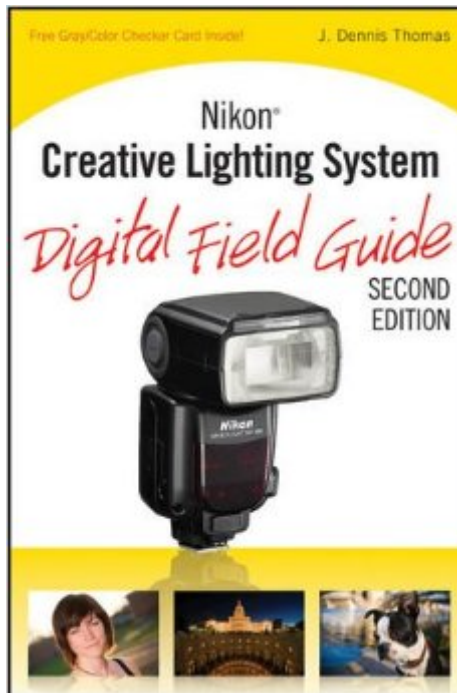


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Nikon Creative Lighting System Digital Field Guide



Synopsis

A full-color, go-anywhere guide to Nikon's entire array of creative lighting possibilities Nikon's Creative Lighting System is like having a low-cost, wireless, studio lighting system that's portable enough to fit into a camera bag. Although the possibilities are endless and exciting, setting up, synchronizing the equipment, and determining lighting ratios can be a bit overwhelming. Luckily, this Digital Field Guide has been completely updated to shed some light on the situation! Beginning with the basic functions of the Nikon SB-900, the SB-800, and the SB-600, the author then goes on to demystify the complexities of using multiple speedlights, adjusting flash outputs, and setting up a wireless studio. Clearly explains how to get the best results when using multiple speedlights Includes examples and unique advice on how to light specific subjects, such as weddings, wildlife, portraits, product shots, and corporate locations Covers other Creative Lighting System components, such as Nikon's wireless commander and macro speedlights With this handy, on-the-go guide, you'll no longer be in the dark on Nikon's Creative Lighting System.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As part of my own personal conversion from film to digital photography, I recently purchased almost every book and tutorial DVD relevant to my new cameras (Nikon D300) and overall situation. I am a self-taught photographer whose work has been widely published for over 30 years including by National Geographic. Having learned little or nothing from any of the DVDs (very disappointing!), I

have found books to be the best for overall value. With so much to learn - some of which is quite daunting, we students of photography require books that are well laid out and allow the reader to build on subjects covered so far. This is such a book. Published by a company whose products include some of those generally excellent photography titles "For Dummies," they really do appear to know the subject. What I really like is the very beginning of this work. This is called a "Quick Tour" and is designed to get you up and running with your flash unit. Fantastic, after just two pages, we are taking photos with a Nikon Speedlight. And it's a positive learning trail all the way from here as the author covers the widest possible spectrum of flash photography. Part I includes a complete exposé of the Creative Lighting System (CLS) and setting up the Nikon SB-600 and SB-800 units. Part II allows the photographer to create great photos with full details of; Flash photography basics, wireless flash photography, wireless studio, real-world applications and portraiture. With examples which include anything from portraits, a Hornet and even the head of a small screw, this book gets down to basics and is unlikely to disappoint those who are eager to learn. NM

an overview of how the system is supposed to work would be not nice, it would be an absolute imperative. this covers every detail of how to change the power output on the SB-800, and the SB-600, and the Sb-400, and how to find the on-off switches, and where to put the batteries in, but it doesn't tell you diddly about how Nikon's crazy "system" is supposed to work, or how to overpower the "system";s urge to control the light output. worth every penny I paid for it - and I got it used for \$0.01.

If you're looking for a book that will explain the functionality of Nikons CLS & AWL systems, this fits the bill. If the menu on your SB-800 or SB-900 confuses you, you will find step by step instructions to do the things you need to in this book. At its best, this book is a good instruction manual for CLS flashes and the CLS functions of the Nikon bodies that can fire them remotely. Also, if you're totally new to strobist-style photography, the rather basic and uninspired section about flash applications could be a sort of primer for you about how portable, multiple-flash systems work. Unfortunately, Thomas isn't much of a writer. His style is best suited to lists of instructions. If you have some experience with flash photography, or have read any of the much better books about flash (or spent some time with [...]), you'll find the applications section of this book rudimentary and annoyingly vague. To sum up: this book provides an excellent functional description of the Nikon CLS system. Go elsewhere to learn the nuances that will make your use of the Nikon flash system truly creative.

I noticed that many of the reviews are pre-2009, which would explain some of the poor reviews. I have both the 1st and 2nd editions and found both to be very helpful. I do believe that the 2nd edition is a bit better and up to date. I am not going into a detailed explanation of the contents of the book, but to say it is a tremendous help to those who are looking for some additional assistance with the CLS system from Nikon. I have used Nikons since the days of manual focus and am always amazed at how much lighting has advanced over the years. If you have one of the compatible Nikons you owe it to yourself to get at least one of the CLS speedlights and this book to supplement the manual that comes with it. I would also suggest the "Magic Lantern Guide to Nikon Speedlights", the book "Light, Science and Magic", and go over to the "Strobist" blog and really get an in-depth lesson on using small lighting, ie. Nikon Speedlights. This is a great book and worth the money, skip the 1st edition and go to the 2nd edition, it's a worthwhile investment.

I was looking for a good book on using the Nikon lighting system, this is not the book. The book stated that it was not going into what the instruction manuals already cover. Most of the book is taken up by photos of the flash units, labeling the buttons, switches, and features, there are many pages describing the acronyms. All of this is already in the book. His photographic samples are not professional quality, they are out of focus, poorly composed, many with lighting artifacts or flares, many are too light, too dark, or with blown-out highlights. It needed better lighting examples, and explanations of what it took to accomplish the lighting of the photos.

If you bought a Nikon SB-900 and you are using it with SB-600, SB-800, SU-800 or RIC1 this is a worthy upgrade to the first edition of J. Dennis Thomas' book. The author provides the same thorough explanations, with pictures, of all of the Nikon "game boy" button pushing. Since Nikon makes every device's "buttonology" different, it takes a book like this to get the machines synchronized. Once the correct buttons are set, the Nikon CLS works like nothing else for portable lighting. I strongly recommend this book and Nikon's Joe McNally video and the Nikon Bob Krist & Joe McNally video to get the most from your investment in the Nikon Creative Lighting System. Krist and McNally show you when and where to use the Speedlights. Thomas' book shows you how to set them up.

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