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Tabletop Photography: Using Compact Flashes And Low-Cost Tricks To Create Professional-Looking Studio Shots



Synopsis

Imagine capturing stunning, professional-looking product shots without needing a studio filled with expensive equipment and large flash units. This book teaches all the steps for creating your own tabletop photography studio. Affordable compact flashes offer a number of creative lighting options within your tabletop studio; and the appropriate lighting and backdrop, and the creative use of your camera's features are key to a perfect image. Author Cyril Harnischmacher guides you through a variety of exposure and lighting techniques, and covers how to achieve excellent results using compact flash units. Whether you wish to capture product images for use in print or on the web, or you want to improve your photos for personal use, this book will provide you with everything you need to know to get great results. Topics include: Lighting Setups; Reflectors, Diffusors, and Accessories; Soft Boxes and Umbrellas; Strobe Flashes; Combining Long Exposures with Flashlights; Multi-Flash Exposures; Composition and Arrangements; Creating Backdrops; Product Photography; Smoke, Fog, and Special Effects; Food Photography and much more...

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Customer Reviews

I was very impressed with the overall quality of the book Tabletop Photography. From the narrative to the photography it was top notch. The author has previously published several other photography related books, one of them award-winning. In the Preface, the author states that the intended audience for this book is "amateurs who are making their first foray into tabletop photography and

who don't already own studio lighting systems." I'd say that while that may be the author's idea of intended audience the reality is that photographers of all levels of experience will find value in this book. It is particularly well-suited for amateurs because of its succinct discussion of photography basics but further on, more depth is given to topics specific to tabletop photography and its associated topics. The book is square in size, has very nice quality glossy paper and is beautifully illustrated with subject appropriate photographs and graphic embellishment. The book is divided into the following main sections:-The Basics-Technology-Light-Studio-In Practice-Assembly Instructions I'll briefly describe the content for each main section. The Basics: this very brief section is what it says. It's either a nice refresher or a good introduction to the essential elements of photography... focal length of the lens, depth of field, exposure, light and composition. Technology: In this section the author walks the reader through the essentials of choosing suitable compact and system flash units. Most helpful is that he cites specific brands and models rather than talking generically.

This is a slender volume that aims at a specific genre of photography and limits itself way beyond what one might expect. The author says it is intended for amateurs making the first try at tabletop photography who don't already own studio lighting systems. But you'd better understand exposure, focusing, depth of field, close-up photography and how to use your electronic flash, because the book doesn't cover any of these subjects in any kind of depth, except to the extent that there are special considerations in tabletop photography. In fact, at first reading I didn't think the book covered some essential considerations, like the relationship of lens focal length to angle of view. (You don't want to accidentally include a wall to the side of a subject in an image by using too wide an angle lens.) However upon reading the book more slowly, I discovered that most of the essential subjects were covered somewhere, even though it might not have been in the expected location. I advise you read the book carefully so that you don't miss any points. The author covered all of the relevant equipment. He emphasized using flash units rather than larger studio lights, not only because of cost but also because, in many ways, they provide more flexibility. The equipment discussions were quite comprehensive, emphasizing lighting equipment and its use (although he did fail to mention the use of booms, which I have often found helpful for placing a light). Most of the book was devoted to the practice of tabletop lighting, including methods for getting pure white or black backgrounds, photographing glass objects, and combining continuous lighting and flash. The book concluded with instructions on making some of your own tools for tabletop photography.

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