

# ELINCHROM ELB 1200

» £3299/\$3499

» [www.elinchrom.com](http://www.elinchrom.com)

Elinchrom may be one of the best known names in stills photography but it's virtually unheard of by moviemakers. Although the Swiss firm does make some continuous lights, it's for its range of studio and location flashes that it has become one of the market leaders thanks to top quality, capable units at relatively affordable prices.

The new ELB 1200 comprises a power pack control unit and a separate lamp head. But it's being pushed as an all-in-one solution for filmmakers and photographers because, as well as its flash, it works as a continuous light source using the bright modelling light. Battery-powered flashes have never had a powerful enough modelling light to be of any real use, but the ELB 1200 has a new LED that's the equivalent of a 250Ws tungsten continuous light. Rather than being tungsten balanced, the LED is daylight balanced only and runs cool and quietly.

You can adjust the power using a dial on top of the unit, and a fully charged-up lithium battery will last for about 80 minutes on full power. The optional heavy-duty battery lasts for two hours. There's no flicker and the colour temperature and brightness remains constant.

Best of all, many stills photographers own some of Elinchrom's huge range of light modifiers which allow you to modify the light output in many more ways than any purpose-made video lights will.

There's everything from huge softboxes to umbrellas, reflector dishes and different sizes and finishes, beauty dishes, zoom spots, Fresnels, gobos, snoots and more – either from Elinchrom's own range or available relatively cheaply from aftermarket manufacturers. This allows



you to modify and control the light far more easily than buying a whole range of moviemaking-specific lights such as Dedolights and LED panels.

It does have its downsides, as using any modifier cuts down the light output, in some cases quite significantly. But for indoors on location, there can be plenty of power if you stick to medium-sized modifiers with only one layer of diffusion.

If you plan to use the light mainly as a video light and occasionally as a flash, you'd be missing out on the ELB 1200's strength – a wide range of creative options and, crucially, 1200Ws of flash power.

For photographers, the ELB 1200 excels in terms of portability, relatively light weight, long-lasting lithium battery, built-in radio triggering, ease of high-speed sync and OLED screen to aid fast set-up, plus a host of creative flash modes such as Sequence, Delayed and Strobe. It also allows certain DSLR and mirrorless cameras to do very high-speed flash sync to really freeze the motion.

In line with all Elinchrom flashes, recycling time is fast, colour temperature remains very consistent throughout the power range, and the power settings are accurate. The build quality is rugged, with tight-fitting connectors for the plug-in flash heads, sturdy rubber covers for all external ports, positive-feeling buttons and a well-sealed battery.

## SPECIFICATIONS

**Flash Power range:** 7–1200 Ws  
(8.5 stops)

**Power Distribution:** Asymmetrical 2:1 or symmetrical

**Fastest flash duration:** 1/8850s at 172Ws

**Recycling time to full power:** 1.7s

**Flashes per charge at max/min power:** 215/20,000

**Modelling light:** 92CRI LED

**Dimensions with battery (WxHxD):** 18cmx13cmx28cm/  
7.09inx5.12inx11.02in

**Weight with battery:** 4.3kg/9.48lb

## HOW IT RATES

» **Features:** 8/10

Flash spec impressive, LED less so

» **Performance:** 8/10

The flash performance is second to none but LED is one-colour

» **Handling:** 8/10

Powerful, not too heavy, OLED display is useful

» **Value for money:** 7/10

It's not cheap but it is good quality

■ **Overall rating:** 8 Ideal for stills-focused shooters to record movies

➤ **Pros:** Amazing flash unit that can be used for video

■ **Cons:** You do pay a premium for this flexibility

You have to take the battery off the pack to charge it, rather leaving it in situ which would allow you to keep shooting with the unit plugged into the mains. The battery has a USB port so you can charge up your phone or other device on location.

When you buy an ELB 1200 you get a choice of three heads. The Pro Head is the best for all-round use, while the Action and Hi-Sync heads are more specialised. The LED is the same in all of them.

If stills are your main concern and you want a no-compromise solution for that, along with genuinely usable video spec, the ELB 1200 is a great choice although pricey at £3299/\$3499. →

See How  
This Image  
Was Made



# elinchrom®

## Introducing ELB 1200

1200Ws of Power  
4000 Lumen 92 CRI Dimmable LED  
Flash Duration up to 1/8850s\*  
Hi-Sync up to 1/8000s  
8.5 Stop Power Range  
400+ Full Power Flashes  
Kit Weight 6.5kg  
18x13cm Footprint

*"The new lighting options, and the way in which we can radically alter the lighting in an image, even from far away, is incredibly exciting from a creative perspective. t."*

- Michael Clark,  
Adventure Photographer



The Definitive Adventure  
Light For Stills and Video

