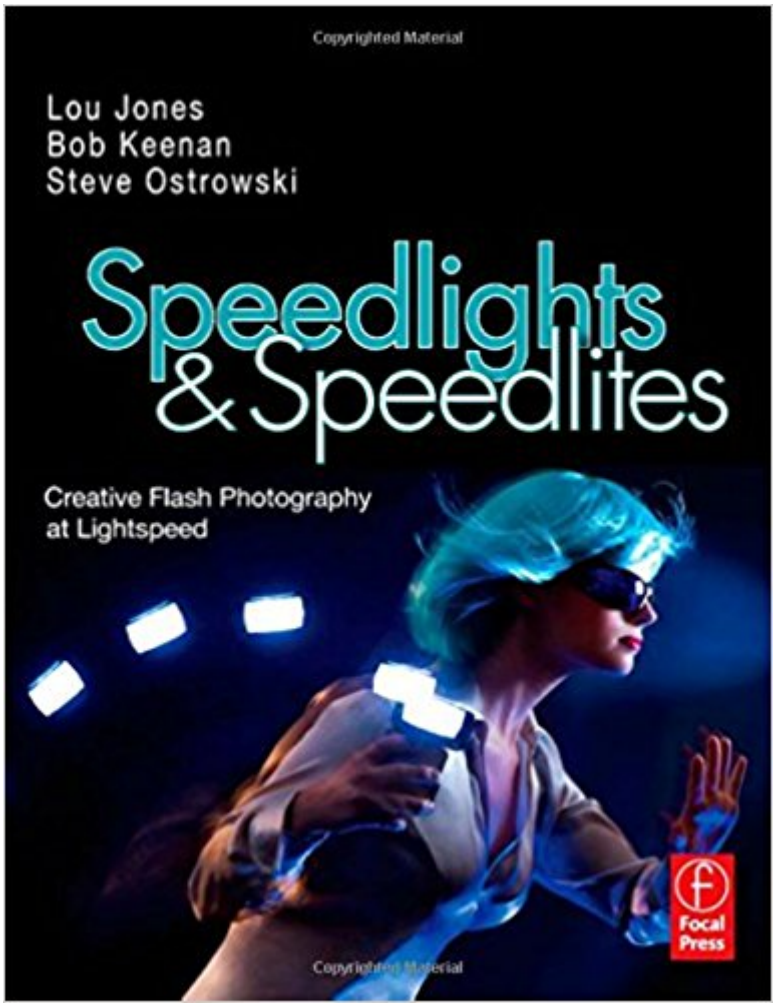
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Speedlights & Speedlites: Creative Flash Photography At The Speed Of Light



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Synopsis

Canon Speedlites and Nikon Speedlights are small, off-camera flashguns that can provide big results - if you know how to use them properly. Acclaimed Boston photographers Lou Jones, Bob Keenan and Steve Ostrowski guide you through the technical and creative aspects of how to get the most out of these powerful tools in this indispensable guide, packed full of inspirational images and comprehensive diagrams of the lighting set ups used to capture them. They are significantly more advanced, lighter and considerably cheaper than a standard flashgun, and have many advantages. They are small (and cheap) enough that a number can be carried in your kit, and they can be used in combination, triggered wirelessly. They use through-the-lens (TTL) metering, which allows you to use the in-camera LCD and histograms to calculate the required power/direction, rather than havng to use a light meter or trial and error. They use proprietary, dedicated technology (from Canon and Nikon) that means there are no compatability issues. Getting the most out of them, however, remains a mystery - most photographers still just use their speedlights in the same way as a standard flash gun. This is where this book comes in.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"this could be considered the cutting edge of lighting, and as speedlights are affordable and portable and capable, pushing the capabilities and indeed understanding them is very much on the mind of

many serious digital photographers" Simon Gurney, Photographer

Every photographer taking pictures today has seen the dramatic revolution in photography from film to digital. There is now an equally dramatic evolution in lighting - from flash to Speedlight. While they may look, feel and work like traditional portable flashes, Speedlights are the most significant technological advance in the history of lighting. Yet they so closely resemble their traditional portable flash "cousins" that most photographers continue to use them like old fashioned flashes, failing to get the most out of one of the most powerful weapons in the modern photographer's arsenal. This book will change the way you use your flash forever. Professional photographers Lou Jones, Bob Keenan and Steve Ostrowski guide you through the technical and creative aspects of how to get the most out of these most versatile of tools in this indispensable guide, packed full of their own inspirational images and comprehensive diagrams of the lighting setups they used to capture them.

