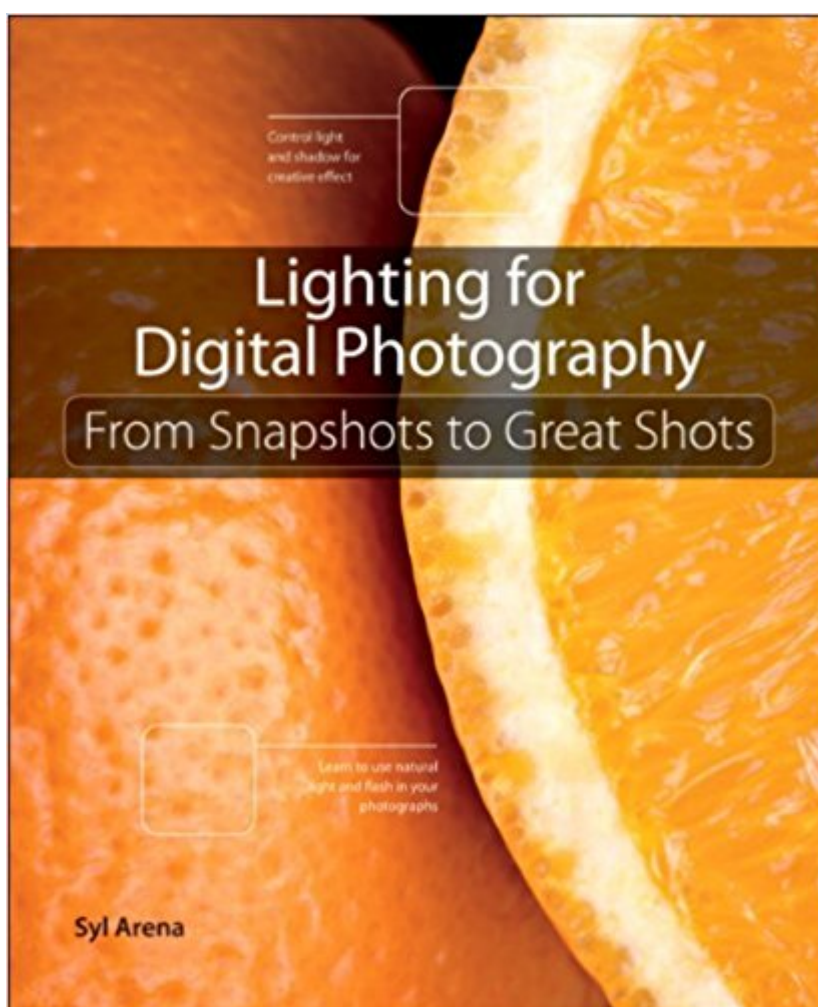


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# Lighting For Digital Photography: From Snapshots To Great Shots (Using Flash And Natural Light For Portrait, Still Life, Action, And Product Photography)





## Synopsis

Now that you've had your DSLR for a while, are you ready to take a much closer look at what creating a great image is all about? It's all about light! The ability to see, influence, modify, control, and create light will take your images from snapshots to great shots! In *Lighting for Digital Photography: From Snapshots to Great Shots*, photographer and bestselling author Syl Arena begins with a primer on light itself—how to see its direction, intensity, color, contrast, and hardness—and quickly moves on to discussions of shooting both indoors and outdoors in the many different conditions of natural or man-made light. Then the book digs in to begin creating light with photographic lights, whether that's small flash or big strobe, the pop-up flash on your DSLR or continuous lights. Follow along with Syl and you will: Learn the basics (and beyond) of light modifiers that make light bigger and softer, such as umbrellas, softboxes, beauty dishes, and diffusion panels Understand how to control and shape the light itself with flags, grids, snoots, and the zoom function on your flash Appreciate the color temperature of light (whether that's the sun, a light bulb, or a flash), and how to influence it with white balance settings on your camera and colored gels on your flash Learn how to take great pictures across many different genres, from product and still life images, to simple (and not so simple) portraits and group shots With *Lighting for Digital Photography: From Snapshots to Great Shots*, you'll learn not only how light behaves—you'll learn all you need to know to get started on the journey of creating and controlling light in order to make great shots. And once you've got the shot, show it off! Join the book's Flickr group, share your photos, and discuss how you get great shots at [flickr.com/groups/lightingfromsnapshotstogreatshots](http://flickr.com/groups/lightingfromsnapshotstogreatshots).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Syl Arena studied commercial photography at Brooks Institute and fine art photography at the University of Arizona. Over the years, Syl has shot for newspapers, magazines, and catalogs. He has been recognized for his expertise on color-critical workflow and his ability to turn noon to night by firing off a dozen Speedlites simultaneously. He is the author of the bestselling *Speedlites Handbook: Learning to Craft Light with Canon Speedlites*. Syl covers the world of photography on his blog [PixSylated.com](#), and he serves as the Director of the Paso Robles Workshops.

