

pressinformation

Nr. 2-3130/10

Mai 2010

Scoro comparison with Profoto

There is point at which reality and fiction merge and hot air rises.

The current argument about short flash duration, broncolor Scoro versus Profoto 8a, is one of those points. It seems that the blogs and trade mags are having a feast with it and some are missing the point altogether.

Stopping motion is of course dependent on the speed of the motion and the flash duration. All flash packs will be limited at some stage, as motion can easily exceed their ability to control the release of the flash energy.

At the top of the tree the broncolor Scoro is being challenged by the Profoto 8a.

Which one of the two can “freeze “ a higher motion?

They both have a listed flash speed of 1/12000 at t 0.5

So the result should be similar, but it isn't.



You will see the difference, when you look closely at the edges of the subject taken with the Profoto 8a pack. The edges will appear soft, sometimes with a double edge. This happens because Profoto 8a uses a technology called pre-ignition of the Plasma. It is, in fact, a pre-flash, which allows shorter flash duration. But it is for us, however weak, a double exposure.

The broncolor system uses a different system - one based on computer controlled cut-off technology, which retains high colour fidelity.

Confusion has reigned for years as manufacturers use different measurement methods. They measure duration at two different levels on the flash curve. Profoto uses a level called t 0.5 whereas broncolor measures at t 0.1.

At the t 0.5 part of the curve, a further 50% of the light is still being released and this will translate into a latent exposure, resulting in some blurred edges and a possible loss of density of the object, if back lighting is used.

On the other hand, at the t 0.1 point of the curve only 10 % of the light still falls on your subject. This is an amount that is not visible to the naked eye and will not interfere with the edge sharpness.

So, to be useful to photographers, all units should be compared at the t 0.1 level. The broncolor Scorio is listed at 1/8000 at t 0.1. Unfortunately, I could not find any figures for the Profoto 8a.

In the fashion world, other aspects of the two packs are also relevant - the main one being the speed at which the two pack recycles. On paper there is a 2/10 of a second difference in favour of the Profoto 8a. We did not have the right gear to check this, so we reverted to an old but important test, which is more critical to us. We fired a burst of shots of a grey card to see how consistent the exposures were. broncolor Scorio delivers the more even files, therefore the more consistent exposures. This means that the recycling of the pack is complete.

An RGB reading of files taken with ever decreasing power will also show a greater colour consistency in all three channels. This is the result of ECTC - the computer based colour management found in the Scorio.

There are other features that I like on the Swiss pack. The menu is extensive and easy to work out, and the pack looks rather cool.

As for the price, they are rather similar, except that the Scorio can accept three lampheads instead of two and has a superior output of 3200WS compared to 2400WS.

After all, comparisons are good fun, as long as apples are compared to apples, pears to pears.

Cheers
Eric Victor

Eric Victor has run Momentum studio in Australia for over 35 years. Momentum is a creative hub to many photographers and assistants. It is also a rental facility and a centre of learning, as sharing knowledge is a key to Eric's beliefs.

Damien Bredberg works at Momentum studio. He is at the top of his profession, producing the fine work displayed here.

www.momentumstudio.com.au