

Troubleshooting TheForce

First and foremost you must have the correct serial cable. Because the 995 and later models of Cooplux cameras include or become a USB storage device (card reader) when connected using the USB cable they cannot be used to control the camera via the USB cable.

The correct cable is:

Nikon Serial Cable (SC-EW3 Nikon USA Part No. 25143) or Compatible

First some preliminaries:

1. Set the camera AutoOff time to 3min or more
2. Make sure the camera is in Bulb mode manual if the bulb checkbox is checked
3. If long exposures are needed and NR is ON then add the exposure time to the Pause time plus a few seconds to allow the NR frame to be taken and recover before the next exposure is taken. (This is a work around and a future build will either wait for the camera to finish the NR frame or add to the pause automatically)
4. Set the camera to Manual Focus

Troubleshooting:

Step 0: Turn the camera off

Step 1: Turn on the camera without the serial cable attached

Step 2: Insert the serial cable with the camera powered on. It should go dark. If it does not go dark there may be a problem with the cable or the serial port. (Resolve cable or Serial port problems now as this must work to continue). *If you have the MC-EU1 remote try to use it and make sure that it works.*

Step 3: Open theForce

Step 4: Click connect. After a few seconds the camera should wake-up and theForce should enable the other buttons on its main screen. If it does not wake-up make sure that the COM port is properly selected in the Options dialog then repeat steps 0 through 4.

Step 5: Click the Open button button to begin an exposure. Counting should start and at about 1 second the camera should begin taking the picture. Click the close button after a few seconds.

Some common problems:

Problem: TheForce was set to a 15 second exposure but it ends at 8 or some other number of seconds or parts of a second.

Solution: The camera is not in Bulb mode. You can uncheck the bulb checkbox if you want to use the camera's shutter control but with it checked it expects the camera to be in bulb mode.

Problem: I want to use the camera's shutter timing and still use theforce to begin the exposure.

Solution: Uncheck the bulb setting. Shutter and Bracket will be disabled but the camera will control the shutter.

Problem: My exposures are not properly focused.

Solution: TheForce expects the camera to be in Manual focus. If it is not the auto focus may not have time to focus before the exposure is taken. A future release of theForce may support a half-press before the actual exposure to allow the auto focus to finish focusing.

Problem: An "autoshutter" sequence of 10 exposures yields 8 or fewer exposures or some exposures are less than the required shutter.

Solution: A small pause is needed between any exposures and if noise reduction is enabled the pause must be long enough to get past the camera's dark frame. If NR is OFF, increase the pause a few seconds. If NR is ON, the pause should be at least the length of the shutter plus a few seconds.

Problem: All was working fine but all of the sudden it stopped responding to commands from theForce.

Solution: If the camera gets confused you may need to remove the battery for a second and then repeat steps 0 to 4 above. This seems to be a problem with the remote protocol and not theForce. *The remote MC-EU1 has these same problems.*

Problem: I get a message about access denied or port is in use.

Solution: You may have more than one copy of theForce running. You may also have a hidden copy running. Press Ctrl-Alt-Delete and check the list of running programs. Remove all copies of theForce and try again. Finally, you may have some other program using this COM port unload any communications programs and try again.

Problem: I get a message such as "Cannot create object"

Solution: You may not have first downloaded the ASCOM runtime. Please see theForce homepage for download instructions. Also GammaAnd.dll (workhorse of theForce) may not have registered properly. Try manually registering this dll.

```
Click Windows Start button
Then Click run then type
Regsvr32 c:\Progra~1\TheForce\GammaAnd.dll
And hit enter
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Problem: After a while the camera shut off (I changed it to 3 minutes but I was busy).

Solution: Click disconnect in theForce. Turn the camera back on. Then click connect again. Alternately click disconnect, close theForce and then turn on the camera and reload theForce and press connect.