Automatic flash technology has revolutionized photography. Originally seen as just a way of illuminating dark scenes with portable light, flash is used today for many creative functions, including supplementing daylight and designing complex scenes lit by multiple light sources. Creating striking or natural-looking images using flash photography can be a difficult artistic and technical challenge. Mastering Canon EOS Flash Photography is the authoritative book on the subject, guiding the reader through Canon's Speedlite flash system, off-camera portable flash, and professional studio lighting. Covering the fundamentals of flash metering technology, it discusses key concepts, and documents the features and functions available with EOS gear. Highly illustrated, this book is loaded with examples and diagrams describing important functions and lighting arrangements, and beautiful photographs demonstrating sophisticated flash techniques. Foreword by David Hobby.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

NK Guy is a Canadian writer and photographer living in Britain. He is the author of Mastering Canon EOS Flash Photography and the Photographer’s Dictionary, and is the creator of PhotoNotes.org, a popular online resource for photographic education.

First of all, this book is big, it is also comprehensive and whilst up-to-date it does not seem like it will age too much (at least it will be relevant for some time to come). This is going help beginner and
intermediate users and should help you make the most out of your flash and lighting techniques. Having said that this book is not weighed down by just focusing on specific lighting techniques, these areas are covered enough to get you going and help you understand what you need to be aware of - there are plenty of other books to cover just lighting configurations and setups. This book does cover pretty much everything Canon, outdoor and indoor lighting and will keep me occupied for months to come.

I waited a LONG time for a book like this. Probably a couple of years or more. I know of the author and he has online information that is also covered in the book. The book has a bit more though. If you are an advanced Canon EOS user and you feel comfortable that you have most Canon flash controls understood, this book is probably not for you. I actually expected more out of it for myself, but now that I’ve read the book I did not get much out of it. HOWEVER, this is not to say the book is not very useful for less advanced users. It certainly is well written with examples of just about anything you can think of. It even covers off brand gear that works with Canon EOS system. It covers some really basic elements of photography lighting, as well as touching on deeper Canon EOS workings. This book is for a beginner to somewhat advanced photographer. It covers studio lights to a degree, many types of studio and portable flash modifiers, and radio and optical wireless and wired remote control of Canon EOS flash systems (and non Canon).

I’m an advanced hobbyist photographer. I have Canon bodies and flashes. I’ve found lots of general flash resources that have all been somewhat helpful. However, the missing link is a book dedicated to Canon flash devices. The author does an excellent job of examining the Canon system and of explaining the features of the flashes. That said, this isn’t a replacement for the manual; it doesn’t go over every button press and configuration option. Instead, there are a lot of examples showing how to use the flash and its features to get better pictures. There’s lots of before and after photos to show how a feature changes the resulting image. If you’ve just bought your first Canon flash, you might feel that this book assumes you have too much knowledge that you don’t already have. However, if you’ve already learned the basics, this book will teach you some techniques that you won’t easily find elsewhere, and as it does it will also show you how to set up your flash (and sometimes, Canon camera) to enable them. I’ve uploaded a picture to this page that was taken using a technique learned via this book. The link is near the picture of the cover of the book at the top of the page.
I liked this book, it was informative and really helped me with flash photography. It goes into detail on some things that are not really necessary but if you want to learn more about flash photography, this is a good book for you.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. If you own a Canon EOS digital SLR, this is definitely for you and even if you don’t it’s still a very worthwhile book. The author’s explanations are thorough and in-depth yet easy to follow and understand. With respect to the equipment, it’s still quite current for a 2010 publication. Obviously that will become dated as time goes on but the techniques described will live on. I really liked the use of vertical view diagrams to illustrate a lighting setup for a particular photo. Most books only explain the position of lighting but with this, you get it immediately. The only negative aspect I found was as far as a kindle book goes, it would be nice if the pictures were linked to a full size example of the image. Even on a 15” laptop screen most of them were quite small and therefore difficult to see the subtle differences being explained. As mentioned in another review, a good understanding of your Canon camera and flash are assumed by the author but then the book is not about how to operate your gear but rather how to use it more effectively to get better results. Enjoy!

I was hoping to get more info on techniques to use flash units in composing photos. there is one chapter devoted to techniques and there are some hints sprinkled throughout the book, but the overwhelming majority of the book is spent on the technical aspects of flash photography and canon flash units. great book if you want to understand the nitty gritty tech details of flash photography and enjoy reading tech manuals.

I purchased Mastering Canon EOS Flash Photography as a way to learn to use a Speedlite. Two online courses were of marginal help; reading articles added a bit. On the other hand, this book turned on the lightbulb!! Though parts of it were over my head because I am an admitted flash novice, information was presented in ways I could understand, and the photos were very helpful to illustrate specific points. This is NOT a cover-to-cover read for someone of my experience level, and as a matter of fact I skipped entire chapters (A Brief History of Flash as well as the Studio Flash chapter). Still, each chapter that I did read was packed with useful information. The author doesn’t hesitate to explain theory when it enhances a techniques instruction, but this book is NOT a heavy, dry text. Guy’s writing style is straight-forward and clear. This is both a practical guide and an extremely valuable reference.
I really enjoyed going through this book. It is really thorough and goes deep on every single detail about the concepts flash photography, and about all the types of flashes and accessories you can find (and even some you can't find). I expected, however, to see more techniques and setups with comparison shots. The book is extremely up-to-date and has really few typos or wrong references.

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