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THE TEACHING CLUB



Effective Storytelling

By Brett of **Photzy!**

A photograph with a strong story element will always command a viewer's attention which makes storytelling a powerful tool for creative photographic expression. Creating stories with your photographs is the difference between someone wanting to stare at your images or simply letting their eyes drift right past them. You essentially have four ways to instill storytelling elements into your photography:

1) Choice of subject

The subject you choose lays the foundation on which your story is created. Something that catches your attention is usually a good place to start.

2) Choice of camera angle and perspective (lens)

Where you take the photograph from – including the camera angle – sets the perspective for the image and affects the mood conveyed.

3) Choice of composition

If your images lack an organized and well-thought-out composition, the chances are good that your viewer will not get your intended message (story).

4) Choice of post-production

Post-production can significantly alter the storytelling effect of an image to help reinforce the message you want to convey.

The next time you want to add a storytelling element into your photography, keep the above ideas in mind for a better result!

You can read more about how each of the above works in detail in chapter 5 of the

Cover Photo this month is by,

Jenny Hale

Effective Storytelling guide by Kent DuFault. If you'd like to learn the secrets to leveraging storytelling in your photography and propel your photos onto a whole new level, we recommend you check it out.

Effective Storytelling guide by Kent DuFault.

https://photzy.com/ld/effectivestorytelling/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=drip&utm_campaign=megadrip&utm_content=part25%20sequence%20-%20email%2014



Tips for shooting stunning Photos in the rain.

Article by Vallerret Photography Gloves.

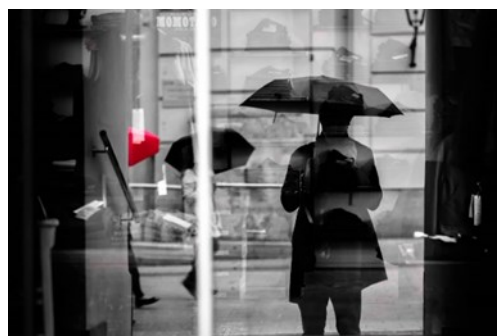
All too often we associate autumn with the romantic ideas of vibrant colours and crisp autumn air but for much of the world, autumn is synonymous with one thing: rain. That's certainly the case for us here at the Vallerret HQ in Voss, Norway where autumn means cold and damp days. It's easy to get frustrated by the gloom weather and impossibly difficult to get motivated to go out and shoot when the weather is less than ideal but for the die-hard photographers out there, taking a whole season off just because of a little moisture is simply not an option.

We know finding motivation can be hard but this year, challenge yourself: When the clouds roll in and the rain starts to fall, grab your camera and some rain gear and enjoy the oddly satisfying joys of shooting in the rain. Here are our best tips for getting amazing shots in the rain.

Photo by Rene Bohmer.

1. PROTECT YOUR GEAR AND YOURSELF

The old saying that rings true for winter photography is also true for wet, autumn photography: you can't capture good photos until you make sure you are protected from the elements. This means adopting a good layering system with synthetic or merino (not cotton!) base layers, insulating mid-layers and a waterproof jacket. If you want our best layering tips, check out this blog post [here](#)!



House tip: it's nearly impossible for any waterproof fabric to stand up in a downpour for more than 10 minutes so don't be surprised when the moisture slowly starts to soak through. The important thing is having good layers underneath that will keep you toasty warm even if they get wet. As for umbrellas, they are usually more work than they are worth. It's not easy trying to hold an umbrella whilst also juggling your camera and adjusting your settings. Best to just leave it at home!

When layering up, don't forget your feet. Walking around in damp cold shoes will kill your photography buzz in a jiffy so if you can wear rainboots or waterproof shoes, definitely do.

Links of Interest:

Viewbug - <http://www.viewbug.com/>

ePHOTOzine - <http://www.ephotozine.com/>

Federation of Camera Clubs [NSW] - <http://www.photographynsw.org.au/>

Australian Photographic Society - <http://www.a-p-s.org.au/>

Gurushots - <https://gurushots.com/>

Free Lessons with Serge Ramelli - <http://photoserge.com/free-lessons/all>

Now that you have your body protected from the elements, it's time to think about your camera. While most modern cameras will be mostly waterproof, if you're anticipating being out for long hours in the rain, it's a good idea to invest in a camera rain cover. Rain covers slip over the camera body and lens and help protect your gear in heavy downpours.

2. GEAR TO BRING

When shooting in the rain, you may have to make the tough choice of leaving some kit behind. you won't want to risk getting everything wet so be picky about the gear you bring out. Here's what we bring on a rainy shoot:

Lenses: Changing lenses in the rain is downright challenging, if not impossible to do cleanly. I know it's a hard thing to do as a photographer but pick your best all-rounder lens and stick with that for the shoot unless you can guarantee a dry place to change lenses.

