ALIENBEES

DIGI⚡BEE

PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC

FLASH UNIT

OPERATION
MANUAL

the DIGIBEE *is a product by*
PAUL C. BUFF, INC.

Nashville **USA** *Tennessee*

www.**PAULCBUFF**.com

Thank you for choosing the DigiBee!

For more than thirty years, Paul C. Buff, Inc. has served photographers around the world from our headquarters here in Nashville, Tennessee. Since our first monolight was built and sold by phone, we've lead the industry with our innovative photographic flash units and accessories, offering outstanding performance at factory-direct prices. Over the years, we've built an enviable reputation for our unending customer support as we uphold the *Golden Rule* philosophy instilled by our founder, Paul C. Buff.

Thoughtful design, meticulous manufacturing, and extensive performance trials have been executed throughout the creation of the DigiBee, and each unit is thoroughly tested and examined for quality before it ships. Our high standards are carried from design and selection of materials to all aspects of the assembly process, until the product is carefully packaged and delivered to your doorstep. Now the real magic begins as the DigiBee is in your hands, ready to bring light to your creations, directed and shaped by your imagination.

Whether you are new to our company or a lifelong BUFF customer and enthusiastic supporter, we thank you for your purchase and look forward to seeing you well served by both this product and our company for years to come!

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION / The DigiBee Flash Unit

The DigiBee is a powerful, digitally controlled, **self-contained photographic flash unit** designed for professional use. Available in two output powers, DB400 and DB800, each unit offers consistent output, short flash durations, fast recycle, and excellent modeling previews. With the inclusion of a high intensity LED modeling lamp, the DigiBee can be used **for still or motion photography**, delivering a bright, clean light source for a wide variety of subjects. Adjustments can be made on the unit's rear control panel, featuring a digital display that indicates the settings and status.

The DigiBee is compatible with our full line of **light shaping modifiers and support accessories**, including reflectors, softboxes, umbrellas, light stands, and more. The unit arrives with a sync cord for hardwired camera connection and includes a port for our CyberSync transceiver, allowing the unit to be triggered and/or **controlled wirelessly** by our CyberSync wireless system. For location work, the unit is designed for use with our Vagabond **portable battery power** systems. With rugged, compact design and high-impact polycarbonate housing, the DigiBee is designed for heavy duty use, but boasts an unbelievably tiny size and lightweight frame.

Each DigiBee flash unit arrives with a daylight-balanced and UV-coated **flashtube**, a bright, daylight-balanced **LED modeling lamp** covered by a rubber dome, a 15-foot **sync cord** (1/8-inch mini to PC), a 15-foot standard North American **power cord** (120 Vac, 50-60 Hz), a **light stand mount** with ratchet handle, a protective **shipping cover**, and your DigiBee Flash Unit Operation Manual.

SUPPORT / Our Guarantee and Factory Warranty

We stand behind our products. The DigiBee arrives with our **60-Day Absolute Satisfaction Guarantee**, giving you 60 days to try out the unit and make sure that you love it. If it does not meet your needs as you had hoped, you can return it within 60 days for a refund, minus the shipping costs.

The DigiBee unit additionally carries a **2-Year Factory Warranty**. Paul C. Buff, Inc. guarantees to the original purchaser an individual product factory warranty against manufacturer defects in materials and workmanship, beginning with the date that the product is originally shipped to the customer. This warranty is limited to the repair or replacement of a product or component that should become defective under normal use. Please see our website or contact us for complete details.

Should you have questions or need assistance at any time, contact our friendly customer service team at **Toll Free 1-800-443-5542**, or send us an email at **info@paulcbuff.com**.

SAFETY / Warnings and Safety Instructions

The DigiBee flash unit is designed for professional photographic use. As with all electronic equipment, users must observe all warnings and safety precautions. Carefully read all operating instructions and safety instructions before use.

WARNING! HIGH VOLTAGE! Flash units contain high voltages and internal components that can store dangerous voltages, even when the units are unplugged.

DANGER! Do not leave a flash unit unattended when it is turned on and / or in use. As with all electric equipment, close supervision is necessary. Do not allow unattended children around this equipment as potentially dangerous conditions may result. Turn the system OFF and unplug the power cord when not in use.

DANGER! Do not operate or store a flash unit in or around water. Do not operate the flash unit in wet, damp, or moist conditions, or in environments where water or other liquid could be dropped, splashed, sprayed, or spilled on the unit. High voltage equipment can cause electric shock when operated in or near water. Your flash unit should only be used in dry, moderate conditions where the equipment is protected from rain, dirt, sand, and dust.

WARNING! The faceplate can get very hot during use. While in use, the flash unit's faceplate, flashtube, modeling lamp dome cover, and faceplate accessories (such as reflectors, grids, and umbrella poles) can get very hot to the touch, remaining hot even after the unit has been powered down. Heat is intensified when the unit is used in down-angle positions and/or when used with accessories that trap heat (such as gridded reflectors and closed softboxes). After use, turn the unit off, disconnect it from its power source, and allow ample time for the equipment to cool before touching any component or any accessories.

WARNING! The modeling lamp is an extremely bright, high intensity light source. Do not stare directly into the light, especially with high output settings at close range.

WARNING! Do not operate the unit on or around flammable materials such as paper, carpet, wood, sawdust, gasoline, etc. Keep away from fire and heated surfaces.

WARNING! Do not use ungrounded power cords, power outlets, or power strips. Connect the unit only to 3-wire, grounded AC outlets to avoid shock hazard. Do not connect to an ungrounded outlet or 2-wire extension cord or adapter. Do not use any cords that have been damaged. **Do not use adapters on the power cord to connect to outlets of incompatible voltages** as this can damage the unit.

WARNING! Do not cover the unit or obstruct ventilation during operation. Air circulation must be permitted. **Do not insert any foreign objects into any ventilation holes** and do not carry or store a flash unit together with small metal objects (paper clips, hair pins, etc.) that could fall into the ventilation holes.

WARNING! Paul C. Buff flash units contain no user-serviceable parts. Never open, disassemble, or attempt to repair any components. Only qualified technicians should service the system as incorrect disassembly can create an electric shock hazard. If the unit has been dropped or damaged, discontinue use and contact Customer Service. Do not attempt to make any changes or modifications as any modifications made, outside of those performed or approved by Paul C. Buff, Inc., may present hazardous conditions and void the warranty. The only user replaceable components are the flashtube and light stand mount.

WARNING! Do not attempt to remove the modeling lamp dome cover. The modeling lamp is NOT user-replaceable and the cover should not be removed, except by a qualified Paul C. Buff technician. Attempting to remove or replace the dome or modeling lamp could void your warranty.

> ! **IMPORTANT!** Carefully **read and observe all warnings, safety instructions, and operating instructions before use**. If you have any questions or concerns, contact our Customer Service Team before proceeding.

