impact™

QuikBalance Tri-Fold Panel
INSTRUCTIONS

Introduction

Thank you for choosing the Impact QuikBalance Tri-Fold Panel. This unique, portable, easy-to-use triple-panel design has a black panel, a white panel and an 18% gray panel that are all connected, with a reflective silver reverse side on each panel. The Tri-Fold Panel makes it possible to achieve perfect exposure and color balance in your photos and videos every time.

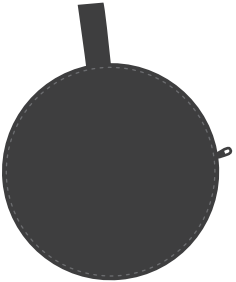
This triple-panel design offers a white panel which can be used to set precise and accurate white balance for your digital camera at a photo shoot, or as a post-production tool to ensure correct color rendition using software like Adobe® Photoshop®. The 18% gray panel can be used for setting accurate exposure. Each of the panels can also be used in post-production for ensuring accurate color rendition. The reflective silver on the back of all three panels makes a handy light reflector at a photo shoot.

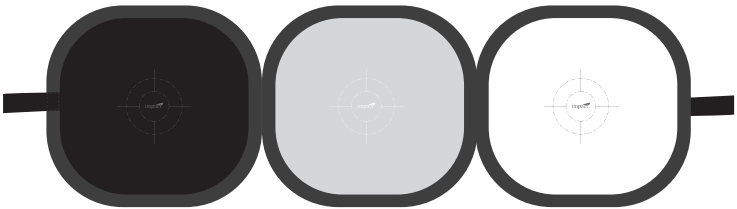
Warnings

- Please read and follow these instructions, and keep this manual in a safe place.
- Keep this unit away from water and any flammable gases or liquids.
- Avoid exposing this product to sunlight for extended periods–fading may affect performance
- Handle the unit with care.
- Clean the unit with a soft, dry cloth.
- Use only parts provided by the manufacturer.
- Make sure the item is intact and that there are no missing parts.
- All photos are for illustrative purposes only.

Contents Include

- Impact QuikBalance Tri-Fold Panel
- Storage sleeve
- User instruction manual
- One-Year Limited Warranty





Specifications	Dimensions		Weight
	Each Panel	Overall	
QBP-TF-12	12″ × 12″ (30 × 30 cm)	12″ × 36″ (30 × 90 cm)	8 oz. (226 g)

White Balance and Color

Human beings can see millions of colors accurately even in changing lighting conditions. The perceived color of an object changes according to the color of the light striking it. Our brains automatically compensate when the color of the light changes, so that a red ball will look red to us in daylight, under fluorescent lights, or lit by a table lamp. But a digital camera will record the ball as different colors under different kinds of lighting – that is, unless the white balance is set to match the specific lighting condition.

The color of light is measured on the Kelvin scale, with a temperature of degrees Kelvin (K) used to describe changes in the color of light. As Kelvin temperature increases, the color of light becomes "cooler," which is seen as moving to the blue end of the scale. Inversely, as Kelvin temperature decreases, the color of the light becomes "warmer," which is seen as moving towards the red end of the scale. Tungsten light is on the warmer end of the Kelvin scale (approximately 3200°K), while daylight falls on the cooler end (approximately 5500°K). In order for the camera to accurately record colors, it must have its white balance set to the same color temperature as the light that is falling on the object being photographed.

Your digital camera has a number of white balance presets, which can be found in the White Balance (WB) menu of your camera. In many cases, choosing one of these presets will give you a relatively good result. For the most precise result, however, you should use a digital white panel to set a custom white balance for your photo session.

By using the neutral white panel, you can set the camera to a precise white balance, resulting in a more accurate recording of all the colors. This is particularly important when there is mixed light from different sources. For instance, there might be a mixture of daylight and tungsten with a bit of fluorescent thrown in.

A neutral white panel should be used even when lighting conditions are completely controlled, such as in a studio, to achieve perfect results. You will get the same color results throughout the shoot, which also makes it easier to automate when editing in post-production to fix all similar images at one time.

Perfect white balance

Each of the panels is formulated to be spectrally neutral. This means that all light that is reflected from each panel is a true and accurate representation of the qualities of the light; nothing is added, distorted, or subtracted. Using your camera or post-production editing software, you can use the light reflected from the white side as a precise reference to determine the exact lighting conditions. The camera or post-production editing software can then correct and balance all the colors in the entire photograph.

