

Speedlites-

when you need to bring your own light

Edward Weston

“The fact is that relatively few photographers ever master their medium. Instead they allow the medium to master them and go on an endless squirrel cage chase from new lens to new paper to new developer to new gadget, never staying with one piece of equipment long enough to learn its full capacities, becoming lost in a maze of technical information that is of little or no use since they don't know what to do with it.”

Why use flash

- Too dark
- Too much contrast
- Stop action
- Bring your own light
- Overpower the sun- light packs

Light Illuminates, Shadows Define – Rick Sammon

Flash progression

- Built-in
 - Easy
 - Always with you
 - Low power
 - Ugly- DMV lighting
 - Suggestion -> use FEC to lower power

Flash Progression II

- Speedlite on camera
 - Easy
 - Cost and capabilities vary
 - Normal direction is UGLY (DMV)
 - Modifiers
 - Tupperware (Sto-Fen, Gary Fong)
 - Foam light scoop
 - Mini softbox (Lumiquest)

Problem-> Direction of light

Bouncing on camera Speedlite

- Ceiling
 - Better than straight but not very flattering
 - Better if you can use reflector below subject (pseudo-clamshell)
 - Color cast?
 - Distance/Power

Bouncing on camera Speedlite II

- Wall
 - Much better modeling
 - Wall becomes softbox- point your flash where you would place a studio light
 - Flag your flash - BFT (Black Foamie Thing)- Niel van Niekerk
- Reflector
 - Need assistant or stand

Flash Progression III

- Off camera flash
 - Handheld
 - Light stands
 - VAL
- Flashes - Manual vs TTL
 - Use TTL if flash to subject distance varies quickly
 - Similar to P mode on your camera
 - Use manual otherwise
 - TTL Tax

Gear

- Flashes
 - TTL
 - Canon 600EX-RT \$550.00 (60)
 - Phottix Mitros \$300 (58) (Mitros + \$400)
 - Manual
 - LumoPro LP180 - \$200
 - Yongnuo YN-560 II \$59.00 (IV \$71.00) (58)
 - Batteries- use rechargeable and get a good charger!
- Wireless Triggers – Need one at camera and one at each flash
 - Manual
 - YN-603 \$35.87 pair
 - YN-560TX \$43 (YN-560 III and IV allow remote control)
 - Pocket Wizard Plus X \$99.99 each
 - TTL
 - Pocket Wizard Mini TT1 \$199.99 each
 - Yongnuo YN622 TTL \$84.99 pair
 - In camera

Gear II

- Lightstands 7'
 - LumoPro Compact \$35 (MPEX)
 - Cowboy Studio Set \$32.99 (Amazon)
- Umbrella bracket
 - LumoPro Compact \$16
 - Cowboy Studio \$10.17
- Umbrella swivel <- Get these!
 - LumoPro LP634 \$21.99
 - Manfrotto 026 \$45
- Umbrella
 - Westcott 43" Collapsible \$25
 - Cowboy Studio 33" White \$10.16
 - Flashpoint 60" - \$30

You can go broke getting more and more gear (GAS). Remember the quote we started with. Start small and use the gear until you KNOW why you need something else.

Remote Control

- **Wired**
 - Need place to connect to camera
 - PC port
 - Universal translator
 - Need place to connect to flash
- **In Camera control – light**
 - You may already have
 - Remote flash has to see the flash on camera
 - Don't forget to pop up your flash
- **Wireless**
 - Light or radio
 - Radio works through walls and softboxes
 - Possible interference with other photogs
 - Switch channels on radio (don't leave your gear on default)

Control your flash

- Umbrella
 - Relective
 - Shoot-through
 - Brolly box
- Softbox
 - Shoot into
 - Umbrella
 - Egg crate Grid
- Snoot
- Grid
- Flags
- Gells
 - 1/4 CTO gell available for you

Exposure

Factors-

1. ISO - Everything
2. Shutter speed - Ambient
3. Aperture (f stop) - Flash, Ambient
4. Flash power
5. Flash to subject distance (Inverse square law)

Shooting

- Where to start?
 - Somewhere - Zack Arias
 - 1/125, f5.6, ISO 100, ¼ power
- Light meter vs chimp
- With a light meter you know your exposure
- Demo (I hope)
 - TTL vs Manual
 - ¼ CTO
 - Direct flash vs Bounce
 - On camera vs Off
 - Umbrella
 - with reflector
 - Softbox
 - Balancing ambient

Open discussion and shooting

For more information

www.strobist.com - Check out Lighting 101

neilvn.com/tangents/ - home of the Black Foamie Thing

www.joemcnally.com/blog/ - a master of speedlites

www.dedpxl.com- Zack Arias (Oneligh 2.0 \$75 - 7 hours)

www.bhphotovideo.com/indepth/category/tags/lighting great training at a great price.

Pinterest of gear:

<https://www.pinterest.com/johnston1126/speedlite-seminar/>

Pinterest on books:

<http://www.pinterest.com/johnston1126/favorite-photography-books/>