

Using Flash

The problem with doing unscripted demos is that I can never remember what I rambled on about!

The key points to remember are:

- Flash can be used to make your pictures better. Fill flash on backlit subjects or where there is strong sunlight creating harsh shadows works great.
- Don't be scared of flash. The best way of simplifying it is to think about 2 overlaying images
 - 1) The camera is set to record the environment with the shutter speed determining the amount of ambient light recorded.
 - 2) The flash will illuminate the subject, and if you use TTL (through the lens exposure) the flash takes the thinking out of the equation.
- Soften the flash with either diffusion material (tissue, paper, bubblewrap) or make the flash source appear bigger (umbrellas, flash discs, bounce off of walls or ceiling).
- Once you can get your flash off of your hotshoe then your images will improve greatly. You will need to have a way of triggering the flash and this can be wired, using the pop-up flash on your camera, or the most reliable way is to use triggers which use radio waves. These don't rely on 'line-of-sight' and can be used up to 100m away (if you trust leaving your gear that far away!).
- Basic radio triggers (like the **Yongnuo RF-602**) are a cheap way of getting into off-camera flash, but I would recommend spending that little bit extra on TTL triggers that you can control from the camera (**Yongnuo YN-622** and **Yongnuo YN-622C-TX controller**) – these are great, especially if your flash has TTL capability.

Here are the results from last night. All images are straight-out-of-camera (SOOC) without any editing. It pays to have good-looking models! All images at f/4, ISO 200 and 1/60s.

A) Using bare flash (turned sideways, of course) on TTL.



B) Using a Stofen-type diffuser (little plastic cap). Again, TTL.



C) Using the Lambency cloudy dome (Gary Fong rip-off). TTL



D) Using a white shoot-through umbrella. TTL



E) Using a silvered reflective umbrella. TTL



All the modifiers used cost less than £10 each from eBay. We will move on to 2 light set-ups next time.