OVERVIEW / Quick Start Setup

1. Mount your DigiBee flash unit to a suitable light stand.

Place the flash unit's built-in stand mount on your light stand and turn the stand mount tightening knob clockwise to secure the unit on the stand. Use the ratchet handle to adjust the angle.
> more info on **Stand Mount Specs: Page 30**; more info on **Light Stand Mounting: Page 12**

**2. Remove the protective shipping cover from the faceplate.**

Squeeze the top release levers together to contract the four faceplate holding fingers, allowing you to remove the protective shipping cover, revealing the flashtube and modeling lamp / dome beneath.
> more info on **Faceplate Mounting: Page 12**; more info on **The Shipping Cover: Page 15**

3. Mount your chosen light modifying accessories.

Squeeze the top release levers again to contract the faceplate fingers and mount a faceplate accessory (such as a reflector, a beauty dish, or a softbox speedring). Ensure that al four holding fingers are inside the accessory mount, then release the levers to their expanded holding position. For umbrellas (used with or without a reflector), slide the umbrella pole inside the flash unit's top umbrella shaft, tightening the top screw to hold the pole in place.
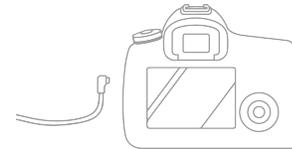> more info on **Faceplate Mounting: Page 12**; more info on **Mounting Accessories: Page 15**
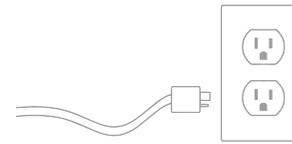
4. Connect the flash unit to AC power.

Connect the provided power cord from the back panel of the flash unit to your chosen AC power source (120 Vac, 50-60 Hz).
> more info on **Powering the DigiBee: Page 16**

5. Connect the flash unit to your camera.

Connect the provided sync cord from the flash unit (below the control panel, labeled SYNC PORT) to your camera's PC Sync input.
> more info on **Syncing With Your Camera: Page 16**
> optional info on **The CyberSync Wirelss System: Page 17**

6. Turn the flash unit ON.

The top "power bee" will shine and the control panel LEDs will shine to indicate their power/ready status.
> more info on **The DigiBee Control Panel: Page 10**

7. Set the desired flashpower output.

The DigiBee unit starts in its default mode of flashpower adjustment. Use the ADJUST arrows to adjust the output up or down within the range. The digital display will responsively adjust to indicate the current output setting in relative f-stops.
> more info on **Setting Flashpower Output: Page 18**

8. Adjust parameters as desired.

When the unit is first powered on, the initial default settings are displayed. The **modeling lamp is on** and set to **tracking mode**, **recycle indication is on** (set to both visual and audible), and the **slave eye is turned off**. Make your desired adjustments in each category by pressing the category button once (MODEL, RECYCLE, or SLAVE), then pressing again to toggle between mode options.
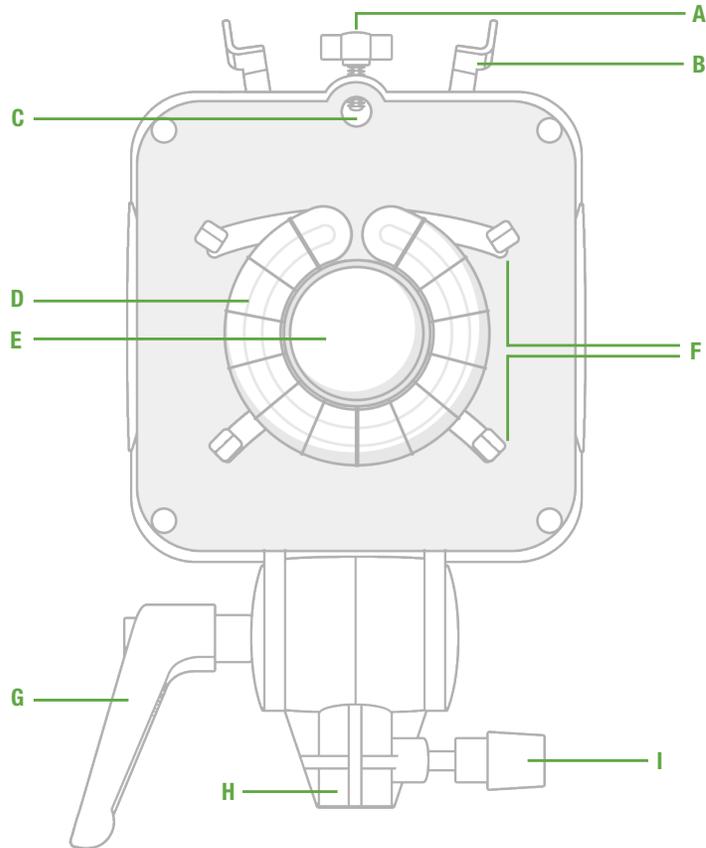> more info on **Setting Modeling Lamp Output: Page 18**
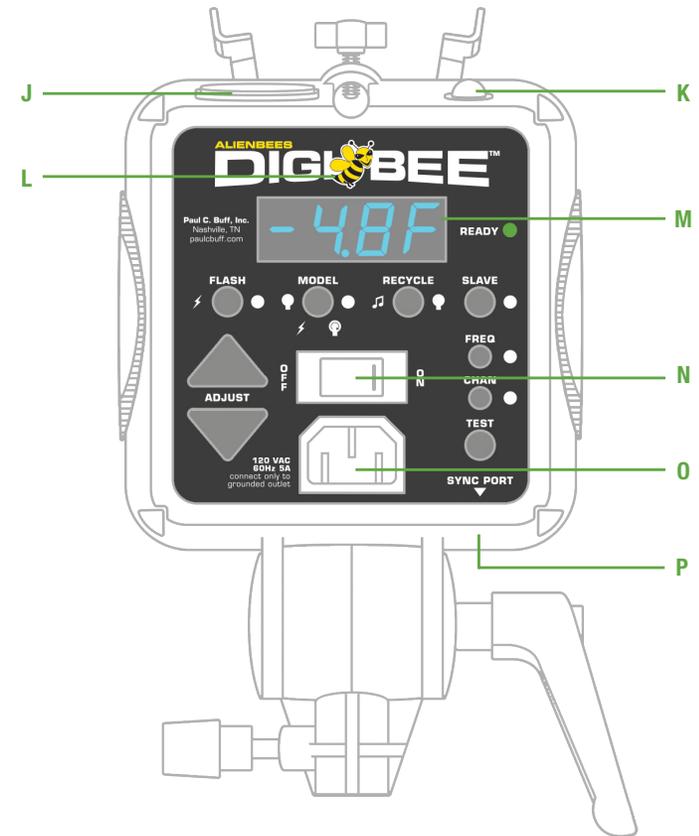> more info on **Setting Recycle Indication: Page 21**
> more info on **The Optical Slave: Page 17**

