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On-Camera Flash: Techniques For Digital Wedding And Portrait Photography



Synopsis

Photographers are always looking for perfect light. Unfortunately, the quality of available light, and the situations in which photos are created, are rarely perfect. This is especially true when photographing weddings or portraits on location. So while finding beautiful existing light is every photographer's ideal, it isn't always possible. This is the point at which photographers tend to reach for a portable, on-camera flash. Indeed, these intense light sources can prove invaluable, but only if you know how to use them effectively. In the hands of an inexperienced photographer, on-camera flash will produce images that look flat and lifeless; images with harsh shadows, washed-out skin tones, cavernous black backgrounds, and other unappealing visual characteristics. In this book, acclaimed wedding and portrait photographer Neil van Niekerk shows you how to avoid the pitfalls photographers new to speedlights often encounter so that you can produce professional images using on-camera flash. You'll learn to use simple accessories to manipulate the quality of light from your flash and how to improve a lighting scenario by enhancing rather than overwhelming the existing light. When the available light is too low and too uneven to be combined with flash, he shows you how to override it completely.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Excellent book on the subject - easy to follow, informative and the techniques actually work! I have followed the author for a while on his website and he is an excellent writer, able to explain in simple English sometimes complex ideas. The quality of the book is high, the pictures wonderful. This is

the second of his books that I have purchased, this was hard copy and the first was for Kindle. I found the hard copy to much more satisfying and pleasurable to read / follow as with the best will in the world the Kindle can be fiddly when jumping back and forward.

I preordered this book back in May and I received it 6 October. I realized last year that if I wanted to move my photography forward that I was going to have to learn about light and lighting. I've been following Neil for some time on his Tangent site. He is a master of on-camera flash not to say he isn't as masterful with strobes and constant light. My interest in lighting is using small flash off camera but I ran into circumstances that using off camera flash wasn't practical, hence the purchase of this publication. In just the few chapters I've read I see an immense improvement in photographs/portraits taken of my family so I can only imagine the improvement as I continue with the book and practicing.

I have recommended Neil's books to many wedding and event photographers as flash is nearly always their weakest capability and so many avoid using flash and pretend to be "available light" photographers. I always go back to the comment made by W. Eugene Smith "Available light is any damn light that is available!". Doing otherwise is the mark of a nob. I also like that Neil shows people how to use a standard flash and that this is all that is needed. He does not rely or promote all the gimmicks like ring flash and the Gary Fong creations that either work poorly, add complexity, or as with Fong's dongs, waste 75% of the light output of the flash. This is not a panacea and the photographer needs to take the information and then use it with practice in the field. I recommend taking a friend with a white top to a hotel lobby and shooting or outdoors at night and learn the limitations of your equipment and which settings provide the best results and equally important, the most consistent results. Regardless of whether you plan to photograph weddings for a living or simply photograph a friend's birthday party or some other event this book will greatly improve your results and reduce the stress level when you have more confidence that you can achieve results worth sharing.

Fantastic book that teaches you to use your on camera flash. Neil is an amazing teacher and his techniques outlined in this book are very clear and concise. I have learnt quite a few tricks about my on camera flash and use it successfully in couple of weddings that I have shot.

This book is about learning how to use your speedlite to its fullest to create great looking portraits.

He covers what options there are for speedlite modifiers, what camera settings and what flash settings to use and different lighting techniques. He then gives a variety of example situations and how to achieve the lighting you want. A good book to get you comfortable with your speedlite. I received this book in order to review.

Excellent resource book for those who really want to improve their off camera flash photography. I especially like how Neil went old school and talked about using a camera bracket and its use for off camera flash. He also gives some insight and practical uses of some of today's flash modifiers. Neil is the first book that I have read in a long time to address Flash Efficiency and Range pages 61 & 62. I would highly recommend this book to anyone who wants a better understanding or add to their resource library

This book is a very easy read, straightforward, and answers all your questions just as you come up with them! Every concept is reinforced with a set of photos, and "how I shot it" commentary. Minus one star for the Kindle version; captions overwrote the photos and sometimes did not intuitively line up. An otherwise great book!

This book is great for someone who is trying to learn how to use speedlights on-camera. This book also has tips and tricks for professionals. Now when it comes to Neil, he is very knowledgeable and I own all the books written by him. The cool thing I learnt from his OFF-CAMERA FLASH book was BFT (Black Foamie Thing)... and this ON-CAMERA FLASH book is a lot about BFT. For this being a second edition, there is not much that you cannot find in his previous books (both On/Off Camera Flash). I was expecting him to show some creative use of speedlight accessories like Flash-Disc and Ring-Flash etc.. but nothing is there. Its old wine in new bottle... fresh photos but no new tricks or new use cases. You might get a better value out of his OFF-CAMERA FLASH book in trying to advance your skill. For first time buyer it might be a 4-5 star product and 1st edition is no longer available, for me its a 3 star value.

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