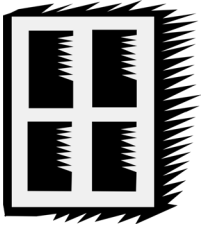


# CLASSIC BLACK AND WHITE WINDOW PORTRAIT PROJECT



## GOAL

Create a classic black and white portrait of a pet or human lit by window light.

## SUMMARY

In portrait photography, one of the traditional concerns is lighting your subject with soft and even lighting. A popular way of doing this is to place your subject at an angle to a window. Usually window light is softer and more even than direct light, hence resulting in more pleasing portraits.



In black and white portrait photography, an effective technique is to have your subject contrast with the background. While shooting a window light portrait, you will often get even better results if you can find a background that contrasts their skin tone and/or their hair and clothing.



Photo by Emre Kuzu



Photo by Debora Grazola

# THINGS TO REMEMBER:

## 1. DISTANCE



The further away from the window your subject stands, the softer the light and shadows will usually be.

## 2. CURTAINS



Harsh light through windows can be softened using curtains or blinds.

## 3. CONTRAST



Contrasting tones (think skin, walls, hair, clothes) presents an opportunity for stronger natural contrast in black and white which can often be pleasing to the eye.

## 4. DIRECTION



Position the subject depending on the direction of light and also try to have a catchlight on the subject's eyes.

## 5. REFLECTORS



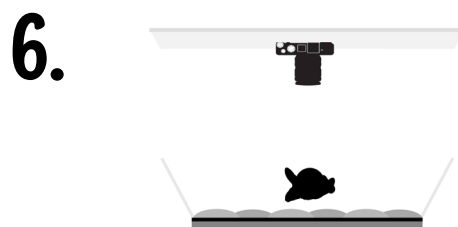
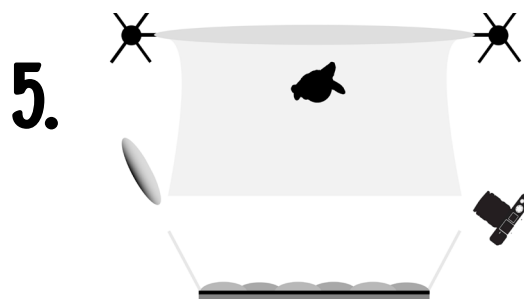
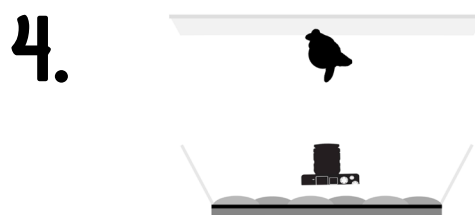
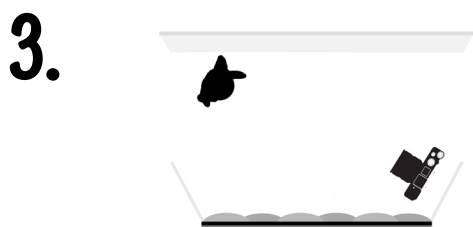
Use reflectors (as simple as a white piece of cardboard) to fill in unwanted shadows.

## 6. EYES



Focus on the eyes.

# POSSIBLE LIGHTING SETUPS:



# CAMERA SETTINGS:

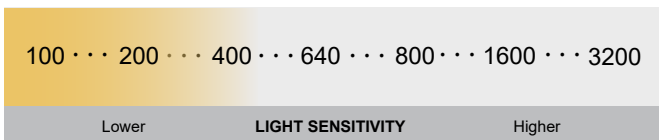


f/1.8    f/4    f/5.6    f/8    f/11    f/14    f/22

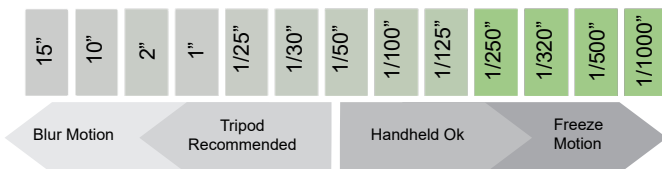
Wide Aperture (more light)

Narrow Aperture (less light)

- Start out with a wide aperture (f/4-f/8) to blur the background and isolate your subject in the shot.



- Try to use low ISO to avoid noise (ISO 100-400).



- Your shutter speed should be able to freeze movement (1/200 - 1/1000).



Photos by Caroline Hernandez

## ADDITIONAL TIPS:

1.

Use the correct metering mode depending on available light and how you need the exposure on the subject.

2.

If you need to change camera settings, then start with shutter speed. If you need slower shutter speed, then you may have to use a tripod also taking into account slight subject movements.

# EDITING:

The most common way to convert digital files to black and white is usually to slide the saturation slider all the way to the left in your chosen program. Then adjust shadows, highlights, whites and blacks first. Finally you may want to adjust contrast.

## 1. Saturation



## 2. Shadows, highlights, whites and blacks



## 3. Contrast

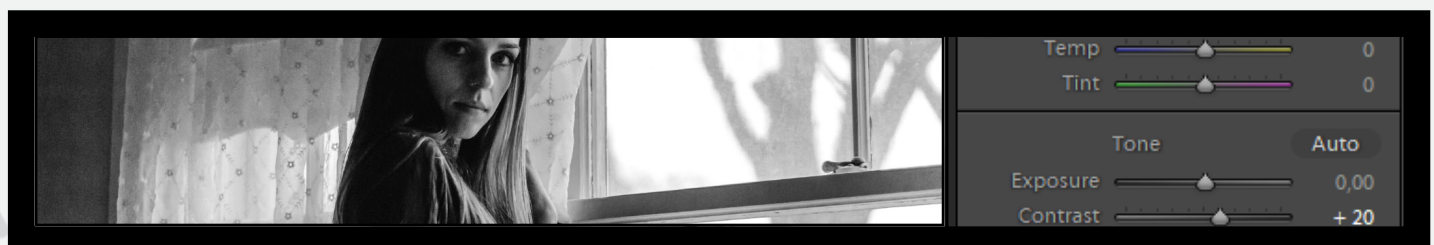


Photo by Oscar Gray



POST YOUR RESULTS [ON THE FORUM!](#)