OVERVIEW / The DigiBee Physical Features

A Umbrella Tightening Knob

B Release Levers

C Umbrella Holding Shaft

D Flashtube

E Modeling Lamp / Dome Cover

F Faceplate Holding Fingers

G Ratchet Adjustment Handle

H Light Stand Connection Point

I Stand Mount Tightening Knob

J CyberSync CSXCV
Transceiver Receptacle

K Optical Slave Eye Dome

L "Power Bee"
Power Indicator Light

M Digital Display

N On / Off Power Switch

O Power Cord Socket

P Sync Port
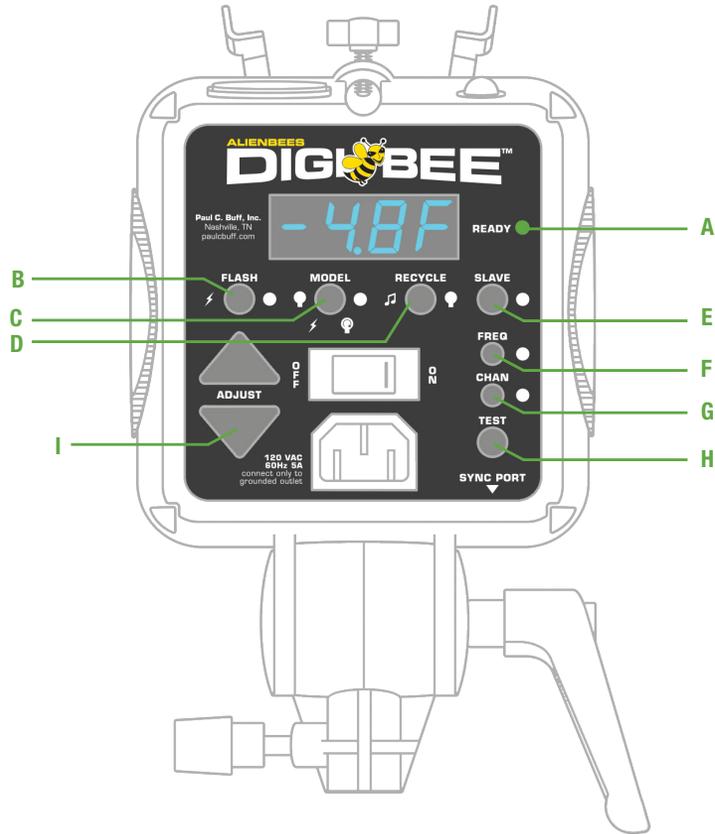
OVERVIEW / The DigiBee Control Panel

READY INDICATOR (A)

FLASH Button (B)

⚡ **FLASH ON LED** lightning bolt, left of FLASH (flash function ON)

⬤ **FLASH ADJUSTMENT LED** circle, right of FLASH (flash adjustment)

MODEL Button (C)

💡 **MODEL ON LED** light bulb, left of MODEL (modeling lamp ON)

⬤ **MODEL ADJUSTMENT LED** circle, right of MODEL (model mode adjustment)

⚡ **MODEL TRACKING MODE LED** lightning bolt, bottom left of MODEL

💡 **MODEL INDEPENDENT MODE LED** arrow bulb, bottom right of MODEL

RECYCLE Button (D)

♫ **AUDIBLE RECYCLE MODE LED** music note, left of RECYCLE

💡 **VISUAL RECYCLE MODE LED** light bulb, right of RECYCLE

SLAVE Button (E)

⬤ **SLAVE ON LED** circle, right of SLAVE (slave cell active)

FREQ (Frequency) Button (F)

⬤ **FREQ ADJUSTMENT MODE LED** circle, right of FREQ

CHAN (Channel) Button (G)

⬤ **CHAN ADJUSTMENT MODE LED** circle, right of CHAN

TEST Button (H)

ADJUST Up / Down Buttons (I)

SETUP / Light Stand Mounting

The DigiBee includes a built-in light stand mount, allowing you to secure the unit to a suitable light stand. The mount is compatible with all current Buff light stands, as well as most standard light stands with top connection studs (couplers) up to 5/8-inch in diameter.

1. Set up your light stand. Expand the stand's footprint to a wide, stable position and tighten all knobs to lock the open position. *You can make height adjustments after the flash unit is mounted.*

2. On the DigiBee light stand mount, **ensure that the stand mount tightening knob is unscrewed**, leaving the stand mount chamber clear.

3. Tighten the unit's ratchet handle for mounting. *You can loosen the handle to make angle adjustments after the unit is securely positioned on the light stand.*

4. Place the open chamber of the DigiBee light stand mount **over the top metal connection stud** on your light stand. When the DigiBee unit is fully seated over the stud, twist the stand mount tightening knob clockwise to secure the position.

5. Loosen the ratchet handle to **adjust the angle of the unit**. Turn the handle clockwise to loosen and adjust positioning, counter-clockwise to tighten and secure the position.

> **Tip:** The handle on the DigiBee light stand mount has **ratchet action**. Pressing in on the handle's center button with your thumb allows you to pull the handle out to adjust the handle position. Release the button and resume turning the handle to tighten.

SETUP / Faceplate Mounting

The DigiBee unit's top release levers control the four faceplate holding fingers, allowing you to mount and dismount faceplate accessories such as reflectors, beauty dishes, softbox/octabox speedrings, and the protective shipping cover.

Squeezing the release levers together causes the four fingers to contract, allowing you to place an accessory on the faceplate or remove one.

