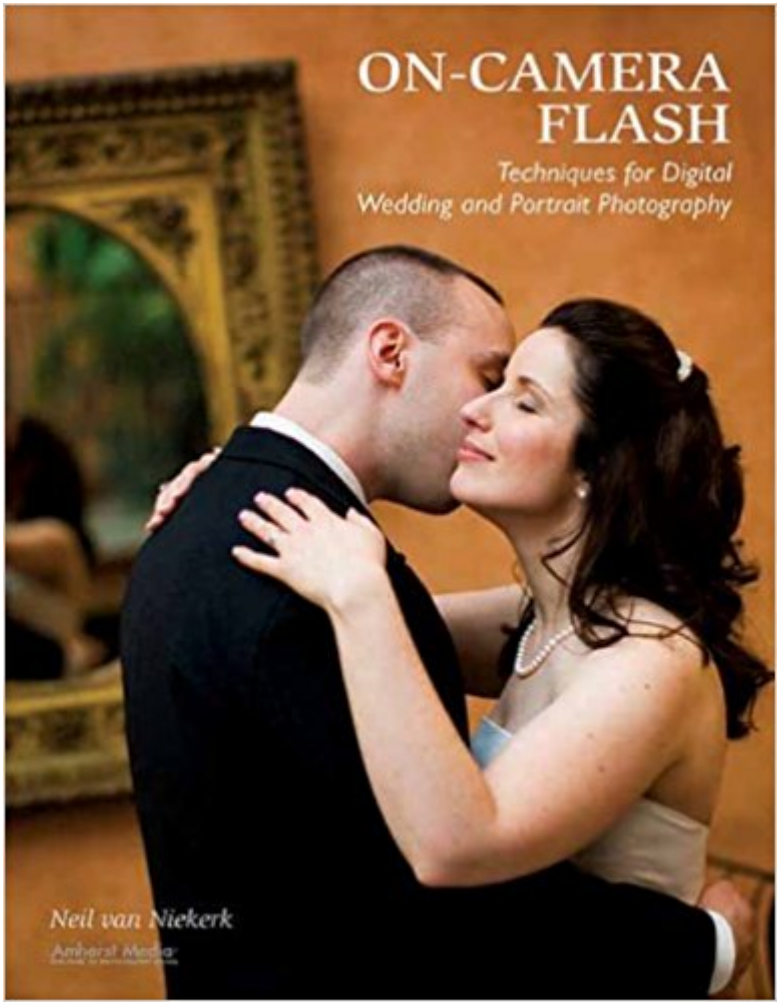
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On-Camera Flash Techniques For Digital Wedding And Portrait Photography



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Synopsis

With this guidebook, photographers learn how to create stunning, professional images while avoiding the common pitfalls of using an on-camera flash. Techniques for using simple accessories such as bounce cards and diffusers, as well as how to improve a lighting scenario by enhancing it rather than overwhelming it, show photographers how to master this challenging aspect of portraiture.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"On-camera flash or strobe lighting is demystified in Neil van Niekerk's latest book."Ã Â —sacramentobookreview.com"Explains everything you need to know about properly using a flash to capture the best possible image each and every time."Ã Â —Shutterbug"This is my #1 pick so far for Photography Book of the Year . . .Ã Â Thankyou Neil van Niekerk for sharing your pearls of wisdom in a way that is easy to understand, without using 47 speedlights or $1000+ in light modifiers!Ã Â —www.ronmart.blogspot.com"The best book I have read on the subject of shooting with your Speedlight on your hot shoe.Ã Â —Weeklyphototips.blogspot.com"Owning this book will give you a college-level course worth of instruction on the hows, whys and wherefores of on-camera flash."Ã Â —digitalweddingforum.com/blog

Neil van Niekerk is a wedding and portrait photographer. He lives in Wayne, New Jersey.

