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



Tabletop with the Cover cover Of a wooden box





reflections.

Other Examples





Photographing Reflections on Black

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

Reflections on Glass Tips:

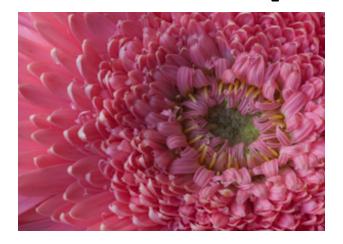
Lay the object on glass that has been spray painted on one side with matte black paint. Beveled glass is best to prevent cuts, but the glass from a frame works well, too.

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

Curves adjustments will help bring out the



Macro and Close-up Examples







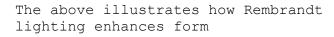




The back side of a sunflower (right) is a wonderful example of how side lighting can bring out texture.

Flower and Floral Still Life Examples













Other Still Life Examples









Strong coffee with Photoshop Steam ->



Non-Studio Examples



Shooting down to the floor covered with black Velvet



In the refrigerator



A kitchen chair



My Grandson's Thomas the Train