

KARL TAYLOR'S PRO LIGHTING GUIDE



*Experimentation
is the key to
success, so get
creative and take
some risks!*

Welcome

If you've watched my photography videos, you'll know that I'm obsessed with light. The physics, the theory, the practice, the effect – lighting is at the heart of what I do.

Over the course of my 25+ years as a professional photographer, I've shot campaigns for clients like Dior, Hugo Boss and Specsavers. Along the way, I've used hundreds of different lighting setups, most of which I sketched in my notebooks as I worked.

These selections from my notebooks give you exclusive access to some of my go-to setups. They'll help you to start harnessing the power of light in your photography. Enjoy!



Karl Taylor

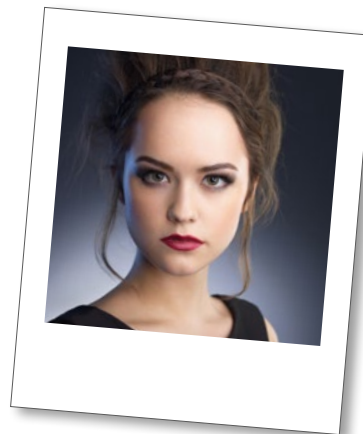
KARL TAYLOR

Professional Photographer
25+ years' experience

Ambassador for Manfrotto,
Broncolor and Hasselblad

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Perfect Lighting Setup
for Model Headshot

[Click to View on YouTube](#)



8 Portrait Photography
Mistakes that Are Easy
to Avoid

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Portrait

You can achieve great results in portrait photography using only natural light. But to really get creative, you need to master studio flash.

Whether you're working with a single light or several, learning how to position and modify your lights correctly can be the difference between an average portrait and an amazing one.

In this section, I share the lighting diagrams for four portraits from my portfolio. Give them a try, or tweak them to suit your needs!

Remember to keep a record of all your setups so you can refer to (or share!) them later.

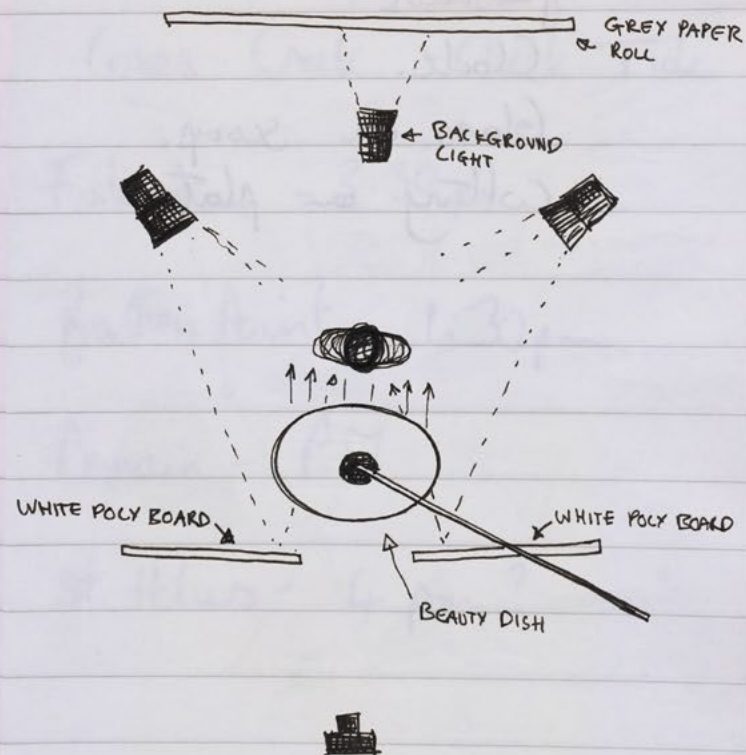
*Portraiture is
all about people.
Are you ready
to shine a light
on life?*

4 lights

This portrait was part of a series I shot for a Specsavers ad campaign. I needed four lights to get the effect I was looking for.

