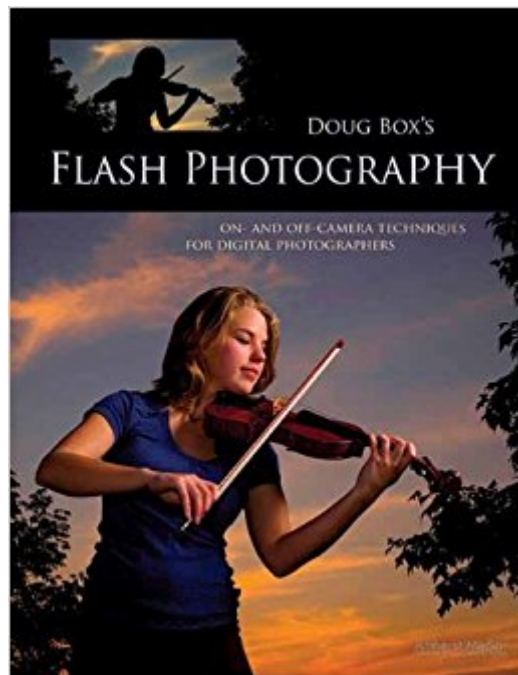




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Doug Box's Flash Photography: On-And Off-Camera Techniques For Digital Photographers



Synopsis

Offering an in-depth look at the camera controls that come into play when using an off-camera flash—including radio slave, optical triggers, wired flash communication, and more—this photography resource gives step-by-step instructions for producing expertly lit portraits and wedding photographs in every imaginable lighting scenario. Using succinct, simple language in tandem with lighting diagrams and case studies, this guide offers discussions on creating expert lighting patterns for individuals and groups, on location, outdoors, in a client's home, or in the studio. Professionals and advanced amateurs will grow in terms of technique and artistry with the help of this user-friendly manual.

Book Information

Paperback: 127 pages

Publisher: Amherst Media (January 5, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1608952584

ISBN-13: 978-1608952588

Product Dimensions: 8.6 x 0.4 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 19 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,019,052 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #90 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Photography & Video > Equipment, Techniques & Reference > Flash Photography

#472 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Equipment, Techniques &

Reference > Lighting #962 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Equipment, Techniques & Reference > Digital Editing

Customer Reviews

"A Texas studio-based professional photographer demystifies using a flash for those tired of the amateur on-camera flash look." —www.BookNews.com

Doug Box is a professional portrait and wedding photographer, a lecturer, and the author of "Professional Secrets for Photographing Children, Professional Secrets of Natural Light Portrait Photography," and "Professional Secrets of Wedding Photography." He lives in Caldwell, Texas.

I really wanted to like this book but I am frustrated for a number of reasons. The kindle edition is

very sloppily put together with repeated sentences all over the place and I don't understand how there are so many typos in the published version. Most books like this begin with the fundamentals and build on those key points. When a basic understanding is achieved, it's then time to implement that knowledge by putting it all together. Mr. Box writes in an almost stream of consciousness style where he randomly talks about equipment and techniques that he promises he will expound upon later in the book. There are unnecessary details about Pocket Wizards and different TTL systems near the beginning of the book. If this is supposed to be aimed at people new to the concept of flash photography, I'll bet many of them will actually be more confused after reading the book. Here's an example of the sloppy typos: "A one-increment change in shutter speed will cut the amount of light creating the exposure in half (e.g., when going from 1/125 second to 1/250 second) or double it (e.g., going from 1/125 second to 1/125 second)." To a complete novice a "one-increment change" in aperture or shutter on a typical DSLR is going to represent a 1/2 or 1/3 stop depending on how the camera is configured. Mr. Box does say 1/125-1/250 but it is confusing for a newbie because it's not an "increment", it's a full stop increment. Things like that need to be crystal clear. The latter part of the sentence is a glaring error showing exactly the same shutter speed, which was obviously not the author's intent. Another issue I have is with the quality of the photos which, in the Kindle edition, are of extremely low resolution. Although on the page they are just slightly larger than thumbnails, they are still pixelated. In some cases where there are examples of subtle differences in light modifiers, I can't even see the details in the photo to make an informed comparison. I think it's a shame that more time wasn't put into the quality of the writing and layout. It just seems lazy to me.

I have purchased several books on flash photography, but I keep picking this one up to refer to. Easy to understand, and has beautiful images that demonstrate before and after results. He does not make it complicated with too much tech talk, he gets right down to what works. Doug talks about radio triggers and what some can do and their limitations. He talks about soft boxes, and one that he sells. It looks a lot sturdier than all the other ones I have seen that are dedicated to the flash and seems very easy to set up. After wanting one, before I got this book, I did much research about them. Finally I decided to order the Doug box for sunset beach photography. I know one size does not fit all, but this is a really compact easy to take along size for me. 28x28 And hopefully as sturdy as it is mentioned to be. I am told beware though if it is too windy; watch out for your flash, not the soft box. After talking personally with him over the phone, which by the way he was more than happy to help me with any questions or concerns that I might have. The Doug box is a little expensive hopefully it will prove it's worth. I will give more info after the sunset photography shoot on the

beach, hopefully there will be a sunset. He also talks about using light meters, which can help greatly, especially if you need to move fast with your shooting, and getting your exposure right, right away. Something my budget will have to wait for. For now I will have to chimp at my camera. He touches a little about photographing knives and such. And has more information elsewhere if you were interested in more on the subject. It was good to read as I find I do photograph many shiny objects often. I did not regret buying this packed filled book full of great information. It is one of my favorites so far. MY EXPERIENCE WITH THE SOFT BOX WAS AMAZING IN THE WIND!!!! It held up to extreme wind, it was not too hard for my assistant to hand hold it, He was able to hold it steady enough to get the shots needed. This soft box was so fast to set up and put away. Very sturdy. This will last for years to come. I love it! for me a great investment.

If you are serious about off camera flash photography...get this book. I normally do not write reviews but I have to tell you that after reading 6-7 books on flash photography, this book is the best I have seen. Doug Box has over 25 years of photography experience, and I am so glad he has decided to share this valuable information. He provides a clear explanation of using a light meter and how to get an exposure FAST without all the "chimping" that goes on. Yeah, you can do it without a light meter, but why waste all those frames and time? While other folks are "chimping" and after they finally get their exposure correct, you could already be half way through your shoot and your exposure will be right on the money. Get the book!

I enjoyed this book quite a bit. It covers flash photography using both on camera and off-camera flash, however the author makes it very apparent that of the two he favors off-camera flash. What I found most valuable from this book however was how the author meters flash, basically metering down to the level of ambient light. It makes for some striking pictures. My only complaint is that at times, there seem to be certain sentences inserted into paragraphs, that break the flow of the subject. They usually pertain to some products he uses, and it seems they just sometime pop in at random.

Excellent book, WELL written. Doug takes the time to explain what he is talking about. Giving examples of aperture & shutter speeds, it makes sense & you understand the concept being taught. The careful selection of language was easy to understand & follow the examples in the book. It made me feel as if Doug was there to guide my every step. I will definitely recommend this book to anyone who wants to take their photography to the next level. Thanks for your time & expertise. Tom C.

Pittsburgh

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