

THE 56-INCH MOON UNIT PAUL C. BUFF

THE 56-INCH MOON UNIT FOUNDATION PACKAGE:

The 56-inch Moon Unit is specifically configured to augment our **AlienBees ABR800** and **Zeus ZRMI RingMaster** ringflash systems. The MU56 Moon Unit Foundation Package arrives ready to assemble with the following components:

- The **Reversible Silver / White Backing** allows you to build your Moon Unit with either the silver or white surface facing the inside of the unit.
- The **Fiberglass Assembly Rods** are used to construct the frame of the Moon Unit. Eight rods fit inside the triangular rod posts on the speedring and inside the rod pockets on the reversible silver / white backing. Two extra rods are provided for replacement needs.
- The **Rotating Speedring** is used to attach the Moon Unit to your ringflash using the outside locking ledges on the unit (fitting in place of the standard ring reflector).
- The **MU56 Aim-Through Assembly** includes the primary diffuser; the secondary diffuser and the aim-through diffuser / reflector holder. The aim-through assembly is used with front diffusion fabric panels having center holes for traditional on-camera ringflash use.
- The **MU56 Non-Aim-Through Assembly** includes the primary diffuser; the secondary diffuser and the non-aim-through diffuser / reflector holder. The non-aim-through assembly is used with front diffusion fabric panels without center holes for use off-camera as conventional flash units.

ASSEMBLING THE 56-INCH MOON UNIT:

Before attaching the Moon Unit to your ringflash unit, **ensure that the ringflash / power pack is TURNED OFF** and unplugged from the power source. Both the ring reflector and the front cover / diffuser / gel holder must be removed in order to mount the Moon Unit.

1. Begin with the **reversible silver / white backing**. Choose the surface that you wish to have facing the inside for the internal bounce. Place the reversible backing on the floor in front of you with the chosen interior surface facing upwards, allowing the edges of the backing to curl inside.

2. Take the **rotating speedring** and position it over the center hole of the reversible backing with the larger, flat side of the speedring facing down. You will notice that there are sixteen triangular posts equally distanced around the speedring's inner circle – line up every other triangular post with the eight stitched seams on the inside of the reversible backing.

3. Take one **fiberglass rod** and place it inside one triangular rod post on the speedring. Take the opposite end of the rod and slide it into the corresponding fabric rod pocket on the inside edge of the reversible backing.

4. On the opposite side of the speedring, insert the next rod into the opposite speedring rod post and its corresponding fabric pocket. The flexible rods will bend, bowing to **create the arched shape of the Moon Unit**. The rods will fit snugly inside the speedring posts and the fabric pockets, resting against the reversible backing. It is easiest to begin in one corner and then move to the opposite side to place your next rod. Attach the remaining rods, working in opposites, until the frame is constructed.

5. With the frame constructed, you are ready to **attach the Moon Unit frame to your ringflash**. The speedring attaches to the outside face of the ringflash unit, attaching in place of the standard ring reflector using the same rotating connection method.

Note: Care should be taken when attaching / removing any Moon Unit components to avoid damage or breakage to the ringflash flashtubes or modeling lamps.

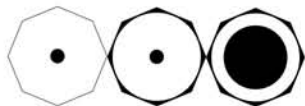
Turn the **reflector lock** on the ringflash back panel to the left "UNLOCK" position. Line up the speedring with the circular face of the ringflash and slide it over the ringflash housing. Facing the ringflash, **rotate the speedring clockwise** while pressing it in toward the housing until you find a position where the speedring snaps further onto the housing. Rotate a final quarter-turn to set the position. Return to the reflector lock and turn the knob to the right "LOCK" position.



6. Place the primary diffuser inside the secondary diffuser and construct the aim-through or non-aim-through assembly.

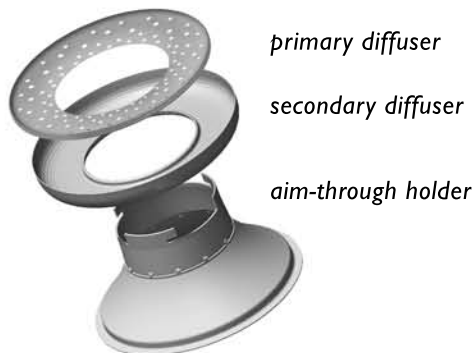
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>> The **AIM-THROUGH ASSEMBLY** is used with:



- the DF56OCH 56-inch Octagonal Panel (with hole)
- the DF50RCH 50-inch Round Panel (with hole)
- the DF50RNGCH 50-inch Ring Panel (with hole)

If you plan to use an aim-through front diffusion panel (with a cut center hole), you will use the **aim-through holder**. These diffusion panels are designed for use with the 56-inch Moon Unit and ringflash when used in the traditional ringflash aim-through mode.



primary diffuser

secondary diffuser

aim-through holder



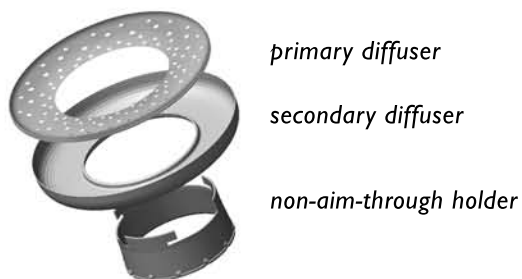
aim-through assembly

>> The **NON-AIM-THROUGH ASSEMBLY** is used with:



- the DF56ONH 56-inch Octagonal Panel
- the DF50RNH 50-inch Round Panel
- the DF39SNH 39-inch Square Panel
- the DF39WPNH 39-inch Window Pane Panel