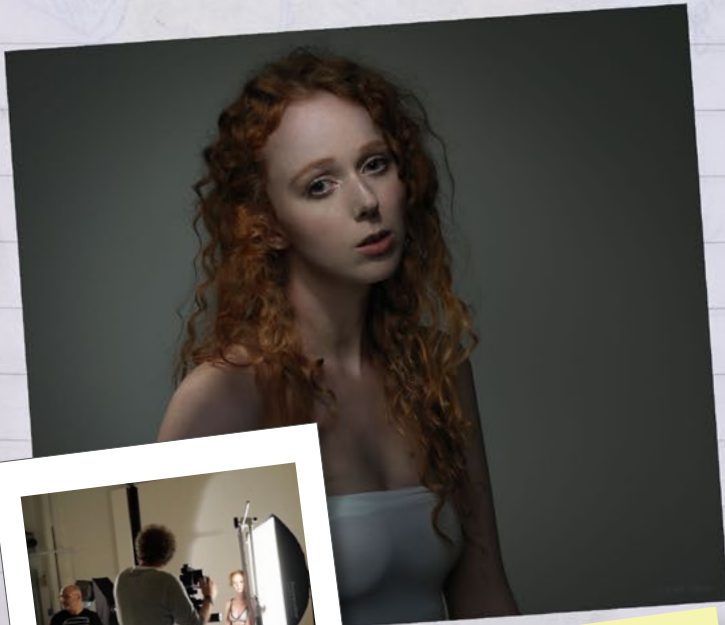


Try our
Portrait
Photography
learning path

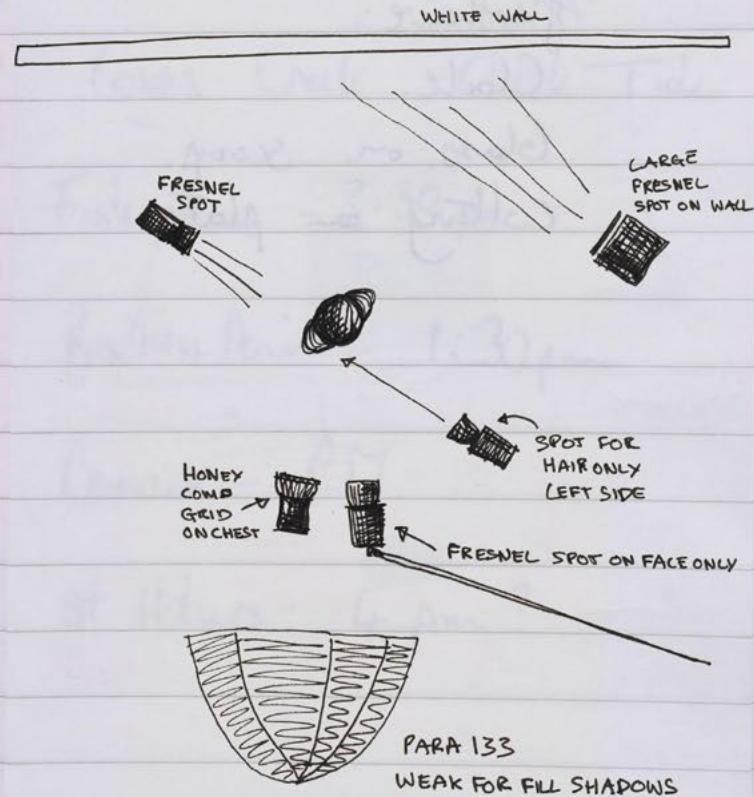


6 lights

I shot this one LIVE with my friend, broncolor ambassador Urs Recher. It took a lot of trial-and-error to get it right, but I was happy with the final result.



