

MODULE 3

ASSIGNMENT

FLASH PORTRAITS MADE SIMPLE • PHOTOGRAPHY TRAINING BY ED VEROSKY



INTRODUCTION

This assignment builds on the work you did in Module 1 and gives you hands-on practice with the five classic portrait lighting patterns. Using what you've learned so far, your goal is to create portraits using each of these lighting styles: Short Light, Broad Light, Rembrandt, Butterfly, and Split.

This exercise is designed to help you see how subtle changes in lighting and posing can dramatically affect the final image. The included diagrams (featuring my digital mannequin) show basic lighting and posing setups—use them as flexible guides, not fixed rules.

When you're finished, submit your completed portraits and observations. Take your time, experiment, and most of all—enjoy the process. Good luck!

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Use the diagrams as a guide, but trust your judgment.
- Use MANUAL flash power settings as well as manual camera settings.
- Small adjustments can make a big difference—observe and refine!
- Don't aim for perfection; the goal is to learn through experimentation.

SHORT LIGHT PORTRAIT

Short lighting places the key light on the side of the face farthest from the camera, creating more shadow and contrast. This style is great for slimming the face, adding dimension, and creating a more dramatic, moody, or artistic portrait. It's often used for character-driven or fine-art photography, but variations on this style are good for just about any style of portraiture.

How to do it:

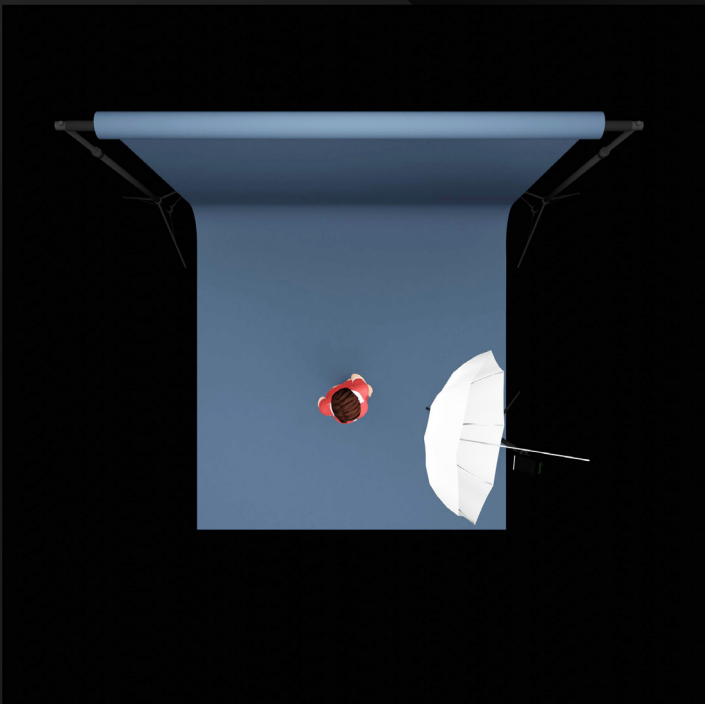
- **Position the light** at an angle to the subject so that the side of the face farthest from the camera is illuminated, while the near side has a shadow.
- **Adjust exposure** by manually setting your flash power and camera settings.
- **Fine-tune** by adjusting the subject's head turn or light position until you achieve a clear short light pattern.
- **Capture** the final portrait and note your camera and flash settings.

SHORT LIGHT PORTRAIT





Short light setup front view.



Short light setup top view.



Short light setup side view.

BROAD LIGHT PORTRAIT

Broad lighting positions the key light on the side of the face closest to the camera, resulting in a well-lit, open look. This technique makes the face appear wider. It's often used as a corrective style that helps create a fuller-looking face on those with narrow or thin faces, but it's used in general portraiture, too.

