

## Q-II-Transcript

### Fill light, back light, Rembrandt lighting; butterfly lighting, golden hour and sun set photography

In previous module we discussed the concept of natural and artificial lighting pertaining to photography. We also had an elaborate discussion on various artificial light sources and its corresponding light modifiers. In a professional photography set up to have a full control on the light used we need to eliminate the natural lighting and depend entirely on artificial lighting. This environment is achieved in a closed enclosure known as studio wherein natural light is completely eliminated. In general a photostudio is used for creating portraits of human beings and products where in light needs to be controlled.

In a studio portrait lighting setup individual light sources can be classified into various categories, each type playing its own unique roles. Let us try to understand it one by one.

#### 1. Key light.

The main light which illuminates the subject is known as key light.

#### 2. Fill light

Depending on the position of key light with respect to the subject and its direction shadows may be created on the subject. The position of shadows on subject can be manipulated by changing the key light position. The intensity of shadows can be manipulated by increasing or decreasing the key light and subject distance. However in this scenario over all illumination also gets disturbed. In order to keep key light illumination intact and to manipulate shadow intensity another external light can be used and that is referred to as fill light.

#### 3. Back light or rim light.

To highlight the boundaries of a subject a light source can be kept behind the subject which is generally termed as back light.

#### 4. Back ground light.

In case of a need, lighting sources can also be used to illuminate the back ground of the subject.

Depending on the position of above mentioned individual lighting sources some fundamental studio lighting setups can be evolved. Let us understand and recognise two of these studio lighting setups.

#### 1. Rembrandt lighting (slide 5)

Rembrandt lighting is a benchmark lighting technique used in studio portrait photography. It is popular due to its capability of producing images which are natural and compelling with a

minimum of equipment. Rembrandt lighting is characterized by an illuminated triangle (also called "Rembrandt patch" under the eye of the subject on the less illuminated side of the face. It is named after the Dutch painter Rembrandt, who occasionally used this type of lighting. Rembrandt lighting can be created in two ways, either using a single light and a reflector or using two lights.

Rembrandt lighting technique is a favourite among photographers due to its ability to produce a dramatic visual effect without requiring a lot of setup. Rembrandt lighting consists of a single light source placed on a 45 degree offset from the subject, about 5 feet away. Positioned roughly two feet higher than eye level, the light source is angled slightly downward and hits the side of the subject face that is farthest away from the camera. For a softer and more natural lighting effect, a reflector also can be used. The light from the reflector should be illuminating the model's face.

Instead of reflector one can also use a fill light, with its strength less than key light. A fill light is a great way to bring out more detail in the model's face

## 2. Butterfly Lighting

Butterfly lighting is a portrait lighting pattern where the key light is placed above and directly centred with a subject's face. This creates a shadow under the nose that resembles a butterfly. It's also known as 'Paramount lighting,' named for classic Hollywood glamour photography. Reasons to use Butterfly Lighting in Portraits

### 1. It is amazingly flattering

Portrait photographs taken in this lighting setup can accentuate cheekbones and give a glamorous, high-end look. That's why it is a favourite of old Hollywood stars.

### 2. It looks great on older subjects

Butterfly light creates shadows under the cheeks and chin, but adds lots of light to the other parts of the face. This shading pattern can minimize the double chin effect in portraits and fills in shadows at wrinkles. This technique is widely used to give an older subject a brighter and youthful appearance.

### 3. It is easy to set up

Using a single light source and a reflector, one can create this lighting pattern.

## Golden hour and sun set photography

In photography, the term golden hour refers to a period of daytime shortly after sunrise or just before sunset, during which daylight obtained from sun is softer and warmer than the rest of the day. The golden hour is also sometimes called the "magic hour," especially by cinematographers. During these times, usually the brightness of the sky matches the brightness of streetlights, signs, car headlights and lit windows.

The golden hour is known for producing beautiful natural light that is easy to work with. “It’s hard to overexpose or underexpose parts of an image, like a subject’s face, because the light is very even and has a beautiful golden hue,” This is due to three main reasons:

The light is softer.

Unlike other times of the day, the golden hour doesn’t have sun shining down directly on subject, the sun rays come in at an angle, diffusing the light. This softer type of light is typically more flattering.

The light is directional.

During the golden hour, the sun is at a low angle in the sky, creating longer shadows and flattering lighting situations one can use for more creative effects. Cover lighting, backlighting, side lighting, silhouettes, sunbursts and lens flares are all possible during the golden hour.

The light is warm.

On the Kelvin colour temperature spectrum, the golden hour light is warmer, with lots of yellows, oranges and reds. The atmosphere filters out blue light when the sun is closer to the horizon, leaving one with a colour palette that people associate with feelings of happiness and warmth.

Let us conclude this module with the listing of references.