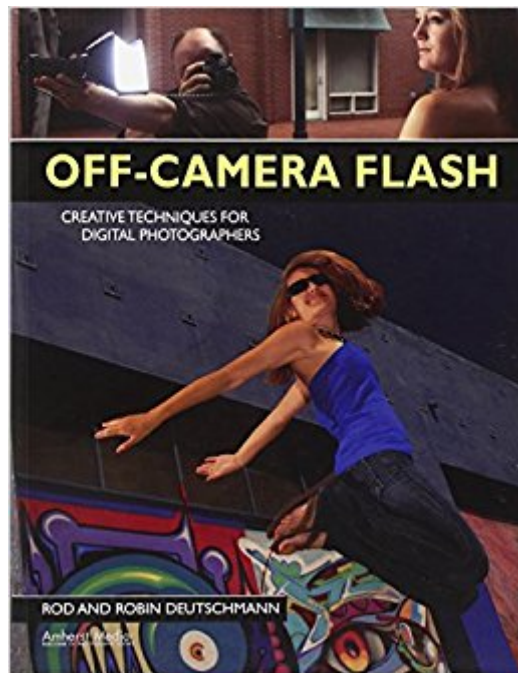




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Off-Camera Flash: Creative Techniques For Digital Photographers



Synopsis

Professionals and advanced-level amateurs seeking to push the envelope and enhance the creativity of their shots are shown how to add mood and manipulate color in their images with this guide. Using a technique known as off-camera flash, digital photographers discover how to alter a viewer's perception through the use of shadows to mask certain details or to draw attention to a specific feature with a simple beam of light. From a survey of the gear required to create these effects and a detailed description of how the basic techniques are executed to more challenging instruction such as close-up techniques, on-location portraiture, black-and-white photography, and capturing motion, this handbook offers digital photographers step-by-step directions for picking up the tips and tricks to set their work apart.

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Customer Reviews

"I took the above photo using two flash units off-camera." zoomstreet.wordpress.com"This is one of the best executed how-to books on using speedlights that I've read." Shutterbug"Has a step-by-step explanation of the processes involved with various, alternative lighting techniques complete with fully comprehensible examples, diagrams and descriptions depending on your goals and needs." blogonbooks.com"Touting the advantages of manual control over automatic digital camera settings and image editing, a couple of Southern California photographers aim to teach people to be artists with off-camera flash(es)." www.foxphoto.com

Rod Deutschmann is a photographer and a photography instructor in the San Diego Public School system. He is an award-winning marine-combat correspondent and the managing editor for the Camp Pendelton Scout, the award-winning Marine Corps newspaper. Robin Deutschmann is a photographer. They live in San Diego, California.

I was very disappointed in this book. The writing style is often pretentious, and not useful when I've come to learn about off camera flash. These phrases come from a single sentence: "Creativity is flourishing... New ideas are being touted.. advanced techniques have emerged.. a youthful, ultramodern approach to message-building is being recognized". What? The photography was not inspiring, most every photograph is overly orange hued and the compositions are weak. I understand photos for educational purpose may be necessarily boring and I don't expect "behind the scenes" photos to be particularly interesting. I will give credit in that they do provide lots of good comparison photos (examples with and without flash, or to show the effect of changes in setup). But most of the "end result" type photos should be reproduced well, color balanced, and inspiring. There were some to be fair, but far less than I would expect in a book about photography. My recommendation is look for other books on the subject. There are better. For example, "Speedlites Handbook - by Syl Arena" - even though it's written for Canon shooters, the techniques are useful by everyone.

At the very start the author mentions Strobist as a good resource, and it is. It certainly is a much better resource than this book. I'm not even sure the author has actually ever visited strobist.com. The example photographs often times don't even accurately represent the theory that is being explained. I suppose for the absolute beginner, that has just purchased their first off-camera flash there could be a couple of useful tips in this book, but beyond those, it is just as likely to lead the reader astray. I teach digital photography at the local community college, and if asked, I would encourage beginning students to look elsewhere.

This book has VERY little in the way of substance. There are some useful tidbits, but you have to wade through a lot of fluff to find them. We are told about lots of things we should learn and become good at, but receive little in the way of practical instruction. I didn't buy this book to be told to go read another book (or whatever) to learn what I thought was to be the subject matter of this

book! There's lots about how the authors' way of doing things is superior to other photographers. They see themselves as "bold and adventurous" versus other photographers who are "boring drones." The overall tone of this book is quite pretentious. In particular, there is a very condescending tone re: using your camera's automatic features. I don't dispute that learning to use your flash in manual mode ultimately gives you more control, but there is still a lot that can be accomplished using automatic modes, and there's just no need for the attitude. The irony is that while the book does include some nice example images, many are mediocre at best - nothing I would aspire to. Bottom line: there are much better books out there (as referenced in other reviews). Skip this one.

I recently began shooting in full manual mode, and I credit this book for giving me the courage to make my own exposure decisions. I shoot Nikon and have a Nikon flash, and found that the auto setting left my images bland and uninspiring. In this well organized and easy to read book, I've learned to really explore light and create a meaningful image out of what plainly sits before me. The authors offer a unique mindset to finding your own voice and creative style. This book explains many approachable techniques for the beginner as well as creative lighting challenges for the more advanced photographer. The many useful images and diagrams clearly illustrate the points and the reader is not weighed down by a sea of text. I highly recommend this book. It was a pleasure to read and I frequently refer back to it for guidance.

I got this book after reading the other two by these authors. Have to say I got more out of this book than the other two, which are excellent in their own right but this book really clicked for me. I find the diagrams and exif information a most valuable tool in understanding how certain images were attained, not just the good images but the examples and info on the "bad" images as well. The set ups seemed common ones I might try and the exercises really encourage me to practice the various techniques. In total this book answered my flash questions and helped me make some gear selections I was unsure of. A great learning book, a great practice book, a great reference book.

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