Click on the Polaroid to watch this shoot from start to finish

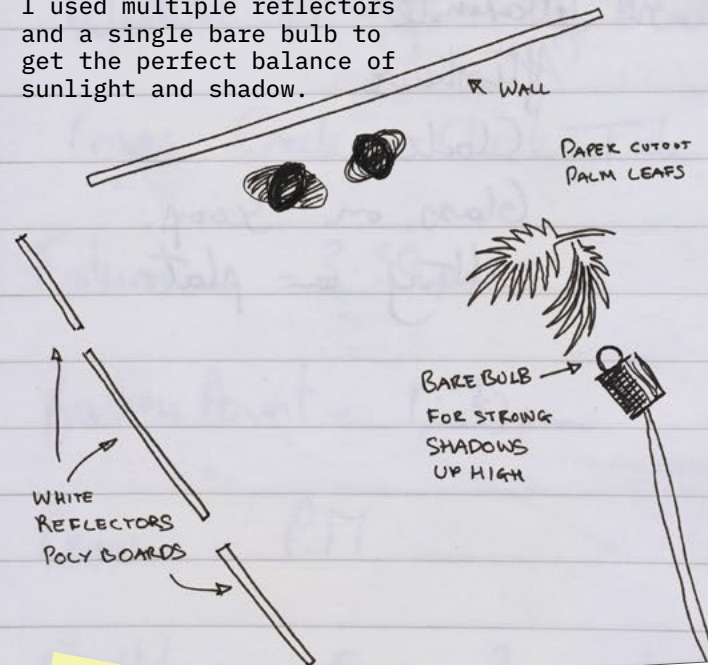


1 light

The styling in this shot may look a little bit retro, but the simple setup I used to capture it is timeless.



I used multiple reflectors and a single bare bulb to get the perfect balance of sunlight and shadow.



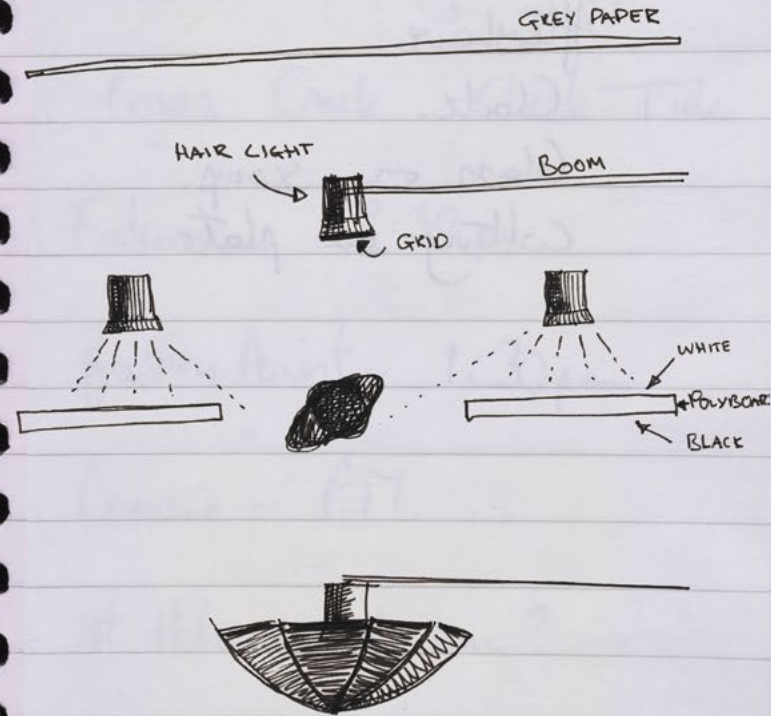
Click
on the Polaroid
to check out
our Portrait
Photography
classes



4 lights



Check out our class
on 'How to Master
Beauty Dish
Lighting' or click
on the Polaroid to
watch this shoot



Four lights and some basic modifiers
was all it took to create this
dynamic energy lighting.



High-End Product Shoot
– Made Easy!

[Click to View on YouTube](#)



How to Photograph
Flying Food

[Click to View on YouTube](#)

Product

Have you ever looked at product photography shots in commercials and online and thought, I wish I could do that?

