PocketWizard®
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Quick Guide

AC9 AlienBees Adapter with ControlTL® for FlexTT5®

Please read this Quick Guide thoroughly before operating. Also, review the product manuals for your camera, flash systems, and PocketWizard radios.

This PocketWizard accessory runs on powerful software called ControlTL® - Control The Light. It can be configured for your specific needs using the PocketWizard Utility which can be downloaded at: www.PocketWizard.com/support/downloads

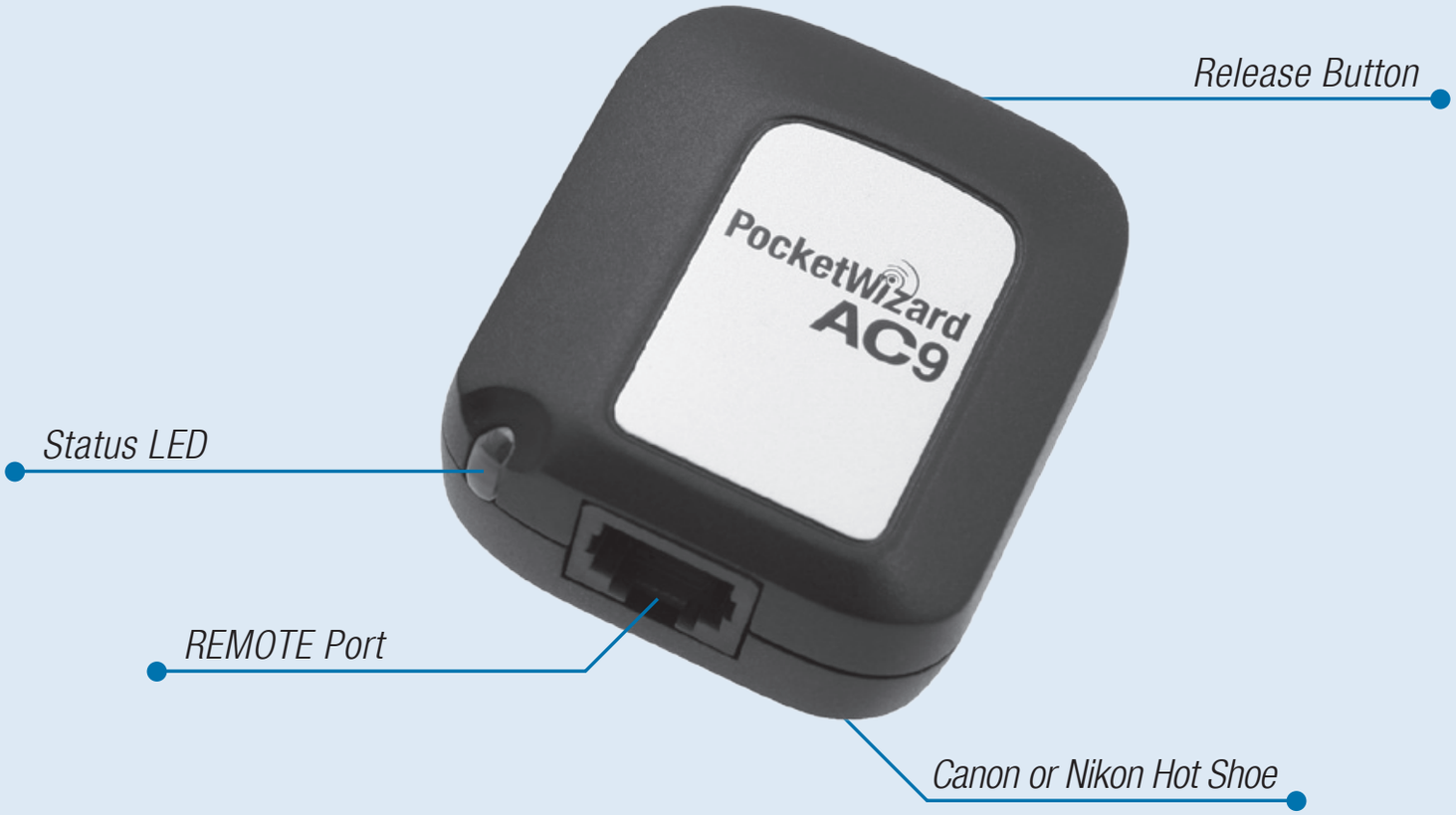
FlexTT5 for Canon requires AC9-C / FlexTT5 for Nikon requires AC9-N.

