DRAG THE SHUTTER FOR ADDED DRAMA AND COLOUR

USE FILL-IN FLASH TO LIFT SHADOWS ON BACKLIT SUBJECTS

FIRE A BURST OF FLASH TO FREEZE FAST-MOVING OBJECTS

MASTER STROBISM FOR DRAMATIC HIGH-END PORTRAITS
**How to use fill-in flash to lift shadows on backlit subjects**

- **WHY SHOULD I USE IT?**
  In the standard multi-segment metering mode, your camera ascertains the ‘correct’ exposure based on the average light intensity within the frame. In high-contrast scenes with extreme highlights and shadows, some areas will inevitably be under- or overexposed. Fill-in flash can lift shadows on nearby objects, evening out exposure.

- **WHEN MIGHT I USE IT?**
  If you’re shooting backlit portraits, especially in the summer months, a very bright sky tends to cause underexposure of the foreground, and with your subject facing away from the sun, they’re often left heavily underexposed. Provided they’re within a few metres of the camera, a burst of flash can fill in these shadows and create a more flattering exposure.

- **HOW DO I USE IT?**
  Fill-in flash is very straightforward to use. All you need to do is pop up your built-in flash and shoot – no further settings tweaks are necessary. If you have an external flashgun, the same rules apply, provided you’re in E-TTL mode, where the camera and flashgun determine the exposure automatically. Should your flashgun not have E-TTL, you’ll have to work in manual, experimenting with different flash power outputs until the subject’s face and body are lit correctly.

- **ADJUST FLASH EXPOSURE COMPENSATION**
  This allows you to tweak flash power should you feel the camera hasn’t got it right. On a pop-up flash, this is done by holding in the flash button on the body and turning the flash dial. On an external flashgun, it’s altered on the unit itself.

**How to master strobism for dramatic high-end portraits**

- **WHY SHOULD I USE IT?**
  If you want to add drama to your outdoor portraits, strobism is the perfect tool. The idea is to underexpose the whole scene by 1 or 2 stops, making it look moody and atmospheric, then re-expose your subject with a burst of flash. This will really help your subject to stand out and give a high-end, professional look.

- **WHEN SHOULD I USE IT?**
  You can use this technique any time you shoot a portrait outdoors, and it works for anything from an edgy fashion image through to a portrait of a suited businessperson. In the summer months, you may find you need two flashguns as one might not be bright enough.

- **HOW DO I USE IT?**
  For the rest of the year though, one flash unit should be enough.

- **SOFTEN SHADOWS WITH A LIGHT MODIFIER**
  Bare flash rarely gives flattering results when shooting portraits, as the light is so harsh. For this reason it’s best to use a light modifier such as an umbrella or beauty dish, though keep in mind that this will reduce flash brightness.

**How to drag the shutter for added drama and colour**

- **WHY SHOULD I USE IT?**
  If you’re shooting portraits in very dark conditions, you’re usually faced with either making the best of the ambient light using a longer exposure or switching to flash. But it’s also possible to incorporate both into your shot, using a flash to light the subject, but shooting with a longer shutter speed to help gather ambient light from the background.

- **WHEN SHOULD I USE IT?**
  This is a very popular technique with wedding photographers, who have to shoot the evening celebrations on a busy dance floor with only a few coloured spotlights to work with. Flash alone will do the job, but it tends to leave the background very dark, or even completely black, which isn’t ideal.

- **HOW DO I USE IT?**
  Working in manual mode, set ISO to around 800, aperture to f/5.6 and shutter speed to 1/4sec. Attach your flashgun, and working in manual set the power output to 1/4. You will need to tweak these settings depending on the location. Set your camera to rear curtain sync, so the flash fires right at the end of the exposure. Press the shutter button and take a shot, moving the camera around so that the background lights blur into long trails of light across the frame. Your subject will remain perfectly sharp, as the burst of flash is so short.

- **CHOOSE A DAYLIGHT WHITE BALANCE**
  Setting daylight WB might seem odd at night, but flash is more-or-less daylight-balanced and you want the light on the subject to be perfectly colour-balanced. The background may have an orange cast, but this doesn’t really matter.

- **SIDELIGHT YOUR SUBJECT**
  You’ll probably get the best results if you have your flash slightly off to one side, ideally using a modifier. You might also introduce a second flashgun, though you’ll need wireless triggers to ensure they fire simultaneously.

- **HOW DO I USE IT?**
  Mount your camera on a tripod and autofocus on the subject, using a torch or room lights to illuminate the subject. Set the shutter speed to 15sec, the aperture to f/8 and the ISO to 100, and be sure your composition is correct. Switch to manual focus, being careful not to move the focus ring. Set the flashgun to manual, and choose 1/4 power. Turn off the lights, start your exposure, then at the precise moment you burst your balloon (or whatever you’re shooting), press the test button on the flash.