Product photography is a lot of fun. If you get it right, it can be lucrative, too. It's a world of precision lighting and exciting creativity!

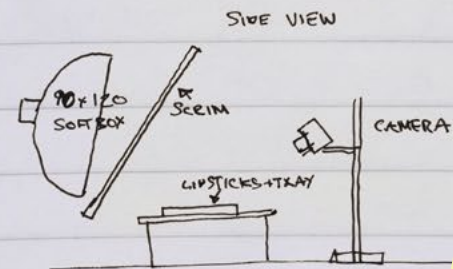
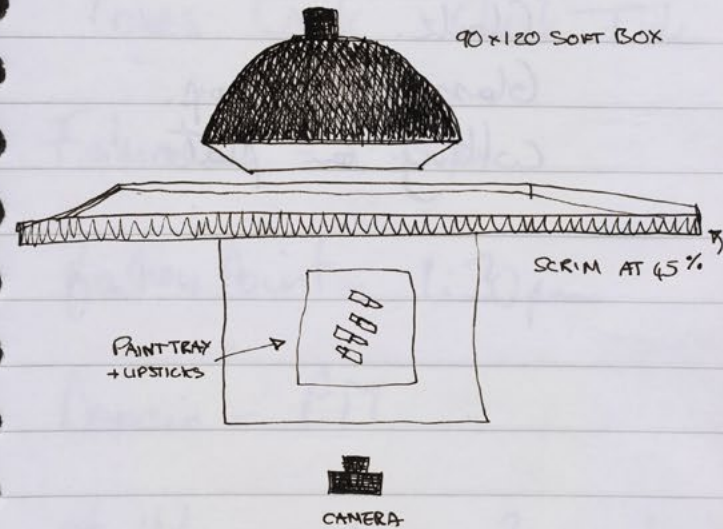
I've shot hundreds of products over the course of my career, honing my go-to lighting setups along the way. Here are a few of my favourites for you to try out.

Give these setups a try. Don't be afraid to try something out!

1 light



To get the effect I wanted, I positioned an angled scrim between a softbox and the products.

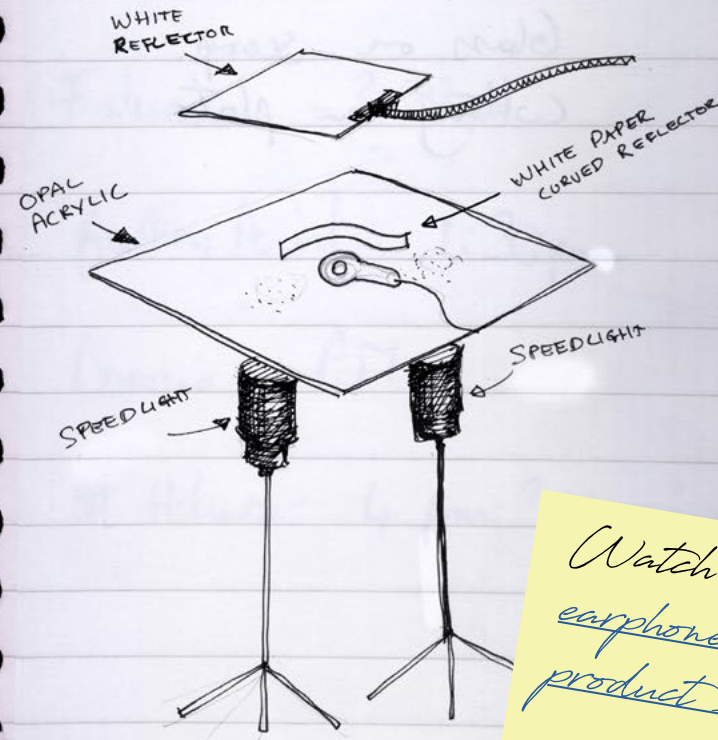


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Product
Photography
learning path

2 lights



Using two speed lights to rim light through opal acrylic and simple white reflectors for a professional level results.

