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One Flash!: Great Photography With Just One Light



Synopsis

Amazing images are possible with just one flash! Today's speedlights may be small but they are mighty—that is, if you know how to use them. In this book, flash photography pro Tilo Gockel teaches the secrets to capturing beautifully lit images using just one flash! The first section of the book provides a crash course in flash photography covering lighting techniques, equipment, and understanding the nuances of flash lighting. Then, through a series of 26 workshops covering everything from people to objects to food to special techniques, Tilo demonstrates how it's done. Included are example images, lighting diagrams, setup instructions, and even post-processing tips. You'll learn how a single flash can not only illuminate, but also add color and project patterns on a scene, and how easy it is to turn a single flash into multiple light sources using reflectors and mirrors to multiply and redirect the flash. You will also learn how to use the flash detached from the camera's hot shoe and how to repeatedly fire the flash for special effects. Tilo's practical style and simple explanations of technology will enable you to get started quickly with flash photography and to achieve fantastic results. Topics include: Combining flash with ambient light Using shades, reflectors, and mirrors Flash composite techniques Light painting with Xenon flash devices Simulating continuous light with stroboscopic flash and modeling flash Use of low-cost non-TTL flashes as well as TTL flashes Battery-powered DIY bare-bulb flash

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Customer Reviews

Books are a bit like people. You always learn a few different things with different people. The same happens with most books - and modernly also with eBooks, in whichever format they take. That's what I feel towards this book/eBook by Tilo Gockel. It gives you some new points of view concerning the use of flash, here reduced to its simplest expression: one light!The theme of flash photography is not new to me. My collection of books on flash includes everything, from authors as Syl Arena to Joe McNally or less popular names from which I still learned a few tricks and essential tips. While I like them all and have learned a lot, I never refuse the experiences a new book offers me, sometimes unexpected challenges that will take my flash photography to a new level. This said, I will never dream of doing something as Joe McNally, which can use 40 flashes for a single shoot, so I prefer simple solutions, those provided by McNally and people like Syl Arena. That's where this book comes in: it preaches about one flash photography, something I really appreciate, as that's something I also preach on my workshops and photographic tour, where people usually will not carry a whole bank of lights but still want to get their pictures with the right amount of light. Some might find it is limiting, but I feel it is challenging, and great results can still be achieved, as Tilo Gockel shows in this book.The title of the book attracted me because there is a challenge there, and also an important truth that many forget: making things simple enough so that even an amateur with a single flash can enjoy the discovering process of photography.

Tilo Gockel's One Flash is a terrific book that will guide you through the use of a single flash unit to light a variety of subjects. The book begins with 3 brief mini-chapters that provide an overview of the use of flash, specific techniques for understanding flash, and a look at gear.Gockel introduces the concept of utilizing a single flash with an effective analogy- the sun is generally the sole light in outdoor shooting, and it provides amazing variations of light. Can a single speedlight provide the photographer a similar, versatile source? Suppressing ambient light by exposing the subject before firing the flash starts the process- this will assure that ambient light is not affecting the flash exposure. The Aesthetics of Lighting section is especially interesting as it addresses proper light placement to shadows to define shape. The chapter also includes a superb 2-page description of portrait lighting patterns that are rarely described with eloquence and brevity. In describing gear, Gockel states "buy less, shoot more." In a time where gear-envy and the daily onslaught of

emails and web sites announcing the "new and improved" products, this is a refreshing change. Gockel's style of shooting is fairly consistent- take an initial shot without flash to establish the background exposure settings (usually -1EV) and then add the flash, attaining the desired main light via trial-and-error, metering, TTL or calculation with GN. Bounce flash is well described, and Gockel quickly demonstrates the benefit of shooting in raw so as to be able to correct for color casts inevitable when bouncing light. What follows the opening section are 3 chapters covering different photographic subjects (People, Objects, Food & Drink).

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