The AC9 AlienBees Adapter requires a receiving FlexTT5, a transmitting PocketWizard ControlTL radio, and a compatible Paul C. Buff flash with a REMOTE terminal:

- AlienBees B400, B800, B1600, or ABR800
- White Lightning X-series, UltraZAP, or Ultra flashes including: X800, X1600, X2400, X3200, UZ800, UZ1600, Ultra600, Ultra1200, Ultra1800
- Zeus Power Packs Z1250 and Z2500

A transmitting ControlTL radio like a MiniTT1® or FlexTT5® is required for full functionality.

AC9 AlienBees Adapter



** Make sure you have the appropriate AC9 hot shoe: AC9-C with FlexTT5 for Canon*
AC9-N with FlexTT5 for Nikon

READ ME FIRST:

UPDATE FIRMWARE: Update all of your ControlTL® radios to the latest firmware with the PocketWizard® Utility before using.

All equipment should be turned OFF when making connections or unwanted triggering or other erratic behavior may occur.

The first exposure after making initial connections or powering on may not be properly exposed and flash power levels may not be set as expected. Always test at least twice.

All information in this Quick Guide is subject to change. Visit **www.PocketWizard.com/support** to find the latest flash and features compatibility, Quick Guides, and Owner's Manuals.

To use your AC9:

1. Slide the AC9 onto your remote FlexTT5 and connect the REMOTE cable from the AC9 to the flash.
2. Turn on the flash first, then the remote FlexTT5 radio. If this order is reversed, the flash may not trigger properly. The AC9's Status LED blinks **green** occasionally to indicate normal operation.
3. Turn on the modeling light and set it to Cycle or Ready mode as desired, and disable the optical slave by inserting a plug or adapter into the sync port. Power level will be set by the AC9.
4. Set up your camera and PocketWizard ControlTL transmitter.
5. Take pictures.
6. Adjust the Camera's Flash Exposure Compensation (FEC) to adjust the output power of your remote flash. See the *Camera FEC Range and Basic Power Control* sections for more information on FEC.

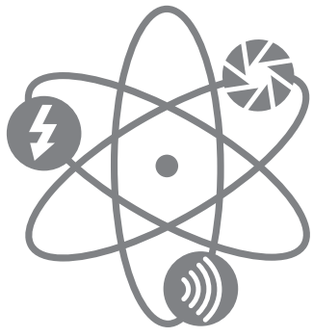
Make sure all your radios are set to the same PocketWizard ControlTL channel. See the Quick Guide or Owner's Manual for your FlexTT5 radio for more information on channels.

NOTE: The AC9 overrides flash power output settings you make directly on your flash. If you wish to control the flash from its control panel, then you need to disconnect the REMOTE cord and connect a regular sync cord from the P2 port on your FlexTT5 to your flash.

ControlTL® & PowerTracking

ControlTL allows you to adjust your remote studio flash's output power directly from the camera position in three ways:

Basic Power Control: With just a ControlTL transmitter on your camera, use your camera's FEC to adjust remote flash output power. This is called *PowerTracking - Full Manual* and is the default when you are ***not*** using an AC3 ZoneController on your ControlTL transmitter. See the *Camera FEC Range and Basic Power Control* section for more information.



Automatic PowerTracking: When engaged, any changes to aperture and ISO on your camera are automatically tracked by your remote flash output power to maintain the current exposure level. For example, if you open the aperture on your camera by one stop, then the power output level on your remote flash will decrease by one stop.

There are two ways to engage Automatic PowerTracking:

No AC3 ZoneController on your ControlTL transmitter - Set the PowerTracking mode in the PocketWizard® Utility to a setting other than Full Manual for Automatic PowerTracking using just your camera's controls.

AC3 ZoneController Auto Mode - Add an AC3 ZoneController set to A (Auto) on your ControlTL transmitter to adjust power output level independently for up to 3 zones of light in conjunction with Automatic PowerTracking.

See *Automatic PowerTracking* section, as well as the PocketWizard Utility section, for more information.

AC3 ZoneController Manual Mode: With an AC3 ZoneController on your ControlTL transmitter, you can have simple and direct control over your flash output power. See the section on *Using an AC3 ZoneController* for more information.

Basic Power Control

With only a MiniTT1® or FlexTT5® on your camera, your camera's FEC (Flash Exposure Compensation) control will adjust your flash power output level for all your AC9-connected flashes as shown in the table on the right.