Releasing the release levers causes the four fingers to expand back to their resting, open position, to hold a faceplate accessory. When mounting an accessory, always ensure that all four holding fingers are inside when the release levers are released, securely holding the accessory.
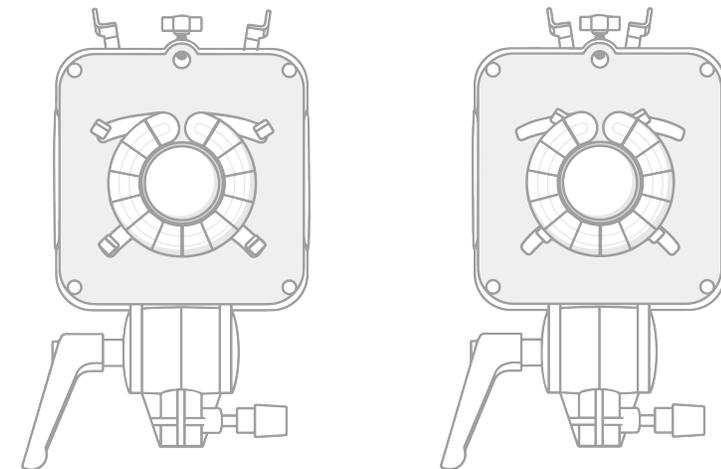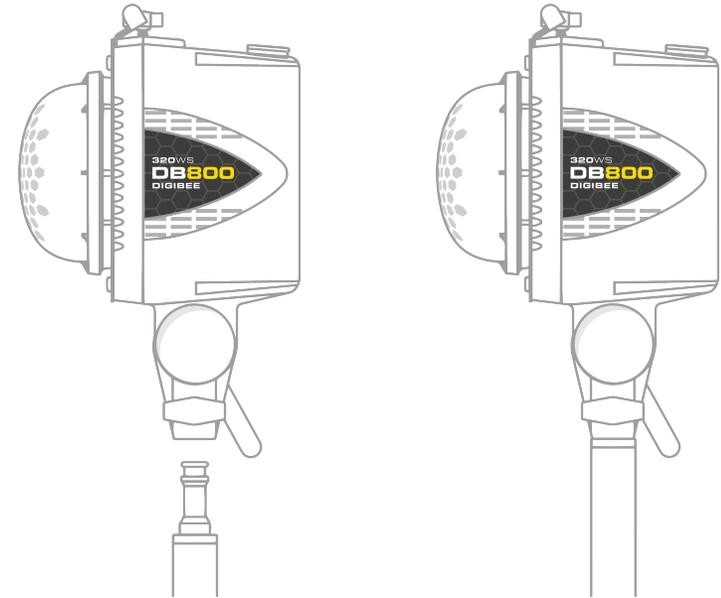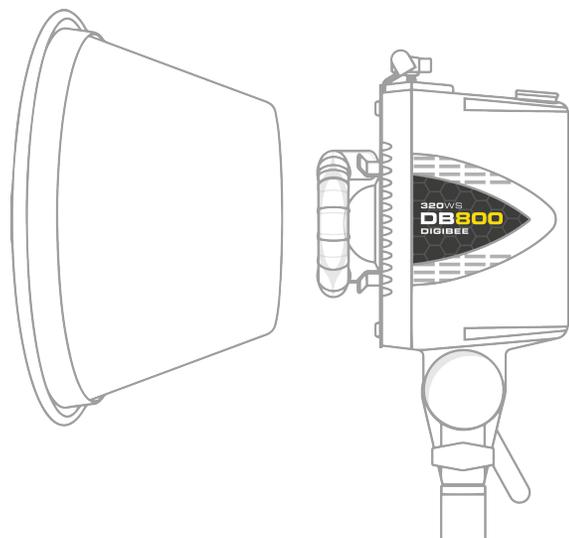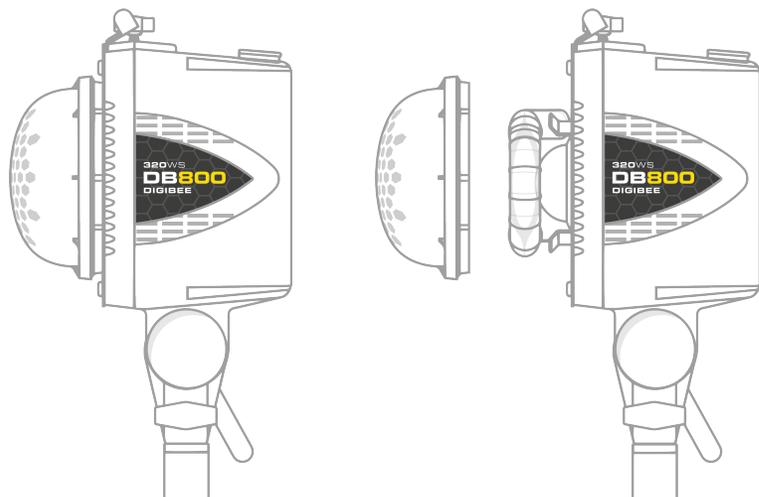
SETUP/ The Shipping Cover

The shipping cover is used to protect the DigiBee flashtube and modeling lamp while the unit is being stored or in transit, and it must be removed before the use. To remove the cover, hold the shipping cover in one hand and **squeeze the top release levers together** with your other hand to contract the faceplate fingers. Remove the shipping cover by pulling it straight out and away from the faceplate. Releasing the top levers allows the four faceplate fingers to expand back to their resting position.

SETUP / Mounting Accessories

We offer a variety of light modifying accessories that are compatible with DigiBee unit, attaching either to the unit's front faceplate or mounting inside the unit's umbrella shaft.

Reflectors (including Beauty Dishes and the LiteMod Mainframe): Reflectors mount on the unit's faceplate (in place of the shipping cover), held in place by the four faceplate fingers. To attach a reflector, squeeze the unit's top release levers together with one hand, and place the reflector's circular mount opening on the faceplate, outside of the flashtube and fingers. Release the levers to expand the fingers, ensuring that all four fingers are inside the reflector, securely holding it in place.

Softboxes (including Octaboxes and Stripboxes): Softboxes mount to the unit on the faceplate (in place of the shipping cover), with the softbox speedring held by the four faceplate fingers. To attach a softbox, squeeze the unit's top release levers together with one hand, and place the softbox speedring on the faceplate, outside of the flashtube and faceplate fingers. Release the levers to expand the fingers, ensuring that all four fingers are inside the speedring, securely holding it in place. When using larger softboxes in conjunction with our **SBA Softbox Stand Mount Adapter**, you will mount the softbox and adapter to the light stand first, then mount the flash unit to the center adapter ring using the release levers to contract and release the faceplate fingers for mounting.

Umbrellas (including our PLM Parabolic Light Modifiers): Umbrellas mount to the DigiBee using the top umbrella shaft. The umbrella shaft is designed for use with all Paul C. Buff umbrellas and accommodates most standard umbrellas with poles up to 3/8-inch in diameter. To mount an umbrella, slide the pole inside the top umbrella shaft and use the umbrella tightening knob to secure the position, twisting clockwise to tighten.

SETUP / Powering the DigiBee

The DigiBee flash unit arrives with a standard 15-foot power cord that connects to the flash unit on the back control panel with a down-angle plug. **Plug the power cord into a suitable 120 Vac, 50-60 Hz power source**, ensuring that the AC outlet is a 3-wire, grounded outlet.

