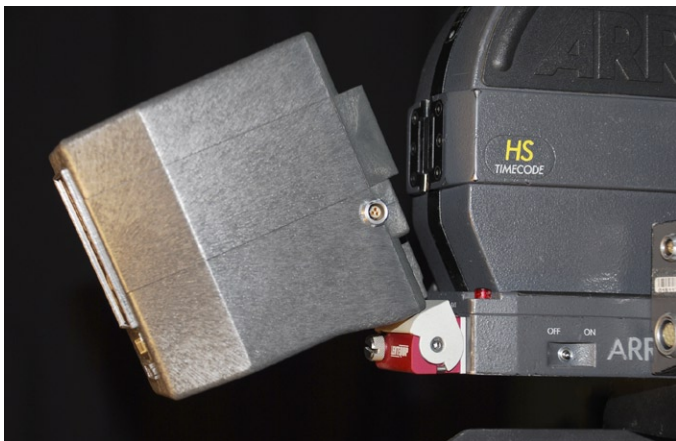


Lentequip 16SR3 Battery Adapter



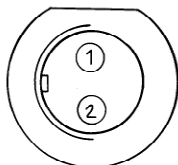
16SR3 Battery Review

Like the Arriflex 535, 535B and 435, the Arriflex 16 SR3 uses 24 volt DC batteries. It will run with a DC power supply of 20 to 32 volts. If the voltage is out of that range (below 18v or above 34v), if there is a short in the battery or cable, or if polarity is reversed, the camera has an internal auto-reset current limiting circuit that prevents it from running. The camera will shut down, and takes less than a minute to reset. Make sure the main power switch is turned off, and you remove the offending battery.

When using external block batteries, if the polarity is reversed, the RUN LED will glow red. Make sure battery pin 1 is negative, and pin 2 is +24 volts DC.

Plug the power cable into the back of the camera, where it says BAT. It is a two pin Fischer connector (camera side is male, cable is female). Pin 1 is ground, Pin 2 is +24v (10 amp max.)

On-board batteries attach to the same connector, secured with a threaded thumbscrew.



Canadians know a thing or two about cold weather, and that to keep cameras and video taps running longer, it helps to have beefier batteries in any climate. Over 1000 heavy-duty Lentequip on-board batteries for Arriflex 16SR3 cameras are out there, available in 26.4V 2.5Ah NiCad (LE-R3) or 25.2V 4Ah NiMh (LE-R3N). They'll run from 10 to 20 400' mags.

ARRI also makes 24 volt on-boards. They are 1.4 Ah, and trade lighter weight for shorter shooting time: about 5 to 8 400' magazines per battery at room temperature.

To use on-boards, you need an on-board battery adapter. Up to now, only the ARRI adapter was available. It accepts both ARRI and Lentequip batteries. However, it frequently broke under the load of the heavier Lentequip batteries and the exertions of strong camera assistants, especially when they yanked the battery back to remove the magazine.

This was an expensive repair: about \$400-\$600 a pop, with probably a lot of finger pointing to go with it. Rental houses blamed Molson-guzzling, hockey-playing camera assistants, and sober, diligent camera assistants blamed the rental house.

Lentequip in Toronto to the rescue. Emery Soos, president of Lentequip, has come up with a stylish and stronger battery adapter. He says, "It was designed to specifically beef-up the portion of the tilting mechanism that bears the added weight and abuse of articulation, and the added mass of aluminum should contribute to a much extended product lifetime."

The Lentequip Heavy Duty SR3 Battery Adapter adapter is designed for the Lentequip batteries only. The official part number is the LE-SR3ADAP and lists for \$1395.00CDN. Don't wince at the price; the ARRI adapter is about \$400 more, and the repair bill for a broken adapter is about the same. The first production run is already sold out.

Emery continues, "Our on-boards have worked with ARRI's adapter for many years, until the adapter is damaged, of course. This damage happens quite frequently by the way; there was just no viable solution unless a complete redesign was initiated. Conversely, our adapter does not work with ARRI's on-boards. ARRI uses a vertical and tilted-back indexing system, meaning that it has a positive lock when in either position. Since we use a much stronger magnet for our batteries to keep them 'glued' to the magazine, we do not require the vertical index detent. Instead we use a spring-loaded mechanism to tilt the adapter back when a battery is not present on the camera. I call this the 'battery receiving position'. Once the battery is tilted vertically the magnets hold the Lentequip on-board firmly upright."

The Lentequip LE-R3 batteries have a helpful 3-pin Fischer 24 volt output connector to power accessories directly from the battery. Their new Fast Charger will refuel 4 batteries: 2 simultaneously in about an hour each. (Original ARRI chargers are NOT suitable for Lentequip high capacity batteries.) You can order individual batteries or a Pelican case complete with 4 Lentequip batteries, Smart Charger and charge cables.