

# master tests photography

## Elinchrom D-Lite RX One twin softbox kit

IT'S EASY to assume that if a twin head flash kit with stands, bags and softboxes only costs £425\* it will be a strictly amateur offering with basic specifications and functions.

Not so in the case of Elinchrom. Their D-Lites are a savvy combination of Swiss design and quality control with Indian component production. The latest model, the RX One, is more fully featured than many high-end flash heads of a few years ago.

The kit includes a Skyport Speed trigger for use on your camera. Each RX One head has a built-in receiver. The Skyport can adjust the power each head (up to four 'groups', which can be triggered together or separately) and will sync up to 1/250th (1/2850th for compact electronic shutter cameras). Using a USB transmitter dongle and PC/Mac software many functions are opened up including head by head strobe sequencing and second curtain sync delay.

The D-Lite RX One weighs only 900g and has a plastic lightshaper locking ring, matching the lightweight ring of the new Portalite 60cm softboxes. The blue switch on the reflector mount is easier to use than the old complete turning ring and you can see a glance if your accessory is secure. It will hold up to 1.5kg, which means a 100 x 100cm Rotalux heavier duty softbox.

The tiny flash head has a user replaceable tube and uses Elinchrom's standard over-run ES screw special tungsten modelling lamp. It has a cooling fan which kicks in after a certain time, and seems efficient if no quieter than the larger heads in the system. The 7mm feed-through umbrella tube mount is within the textured alloy reflector area, not outside, and fairly well centred. The stand fitting and tilt is light-duty, matching the recommended overall weight of 2.5kg. The

stands supplied in the kit are surprisingly heavy duty, exactly the same type as used for all Elinchrom outfits. The Portalite softbox packs into a small fabric wallet, and takes about one minute to assemble and fit.

The rear controls of the D-Lite RX One appear simple; power up and down between 0.1 (6.25Ws) and 4.0 (100Ws), modelling lamp, slave cell eye, audio beep switch, and open flash/test button.

This is deceptive as most have multiple functions and programmable settings. The slave cell, for example, accesses setup to sync with digital cam-



eras that give up to 7 pre-burst flashes, from simple anti-red-eye to TTL preflash sequences. The power up-down can be re-programmed to adjust in 1/10th, 2/10th, 3/10th, 4/10th, 5/10th or full EV steps. The modelling can be proportional, full, off or proportional with minus 1 EV, to match more power-



See:  
[www.theflashcentre.com](http://www.theflashcentre.com)

\*Launch offer price including VAT £425, RRP £525.50. Twin umbrella kit, £375 inc VAT offer, RRP £459.65.



ful flash heads using the same modelling lamps. Each head can have a different audio recycle beep duration so you know exactly what's firing and when it is ready. Pressing the up/down buttons together enters an Advanced Feature setting mode with alphanumeric codes shown on the LED. A quick

reference sheet is provided with the detailed handbook, and it's needed. With such a useful power range for digital work and a fast 1/2200th (1/1100th at minimum power) duration, this portable D-Lite RX One kit is the bargain of the flash season.

– David Kilpatrick

