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The Speedlight Studio: Professional Portraits With Portable Flash



Synopsis

In this book, Michael Mowbray shows readers how to set up a completely speedlight-based portrait photography studio. He goes in depth regarding gear and techniques, providing photographers with scores of example portraits and lighting diagrams to make it easy to follow along and replicate the portrait lighting effects that he shows. Readers will learn about selecting speedlights (Mowbray covers Canon, Nikon, and third-party units), learning standard operations, and working with the units on the camera's hot shoe (a connectivity device on top of the camera) or in the periphery for more flexible, controllable results. Readers will learn why modifying the light from speedlights will produce a lot more bang for their buck and will also discover a host of tools—commercial and DIY—that can be used to change the direction, color, and quality of light for the ultimate artistic control.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is one of those books that definitely provides some good information, particularly about third party flash systems and modifiers. While the author seemed to make a point of mentioning many

different speed lights along with many different triggering mechanisms, he didn't go into enough detail on any given system for the book to be valuable as a guide to using those systems. As soon as one system was described, he was off to the next, which was good in terms of covering a lot of ground, but not so good in terms of being used as a reference for any of the systems. Also, the photography used to illustrate the information being presented didn't demonstrate mastery of either lighting or photography as a whole, relying on very heavy digital enhancement using photoshop, compositing, and third party purchased digital backgrounds to make up for shortcomings in technique. I like the author's writing style, I must admit, but his photography didn't impress me as much as that of Joe McNally, Zack Arias, Kevin Kubota, Greg Heisler, and other photographers who also rely heavily on lighting technique. One more comment regarding the Kindle version of the book: the readability, navigability, and usability of this ebook leaves a lot to be desired. There were countless instances where captions for images aren't kept with the images themselves. Time after time the text at the top of the page belonged with a photo from the previous page. Only after scratching my head with a puzzled look on my face and then paging back would it correctly pair the caption with the photo. The mechanism in the software which allows for the reader to adjust the size of the text and which then re-paginates the remainder of the text does a very poor job of keeping relevant and topical information together.

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