



Basic Lighting
With
Off Camera Flash

The first thing you need to know

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I am not an expert!

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So why am I doing this?



So why bother?

We love shooting in
natural light



Sometimes it ain't there.



We need a little help



It's more than just portraits, weddings and headshots



Light up the indoors



Use it outdoors



Use it for both at once



Experiment



Just have some fun!



So what is a speedlight....speedlite?



And how much do they cost?

It depends.



Ka-ching!!!!

Now I have the light. Where do I put it?



Get it off the camera!



Control with pop-up flash

Pros:

- Convenient

- Free

Cons:

- Line of sight only

- Use manufacturer's lights only



Control with a cable

Pros:

- Ease of use

- Line of sight not needed

- Moderately priced

Cons: Tripping

- Second light must be in sight



Wireless triggers

Pros:

- Control many flashes

- Long range

- Use off brand lights

- Hide lights out of sight

Cons:

- Can be expensive

- Can be touchy



How do you control these lights?

TTL flash

- Camera decides how much power is needed.

- Flash exposure compensation to fine tune.

- Great when on the run and light changes

Manual flash

- You set flash power

- Adjustments are made manually

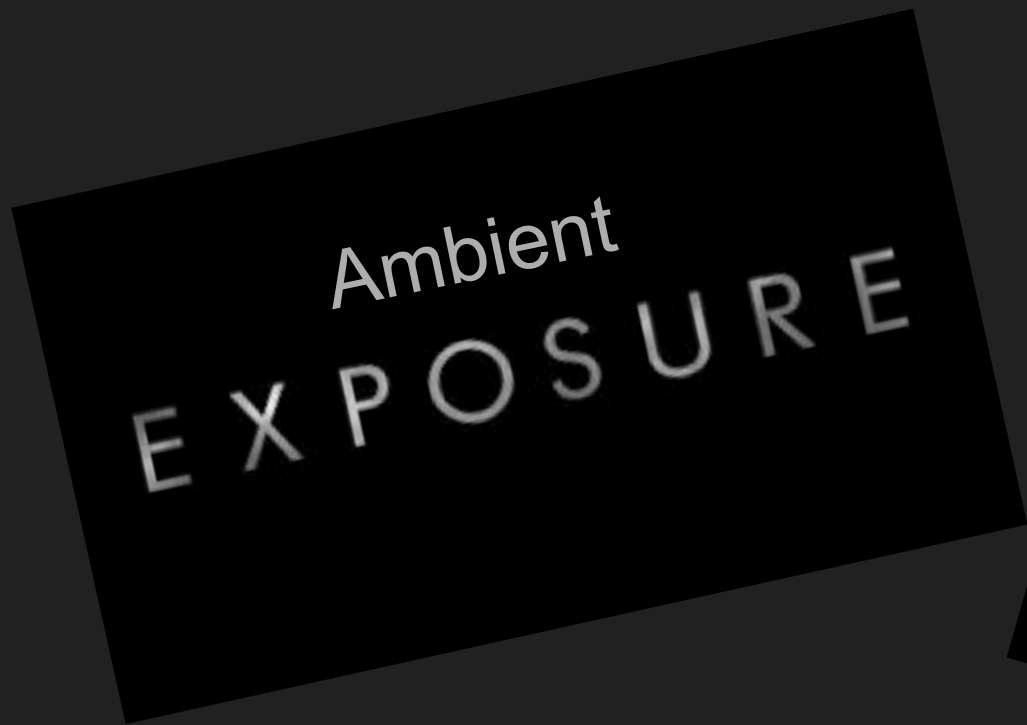
- Great when light is constant like in a studio

Some speedlights won't do TTL or Hi Speed Sync

Two exposures are better than one.



Two exposures are better than one.



The exposure triangle again

Aperture. Determines quantity of light at any given time.

Shutter speed. Determines duration of that time.

ISO. Determines the sensitivity to the light.