Nikon: The camera's FEC or EC (Exposure Compensation) control will adjust flash power output level. The Nikon D3 series cameras do not have an FEC adjustment. You can use the EC adjustment on all Nikon cameras, including the D3 series, whenever a flash power output level adjustment is needed.

Canon: Both the camera's ISO and FEC controls will adjust flash power output level. Changes to FEC will adjust flash power output level as shown in the table on the right. Changes from the ISO used for your first picture will adjust flash output power level relative to FEC. For example, if your first picture was at ISO 200, and you adjusted ISO down to 100, your flash power level would be 1 stop brighter for all FEC settings.

This operation assumes PowerTracking is set to *Full Manual* in the PocketWizard Utility which is the default.

You can use any PocketWizard receiving radios together in the same exposure, including other ControlTL radios. Remember that studio and manual flash output will not be calculated as part of an E-TTL / i-TTL exposure.

AlienBees, White Lightning, Zeus Power Output Settings

Camera FEC/EC - Or - AC3 Power Dial in Manual	Most Models	White Lightning X1600, X2400 & X3200 only: Low Range Mode
+ 3	1/1	1/4
+ 2.7	1/2 + 0.7	1/8 + 0.7
+ 2.3	1/2 + 0.3	1/8 + 0.3
+ 2	1/2	1/8
+ 1.7	1/4 + 0.7	1/16 + 0.7
+ 1.3	1/4 + 0.3	1/16 + 0.3
+ 1	1/4	1/16
+ 0.7	1/8 + 0.7	1/32 + 0.7
+ 0.3	1/8 + 0.3	1/32 + 0.3
- 0	1/8	1/32
- 0.3	1/16 + 0.7	1/64 + 0.7
- 0.7	1/16 + 0.3	1/64 + 0.3
- 1	1/16	1/64
- 1.3	1/32 + 0.7	1/128 + 0.7
- 1.7	1/32 + 0.3	1/128 + 0.3
- 2	1/32	1/128
- 2.3	1/32	1/128
- 2.7	1/32	1/128
- 3	1/32	1/128

ControlTL® Center Point: The center point for all ControlTL operations, including Basic Power Control, PowerTracking, or when using an AC3 ZoneController, is 3 stops down from your flash's maximum. For example, in Basic Power Control, this means 0 on your camera's FEC equals 1/8 on your flash and FEC +3 equals 1/1 (full power). This setting may be customized using the PocketWizard Utility under the PowerTracking tab to place the center point anywhere within the flash's 5 stop range.

Camera FEC Range and Basic Power Control: You can change the center point to better match your camera's FEC range. Adjust the AC9 Flash Exposure Compensation control in the PocketWizard Utility for each FlexTT5 with ACP to better align your camera's FEC with the flash's 5 stop range. See the *PocketWizard Utility FlexTT5® Receiver settings* section for more information.

This setting must be configured on each receiving FlexTT5 radio. Adjusting it on a transmitting FlexTT5 has no effect on your remote flash's power output level.

Camera FEC Range	Maximum remote AC9 power level available using default settings	Minimum remote AC9 power level available using default settings	Set each AC9 FEC so camera maximum FEC equals flash maximum output power	Set each AC9 FEC so camera minimum FEC equals flash minimum output power
Canon +3 / -3	1/1 at FEC +3	1/32 at FEC -2 through -3	0	0
Canon +2 / -2	1/2 at FEC +2	1/32 at FEC -2	+1	0
Nikon +1 / -3	1/4 at FEC +1	1/32 at FEC -2 through -3	+2	-1

Using an AC3 ZoneController

An AC3 ZoneController on your transmitting ControlTL® radio allows you to adjust the remote flash output power for up to 3 zones independently, in either Manual or Automatic modes.

Set the Zone Switch on your remote FlexTT5® equipped with an AC9 to Zone A, B, or C as desired.

Manual Mode:

With an AC3 Zone Switch set to M (Manual), the AC3 Power Dial for that zone sets the absolute flash power output as shown in the table for Basic Power Control. Your camera's FEC/EC, ISO, and aperture controls will not affect the flash output power levels for AC3 zones set to M.

Automatic Mode:

With an AC3 Zone Switch set to A (Automatic), Automatic PowerTracking using *Center on ISO & Aperture with First Shot* is engaged. See the *Automatic PowerTracking* section for more information. The AC3 Power Dial for a zone sets the flash power output level for that zone relative to the ControlTL center point. Your camera's FEC control can be used to adjust flash output power level for all zones set to A (Auto).