SETUP / Portable Battery Power

For portable power in locations where AC power is either unavailable or unreliable, we recommend the exclusive use of our **Vagabond Portable Power Systems**. Our Vagabond systems offer controlled-current, pure sine wave battery power for operating AC-powered studio flash units. *Visit paulcbuff.com/vagabond.php or contact us to learn more.*

SETUP / Syncing With Your Camera

Hardwired Sync

The DigiBee flash unit arrives with a standard 15-foot sync cord, allowing you to connect your camera to the unit to trigger the flash when your camera shutter is pressed. The sync cord connects to the sync port (located beneath the back control panel, labeled **SYNC PORT**) with a 1/8-inch mini plug. The cord then connects to your camera via PC connection. The screen on the DigiBee control panel will briefly display the word *SYNC* when the unit detects that a sync cord is inserted.
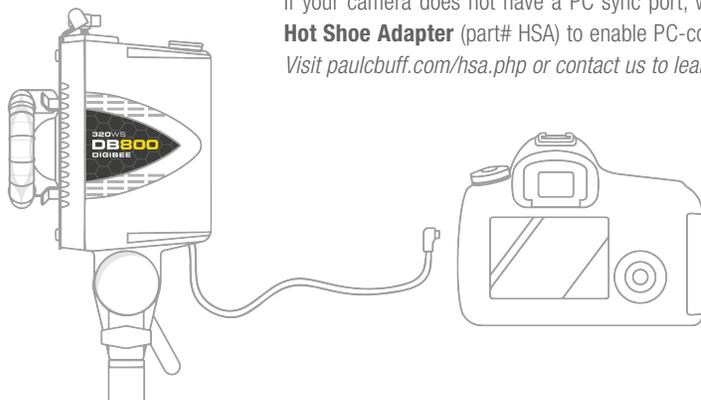
If your camera does not have a PC sync port, we offer a **Hot Shoe Adapter** (part# HSA) to enable PC-connection. *Visit paulcbuff.com/hsa.php or contact us to learn more.*

SETUP / Syncing With Your Camera *continued...*

The Optical Slave Trigger

The DigiBee unit has a built-in optical slave trigger for convenience with multi-light setups. You will only need to connect one flash unit in the setup to your camera using the sync cord, allowing the other units will fire at the same time via their slave triggers. The trigger on each unit is activated by the slave cell (located on the top right of the housing), firing the unit whenever it "sees" the light from another flash up to 50 feet away. This **slave is engaged or disengaged on the back control panel using the SLAVE button** (activated when the SLAVE LED circle shines blue).

> ! **Note:** The slave is designed to sense flashes of light (both visible and infrared). **Any flash that it "sees" can trigger it.** While this gives you more options for triggering, the presence of extraneous triggers must be considered when you are not the only photographer in the area. Other flashes (whether on professional or even disposable cameras) can inadvertently trigger your DigiBee flash unit when the slave is on.

The slave function should be turned OFF whenever a remote control system is used or whenever your flash unit and camera are hardwire synced. Inserting a sync cord (or blank dummy plug) does NOT turn off the slave cell; it must be manually turned off using the SLAVE button.

The CyberSync Wireless Remote Control System

The DigiBee includes a receptacle for the CyberSync CSXCV Transceiver, allowing the unit to be used with our CyberSync Wireless Remote Control System. With the CSXCV Transceiver, the DigiBee unit can be used with the CyberSync CST2 Trigger Transmitter (for wireless firing) and/or the Cyber Commander (for wireless firing and full parameter adjustment). *See page 24 for CyberSync setup.*

Other Remote Control Options

The DigiBee unit can be triggered with all CyberSync receivers (though we recommend the CSXCV for simplicity and full capability), but it can not be used with older Paul C. Buff remotes incorporating the telephone cord connection. The DigiBee is compatible with most third party triggering receivers (such as the PocketWizard®), though a 1/8-inch to 1/8-inch non-attenuated mini male mono cord - such as our CSSC - may be required for connection. *Contact us for assistance or to learn more.*

OPERATION / Setting Flashpower Output

FLASH **FLASH BUTTON**
• press once to place the unit in flashpower adjustment mode

FLASH ON LED
• shines blue to indicate that the flash function is enabled

FLASH ADJUSTMENT LED
• shines blue to indicate that flashpower adjustment is enabled
• the **ADJUST** up/down arrow buttons are activated to adjust the flashpower output
• the **DIGITAL DISPLAY** will responsively adjust, indicating the current setting
• flashpower is adjusted in 1/10 f-stop increments (-0.1F, -0.2F, -0.3F…-6.0F)

> **!** **Note: Flash adjustment is the DEFAULT MODE.** After 5 seconds without a command in any other mode, the unit defaults back to flash adjustment mode.

OPERATION / Setting Modeling Lamp Mode and Output

MODEL **MODEL BUTTON**
• press once to place the unit in modeling lamp adjustment mode
• continuing to press cycles through the modeling lamp modes

MODEL ON LED
• shines blue to indicate that the modeling function is enabled
• the lamp is ON and will shine at the prescribed setting

MODEL ADJUSTMENT LED
• shines blue to indicate that model mode adjustment is enabled

MODEL TRACKING LED
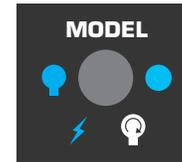• shines blue to indicate that modeling lamp tracking is enabled

MODEL INDEPENDENT ADJUSTMENT LED
• shines blue to indicate that modeling lamp independent adjustment is enabled
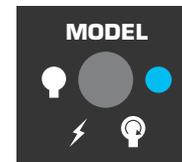

FULL POWER mode

TRACKING mode

INDEPENDENT mode

LAMP OFF mode

FULL POWER Modeling Lamp Mode
the modeling lamp is constantly set to full brightness

  • the **DIGITAL DISPLAY** indicates full power brightness (0.0F)
  • the **ADJUST** up/down arrow buttons are NOT activated

TRACKING Modeling Lamp Mode
the modeling lamp will adjust in brightness and dimness automatically as adjustments are made to the flashpower output

  • the **DIGITAL DISPLAY** indicates the current modeling lamp output setting (matching the flashpower)
  • the **ADJUST** up/down arrow buttons are NOT activated

INDEPENDENT ADJUSTMENT Modeling Lamp Mode
the modeling lamp brightness can be independently adjusted, set to any desired level of output with the 6 f-stop range

  • the **DIGITAL DISPLAY** indicates the current modeling lamp output setting (responsively adjusting as changes are made)
  • the **ADJUST** up/down arrow buttons are activated, allowing you to adjust the modeling lamp output up or down as desired in 1/10 f-stop increments (-0.1F, -0.2F, -0.3F…-6.0F)

OFF Modeling Lamp Mode
the modeling lamp is turned off completely

  • the **DIGITAL DISPLAY** will read *OFF*
  • the **ADJUST** up/down arrow buttons are NOT activated

> **Tip:** When adjusting the flash or modeling output, **tap the ADJUST arrow for single increment adjustments or hold down for larger adjustments**. When held down, adjustments will begin in single increments, then increase in speed.

OPERATION / The READY LED

The **READY LED** on the unit's back control panel indicates its ready status - whether the unit is ready to flash at the prescribed settings, or not ready to flash (either because the unit is recycling after a flash, or dumping excess power when the output setting has been lowered).