Controlling the ambient

Aperture - controls both ambient and flash

ISO - controls both ambient and flash

Shutter - controls ambient light

Flash doesn't care about the shutter

The flash only fires when the shutter is fully open.

Control ambient with shutter speed

Flash is unchanged. Shutter speed is adjusted.



Control subject with flash exposure

Shutter speed is unchanged. Flash exposure is adjusted.



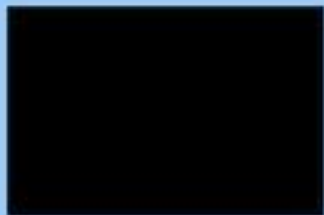
How fast can I shoot?

AKA What's my sync speed?

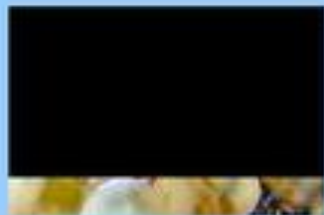


Flash sync speed

- ┐ The fastest shutter speed that allows the first curtain to fully open before the second curtain begins to close.



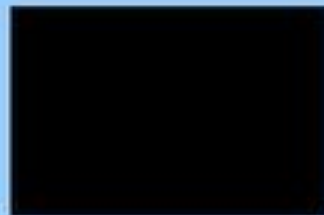
Shutter is closed



1-st curtain
starts to open



2-nd curtain
starts to close



Shutter is closed



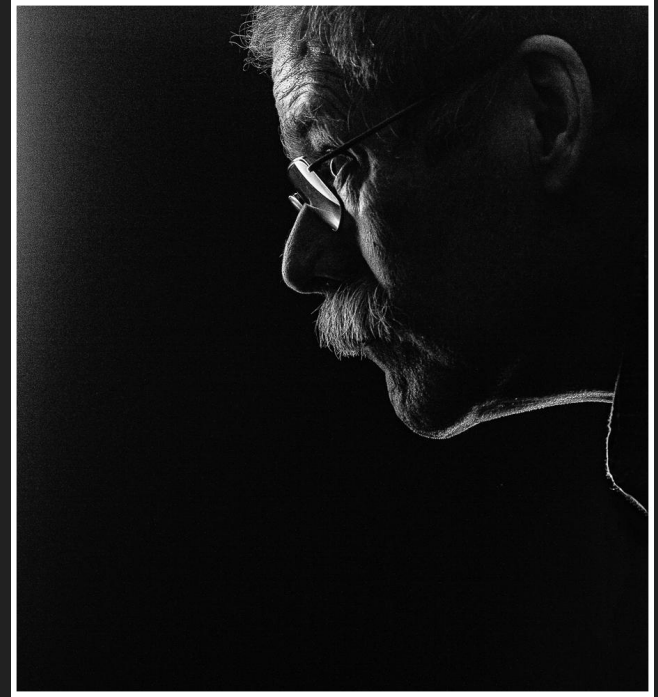
Normal flash fires, when shutter window is fully open



Soft light

vs

Hard light



The larger the source, the softer the light. It's all relative.

So, how do I get that nice soft light?



So, how do I get that nice soft light?

Bounce it..... off ceilings, walls, a white sheet, poster board, a t-shirt.



I'm off the camera, but I still don't know where to put the flash.

REMEMBER!

The closer the source. The softer the light.

The larger the source. The softer the light.

You want interest? You want drama? You want depth?
You want shadows!



Unwanted shadows?

Separate your subject
from the background.

Feather the light.



