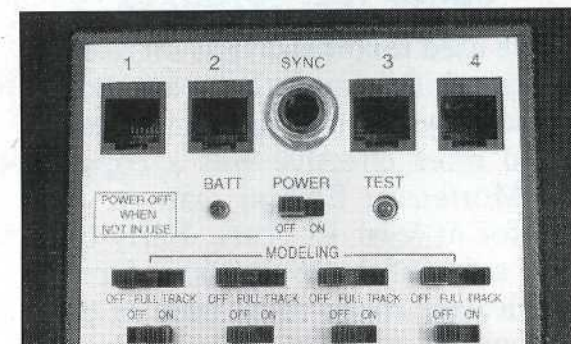
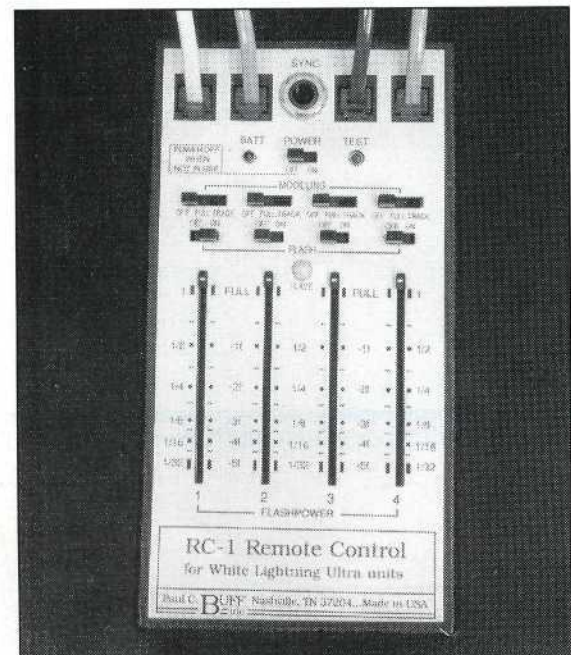
light, accompanied by a model button that lets you select whether you want the modeling light to go off with the flash or remain on at all times. The slave sensor is located next to the ready light, and the main

power switch is located on the right side of the panel. At the bottom of the panel you will find a remote jack, test-fire button, sync jack, modeling-light button, modeling-light intensity switch, fuse, and a receptacle for an

AC power cord.

RC-1 CONTROLS

The RC-1 connects to the flash unit via the remote jack which, although unique to flash systems, is extremely common in most homes or businesses. Have you guessed it yet? It's a telephone jack! By plugging a standard telephone cord into the back of the White Lightning Ultra, and then connecting the other end to the RC-1, you can effectively put



Above: The RC-1 can be used to control the settings of up to four separate flash units by means of standard telephone cord connections.

Left: For ultra convenience, the RC-1 remote control unit can be used to adjust virtually all of the White Lightning Ultra's settings, including the flash-power intensity and modeling-light intensity.

most of the strobe's controls into the palm of your hand.

Four 25-foot color-coded cords are supplied with the RC-1. These plug into the four telephone jacks located at the top of the RC-1 remote control. As a result, up to four separate flash units can be controlled simultaneously. Each flash can be turned on or off using individual flash switches at the center of the panel. There are also four separate modeling-light controls that allow for no modeling light, full-power modeling light, and

proportional lighting.

The four flash-power slide-bar controls are the most important part of the RC-1. These adjust the light intensity of the flash from full power down to 1/2 power; and when the modeling lamps are set to "track," the flash-power control will also adjust the modeling lights' intensity. When you make a change with one of these slide bars to a lesser power, a red dump light will appear on the back of the flash. To dump this power so that you have the correct power output, simply press the test button on the RC-1 and the entire system will reset itself to the new lower power setting.

A slave sensor and a sync jack, similar to those on the flash unit, are also present on the RC-1 and provide the same functions. Since the RC-1 is powered by a 9V battery, an additional power switch and battery-check light are furnished to keep the RC-1 fully operational. When you first turn the RC-1 on, the battery light will blink to indicate sufficient remote power.

IN USE

Using the RC-1 in the studio gives you the feeling of being a lighting conductor, with the RC-1 as your baton. Once you have your basic lighting setup, and the camera is in place, you are ready to orchestrate your lighting ratios. With the RC-1 in hand and your eye at the viewfinder, you can slide the controls for each light until the ratios are perfect. Next, you fire the test button to dump any high power left in any of the flash units, and shoot.

Bracketing the lighting is as simple as starting at low settings on the slide bars, and slowly increasing them between shots. When you process your film, you will be able to pick the most pleasing ratio. Furthermore, you no longer have to climb over cords, lights, and props to make changes in your lighting ratios. This in turn speeds up the shooting process, and at the same time improves the quality of your results. With a \$99 price tag, the RC-1 remote will easily pay for itself in just a few photo sessions.

Paul C. Buff, Inc. sells all of their products directly—no dealers. So if you desire further information or would like to purchase a unit, tell them Jack and Sue sent you and contact them at Paul C. Buff, Inc., 2725 Bransford Ave., Nashville, TN 37204; telephone 1-800-443-5542. ■

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