

USING DIFFUSERS

BLUEPRINT

For any serious photographer who wants to create perfect lighting conditions, various light modifiers and diffusers are necessary tools. There are many options available for producing light as well as modifying it to create optimal results.



It is crucial to be well-informed about the characteristics of each diffuser in order to make smart choices. Regardless of the light source that you regularly use in your photography (daylight, continuous or flash), light diffusers can surely help you improve your work.

Diffusers are versatile and can be used both in a studio or on location, which is one more reason to consider using them.



Examples of different light diffusers

1 UMBRELLA

Umbrellas are an inexpensive and versatile diffusers that can turn a harsh flashlight into soft and indirect bounced light.



Even beginners can use umbrellas easily! There are a few different types of umbrellas. Silver and gold reflective ones are very common - the silver umbrella gives a cool light, while the gold one creates a nice warm light. Translucent umbrellas are a popular choice too because they diffuse light evenly without changing its color.

TIP:

A deeper umbrella produces a tight beam of light that's very strong at the center, while a more shallow umbrella makes a dispersed beam of light.

2 SOFTBOX

Softboxes, similar to umbrellas, serve to make light sources bigger and more diffuse. The sides and back of the softbox are covered with a bright surface that acts as a reflector.



Softboxes follow the simple rule - bigger boxes throw softer light than smaller ones under the same conditions. But whether you choose a large softbox or a small portable one, the area of coverage is about the same size. It is also important to mention that softboxes come in various shapes.

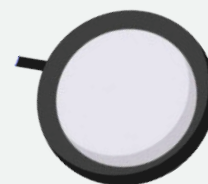
TIP:

For best results, the softbox should be angled down towards the subject in order to create an even light and avoid shadows.

3 THE ESSENTIALS

3 BOARD REFLECTOR

One of the most common diffusers is a board reflector. That is, a flat surface used to reflect or bounce light onto the subject.



They are fairly basic to use and work great inside or outside of the studio. They come in a variety of sizes and colors and each type will achieve different results. The most commonly used colors are white, silver, and gold.

TIP:

When shopping for a reflector, look for the collapsible ones that are double-sided. These are versatile and portable!