Off:

With an AC3 Zone Switch set to Ø (Off), flashes in that zone will not trigger.

Automatic PowerTracking

When Automatic PowerTracking is engaged, any changes to aperture and ISO on your camera are automatically tracked by your remote flash output power to maintain the current exposure level. For example, if you open the aperture on your camera by one stop, then the power output level on your remote flash will decrease by one stop.

To engage Automatic PowerTracking when you are not using an AC3 ZoneController on your ControlTL® transmitter, set the PowerTracking mode to a setting other than *Full Manual* in the PocketWizard® Utility for your transmitting ControlTL radio only. PowerTracking has several modes of operation available. See the *PocketWizard Utility* section on adjusting this setting via the PowerTracking Tab for more information.

The following directions are for the PowerTracking mode *Center on ISO & Aperture with First Shot.*

In this mode, the aperture and ISO as set on the camera for the first exposure will be aligned with the ControlTL center point (3 stops down from your flash's maximum output power). For example, if your camera is set to ISO 100 and F:5.6 for its first exposure, then those exposure settings will yield a flash output power of 1/8. See the *ControlTL Center Point* section for more information.

To set the aperture and ISO values that will be aligned with the ControlTL center point:

1. Turn on your camera and transmitting MiniTT1® or FlexTT5®, but wait to press your shutter button or take any pictures.
2. Set the aperture and ISO you wish to align with the center point. Set the shutter speed as desired, however changes to shutter speed will not affect PowerTracking.
3. Press the shutter button to take a picture. The center point is now aligned with your aperture and ISO settings.
4. Use your camera's FEC control to get the exposure the way you want it. If you are unable to achieve the exposure you want using this control, try adjusting the *AC9 Flash Exposure Compensation* control in the PocketWizard Utility for each remote FlexTT5, use a different aperture or ISO, or consider an AC3 ZoneController.
5. As you adjust your camera's ISO and aperture, flash power output will automatically track to maintain the current exposure level.

To change the values used for the center point, turn off your transmitter then turn it back on and follow these steps again. See the *PowerTracking Tab* in the PocketWizard Utility section below for more information.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Shooting in Shutter Priority/Tv, Program, Full Auto, or shooting quickly or making rapid exposure changes is not recommended. The flash values may change rapidly and your remote flash may not be able to keep up. Honor your flash's ready wait time or "dump" as necessary.

FEC NOTE: Flash Exposure Compensation (FEC) can be set in many places and all values are added together.

FEC can be set:

- On the Power Dials of the AC3 ZoneController
- On the camera for all zones except AC3 Manual zones
- For transmitting radios, the PocketWizard Utility can adjust the PowerTracking center point for ISO and aperture which affects all zones
- For a receiving FlexTT5 with an AC9, the PocketWizard Utility can adjust FEC for the directly connected flash on the PowerTracking tab

If the combined FEC settings are more or less than your flash's capabilities, then the flash will operate at maximum or minimum output accordingly.

PocketWizard Utility

Some settings require the PocketWizard Utility software and your ControlTL radio connected to a computer via the Mini-USB port. Download the Utility at: *www.PocketWizard.com/support*

FlexTT5® *Receiver* settings that affect the use of an AC9:

PowerTracking Tab

AC9 Flash Exposure Compensation: Use this control to adjust the FEC of the flash directly connected to the AC9 in this receiving radio's hot shoe. This setting is cumulative with other FEC values set in the system. See the *FEC NOTE* for more information. FEC can be adjusted in +/- 3 stops. Default = *0.0*

This setting can be used as a simple FEC control for an individual flash, or it can be used to set flashes on the same zone to different power outputs or to balance them. For example, you could set it to -1.0 to make an AlienBees B800 match the power of a B400.

This control can also be used to adjust where the PowerTracking center point aligns with your camera's FEC control. See the *Camera FEC Range* section for more information.

Sleep Tab

Local Flash Sleep Mode/Delay: The modeling light will turn off after the set time if no triggers are received. Uncheck the box to have the modeling light stay on. Default = *Enabled at 600 seconds (10 minutes)*

The remaining settings on the Sleep Tab do not apply to the AC9.

