

SIDE LIGHTING

BLUEPRINT



APERTURE



f/2.8

f/4

f/5.6

f/8

f/11

f/14

f/22

Wide Aperture (more light)

Narrow Aperture (less light)

Get creative with aperture - anything between f/1.8 and f/8 can work well, depending on your goal.

ISO

100 ··· 200 ··· 400 ··· 640 ··· 800 ··· 1600 ··· 3200

Lower

LIGHT SENSITIVITY

Higher

Use the lowest iso possible in order to avoid noise. If you have a very good camera, you can experiment with higher iso.

SHUTTER SPEED



Blur Motion

Tripod
Recommended

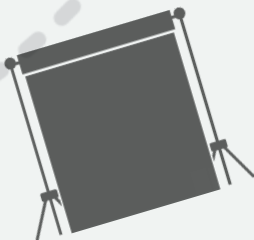
Handheld Ok

Freeze
Motion

If hand holding the camera, use shutter speed greater than (1/focal length) taking into account the crop factor.

1 SIMPLIFY BACKGROUND

In order to keep attention on your subject, you need to ensure that the background is as uncluttered as possible. Clean up the space and remove unnecessary objects.



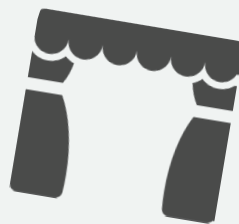
You don't have to use a studio backdrop - even a solid-colored wall can be very useful. If you shoot products or food, make sure to polish your table because dust and other imperfections can be visible when you use side lighting.

TIP:

If there's a lot going on in the background, using a wide aperture is one of the most effective methods for blurring it.

2 CREATE MOOD

Mood is affected by the type of light in an image. Bear in mind that side light adds texture to a subject, which can look pretty dramatic.



You need to consider what feeling you want to convey with this type of lighting. The harder the light, the greater the contrast between light and shadow! This can be great for cinematic shots.

TIP:

If you don't want dark shadows, you can use a reflector or a fill light on the shadow side of a subject to soften the shadows.

3 THE ESSENTIALS

3 EXAGGERATE DEPTH

Side light exaggerates the depth in an image by separating the subject from the background. It does this by defining the contours of your subject.



This means that side light will give a three dimensional feel to the image and it is excellent for portraits, food and product photography.

TIP:

The separation between the subject and the background is increased if the light hits your subject only and not the background.