

Tabletop Photography

By Terry Butler

Advantages

Convenience

Controlled Environment

Immediate Feedback - check composition, details, re-shoot if necessary

Continue shooting regardless of the weather

Natural light

"Rembrandt" lighting - light source at 10 o'clock shows form beautifully

Side lighting - to show or exaggerate texture

back lighting - glow effects

Fun and a great learning experience

Equipment

Essentials

table or other support that catches light

background - paper or fabric, other

light source - window

reflector, purchased, or white foam core, aluminum foil

diffuser-purchased, or a curtain

clothespins or clamps

tripod

Optional

stand for holding background

black velvet-highest quality

bevelled glass or from a frame, one side spray painted with matte black

polarizing filter to reduce unwanted reflections

Flower photography

flowers, - in top condition

florist frogs

scissors

vases

water



My Studio



Reflector Comparison



**No reflector - window
light on left, dark
shadows on all parts
not facing the window**

**Gold reflector - created
unwanted color cast
especially on lower
flower and background**

**Silver reflector -
brightened shadows
and background**

Creative Backgrounds



Printed Paper



Fabric and Lace

**Scrapbook
Paper ->**



**Tabletop with the
Cover cover
Of a wooden box
->**





Photographing Reflections on Black

"Rose Reflections" - Award, Mono Print Category
Twin Cities Area Council of Camera Clubs
Interclub Competition

Reflections on Glass Tips:

Lay the object on glass that has been spray painted on one side with matte black paint. Beveled glass is best to prevent cuts, but the glass from a frame works well, too.

To get good reflections, you need good, strong light (but not shining directly on the subject)

Curves adjustments will help bring out the

reflections.

Other Examples



Macro and Close-up Examples



The back side of a sunflower (right) is a wonderful example of how side lighting can bring out texture.

Flower and Floral Still Life Examples



The above illustrates how Rembrandt lighting enhances form

Other Still Life Examples



Strong coffee with
Photoshop Steam ->



Non-Studio Examples



Shooting down to the floor covered with black Velvet



A kitchen chair



In the refrigerator



My Grandson's Thomas the Train