Note: *You MUST create a new white balance reference each time the lighting conditions change or the camera settings change.*

In-Camera Custom White Balance

For In-Camera Custom White Balance, some cameras will require you to take a picture of the neutral white panel under the exact lighting conditions of your photo shoot. That image will serve as your reference. You should fill as much of the viewfinder as possible with the panel. Please refer to your camera's instruction manual for details.

Note: *When taking the shot for the white balance reference, make sure all the settings (shutter speed, aperture, ISO, etc.) are the same as the final shot.*

Use the menus on your camera to set the WB to Custom. Refer to your camera's manual for the specific steps to perform this task, since it varies between manufacturers and models.

Without QuickBalance Gray Panel

With QuickBalance Gray Panel

Post-Processing WB (RAW)

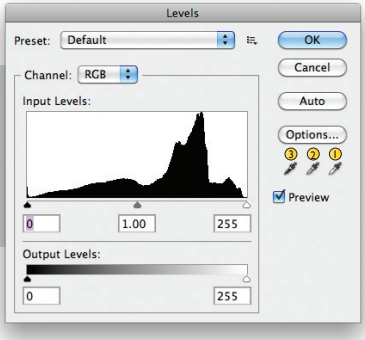
You will need to shoot an image with the neutral white panel somewhere in the photo for each lighting situation you encounter. The white panel does not need to take up most of the viewfinder as it did for in-camera white balance, since you will merely be sampling this small area as a reference. To do this, simply take a picture of the panel and surroundings in the same lighting environment as your photo. After you've taken this reference photo, remove the Tri-Fold Panel from the subject area. You'll want to take a separate image for each different lighting condition you plan on shooting.

Upon finishing your photo shoot, you will use the reference photos of the neutral white panel to set the white balance for each respective series of photos. To use the white panel in your post-production workflow, select a point on the neutral white panel image in your post-processing software to be the source reference point for the white balance setting. Next, select the images taken under that lighting condition and instruct the software to apply that same setting to the rest of the images in the series. The neutral white panel can be used to set the absolute white point, such as that found in Adobe Photoshop Levels controls. Gray point can be set in Levels using the 18% gray panel, and the black panel can be used to set the

absolute black point.

You can use editing software such as Adobe Photoshop together with your reference image to color correct the image using the Levels function.

Adobe Photoshop “Levels” Panel



① Eyedropper to set “white” point
② Eyedropper to set “gray” point
③ Eyedropper to set “black” point

Metering using the QuikBalance Tri-Fold Panel for perfect exposure

Your camera's light meter can't see in color. It only sees reflected light in shades of gray. Of the entire range of reflected light that your camera meter sees, 18% gray is the middle, hence the term "middle gray". All built-in camera light meters work this way.

To meter off of the 18% gray panel, simply position the panel in the light that is falling on your subject so that the panel is angled slightly toward the primary light source. It is necessary to fill the frame with the gray panel, unless your camera is set in Spot Metering Mode and is reading only the gray panel in a scene.

Using the QuikBalance Tri-Fold Panel

Using the QuickBalance Tri-Fold Panel for exposure and white balance

Using the QuickBalance Tri-Fold Panel as a reflector

One-Year Limited Warranty

Impact provides a limited warranty to the original purchaser that this product is free from defects in materials and workmanship under normal consumer use for a period of one (1) year from the original purchase date or thirty (30) days after replacement, whichever occurs later. Impact's responsibility with respect to this limited warranty shall be limited solely to repair or replacement, at Impact's discretion, of any product that fails during normal consumer use. Inoperability of the product or part(s) shall be determined by Impact. If the product has been discontinued, we reserve the right to replace it with a model of equivalent quality and function.

To obtain warranty coverage, contact Impact to obtain a return merchandise authorization ("RMA") number, and return the defective product to Impact, along with the RMA number and proof of purchase. Shipment of the defective product is at the purchaser's own risk.

This warranty does not cover damage or defect caused by misuse, neglect, accident, alteration, abuse, improper installation or maintenance. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED HEREIN, IMPACT MAKES NEITHER ANY EXPRESS WARRANTIES NOR ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ANY IMPLIED WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. This warranty provides you with specific legal rights, and you may also have additional rights that vary from state to state.

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