There are countless books written on the subject of photographic lighting providing varying degrees of useful and practical advice. What makes this book stand out is that it is a true tutorial, by which I mean it provides a complete learning journey from foundational concepts to detailed step by step instruction and explanations of how each image was accomplished. It is apparent that the author has a mastery of the subject matter (which many others possess as well). What differentiates Syl is his ability to transfer that knowledge to his readers. He goes to great length and in great detail to provide specific examples and explanations on each topic that he covers in this book in a manner that will be clear to any reader regardless of their skill/knowledge level at the time of reading. Those readers who are newer to lighting will appreciate that Syl leaves no detail unexplained. If he is talking about using specific lighting modifiers or accessories, he takes the time to explain the use and often includes photos and even alternatives. In addition to being a great tutorial, it also serves the function of being a great reference resource for photographers as they progress along the learning curve with their lighting skills. If you purchase the paperback, I have no doubt that it become dog eared over time as it is one of those books that you will come back to time and again. If you buy the Kindle edition, you will have a large number of notations and bookmarks. If you are looking to learn lighting or to build on your existing skills, this is a book that you will never regret owning.

I'm a big fan of Syl Arena and his teaching style, his first book has helped to teach me almost every basic there is to know about shooting with off camera flash and lighting in general. For the price that

has this book for you really can't go wrong - however if you're a fan and you've read *Speedlites Handbook: Learning to Craft Light with Canon Speedlites* then you're probably going to be disappointed since a lot of the information is repeated. It's GOOD information that bears repeating - but still, it falls short in teaching the existing fans new things. The book shares all the good traits of Handbook however - down to earth teaching style, very specific call outs to equipment and settings that make it so much easier to get context. Overall - an excellent addition to your learning arsenal - but consider it a refresher with slight tweaks. If you're new to the lighting game - then by all means grab this and enjoy.

Exactly what I would expect from Syl. I had read other books for him though more advanced than this one. Nevertheless, this book is what a beginner needs. I have to say that I used to hate using speedlites but started to like them when I read previous books from Syl. His approach is systematic which makes for an organized thought when processing any scene or job. In this book, he goes through all the stuff a beginner would face (White balance, shutter speeds, stops,... etc) up to real examples of some projects that he had done with explanations for step and why it was done. Despite talking about the gear but he makes it clear and emphasizes on creating, using and thinking about light and NOT accumulating gear. In many instances through out the book (and other books by him) he always suggests alternatives on a budget. Note though: He is, apparently, a practical man and he made it clear that he seldom uses his light meter. From my point of view as I've seen other professionals at work (and read some of their books), probably those professionals would disagree with Syl's approach on how to compose with light. However, Syl's approach to scenes as described in this book and others do fit my chain of thought well, as Syl depends on test shots greatly (which is easily done now with digital cameras) to make a decision for the final shot; There is no shame with that and he wants you to learn to see and appreciate light. I know other professionals might not receive this as "adequate" and might tend to be perfectionists a bit with their light metering magic. All in all, it is a good book for beginners and I advise them to start reading it with their first speedlite or strobe to break that fear inside, just like I did.

At some point during your photographic journey, if you move past the point & shoot phase, you will come to the conclusion that the pop up flash on your DSLR is pretty much useless! It blasts a flat, uncontrolled glare of light on your subjects, blinding them and making them look like escapees from the police lineup. Then you will buy an external flash, and fumble around trying to learn how to set it up and where to put it. Then you will realize that lighting is just as important as learning all the

buttons and menus on your DSLR, and you will start searching for some useful advice. If you are reading this review, your search is over. Just buy the book. It is organized logically with effective illustrations and sample photographs. Every lighting situation is covered, including what kind of lights and reflectors to use, where to position them, recommended vendors, etc. Whether you read the book from cover to cover or just jump into the chapter that covers your immediate need, you will find the info you need.

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