● **READY LED = Green**
the unit is READY to flash

● **READY LED = Red**
the unit is NOT ready to flash

Recycle: Each time the flash unit fires, it releases the stored energy from the flash capacitors. After each flash, the unit immediately begins recycling in order to recharge the capacitors to the previous setting. The **READY LED** will shine red during recycle, shining green when recycle is complete and the unit is ready to flash again at the prescribed settings.

Power Dump: Whenever the flashpower output is adjusted to a lower setting, there is more power stored in the capacitors from the previous higher setting. This power must be "dumped" so that the capacitors hold the correct amount of energy for the new, lower setting.

Tip: The DigiBee unit will automatically dump the excess charge after flashpower adjustment, taking only a few seconds, or you can push the **TEST** button to flash the unit and **immediately dump the excess charge**.

OPERATION / Setting Recycle Indication

While the **READY LED** indicates the unit's recycle status, the DigiBee unit offers both audible and visual recycle indicators as well that may be set according to your preference.

Press the **RECYCLE BUTTON** once to place the flash unit in recycle adjustment mode, then continue to press (tapping, not holding) to cycle through the four recycle indication modes: (1) audible recycle indication, (2) visual recycle indication, (3) BOTH audible and visual recycle indication, or (4) recycle indication off.

RECYCLE **RECYCLE BUTTON**
• press to cycle through the indication modes

♫ **AUDIBLE RECYCLE MODE**
• shines blue to indicate that audible recycle indication is activated
• a quick series of three beeps will sound to indicate that recycle is complete

● **VISUAL RECYCLE MODE LED**
• shines blue to indicate that visual recycle indication is activated
• the modeling lamp will dim while the unit recycles, returning to its previous brightness setting to indicate that recycle is complete

♫ ● **AUDIBLE RECYCLE MODE LED** and **VISUAL RECYCLE MODE LED**
• both shine blue to indicate that both audible and visual indication are activated
• If both are off, both audible and visual indication are deactivated

OPERATION / Camera Modes and Metering

When using flash units and various light modifying techniques, you will want to use your camera's Manual (M) exposure mode, where you set the ISO, shutter speed, and aperture for your shot. You **cannot leave your camera in Automatic (A) mode**, allowing the camera to use its internal meter to automatically adjust the aperture and shutter speed for a shot based on the prescribed ISO setting and the available light. The camera's internal meter detects only the available light from the modeling lamp and total environment, without detecting the light that will be emitted by your flash units. Leaving your camera in automatic mode will cause the camera to be set to an inaccurate shutter speed and aperture opening, causing your picture to be overexposed.

The best way to ensure a proper exposure is to use a high quality, dedicated flash meter. A reading from the camera position or subject position may be used to determine an overall average scene reading, and depending on the subject, you may additionally want to take spot readings. With the results of your meter readings, you can make the necessary adjustments to your camera settings and/or flash units, then begin shooting.

> **Tip:** There are **several options for excellent meters** from various manufacturers, including our Cyber Commander remote, which offers a metering function. *Contact our Customer Service Team to learn more or get help with choosing a meter.*

OPERATION / Shutter Speed and Sync Speed

The sync speed for your camera indicates **the fastest shutter speed that you can use** with your DigiBee flash unit in order to successfully capture the full light burst from the flash in each shot. As the sync speed varies from camera to camera, consult your camera's manual for information from the manufacturer on the maximum sync speed (also called "X-sync" speed). On most modern digital cameras, the maximum sync speed is between 1/125 and 1/250 second, indicating the fastest shutter speed setting that can be used with an external flash unit. If you take a shot using a shutter speed that is faster than the maximum flash sync speed, part of the shot may be blacked out.

It is advisable to set your camera's shutter speed somewhat below the published maximum sync speed. In typical studio usage, it is almost solely the flash duration of the flash unit that determines action stopping as the brightness of the flash is so much greater than the brightness of the ambient studio lighting and modeling lamp. Setting the shutter speed at 1/60 to 1/125 will almost always result in proper flash exposures with no black bars or motion-blur.

OPERATION / Turning OFF the Flash Function

Many customers may wish to **use the DigiBee with ONLY the modeling lamp, turning off the flash function**. This mode may be desired for still photography where lower output is desired, or where flashes of light may be bothersome for subjects (such as babies and pets) or distracting at a particular location or event (such as a wedding). Additionally, the modeling lamp only mode may be useful for shooting video.

Turning OFF Flash Function (Modeling Lamp Only Mode)

1. Press and hold the **FLASH BUTTON** until the **Flash ON LED** turns off (a little over 2 seconds).

> • the **ADJUST** up/down arrow buttons are NOT activated
> • the **DIGITAL DISPLAY** will read *OFF*

2. After approximately 5 seconds, the unit will **default to modeling mode adjustment**. Press the center **MODEL** button to select independent adjustment mode (indicated by the arrow bulb shining blue), then use the **ADJUST** up/down arrows to set the modeling lamp output as desired.

flash function is OFF (displays OFF in flash adjustment mode) >>>>>

adjustment mode defaults to modeling lamp adjustment mode

> **!** **Note:** When the flash function is turned off, if you attempt to trigger the flash (either by pressing the TEST button on the unit's back panel, or by triggering via sync or remote control), the LED screen will display the words *FLASH OFF* (scrolling) to indicate that the flash function is turned off.

### Turning the Flash Function Back ON

To return the unit to standard flash operation, press and hold the **FLASH BUTTON** again until the **Flash ON LED** turns back on (a little over 2 seconds).

OPERATION / DigiBee + CyberSync Wireless System

DigiBee + CSXCV Setup

1. Insert your CSXCV Transceiver in the CyberSync receptacle located on the top of the unit, above the back control panel. Pull back the protective cover and line up the pins on the CSXCV with corresponding holes inside the receptacle. Gently press down until the CSXCV unit is fully seated.

> **!**   **Note:** The CSXCV **can be installed with the DigiBee unit powered on or off**. When the unit is powered on and a CSXCV is inserted and properly seated, the digital display will note the recognition, briefly displaying *rF* (for "radio frequency").
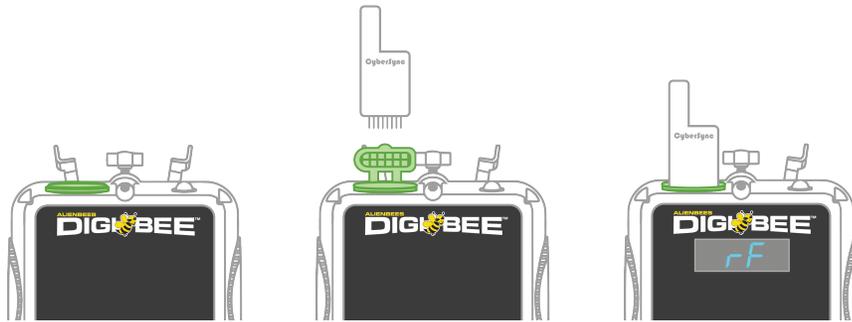
2. Press the Frequency (FREQ) button to set the frequency. Use the **ADJUST** up/down arrows to select the frequency, choosing the same frequency set in your CST2 and/or Cyber Commander transmitter. The LED screen will display the chosen frequency, adjusting as you press the arrows.
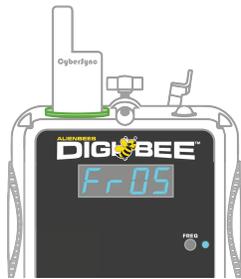
> **!**   **Note:** The **FREQ** and **CHAN** buttons are only activated when a CSXCV is installed. If a CSXCV is not present, the ADJUST arrows will NOT be activated when either the FREQ or CHAN button is pressed, and the LED screen will display *norF* ("no radio frequency").