FlexTT5 or MiniTT1 *Transmitter* settings that affect the use of an AC9:

Modeling Tab

Modeling Light Control: Check this box to control modeling light behavior from the transmitter. Default = *Enabled*

Control Mode: Determines when the modeling light will go to its active setting. Set to *Camera Wake* to have the modeling light go active when the camera's shutter release is half-pressed. Set to *AF-Assist* to have the modeling light go active only when the camera requests auto-focus assist. Default = *Camera Wake*

Modeling Light Autotrack: Enable this control for the modeling light level to track with the camera exposure or AC3 Power Dial settings. Default = *Enabled*

Modeling Light Active XX%: Sets the active output level of the modeling light if Autotrack is not used. Default = *100%*

Modeling Light Sleep: Check this box to have the modeling light automatically go to a set output level after a set time. If this box is unchecked, the modeling light will never sleep. Default = *Enabled*

Modeling Light Sleep XX%: Sets the output level of the modeling light when it sleeps. Default = *10%*

Modeling Light Delay After Camera Sleeps: Sets the number of seconds after the camera sleeps (meters go inactive) when the modeling light will go to its sleep value. Default = *30 seconds*

PowerTracking Tab

PowerTracking Control: Adjusts how ControlTL-capable remote studio flashes, like flashes connected to an AC9, respond to the AC3 in Auto Mode, or to a ControlTL Transmitter with no AC3. See the *ControlTL & PowerTracking* section for information.

Full Manual (default): Turns off PowerTracking for aperture and ISO. See the *Camera FEC Range and Basic Power Control* section for more information.

Nikon: With no AC3 ZoneController on the transmitter, only the camera's FEC/EC control will adjust flash power output level.

Canon: With no AC3 ZoneController on the transmitter, the camera's ISO and FEC controls will adjust flash power output level.

With an AC3 ZoneController on the transmitter, any zones set to Auto Mode will operate as *Center on ISO & Aperture with First Shot* (see below) when this control is set to *Full Manual.* AC3 Manual Mode can be used to adjust flash output power manually with an AC3.

Center on ISO & Aperture with First Shot: Aperture and ISO as set on the camera for the first exposure will be aligned with the ControlTL center point (3 stops down from your flash's maximum output power). For example, if your camera is set to ISO 100 and F:5.6 for its first exposure, then those exposure settings will yield a flash output power of 1/8. Adjustments to aperture, ISO, and FEC will adjust flash output power accordingly, as will adjusting the Power Dial on AC3 zone in Auto Mode. See the *Automatic PowerTracking* section for more information.

Center on ISO & Aperture: Lets you set the aperture and ISO that will be aligned with the ControlTL center point (3 stops down from your flash's maximum output power). Adjust the drop-down boxes for the Aperture Center-On and ISO Center-On values you want to use.

Center on Aperture Only: PowerTracking will only work with aperture changes. Set the desired aperture using the *Aperture Center-On* control. ISO changes will be ignored for PowerTracking for Nikon cameras, and FEC/ISO changes for Canon cameras.

Center on ISO Only: PowerTracking will only work with ISO changes for Nikon cameras and FEC/ISO changes for Canon cameras. Set the desired ISO using the *ISO Center-On* control. Aperture changes will be ignored for PowerTracking.

No Change (trigger only): Turns off PowerTracking and the Power Dials on the AC3 will not adjust the power output of your remote flash. Use this setting if another photographer is controlling the flash's manual power output, like when sharing flashes with another photographer and you want to use the exact same manual flash output power.

AC9 Flash Exposure Compensation: This control is only for receiving FlexTT5 radios with an AC9 AlienBees Adapter in the hot shoe. Adjusting this setting on a transmitting FlexTT5 will have no affect on your flashes. See the *PocketWizard Utility FlexTT5 Receiver settings* sections for how to use this control on a receiving FlexTT5.

For other PocketWizard® Utility settings, refer to the documentation for the MiniTT1, FlexTT5, AC3 ZoneController, PowerST4 for Elinchrom, or other ControlTL radios or accessories.

Temperature

Operating Temperature: Above -15° C (5° F) and below 50° C (120° F)
Storage Temperature: Above -30° C (-22° F) and below 85° C (185° F)

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Warranty:

This PocketWizard product is covered under a one-year limited manufacturer's warranty. For warranty details, and to register your product, please go to **www.PocketWizard.com/support** or contact your local PocketWizard Distributor. Distributor contact information can also be found at **www.PocketWizard.com**. To receive a copy of the one-year limited manufacturer's warranty on this PocketWizard product, e-mail us at **warranty@lpadesign.com** or write to us at LPA Design, Inc., 21 Gregory Drive, Suite 140, South Burlington, VT 05403, United States of America, Attn: Warranty.

For more information on this product, including detailed features, specifications, etc., go to **www.PocketWizard.com**.

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