

HOW TO PHOTOGRAPH YOUR WORK

USING THE STUFF YOU HAVE AROUND YOUR SHOP.

A demonstration by Dennis McGill

Supplies:

- 3 - Lights, use a Standard screw-in fluorescent bulb, 5500 kelvin in a utility lamp with metal reflector shield. Light stands.(these could be PVC pipe mounted to some type of base.)
- White cloth
- Black cloth
- Plywood
- Mirror material Used in small peices to refelect light back into shadow area.
(the outside auto mirror replacement kit from Walmart works great, and can be cut with siccors.)

Set up a light box with the plywood on the bottom and one end, two - 2 foot by 4 foot diffuser panels on the sides.

Use a third diffuser panel to make the curved back by clamping it to the upright plywood with spring clamps. Attach the white or black cloth to the upright plywood back using the same clamps that hold the curved panel. (This curve eliminates the horizen line.)

An alternnative to using 2X4 diffuser panels on the sides of the box is to use diffuser material attached to the metal refector shields.

- Light diffusers (the kind used in suspended ceilings work fine.
(Cut to fit by scoring with a utility knie and breaking.)
- Use duct tape to secure diffusers to metal reflector.
The bulbs do not get hot, so the tape holds fine.

- Tripod
- Camera
- If your camera has a white balance, use the lighting set-up to set a custom white balace.
- Position lights and reflectors to give the best light to show your work.
- If you can control shutter speed and F-stops, slower shutter speeds will force the camera to select F-stops that will increase dept of field. (more of your work will be in focus).

An alternative way of controlling light for larger objects or for outdoor family portraits is to make refector panels.

One way mirror material from Home Depot

(found in the window coverings dept. Comes in a roll 15 feet long,
so you may want to share a roll with someone if you plan to make these panels.)

Insulation board from Home Depot with a plain gray side.

A 4x8 sheet can be cut into 4 peices.

Leave one or two sides flat gray.

Paint one or two sides white.

Spray glue the mirrir material to one or two peices.

You can also paint a side flat black to use to subtract light.

As was mentioned in the minutes, for display on our website, save your picture to a 4 x 6 or 6 x 8 size, at 72 dpi in Tiff or Jpeg.

Send images to dmcgill@frontiernet.net with your name and a brief disccrption of the work.