With the CST2 Trigger Transmitter

1. Ensure that your CST2 Trigger Transmitter is set to the same frequency as your DigiBee unit / CSXCV Transceiver.

2. Slide the CST2 into your camera's hot shoe. Pressing your camera shutter should send the triggering signal to the DigiBee / CSXCV, causing the flash unit to simultaneously fire at the prescribed settings. You can test the communication between the transmitter and transceiver using the **TEST** button on the CST2.
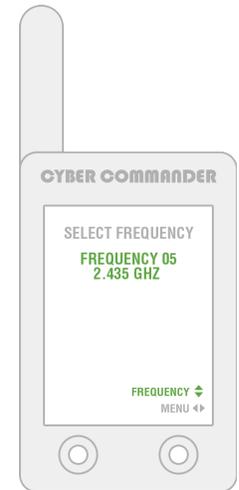
With the Cyber Commander

When using the Cyber Commander Transmitter and/or the CST2 Trigger Transmitter, the transmitter and all receivers in the setup must all be set to a common frequency. With the Cyber Commander, however, as each flash unit in your setup can be individually triggered and adjusted, each unit is set to a unique channel. On the DigiBee unit, channel selection is made on the back control panel.

1. Ensure that your Cyber Commander is set to the same frequency as your DigiBee unit / CSXCV Transceiver. On the Cyber Commander, use the right joystick to enter the setup menu and select **FREQUENCY** to check and adjust the chosen frequency.

2. Set the channel on the DigiBee unit. Press the Channel (**CHAN**) button on the DigiBee unit's back control panel to set the channel. Use the **ADJUST** up/down arrows to select a unique channel, not shared by any other flash unit / CyberSync receiver in your setup. The screen will display the chosen channel adjusting as you press the arrows.

OPERATION / DigiBee + CyberSync Wireless System *continued...*

DigiBee + CSXCV + Cyber Commander Setup

1. Enter the Cyber Commander remote's setup menu by scrolling to the right with the right joystick. In the setup menu, use the right joystick to highlight and select **OPEN MEMORY**.

2. Using the left joystick, select either **STUDIO** or a specific channel **CH (XX)** in the lower left corner, depending on whether you are starting a new setup or adding the unit to an existing setup.

```
OPEN ALL FROM STUDIO

SYNC CYBER COMMANDER
FROM STUDIO LIGHTS?

f64
f32
f16
f8.0
f4.0
f2.0
f1.0

MEMORY              UNDO
◀▶ STUDIO   OPEN    MENU ◀▶
```

```
OPEN CH05 FROM STUDIO

SYNC CYBER COMMANDER
FROM STUDIO CHANNEL 05?

f64
f32
f16
f8.0
f4.0
f2.0
f1.0

MEMORY              UNDO
◀▶ CH05   OPEN    MENU ◀▶
```

Starting a New Setup
for initial setup where other flash units have not been specified

Using the left joystick, select **STUDIO** in the lower left corner. Your screen should now read **OPEN ALL FROM STUDIO**, followed by **SYNC CYBER COMMANDER FROM STUDIO LIGHTS**.

This will **erase any specifications already in the Cyber Commander remote (including light specifications and names).

Adding to an Existing Setup
for adding a DigiBee / CSXCV to an existing setup with other flash units

Using the left joystick, select **CH (XX)** in the lower left corner. Your screen should now read **OPEN CH (XX) FROM STUDIO**, followed by **SYNC CYBER COMMANDER FROM STUDIO CHANNEL (XX)**.

This will add a DigiBee / CSXCV to an existing setup **without altering existing flash unit specifications for units on other channels in the remote.

3. With **STUDIO** or a specific channel **CH (XX)** selected, press in on the right joystick. **SYNC CYBER COMMANDER FINISHED OPENING** should appear. A vertical bar for the flash unit will appear with a white dash under the selected channel. When you return to the main **FLASH** screen, the DigiBee unit should be defined as DigiBee DB400 or DB800 and the Cyber Commander should be set with all parameters for the unit as they appear on the DigiBee unit's back panel. Any parameter changes should now be made with the Cyber Commander as it will override any changes made on the unit's back control panel.

4. If you plan to use the Cyber Commander for triggering as well as adjustment, **slide the Cyber Commander into your camera's hot shoe.** Pressing your camera shutter should send the triggering signal to the DigiBee / CSXCV, causing the flash unit to simultaneously fire.

Whether using the Cyber Commander on- or off-camera, you can test the communication between the transmitter and transceiver from the main **FLASH** screen. Select all lights in your setup, an individual light, or a group of lights and press IN on the left joystick to test flash the identified unit(s).

Operational Differences with the Cyber Commander

Using the Cyber Commander to trigger and adjust parameters of the DigiBee allows you to control the unit from the camera position exactly as you would on the unit's control panel with these exceptions:

- Setting the DigiBee unit to modeling lamp only mode can ONLY be accomplished on the unit's back control panel as the **flash function cannot be disabled (or re-enabled) with the Cyber Commander** *(see page 23 for more on flash OFF function)*. When the flash function is off, however, modeling lamp adjustment can still be controlled with the Cyber Commander.

- With the Cyber Commander, you can **introduce an offset between the flashpower output and modeling lamp output while the unit is in modeling lamp tracking mode**. When the modeling lamp is set to track the flashpower, you can adjust the modeling lamp brightness higher or lower while still maintaining the tracking feature. The available offset range will still be limited to the total available modeling lamp range.

- In the Cyber Commander, **the modeling lamp will be displayed with a maximum output of 250 Watts**. The adjustments will be displayed in terms of both wattage and relative power. As the modeling lamp in the DigiBee unit is brighter than a 250 Watt incandescent bulb, this rating does not reflect the full brightness. The relative output, however, will be accurate.

REFERENCE / DigiBee LED Screen Messages

Flashpower Output
In Flash Adjustment Mode, the LED screen displays the current flashpower output, displayed as an offset from Full Power (0.0F). The output is adjustable in 1/10 f-stop increments (-0.1F, -0.2F, -0.3F…-6.0F).

