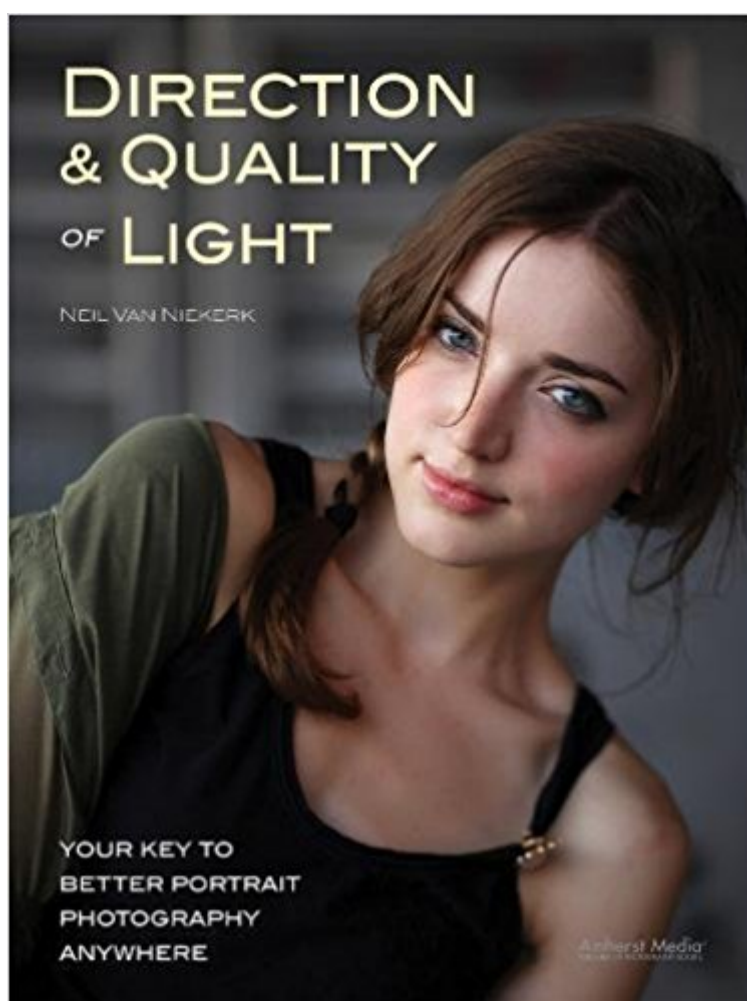The book was found

Direction & Quality Of Light: Your Key To Better Portrait Photography Anywhere

Synopsis

Providing readers with a study of learning how to turn poorly lit images into finely crafted, masterfully lit photographs, this guidebook instills photographers with the self-confidence to think on their feet and photograph any portrait subject anywhere. Acclaimed photographer Neil van Niekirk presents seven distinctly different lighting scenarios—available light, exposure metering, a touch of flash, bounced on-camera flash, off-camera flash, video light, and hard sunlight—to show readers how to manipulate the direction and quality of light, the subjectÃ¢â ¬â„¢s and photographerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s position, and numerous other variables so as to turn a bad image into a stunning, professional-level portrait. Packed with dozens of instructional, full-color photos, this work also features 10 sample photo sessions, allowing readers the opportunity to see the seven lighting scenarios put to practice.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This should be a textbook in every beginning photo course and a permanent addition to every shooterÃ¢â ¬â„¢s library." Ã¢â ¬â •Jim Cornfield, Rangefinder

Neil van Niekerk is a professional photographer and the author "of Off-Camera Flash Techniques for Digital Photographers" and "On-Camera Flash Techniques for Digital Wedding""and""Portrait Photography." He lives in Wayne, New Jersey.