Tripod: You'll want to play around with the shutter speed when out in your rainy shoot. A fast shutter speed will leave you with sharper raindrops whereas a longer shutter speed will show streaky rain. The golden rule is anything under 1/60 of a second should be stabilized with a tripod.

Waterproof camera bag: A waterproof camera bag will help keep any spare batteries or SD cards dry. Most camera bags will be able to withstand some rainfall but if you're going to be out in torrential rain for long periods of time, it's a good idea to put your valuable electronics in a dry bag (or a large plastic ziplock bag) inside of your camera bag.

Camera flash: A camera flash can highlight the rainfall if done correctly. You'll need to experiment as the flash will add too much light to your scene but if you can bump your f-stop down a few stops and use the flash, you may come away with a dynamic picture.

Extra batteries and SD cards: Technically these should be included in every photo shoot but just in case it needs to be repeated, you should never leave home without extra batteries and SD cards. Even when you've triple-checked your gear, you still might get caught out with a dying battery or a full SD card.

Lens cloths: Keeping your lens free of water spots might be a challenge. One way to minimize this is to shoot with your lens hood on which will help keep your lens dry for a bit. Either way, it's a good idea to pack a few lens cloths for a quick wipe if you need them.

Camera Rain Cover: Like we mentioned before, most cameras will have good weather seals but

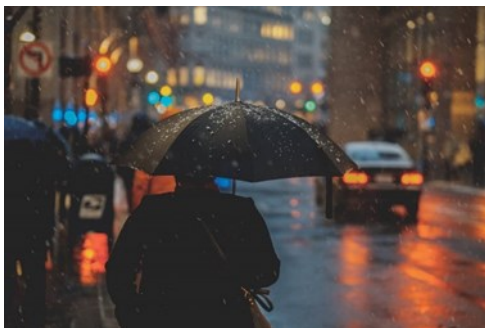
to ensure your camera body is safe, you can always put a rain cover over the top. If you don't have one of those, you can always improvise with a large plastic bag. Cut a hole in the bottom to stick your lens through and stick your hands through the open end.

House tip: When you're done with your shoot, your camera will dry best in a cool dry place. You know those little silica packets you receive with items you've ordered in the mail? Start collecting those and chuck a few of those in your camera bag to help absorb moisture build-up.

Photo by Osman Rana.

3. WORK WITH THE LIGHTING

Whilst shooting outside in the rain, you're going to have to learn to adapt to unpredictable and often dark lighting situations but with unpredictability comes the possibility of magic! You know



those big dark storm clouds that roll in when the weather turns bad? Those ominous poofs act as a brilliant, giant light diffuser often creating the most perfect soft lighting a photographer can ask for. You'll have to be patient, waiting for long periods of time only to be granted a few seconds of heavenly light but if you can hold out, you'll be rewarded

And if you can't get that perfect light, play to your strengths.

Embrace the darkness and aim to create a moody image.

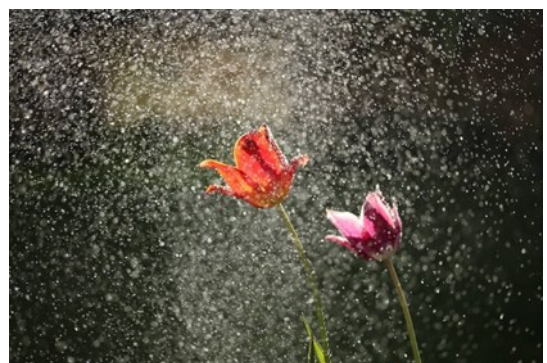
If you're in a city, try to use the artificial lights to your advantage. Using streetlights or car lights as a backlight can really make the image of a rain pop.

Photo by Michael Podger.

4. GET EXPERIMENTAL

Rain photography requires a little bit of extra care and effort but the same principals of photography still apply.

Look for leading lines, use your rule of thirds, spend time to artfully compose your shot. Here are just a few examples of how you can portray a rain



scene:

Puddle reflection: puddles will be aplenty on a city street during a rainstorm. Experiment with reflections by finding a puddle that reflects an interesting scene and trying to capture the reflection from a few different angles.

Photo by David Marcu.

Backlighting: As mentioned before, artificial city lights do a great job of providing backlight to your rainy photo. If you are well prepared and have a subject you'd like to highlight, you can always bring and use and artificial light to focus the backlight exactly where you want it.

