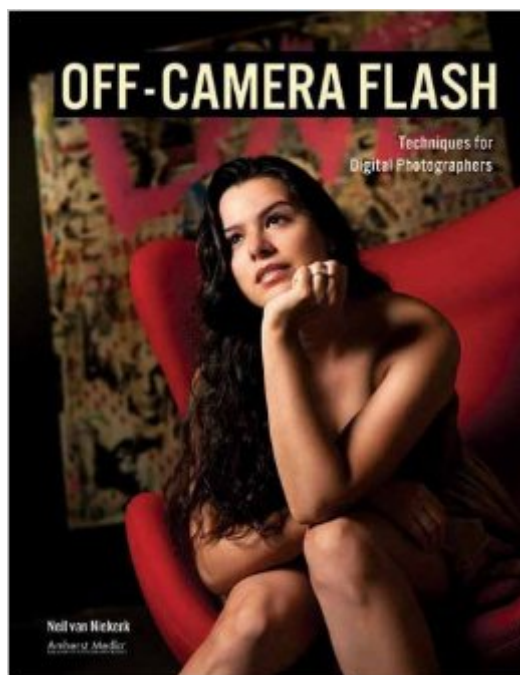


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# Off-Camera Flash: Techniques For Digital Photographers



## Synopsis

Rather than focusing on the gear needed to use off-camera flash, this specialized resource hones in on the techniques needed&#151;addressing photographersâ™ most common questions and providing practical examples of off-camera flash used on real assignments. Seeking to address the various challenges of off-camera lighting, professional photographers and advanced amateurs alike will find a range of confidence-building instruction, beginning with basic howâ™s and whyâ™s of lighting for creative effect, the types of equipment available and instruction about their proper use, clear definitions of various technical concepts such as managing shutter speed and controlling flash exposure, using ambient light as well as natural sunlight during a shoot, and incorporating off-camera flash into a portrait session. Concluding this lesson plan is a look at five different real-life photo sessions, each employing a different flash technique. Here, photographers get a deeper understanding of each concept put into practice, marrying the elements of lighting with the natural elements presented by the shoot.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I wish I had this book when I first started out. Taking your flash OFF your camera is the single most important thing you can do in my opinion to separate yourself from the pack. Red Eye magically disappears. I was taking a workshop and realized my pictures did not look like those who where using Off camera flash, but I did not know where to begin. This book is pretty awesome, well written

and easy to understand. Topics include: The Right Gear, Exposure Control for Ambient Light, Settings, When to use High Speed sync, TTL or Manual, Triggering techniques and Positioning of the Flash. I like the point that on overcast days you can pick any background you wish and by adding a light and a little practice with the knowledge from Neil, you have complete control. For use in Portraiture, Fashion, and Wedding photography. However, I do use ON camera flash. Some situations call for it. Yet, if given the choice i get superior results with OFF Camera flash and this is the book that explains the mystery.

This book is THE handbook for shooting with off-camera flash. The photos are gorgeous. There are tons of image sequences showing the results of different flash and camera settings and setups. It's obvious in his writing how seriously he takes his lighting. And it shows in the pictures. The book is filled with these great photos and he breaks them all down so you can see what went into creating the final product. I've read many great lighting books but this one really has it all. As with his On-Camera Flash book, this is essential reading.

I follow Mr. VanNiekirk on his website and am amazed at the information he shares with photographers on how to use flash. It's simply explained and full of great examples. I have made great advances on my use of flash with his generous tips and techniques. No buying expensive gadgets, or knick-knacks required. Just technique. This book is a great addition and I keep it with me for reference and ideas. The photo examples of mistakes, alongside how to fix them, are invaluable. He has really simplified the complex and intimidating realm of using flash. I have the 1st book, and could not wait to get my hands on this one. With all the other gear we buy as photographers, this purchase is a no-brainer. I refer to these books a LOT more than any others I have purchased. So thankful to find someone willing to explain this complex topic and share his secrets. If you don't have one, GET ONE! You won't regret it.

In this book, van Niekerk delivers another excellent text on the topic of flash photography. "Off-Camera Flash" is a short, concise, and easy-to-read book that is a great complement to van Niekerk's earlier book about on-camera flash. In both books, I particularly appreciated how accessible the information presented is to the average photographer. Unlike books like "Hot Shoe Diaries", which presents increasingly complex lighting situations involving a myriad of expensive equipment, this book discusses common scenarios and the basic equipment and techniques needed to shoot a successful image. The book begins with a basic introduction, followed by a very

practical chapter on equipment. As in other places in the book, this chapter discusses both Nikon and Canon equipment (even though for the most part, the information is not really vendor-specific, so it is usually unnecessary). There are some very useful pictures of the various pieces of equipment discussed that show up throughout this chapter. Several chapters covering technical information about flash photography are presented next, and these are the real gems of the book. Although there is some overlap with "On-Camera Flash", most of the information is unique, and for the topics that were overlapping, I found the descriptions in this book to be better. There is fantastic coverage of ambient vs. flash exposure, and which factors affect each situation. Excellent example photographs supplement the text to reinforce the ideas described. There is also very thorough coverage of TTL vs. manual flash, and when to use each mode. After the raw technical topics, the remaining chapters describe various different kinds of shooting situations, such as balancing flash with ambient light, flash positioning, working with strong sunlight, etc. There are more example photographs, illustrating ambient light exposure vs flash exposure, as well as in many cases, showing where the flash is positioned. There are a few downsides of this book. The last chapter covers sample shooting sessions. This was perhaps the weakest chapter, as the situations and information presented felt hurried and were overall less useful than the material presented earlier. Another note is that this book also almost exclusively describes single-flash scenarios. I think it would be useful to show some scenarios and present information where multiple strobes are used. Similarly, it's worth noting that basically all scenarios presented are related to use of flash outdoors (and not studio situations). Overall, this is another excellent book on flash photography from van Niekerk. Highly recommended.

If you want to understand the why and how to Really use Off Camera flash, then get this book. I have followed Nick and he is using a common sense approach in teaching off camera flash. The Book has 10 chapters from the Intro to Sample sessions. If you read this book and apply what Nick is saying then you should have no fear. Look at Chapter 4 Manual vs TTL, Flash, you will learn and understand what manual flash is and better understand what manual flash exposure is controlled by 4 things aperture choice ISO choice subject to light source distance power setting on the flash

Another wonderful book by Neil. In this book, as in the first, On-Camera Flash, Neil explains in detail his knowledge and his vast experience with photography, in this case with the use of off-camera flash. I must recommend this book to anyone who wants to learn to take good pictures with off-camera flash, as well as deciding when to use manual flash or TTL flash, how to position the

individual with respect to the direction of ambient light, how to position the flash with respect to the subject, when using flash as fill flash, or as main lighting, how to correctly measure the exposure, how to balance flash with ambient light, what are the advantages and disadvantages of high-speed flash sync, etc .I must confess that my photography has improved considerably after reading the first book of Neil and since I read every day your web site ([...]).

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