



The Rayflash Ringflash Adaptor, £186

Contact: www.flaghead.co.uk

The box this accessory came in stated boldly: 'Rayflash: the one and only.' I had been excited about this product and I was hoping that it wouldn't disappoint. First impressions were good: build quality appeared up to scratch, the unit being a sturdy affair made from hard plastic. It fits onto a camera-mounted flashgun via a plastic twist lock.

I did have some problems getting this unit to work with my Canon 580EX II Speedlite and 5D. At one stage my camera refused to work at all for over two hours. It appeared that the weight of the adaptor could be pulling the flashgun down to a point where some of the contacts didn't touch and the flash wouldn't fire, as a result my camera wouldn't respond while its LCD panel went bananas!

I then put the Rayflash on my 580 MK I Speedlite (with a little packing to make it fit) and this problem seemed to resolve itself, but it is something you should be aware of. Rubber bands help! With regards to the quality of the light this unit could output, however, for something at this price point it couldn't be faulted. However, the adaptor does tend to pull on the flashgun itself, and consequently doesn't always keep the lens central within the unit, causing the distinctive 'ringflash shadow' not to be as perfect as that produced by some of the more expensive units.

The only other real limitation of the unit is the power of your own flashgun. This setup is never going to compete with a studio-based unit, but it isn't aimed at that corner of the market. Use it for close up head-and-shoulder work rather than long shots and you shouldn't have a problem. My only other criticism of the unit would be the plastic lock that is featured on the top, which really isn't strong enough for prolonged use.

☐ Marks out of five: 3.5