I already had Neil's first two books and learned much from each of them. This book is sort of a

re-cap. . .but it added a greater understanding of what we're really trying to achieve. I got a lot out of it--so much, in fact, that I also watched his two video courses on Craftsy. Neil has a better way of explaining than I've seen anywhere else, and his teaching methods are far more effective. I've never gotten much out of discussion on butterfly lighting--what does work for me is seeing what a portrait looks like without flash, and then seeing how a little fill can make a difference. Great examples, clear and cogent writing. I like books and video tutorials, and I've read and watched more than a few. I still got more out of this book than from any other writer, and added to what I'd already learned from Neil. Can you tell I liked it? And that I highly recommend it? Good. Click "Add to Cart". You won't regret it.

This small book (160 pages) deals with lighting for the portrait in all its aspects.No posing techniques here, the book title is pretty accurate - It is all about light: available light vs. flash light, light modifiers, light measurement, indoor vs. outdoor light, on camera vs. off camera flash.No grand unifying theory of what makes a good picture here (phew!) but great pictures with how and why they were lit the way they were. There are regularly pull-back shots showing the setup. The first two chapters even have a few photos labeled "BAD!" and why, something I would like to see more as one learns more from mistakes than from success and it is less painful to learn from other people's mistakes, even when they are voluntary to make a point.What's great with this book is that it deals with the technical aspects without making them painful. The downside of course is that the reader is supposed to be at least somewhat knowledgeable in photography - this is not a book for the complete beginner.In a way I find it is quite complementary with theÃ Â Master Lighting Guide for Portrait PhotographersÃ Â that details all the variants of all the poses and lighting diagrams. The master lighting guide is essentially studio while the direction and quality of light deals with on-location including some wedding or engagement pictures but all in all they go well together.What does not hurt, it is easy and friendly to read and it makes a decent coffee table book.To me a solid four-stars-and-a-half; two of his earlier books are in my shopping cart.I hope this helps. Don't hesitate to ask me questions in comments.

I would give it a "meh". It's a bit hard to explain but this book occupies a weird middle ground in the complexity of the subjects it tackles. I found myself wanting much more information on the technical aspects of how certain light is achieved but not in a "techno-speak" kind of way either. I wanted something that lays out the philosophy/background for using a certain kind of light, but then follows up with practical, specific information on how a person would achieve it. I didn't find myself changing

anything about how I photograph after reading this book. The simple suggestions are ones that most budding photographers are already doing, and anything beyond the rudimentary level was presented in such vague terms that you're not given enough information to actually take it to that next level. Very frustrating read. I guess it isn't intended to be all things to all people.

I buy a lot of photography books, some I learn from, some I don't. Unfortunately a lot of what I learn from a large portion of the books is that I wasted my money. This is NOT one of those books.The book is well-organized, well-written and the choice of photos to illustrate the author's points is almost perfect. The book does not oversimplify nor does it brush over details. I now use the book as a reference when considering lighting setups or just as a periodic refresher concerning what to consider when lighting a portrait.If you are at all interested in learning how to light your images--even if its only using ambient light and a speedlight--to transform a snapshot into a professional image that "pops", this is a book for you.

I am impressed with this book on optimal lighting arrangements/techniques. Neil explains his approach to selecting/achieving the best lighting layout for images. He provides contrasting images of what constitutes an optimal lighting arrangement as oppose to poor ones. His descriptions are clear and concise. There are pictures showing select lighting setups. He discusses using natural light, fill flash, and how he deals with various lighting conditions and contrasting backgrounds, etc.

I have been shooting with natural light only for years as I wasn't comfortable with flash photography. I later realized this was mostly because I had no real idea how direction and quality of light factors into a photograph. I was mostly getting great shots with trial and error.This book cleared up a lot of basics of direction of light and now I am taking some amazing shots with on camera bounce flash.The only negative is the Kindle version flow and formatting. It is very random and changes when you advance then come back to a page. I would recommend the physical copy over kindle. I wish I had bought the physical copy but it was out of stock at the time.Thanks Neil!

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