How to do it:

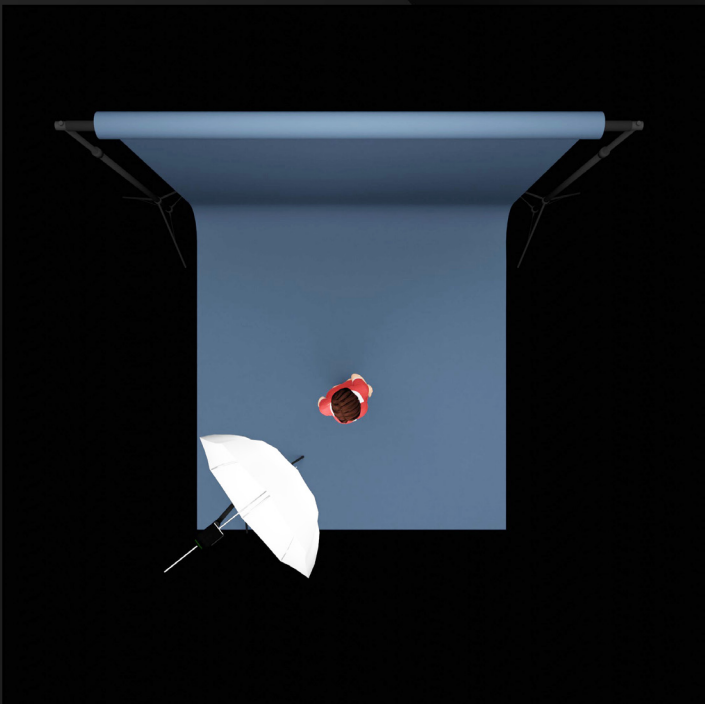
- **Shift the light** to illuminate more of the subject's face closest to the camera.
- **Adjust exposure** by manually adjusting flash power and distance.
- **Capture** the final portrait and note your camera and flash settings.

BROAD LIGHT PORTRAIT





Broad light setup front view.



Broad light setup top view.



Broad light setup side view.

SPLIT LIGHT PORTRAIT

Split lighting divides the face into two equal halves—one side fully lit, the other in shadow. This setup creates high contrast, mystery, and intensity. It's often used for dramatic, cinematic, or edgy portraits and is popular in editorial and character photography.

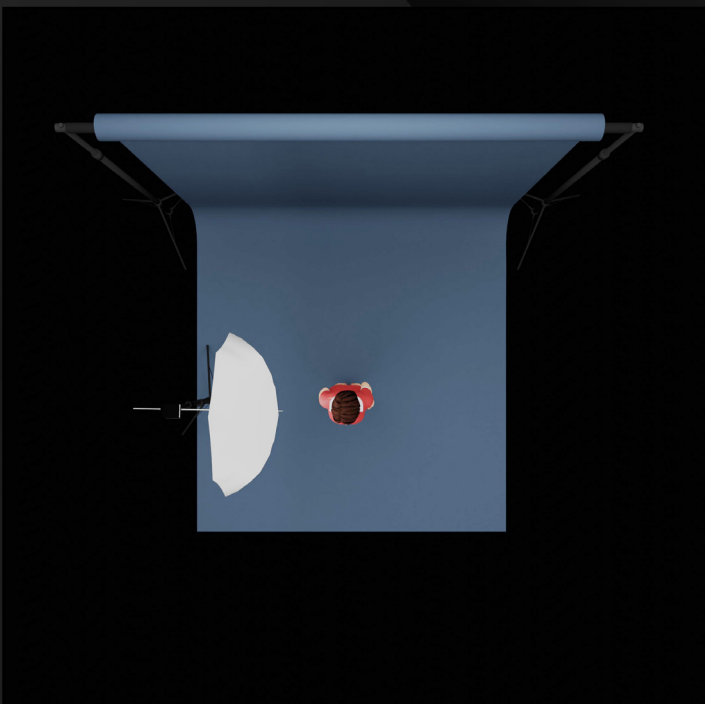
- **Move the light** so it falls directly from the side, dividing the face into one fully lit side and one shadowed side.
- **Test and fine-tune** light placement for a dramatic split effect.
- **Capture** the final portrait and note your camera and flash settings.