Modeling Lamp Output
In Modeling Lamp Adjustment Mode, the LED screen displays the current flashpower output, displayed as an offset from Full Power (0.0F). The output is adjustable in 1/10 f-stop increments (-0.1F, -0.2F, -0.3F…-6.0F).

Flash Function OFF
In Flash Adjustment Mode, the LED screen briefly displays the word *OFF* when the flash function is disabled (disabled by holding down the **FLASH BUTTON**). After approximately 5 seconds, the unit will default to modeling mode adjustment and the screen will then display the current modeling lamp output setting.

Flash Function OFF / Flash Trigger Detected
When the flash function is turned off, if you attempt to trigger the flash (either by pressing the TEST button on the unit's back panel, or by triggering via sync, remote control, or slave), the LED screen will briefly display the words *FLASH OFF* (scrolling) to indicate that the flash function is turned off. To return the unit to standard flash operation, press and hold the **FLASH BUTTON** again until the **Flash ON LED** turns back on (a little over 2 seconds).

Modeling Lamp OFF
In Modeling Lamp Adjustment Mode, the LED screen displays the word *OFF* when the Off mode is selected, disabling the modeling lamp. To select another modeling lamp mode, press the center **MODEL BUTTON** to cycle through the options of Full, Tracking, or Independent.

CyberSync CSXCV Detected
The LED screen will briefly display *rF* (for "radio frequency") when the unit detects that a CSXCV transceiver is inserted.

No CyberSync CSXCV Present
If you press either the **FREQ** or **CHAN** button when there is not a CSXCV detected, the LED screen will display *norF* (for "no radio frequency") to indicate that these functions are not active.

> **Tip:** If you have attempted to insert a CSXCV and receive this message, remove the CSXCV and re-seat it. Ensure that the pins are straight and lined up with the holes inside the CyberSync receptacle. Press the CSXCV down until it is fully seated and *rF* is displayed.

CyberSync Frequency
When a CSXCV transceiver is inserted and properly seated, the current frequency (Fr01, Fr02, Fr03...Fr16) is displayed when the **FREQ** button is pressed, adjusting responsively as you use the up/down arrows.

CyberSync Channel
When a CSXCV transceiver is inserted and properly seated, the current channel (Ch01, Ch02, Ch03...Ch16) is displayed when the **CHAN** button is pressed, adjusting responsively as you use the up/down arrows.

Sync Cord Detected
The LED screen will briefly display the word *SYNC* when the unit detects that a sync cord is inserted in the sync port.

Overheat Alert
The LED screen will display the word *HOT* when the internal temperature rises and the unit is near overheating. Turn the unit off and allow it to cool before continuing use to prevent overheating.

SPECS / DigiBee Specifications

	DigiBee DB400	DigiBee DB800
Wattseconds	2.5 Ws to 160 Ws	5 Ws to 320 Ws
Power Variability Range	7 f-stop range (full to 1/64 power)	
Recycle to 100%	0.5 seconds	1 second
Flash Duration (t.1)	1/1450 second at full power	1/975 second at full power
Power Requirements	120 Vac, 50-60 Hz	
Average Current Draw	5 amps average	
Power Cord	3-prong, grounded North American plug 15-foot standard IEC cord with down angle head	
Sync Cord	1/8-inch (3.5 mm) to PC connection 15-foot cord for hardwired sync connection less than 6 volts sync/trigger voltage	
Flashtube	single-ring 14mm flashtube UV-coated and daylight balanced at 5600K 250,000+ flash typical lifespan user-replaceable (part# AWFT14MMUV)	
Modeling Lamp	75 Watt permanent LED (400 Watt equivalent output) 25,000 to 50,000 hour typical lifespan at full power high color rendering index (CRI > 90) daylight balanced at 5600K	
Light Stand Mount	all aluminum light stand mounting block for light stands with top studs up to 5/8-inch ratchet-action adjustment handle	
Umbrella Mount	fits standard umbrellas with poles up to 3/8-inch	
Weight	2.5 pounds	2.9 pounds
Dimensions	4.75" width *(across the front)* x 5.25" length *(with the ship-ping cover in place)* x 7.25" height *(from the release levers to the housing base, with the stand mount collapsed)*	

MAINTENANCE / Storage and Travel

Storage: When the DigiBee unit is not in use, always turn the power off and unplug the power cord. If you have been actively using the unit, wait at least five minutes for the unit to cool, then remove any faceplate accessories and replace the unit's shipping cover to keep the flashtube and modeling lamp protected. Store your DigiBee unit in safe, dry, moderate conditions, where it is protected from water and dirt.

Travel: For around-town travel, we offer a variety of carrying bags for our flash units and accessories, including the DigiBee Carrying Bag, designed to hold one or two DigiBee units along with various small accessories. For travel by air, choose packaging and cases that fully pad and protect the unit from bumps and jolts. You should always install the protective shipping cover and you may wish to use the foam shell that your DigiBee unit shipped in for added protection, if necessary.
To see our selection of travel bags, visit our website at www.paulcbuff.com/travelgear.php or contact our Customer Service Team to learn more.

MAINTENANCE / Replacement Needs

Flashtubes: It is normal for a unit's flashtube to become exhausted over time, based on use. The flashtube used in the DigiBee unit has a typical lifespan of approximately 250,000+ flashes, but when the tube exhausts, we offer inexpensive user-replaceable flashtubes. Only the approved flashtube available from Paul C. Buff, Inc. may be used in the unit; do not substitute with other tubes.

> **Tip:** For **future flashtube replacement needs**, the DigiBee unit uses our 14mm flashtube (part# AWFT14MMUV). This is a user-replaceable tube arriving with instructions. *Please see paulcbuff.com/flashtubes.php for more info and ordering.*

Modeling Lamps: The modeling lamp used in the DigiBee unit is a permanent LED lamp that is NOT user-accessible or user-replaceable. The lamp has a 25,000 to 50,000 hour typical lifespan (at full power, longer at lower brightness settings) and should not require replacement for long periods of time. When the lamp finally nears the end of its lifespan, it will not reach full brightness, then eventually not shine at all. At that time, contact our Customer Service Team about replacement lamp service.

Should any DigiBee components become damaged, discontinue use, turn the unit off, and contact our Customer Service Team.

PAUL C. BUFF, INC.

toll free customer service line
1-800-443-5542

We're here to help! Should you have questions or need assistance, contact our friendly customer service team. Our team is here Monday - Friday, from 9:00am to 5:00pm, CT.
Toll Free 1-800-443-5542 // Local 615-383-3982

You can also email us anytime at **info@paulcbuff.com** and we'll get back to you quickly during business hours.

Be sure to check out our website at **www.paulcbuff.com** to find out about any new products or updates and visit our technical forum at **www.paulcbuff-techforum.com** for advice and help with your questions as well.

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