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## ON-CAMERA LIGHT

# Frezzi MA-18 HMI Light

by Carl Mrozek

Having ample lighting handy for a range of needs is a perennial challenge for all videographers, especially those who typically work alone and don't have access to AC power.

In these cases, a small battery-powered light called the "Sun Gun" is the right hardware, but battery power is a limitation. A 50-W tungsten bulb may be adequate for interviews but not for establishing shots and other ENG applications.

Fortunately, HMI lighting is now available in a Sun Gun package and offers a practical lighting solution for a range of field conditions. That's because HMI lighting delivers several times more light per watt than tungsten lighting.

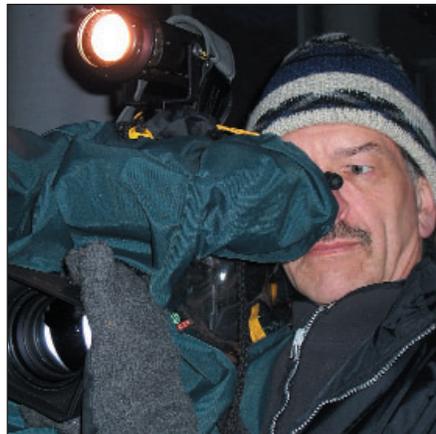
Until recently, HMI Sun Guns were available only in bulky packages of 50 W or higher and required separate ballasts, which made them heavy and awkward. The higher wattage also meant a serious reduction in battery runtime, which meant carrying extra battery packs in the field.

Frezzolini has a solution to this dilemma with a new generation of low-power Sun Guns that draw less than 30 W.

## FEATURES

Frezzolini's HMI Sun Guns are compact and streamlined, weighing only one pound with the bulb. They closely resemble Frezzi's popular tungsten Sun Guns and are designed to be weather-resistant and easily integrate into an ENG-style camera package.

The Frezzi line of mini-HMIs now includes 18-W and 50-W models in addition to the original 24-W model. All operate on 12 to 15 V and are EMI shielded, noise-filtered and reverse-polarity protected.



The MA-18 attaches to cameras that are encased in a rain cover.

A major advantage of HMI Sun Guns is that they are much more efficient than quartz-tungsten lighting, by a factor of four. Another bonus is that they produce daylight-balanced 5600K light, which makes them especially useful for fill lighting when shooting scenes mixed with natural light.

According to Frezzi, an 18-W unit draws 24 W and delivers as much light as a 95-W tungsten Sun Gun: 50 footcandles at five feet with a diffusion lens and a beam angle of 21 degrees. The 24-W Sun Gun delivers 70 footcandles at five feet while drawing 28 W.

All HMI mini-Sun Guns are designed to mount atop the camera, mainly on the handle, either via a 1/2-inch stud or an optional 5/8-inch stand adapter. They can also be hand-held.

All three Frezzi HMI Sun Guns are available either as kits or individually, with hardware to fit most current camcorders. All also work with Frezzi's Mini-Fill and Mini-Arc accessories, including a collapsible soft box kit and optional barn doors.

## FAST FACTS

### Application

ENG and EFP

### Key Features

Lightweight; high light output; daylight balanced

### Price

\$950 (fixture); \$1,195 (kit)

### Contact

Frezzi Energy Systems

800-345-1030

[www.frezzi.com](http://www.frezzi.com)

## IN USE

I tested Frezzi's 18-W HMI unit, the MA-18, with a Sony DSR570W 2/3-inch CCD camcorder, powered by IDX Endura 55- and 80-W lithium-ion batteries. The MA-18 is superficially identical to the MA-24, previously the smallest on-camera HMI. However, its self-contained ballast unit can power only an 18-W HMI lamp.

The unit arrived in a lunchbox-sized carrying case, densely padded to prevent breakage. The kit included a Sun Gun with power cord, 18-W bulb, camera mounting bracket with hotshoe, a tungsten conversion filter plus barndoors with diffusion filter.

The barndoor/diffusion unit and tungsten filter are interchangeable. Both fasten onto the outer neck of the Sun Gun via a single setscrew that securely clamps a rotating ring to the face of the unit. The ability to rotate the ring is especially important when using the barndoor assembly.

I powered the Sun Gun with IDX Endura 55- and 80-W batteries, piggybacking them