Light Fall Off

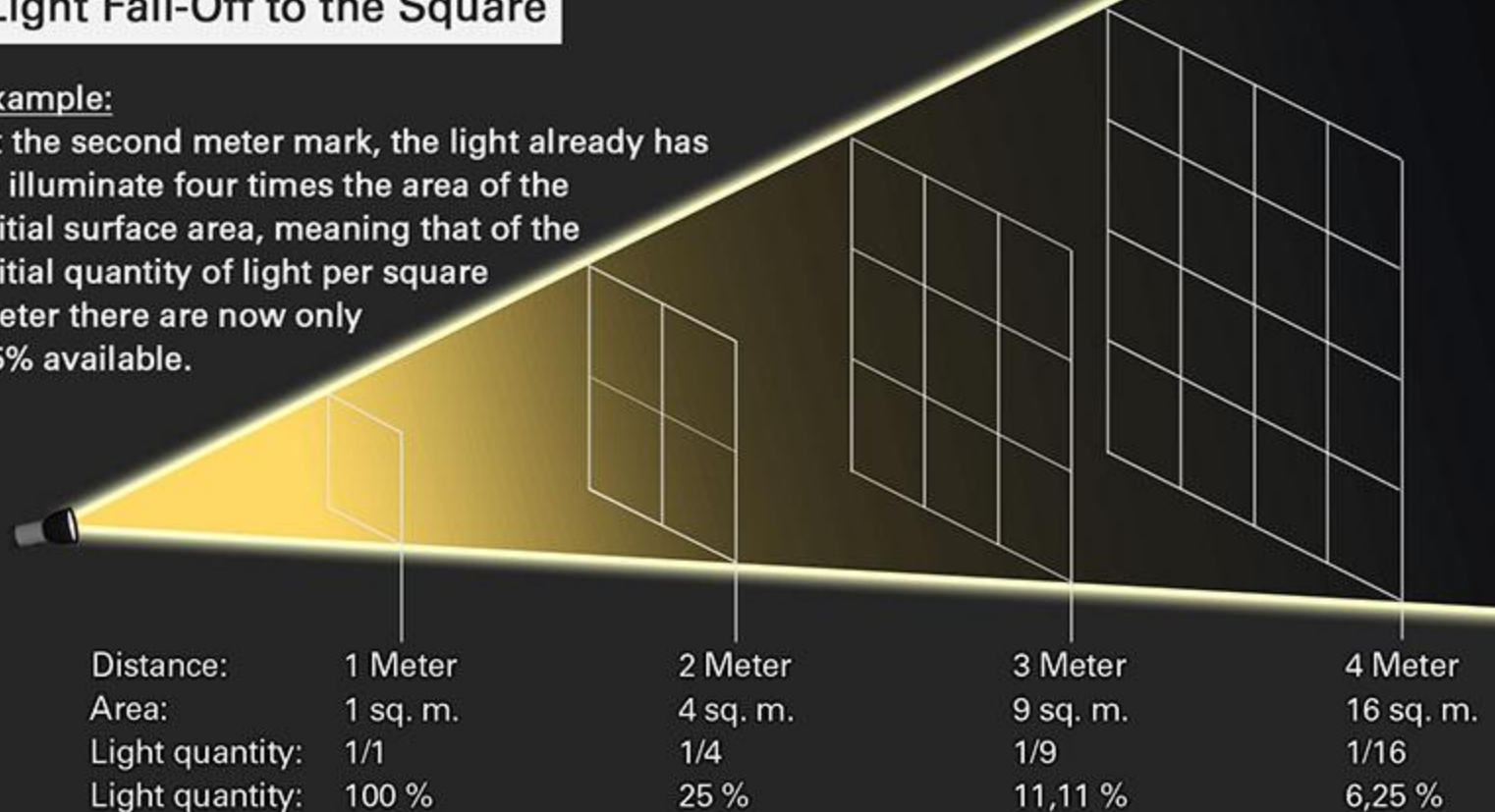
The closer the light source to the subject, the faster the light falls off behind it.



Light Fall-Off to the Square

Example:

At the second meter mark, the light already has to illuminate four times the area of the initial surface area, meaning that of the initial quantity of light per square meter there are now only 25% available.