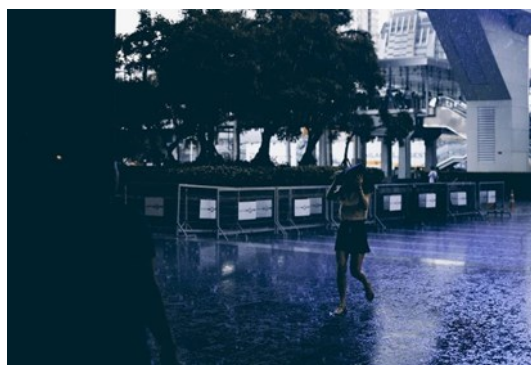
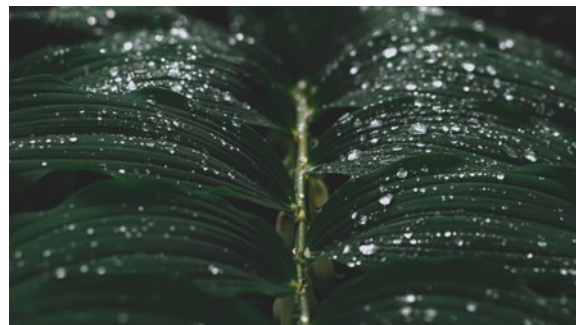
Macro photography: Rain droplets are a beautiful thing. Challenge yourself to find a small scene and capture the small intricacies of your rainy world.

Photo by Axel Holen.

Energy: Rainstorms have a way of bringing out about a frantic energy of people in the streets. From the bustling, bouncing umbrellas to the slow jog of the man who forgot his rain cover. The rain brings out a unique energy in a city and if you can capture the spirit of a rainy day in town, you'll have a great image.

Photo by Naseem Buras.

Keep an eye out for rainbows: while every rain cloud has its silver lining, not every rainstorm has its fairytale rainbow but if you can stick it out and wait for the weather to roll past, you'll not only be treated to some of the best light you could ask for you but you might also get the chance to capture a rainbow. Do some planning ahead of time to find a nice



backdrop and keep your fingers crossed the rainbow will frame your shot nicely.

Try different shut speeds: As we mentioned above, a fast shutter speed will give you nice crisp rain whereas a longer shutter speed will give you milky, streaky rain. Both will be good but it's up to you to find the shutter speed the evokes the emotions you want to convey with your image so don't be afraid to try a few different shutter speeds to get it right.

5. FOCUS ON WATER

Rainstorms are, after all, all about water. In the city, rain gutters will be overflowing whereas, in nature, waterfall and rivers will be picking up speed. Try to compose a shot that shows running water as the main feature of your shot. Try using a polarizing filter to help reduce the glare you might have on a river or waterfall and again, play with your shutter speed. A longer shutter speed will help you get milky smooth waterways and will create an ethereal image.

Photo by Hamdan Ahli Khoiri.

So there you have it, rain photography 101! We will never be able to control the weather and the temperatures but as artists and photographers, we have the special ability to create beautiful images despite the conditions. If you make it out in a rainstorm this season, don't forget to share your images with us. We'll give you all the e-kudos in the world for finding the motivation and seizing the moment. Happy shooting!



SETTINGS FOR RAIN PHOTOGRAPHY:

In general, when shooting photos in the rain start by dialling in your shutter speed to create either crisp or streaky raindrops. From there, your aperture and ISO will fluctuate depending on what you're capturing and the lighting conditions. Here are our rough guides.

Capture crisp raindrops:

Shutter speed: 1/1000sec.

Aperture: f/8 - f/11

ISO: 500+ depending on the light conditions

To show the movement of falling rain:

Shutter speed: 1/60sec

Aperture: f/5 - f/8

ISO: 400+ depending on the lighting conditions

Macro photograph settings for raindrops:

Shutter Speed: 1/100sec

Aperture: f/7

ISO: 300+ depending on the lighting conditions

Macro lenses are so specific that wider apertures such as f/1.8 are so dialled in that you won't get an entire raindrop in focus

Waterfall photography:

Shutter speed: 1/15 second

Aperture: f/8-f/11

ISO: 100 (start low and adjust depending on the lighting conditions)

A Guide for Stunning Indoor Portrait Photography (+ Tips)

By: Ed Verosky



Indoor portrait photography has its own set of charms and challenges. Unlike outdoor shoots, you have more control over the lighting, background, and props – but you also have more to get right, and if you’re using natural light, you’ll need to work especially hard to prevent low-quality results.

Fortunately, while shooting indoors can be tough, you *can* get great results by mastering your lighting, carefully choosing your camera settings, and applying a dash of post-processing, and that’s what I explain in this article. Specifically, I share:

- A few easy ways to set up (or find) beautiful lighting
- How to choose the perfect indoor portrait camera settings
- How to post-process your photos for a beautiful final look

Much more!

So if you’re scheduled for an indoor photoshoot and you don’t know what to do, or you’re simply looking to improve your portrait shots, then let’s get started!