SPLIT LIGHT PORTRAIT





Split light setup front view.



Split light setup top view.



Split light setup side view.

REMBRANDT LIGHT PORTRAIT

Rembrandt lighting is named after the Dutch painter who often used this dramatic, natural-looking style in his portraits. It's characterized by a triangle or diamond-shaped patch of light on the cheek of the subject's shadowed side. This technique creates depth, mood, and a timeless feel to the portrait.

How to do it:

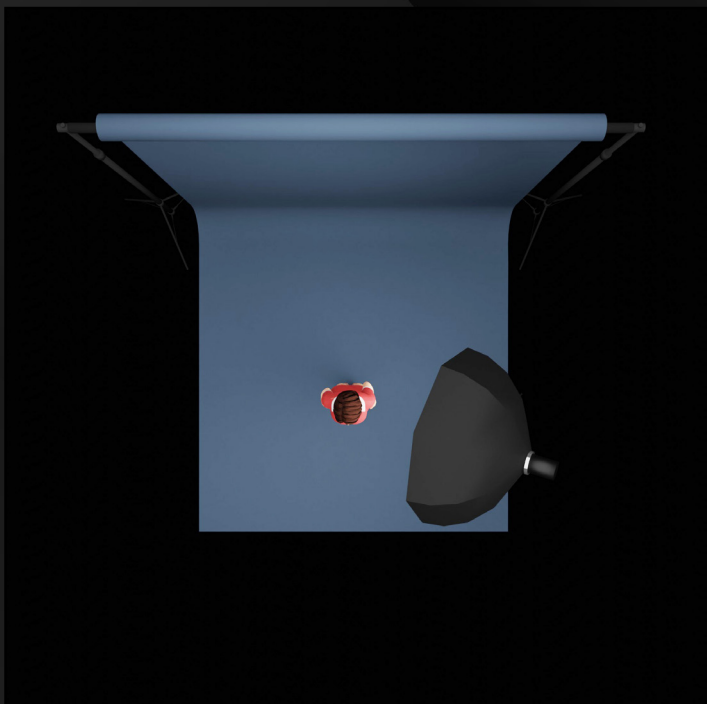
- **Position your light** off to the side and slightly above the subject's eye level—similar to the short light setup.
- Have the subject face forward or slightly turned toward the camera.
- **Adjust the light** height and angle so that the shadow from the subject's nose falls onto the cheek and connects with the natural shadow on the side of the face, creating a triangle of light.
- **Capture the final portrait** and note your camera and flash settings.

REMBRANDT LIGHT PORTRAIT





Rembrandt light setup front view.



Rembrandt light setup top view.



Rembrandt light setup side view.

BUTTERFLY LIGHT PORTRAIT

Butterfly lighting (also called Paramount or Hollywood lighting) is created by placing the main light source directly in front of and slightly above the subject's face. It produces a small shadow under the nose that resembles a butterfly and tends to flatter facial features by highlighting cheekbones and symmetry.

How to do it:

- **Place your light** high and directly in front of your subject, aimed slightly downward.
- Have the subject look forward or slightly up to catch the light evenly across the face.
- **Watch for a centered nose shadow** shaped like a butterfly just below the nose.
- **Adjust the light** height and subject angle to get the desired shadow shape.
- **Capture the final portrait** and note your camera and flash settings.

BUTTERFLY LIGHT PORTRAIT





Butterfly light setup front view.



Butterfly light setup top view.



Butterfly light setup side view.

SUBMIT YOUR WORK

Compile your final portraits and notes into a bundle, PDF, or email and submit them for feedback.

Send to Ed at the following email address: ed@edverosky.com

Include in your subject line: **Assignment for Module 3**

MODULE 3

ASSIGNMENT

More Photography Resources at
EDVEROSKY.COM

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