If you plan to use a non-aim-through front diffusion panel (without a center hole), you will use the **non-aim-through holder**. These diffusion panels are designed for use with the 56-inch Moon Unit and ringflash when used off-camera as a conventional flash.



primary diffuser

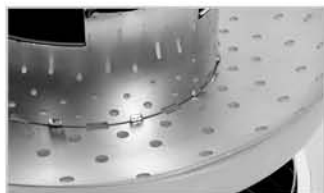
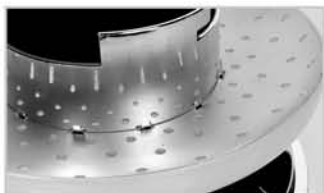
secondary diffuser

non-aim-through holder



non-aim-through assembly

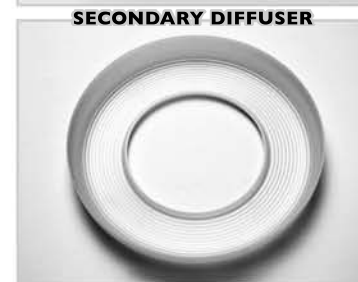
Slide the aim-through or non-aim-through holder inside the center hole of the primary / secondary diffuser set. Rotate the primary / secondary diffuser set to line up the holes with the raised snaps on the holder. Press the diffuser set down and twist to lock it into place.



twist the diffuser set to lock the position



PRIMARY DIFFUSER



SECONDARY DIFFUSER



NON-AIM-THROUGH HOLDER



AIM-THROUGH HOLDER



AIM-THROUGH ASSEMBLY



NON-AIM-THROUGH ASSEMBLY

7. Attach the constructed assembly to your ringflash. Turn the reflector lock to the left "UNLOCK" position and attach the assembly in place of the ringflash front cover / diffuser / gel holder in the inside center chamber of the unit.

8. Take your chosen front diffusion fabric panel and wrap the outside edges of the panel around the face of the Moon Unit to make the front surface flat and tight. With the center hole fabrics (for aim-through use) tuck the material behind the outer lip of the center reflector.

HEAT PRECAUTIONS for the 56-INCH MOON UNIT

Both the AlienBees ABR800 Ringflash and the Zeus ZRMI RingMaster incorporate a set of high intensity modeling lamps that produce considerable heat. Both additionally have flashtubes and internal electronics that must dissipate up to 320 Ws (with the ABR800) or up to 2500 Ws (with the ZRMI) for each flash. The internal fan(s) remove the heat from these sources in most configurations, in normal use. However, rapid firing and/or extended use of the modeling lamps will require the dissipation of extreme amounts of heat. There is susceptibility for overheating present when the 56-inch Moon Unit and internal diffusers are used with either the ABR800 Ringflash or the ZRMI RingMaster. To prevent overheating, exercise reasonable caution in heavy-use situations and do not combine high shooting frequencies and full brightness modeling lamp settings with the highest flashpower output settings.

> The AlienBees ABR800 Ringflash:

With continuous rapid firing of the ABR800, **do not use the modeling lamps on the full brightness setting for more than a few shots at a time to prevent overheating.** With the modeling lamps turned OFF, an ABR800 can be fired once every 3 seconds for quite a while without causing overheating concerns for the diffuser. With the lamps on full brightness, overheating could occur at any continuous full power firing rate that is faster than about 6 seconds per shot.

Avoid leaving the modeling lamps on the full brightness setting for extended periods of time. With the white model ON button depressed, the lamps are turned on full brightness. With the grey TRACK button depressed and the flashpower output slider set at the FULL position, the modeling lamps are also set to full brightness. To reduce heat, drop the flashpower output to 1/2 power (-1f) for all day use. If it is absolutely necessary to use the unit at the full power setting, leave the modeling lamps OFF (accomplished by releasing the white model ON button), only turning them on for short previews as needed. Keep these short preview sessions under 5 minutes to reduce heat. To further reduce the total heat load, use the modeling lamp recycle indication setting (set by depressing the grey CYCLE button). In this mode, the modeling lamps will go dim as the ringflash unit recycles.

> The Zeus ZRMI RingMaster:

With the dual sliders on the Zeus Power Packs, you have the option to use a flash head at full power while setting the modeling lamps at less-than-full brightness. To avoid heat concerns, **set the modeling lamp output adjustment slider to 1/2 power (-1f), or lower** whenever possible.

Note with Dynalite Power Pack use: *When a Zeus head is used with a Dynalite pack, there is no provision for dimming modeling lamps. Additionally, the Zeus modeling lamps run brighter (and hotter) when used on a Dynalite pack. When using a Dynalite pack, it is recommended that you replace the provided 20-Watt modeling lamps in the ZRMI head with lower-wattage 10-Watt lamps (please see item 10W, a set of eight lamps, available by phone and on our website). Using the 10-Watt lamps will cut the heat load from modeling in half.*

For high frequency shooting with the Zeus Z2500 pack, the 2500 True Ws of available power can result in an immense generation of heat. Rapid firing with the modeling lamps set to full brightness will quickly cause heat concerns. Even with the modeling lamps turned OFF however, extreme rapid firing (1 shot every 6 seconds for more than 20 consecutive shots) can still create heat concerns. To decrease the heat load, **decrease the flashpower output and modeling lamp output to 1/2 power (-1f), or lower** when possible. As the modeling lamps operate at the same power in both the Z1250 and Z2500 packs, decreasing the output to 1/2 power or lower for the Z1250 is recommended to reduce the heat load as well.