I used to be an "existing light" guy. I really hated the look of direct flash on a subject. I was having a nice chat with my brother-in-law when he told me about this website called planet neil. I read through it and I was amazed by this guy who talked about using flash in such a way that viewers wouldn’t know that you used flash! I bookmarked it and told myself that I would throughly read it when I finally bought my flash.That moment came a few weeks ago. I bought a 430EXII and went through the website again. It had a ad about the site’s author also writing a book. I bought the book as soon as released it and poured through its pages.I was just amazed at the amount of helpful information the book had. The author, Niel van Niekerk, was really obsessed about making sure that the subject didn’t look like a flash was used on her. He showed a lot of examples of how a picture would look like if only existing light was used and how the lighting was greatly enhanced by using flash.I don’t know but he made a believer out of me.He never suggested this but I went to a hobby store and bought a life-sized styrofoam head so I can practice bouncing the flash while creating a flattering kind of lighting. Sorry if this sounds weird but it is so hard for me to convince my wife to practice using the flash on her.I think this book would be very helpful for people new to using flash and also to people who already has some flash experience. He uses a lot of examples from his wedding shoots but his techniques can be applied to most situations. He talks about using flash in different types of lighting situations. He does so in a manner that is not very technical. In fact, he only used 1 chart in his entire book.If you want to read a bit about what he has to say, google "Planet Neil flash photography techniques". Like me, you will be amazed at what he has to say and you will probably buy the book too.I have already finished it and I will probably read it a couple more times.One last word about the author. I had a question about a gel he mentioned in his book so I sent him an e-mail. He responded promptly and was very nice.

The author states that this book is for professional wedding photographers. But then he, and the person who wrote the Forward, made degrading remarks about them. I guess they think that by putting others down they appear more wise, more professional, and more important. Also, I found some parts of the book annoyingly written - as if written for children: "You have to do this". for example, along with some overly detailed walk-through lessons.As for the book being written for professional wedding photographers, consider this: If you or I were going to hire a wedding photographer, we would expect to be shown examples of photographs that demonstrate his/her expertise. Wedding photographers should already know everything taught in this book or they would rarely, if ever, be hired.All criticisms aside, I found the lessons informative and appropriate for amateur photographers. I mean for those those amateurs who are going from available light only to

include a single on camera flash unit. The rules for single flash wedding photography, as the author states, do apply to general photography. For them, this is a must read. It is not about high level insider award winning photography. It's about the basics of using a flash. I learned a lot from it.

I am an amateur photographer who has a passion to learn much more. I did already have a pretty good understanding of how shutter speed, aperture, and ISO work. I recently acquired a Speed lite, though, and really had very little idea how to use it effectively. I believe Neil is a near genius. I greatly admire his approach to flash photography (especially bounce flash), because his goal is usually to have the pictures as least obvious as possible that a flash was even used. A lot of his work looks very natural. I know people who prefer not to use flash at all, and that is fine under some conditions, but Neil shows how those pictures can often be greatly improved by some type of flash. He has many of his pictures in the book whereby you can see the difference between using a flash or not. He also shows settings, so you can compare those as well. I don't usually pay this much for an e-book, but I am very satisfied with this purchase. I recommend this book to anyone who has a basic knowledge already of shutter speed, aperture, and ISO, yet wants to learn how to use his/her flash to make pictures POP.

I bought this book because I wanted to learn more about on camera flash techniques for events and weddings. It is an easy to read book and I am half-way through after a couple short evening reads. I have already learned some valuable tips and tricks that I am sure will help my photography proceed to the next level, especially as far as flash is concerned. I highly recommend Neil's books and I love his work. Thanks Neil for teaching me a few things! I feel if you can walk away from a book or a class learning a valuable tip or trick or two that will really help you improve it's well worth it. This book I believe will do that for you, unless you are a know-it-all type (in which you're beyond help) or at Neil's level. Well worth it and great buy! This will be on my shortlist of books that stay on my bookshelf for many years of reference (God willing) .

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