I am actively trying to improve my flash photography and thought this book would be perfect to help me improve my use of my Nikon Speedlight and thereby help me take more sophisticated and interesting flash photographs.Although the book looks terrific, and has some useful elements of information here and there, it fails to deliver on its promise. It wanders hither and yon into the story of this photo or that one, without much in the way of connection between that particular photograph and any point the book is trying to make at the time you are reading. As such, the stories become something of an annoying interruption if what you're trying to do is develop your understanding of what your Speedlight is capable of beyond merely serving as a flash.Unfortunately, it is that task -- delivering understanding -- at which this book ultimately fails. If you hope to develop a thorough understanding of what your speedlights can do and how to do those things, you will have to work very hard to achieve that understanding with this resource. It simply doesn't drill down sufficiently into the how-to's.As others have noted, a healthy portion of this book is dedicated to lighting diagrams for various photos. While this might be useful to seek to replicate some of the photos shown in the book, it does virtually nothing in teaching you how to use your speedlights (the diagrams would work for any kind of artificial light). This isn't promoted as a "photo recipe" book, but that's kind of what it descends to after a bit. And perhaps most annoyingly of all, the book, which is separated into "one light" and "two lights" sections, often shows you photos that were shot with more lights than the chapter would suggest. Why are you showing me a photo shot with 2 or more lights when I'm trying to learn about how to use a single speedlight? Are you just filling out

space?The bottom line is that if you're waiting for a book that will really help you excel with the newer flash technologies, I recommend looking elsewhere.

I was excited to read a book dedicated solely to speedlights and how to use them to enhance creative photography. When I finished the book I was hardly more knowledgeable than when I started. There is too much verbiage and digression and woefully little clear, practical instruction. The image examples are uninspiring and the lighting diagrams are inadequate. For example, instead of showing a figure to represent the subject of the photo the authors have put the photo itself in the middle of the diagram. This is confusing and does not help in the visualization of the relationship of the lighting to the subject. I don't like to be so critical but this book really disappointed me.

I read the book twice; gleaning little nuggets here and there.The book highlights standard lighting techniques (which could be used with any type of artificial lighting)using speedlights. GREAT! What are my problems then, you might be wondering.One "problem" with the book is that the author,chapter after chapter, continually attempts to "sell" the reader on the idea that using speedlights is a "great way" of shooting with flash. "YA, I KNOW THAT, that's why I bought the book in the first place" is what I was grumbling into the air as I continued read on to the end. His propensity to do this was annoying and left me feeling like I was getting cheated out of more helpful information. I don't need the author to tell me WHY I am using speedlights I want him to tell me HOW.Another "problem" was that, like the title says (it finally dawned on me...), the book is only about using Nikon and Canon ETL speedlight/speedlite flashes. I was hoping that this was going to be a tome about off-camera flash using flashes in manual and setting up with shots using wireless triggers and etc. Maybe there would be some exposure tricks and tips that help the photographer get around using a light meter. I was hoping for, well, meat and potatoes..."strobist" stuff I guess. Maybe like how to train my eye and to be able to see the forest for the trees and vice versa when it comes to lighting. Oh well.Don't get me wrong, I learned some stuff but...

I have been a Canon user for years. I recently purchased a set of Radio Poppers for my Canon equipment. I was having fun using my equipment wirelessly but I knew I could do better. This book has been a great help using the Canon Speedlites. I am from the old school of calculating distance and light output. Using a flash was something I would rather do without. Existing light photography was my thing. I never really had faith in letting the camera do it all. After just a few pages into this book I am letting the camera's computer take charge of the flash and exposure. A whole new world

has opened up. I did not realize all the possibilities that were possible using Canon Speedlites and the on camera information you could access. If you are a Canon or Nikon user I can highly recommend this book.

Interesting but could give more complete info.

As a veteran commercial and studio portrait photographer, I found the info in this book to be sound and very digestible-it was a even a "good read." I might complain that in some cases IR is still a poor second to wireless radio triggers-but the point of this book is to showcase the flexibility that portable speedlites/speedlights bring to location photography. This book easily accomplished that and throws in lighting theory in nice proportion.

Excellent flash photography book, not only gives specific shooting information but inspires you to be creative. Great lighting diagrams and expert shooting advice. Good book for beginners and pro alike

I was expecting much better. The book is badly written and structured and really didn't teach me anything. I far prefer the McNally Hot Shoe Diaries.

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