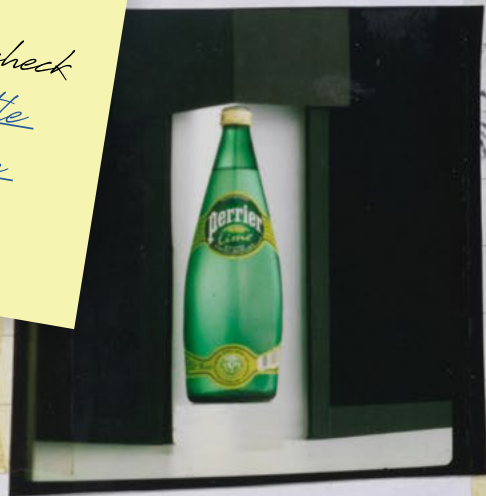


*Watch the
earphones
product shoot*

2 lights

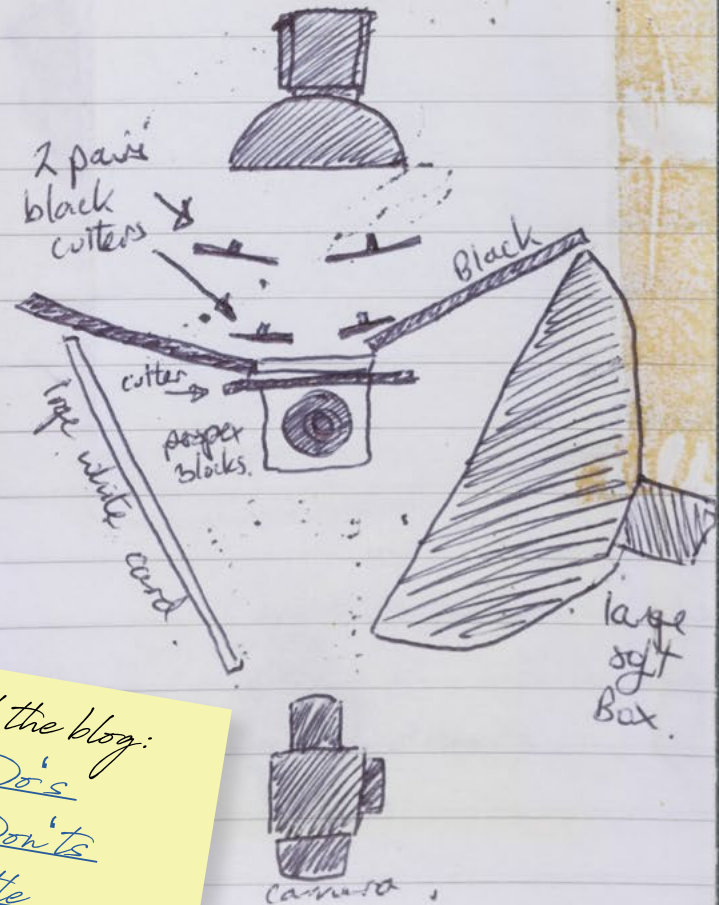


Click the
Polaroid to check
out our Bottle
and Beverage
photography
classes



2 of

clear cut bottle set.



