

In this video I go through each of the various ways to trigger off-camera flash, and there's a few of them, some more expensive than others! This video goes into detail but here's a quick summary:-

Using a PC cord to connect the camera to a flash

Pros

- Cheap and reliable
- Only cheaper manual flashguns required
- Great as a backup if the wireless fails (or you run out batteries)

Cons

- Cables can be tripped over
 - Flash power must be set from flash position
 - Many cameras and flash do not have the required sockets (but adapters can be purchased quite cheaply)
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Nikon CLS, Canon E-TTL, Olympus RC and other manufacturers equivalents

Pros

- Manufacturers own systems
- You can use TTL (although it's not necessary for off-camera flash)
- You can set the flash power from the camera position
- You can use your pop up flash to trigger off-camera flashes
- You can use High Speed Sync (i.e. not restricted to max sync speed)

Cons

- More expensive
 - Infra-red system requires 'line of sight' and doesn't work so well outside in sunshine
 - Requires more expensive TTL flashguns
 - If using the pop-up flash to trigger, you must delve into the menus to set the off-camera flash power
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Place external flashes in 'Slave' mode

Pros

- Cheap and reliable
- Very simple manual mode
- Only cheaper manual flashguns required
- You can use your pop up flash or simple infra-red trigger to fire the off-camera flashes

Cons

- Infra-red system requires 'line of sight' and doesn't work so well outside in sunshine
- Flash power must be set from flash position
- You are restricted to max flash sync speed of your camera

- If using the pop-up flash to trigger, you must delve into the menus to set the off-camera flash power
 - If using the pop-up flash to trigger, care must be taken that the pop up flash does not contribute to exposure
 - Other peoples flashes will set yours off.
 - Not all flashes have a 'Slave' mode (adapters can be purchased)
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Manual radio triggers and receivers (my recommendation, especially for indoor session)

Pros

- Cheap and reliable
- Very simple manual mode
- Only cheaper manual flashguns required
- Works around corners and outside in sunshine
- Many manufacturers make these radio triggers

Cons

- Flash power must be set from flash position, unless using more recent systems that allows power to be set from the camera position (e.g Yongnuo and Godox)
 - You are restricted to max flash sync speed of your camera
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TTL radio triggers and receivers

Pros

- Cheaper and more reliable than in the past
- You can use TTL (although it's not necessary for off-camera flash)
- You can set the flash power from the camera position
- You can use High Speed Sync (i.e. not restricted to max sync speed)

Cons

- More expensive than manual triggers
- Requires more expensive TTL flashgun