Light Modifiers

Control the size of the source

Control the spread of the source

Control the quality of the source

Control the color of the source



Shoot through umbrella

Creates nice soft light

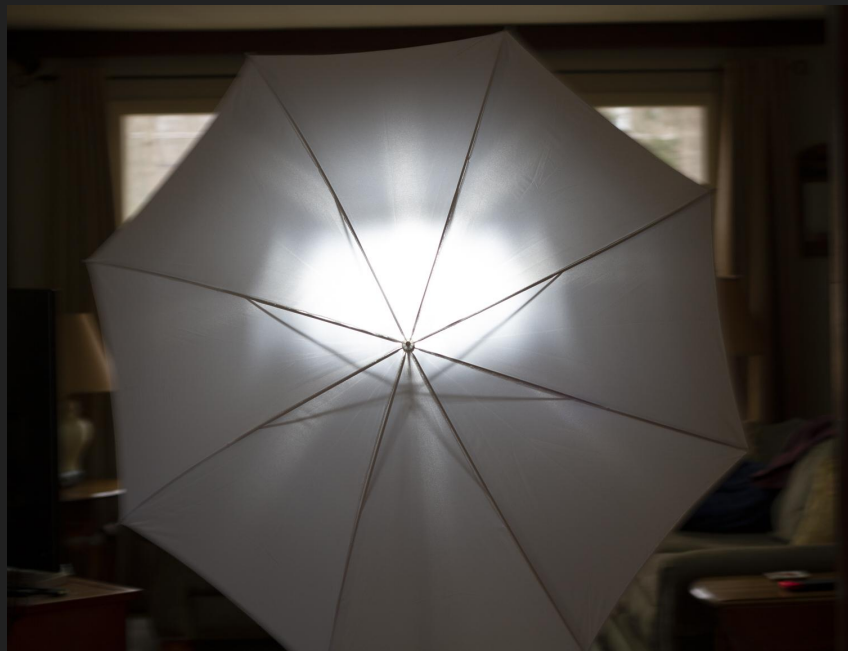
Many different sizes available

Inexpensive

Cannot control spread of light



Fill it with light



Shoot through umbrella



Reflector Umbrella

Creates nice soft light

Many sizes available

Relatively inexpensive

Removeable reflective back

Difficult to control light spread



Reflector umbrella



Softbox

Creates beautiful diffused light

Easier to control light spread

Many sizes and shapes available

Can be expensive



Softbox



Snoots and Grids

Use to focus light into a tighter beam

Lots of different styles available

Grids available for softboxes and beauty dishes

Moderate price



Snoot



Grid



Build the shot



















Some on line resources I've used

YouTube

Mark Wallace-Adorama TV (YouTube)

Gavin Hoey-Adorama TV (YouTube)

Joe McNally

David Hobby-Strobist.com

Creative Live

Mark Wallace (Speedlight 101 - \$29.99)

Less expensive options I have used for lights and triggers.

Godox

Yongnuo

Both are available widely at places like B&H, Adorama and Amazon.

Upcoming Lighting Workshops

Saturday, April 3rd at 10:00 am

“Photography Using Lighting”

with Bob Becker

Saturday, April 17th at 10:00 am

“Making the Most of Speedlites”

with Bob Becker

Experiment



Get creative!



Be frustrated and
swear a lot!

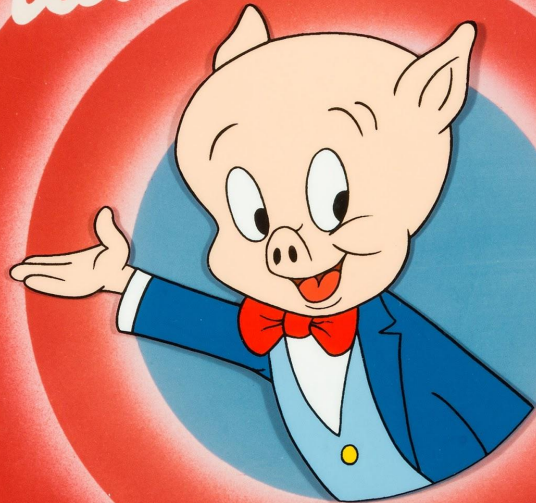


Have fun!!!





That's all Folks!™



Fred Flinn

A WARNER BROS. CARTOON

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