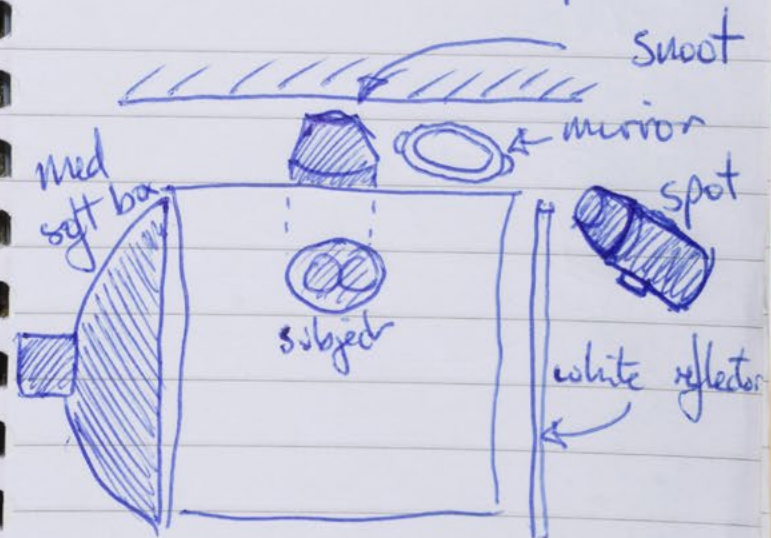
Read the blog:
The Do's
and Don'ts
of Bottle
Photography

3 lights



Click the
Polaroid to
watch a replay of
Karl's LIVE
cognac shoot!

Painted backdrop

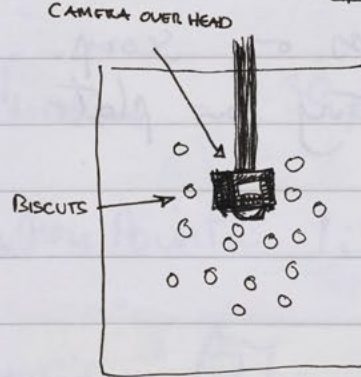


spot light reflected off mirror
and through glass to add
sparkle to balls.

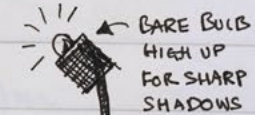
3 lights



Watch
the shoot:
Photographing
Candy Using
Colour Theory



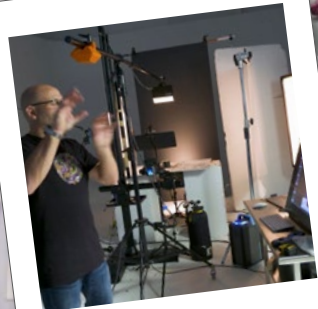
To generate soft, bright fill lighting, I lit the white walls even though I was shooting from overhead.



BARE BULB FOR SOFT FILL OF STUDIO WALLS.

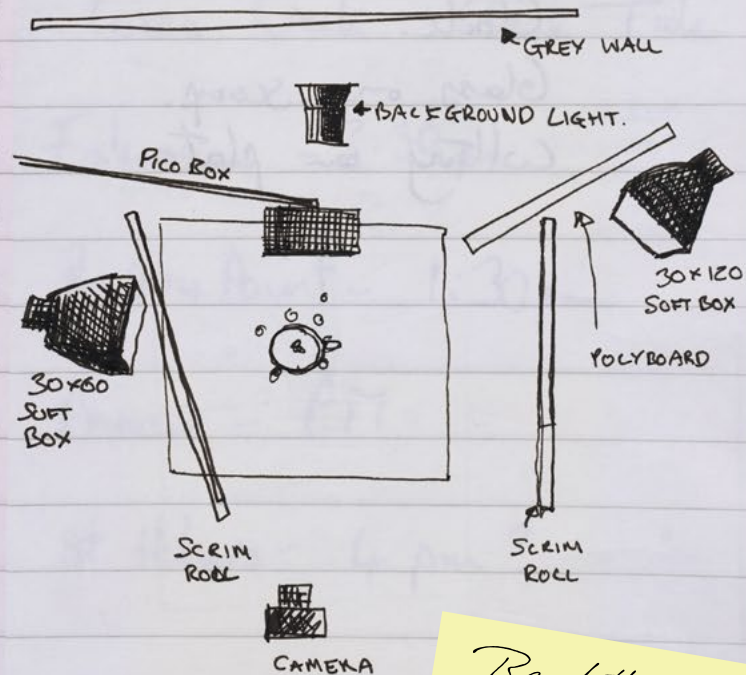
STUDIO WHITE WALL

4 lights



Click the
Polaroid to
watch the shoot:
'Flying Tea'

This one needed more props
and modifiers than lights!

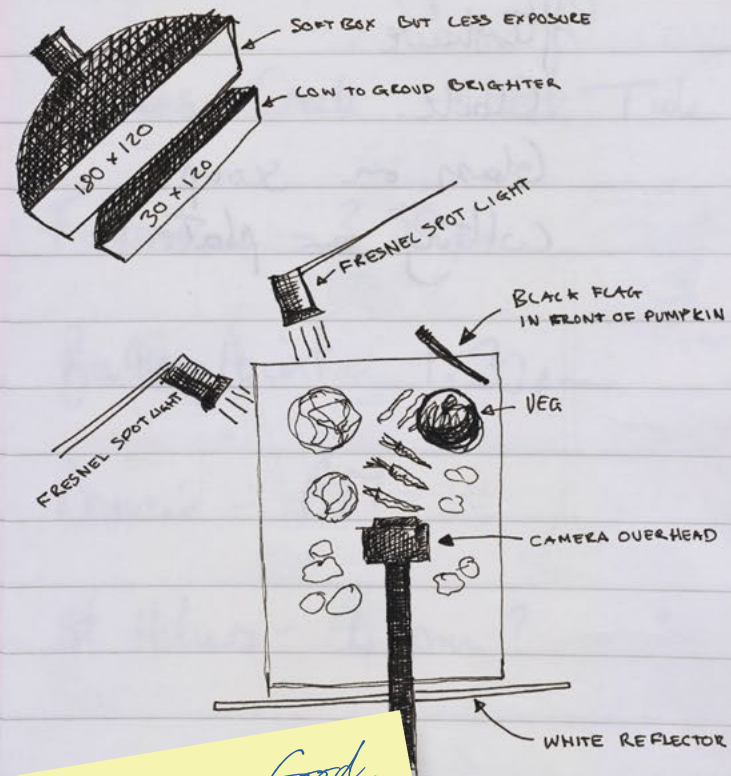


Read the
blog: '7 Food
Photography
Mistakes You
Should Avoid'

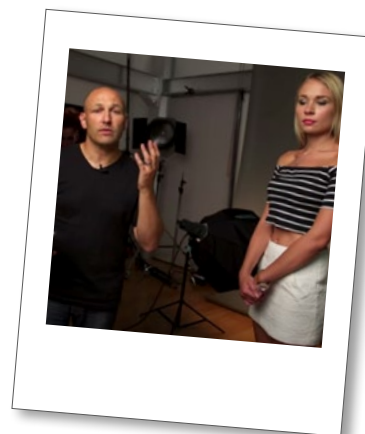
4 lights



Click the
Polaroid to watch
the shoot: 'Flat
Lay Food
Photography:
Raw Vegetables'

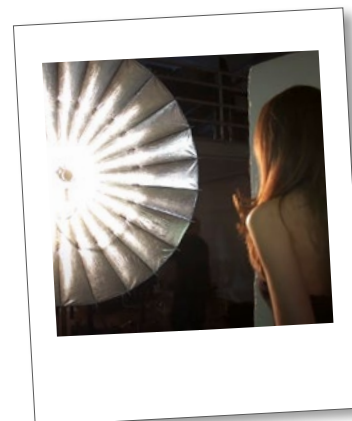


Try our Food
Photography
learning path



Simple 2-Light Portrait Setup

[Click to View on YouTube](#)



Studio Lighting Test:
Beauty Lighting
Comparison

[Click to View on YouTube](#)

There's more to explore!

I hope you've enjoyed this sneak peek inside my lighting notebooks.

Every photoshoot requires creativity and experimentation: there's no formula or one-size-fits-all approach.

For more tips, tricks and inspiration, explore our platform at KarlTaylorEducation.com.

You'll find more than 600 on-demand photography classes, live shows, interviews with famous photographers, competitions, weekly challenges, and much more.

Happy shooting,

Karl Taylor

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