The best gear for indoor portrait photos

If you want to capture gorgeous portraits indoors – whether you plan to work in a studio or in a more informal area – it’s important to use the right equipment. You’ll be working with limited light, and if you’re not careful, your shots will turn out blurry, grainy, and/or unpleasantly dark. So what gear is necessary for indoor portrait photography?

A full-frame camera

Let's start with a crucial element: your camera. A full-frame camera is your best bet for indoor portrait photography. It'll perform exceptionally well in low light – because boosting the ISO is often necessary to get those perfect indoor shots, and a full-frame camera will let you do that without sacrificing image quality.



A fast lens

Next on the list is a fast lens. You want something with a large aperture: think $f/1.8$ or $f/1.4$. These lenses let in more light, allowing you to use faster shutter speeds and lower ISO settings. They also enable you to get that beautifully blurred background, keeping the focus squarely on your subject.

A reflector and/or a flash

Even if you have the best camera and lens, poor lighting can ruin your shot. This is where a flash or a reflector comes into play. A flash provides you with a powerful burst of light, ideal for creating different moods. A reflector, on the other hand, is great for balancing out shadows and highlights, and while it won't be as powerful as a flash, it's portable and easy to use.

A tripod

Lastly, let's talk tripods. While not absolutely necessary, a tripod can be incredibly helpful for indoor portraits. Once you frame your shot, you can take your hands off the camera and focus on other elements. Want to adjust your subject's pose? Go ahead. Need to reposition the lighting? No problem. Your camera will remain undisturbed, freeing you to make any adjustments without losing your original composition.



My recommended settings for indoor portraits

Indoor portrait photography is tricky; you want to keep your shots free of camera shake and motion blur, but you also want to prevent underexposure. It's important that you use

a semi-automatic mode (such as Aperture Priority) or Manual mode so you can have complete control over your settings.

If you're using a flash or another bright light source, you can often set your camera's ISO to 100, choose a reasonably fast shutter speed, and choose any aperture you desire, such as f/2.8 (for a shallow depth of field effect) or f/8 (for a deeper depth of field effect). Note that if you use a flash, you can't push your shutter above the flash sync speed, which is generally around 1/200s. Also, with a flash, you can often set your ideal camera settings, then adjust the flash brightness until you get the exposure you want.

However, if you're shooting in darker conditions, you'll need to choose your settings very carefully. My general advice is to think both *fast* and *wide*. In other words, choose your lens's widest aperture, choose a fast-enough shutter speed to avoid blur, then boost your ISO as required to capture a good exposure (while avoiding unacceptable noise levels).

Of course, you'll have to make some adjustments and concessions depending on the environment you're working in and the shots you're trying to capture. Fortunately, most modern DSLRs and mirrorless cameras are capable of producing limited noise even at high ISOs, so if you're in a pinch, you can generally increase the ISO without too much issue.

(And even if your camera does produce lots of noise at higher ISOs, it isn't necessarily a big concern. Either leave the noise as a textured effect or reduce it in post-processing.)

With that in mind, these are some good settings to get you started:

- Camera Mode: Aperture Priority
- Aperture: f/2.8 (or the widest possible for your lens)
- ISO: 800

Shutter Speed: 1/100s or higher

But again, these are just starting points. With a stationary pose and a steady hand, I've managed handheld shutter speeds as low as 1/60s.

How to capture beautiful portraits indoors: 10 tips

Now that you're familiar with the ideal equipment and camera settings for indoor portraits, here are a handful of practical tips to level up your shots:

1. Start with natural light

In my view, artificial lighting is perfect for indoor portrait photography – but working with flash can be intimidating, and purchasing all the necessary gear can be expensive, too. That's why I recommend you start with natural light, which is certainly capable of producing excellent results.

As long as the conditions are right, window light is just about the most beautiful illumination you can find. Try to shoot on days when the sun is behind clouds or during times when the sunlight isn't streaming directly through the window. (If you can find a north- or south-facing window, you can shoot practically nonstop!)

The window will serve as a huge softbox, and it can even be manipulated using any combination of window dressings such as blinds and curtains. (You can also diffuse harsh sunlight using a white sheet – always a handy trick to keep in mind.)

Simply place your subject nearby the window and let the light create some drama. I like to position the subject so that there are plenty of shadows on one side, which allows me to create beautiful classic portrait looks. With a nice window, you can create Rembrandt lighting, split lighting, loop lighting, and more. Of course, you're also free to experiment, and you can often get amazing results just by playing around with different lighting styles.



2. Try using household lights

If you don't like shooting with window light – it can be annoyingly inflexible – or you don't have a window to use, you have another zero-cost option for your indoor portrait photography: household lights.

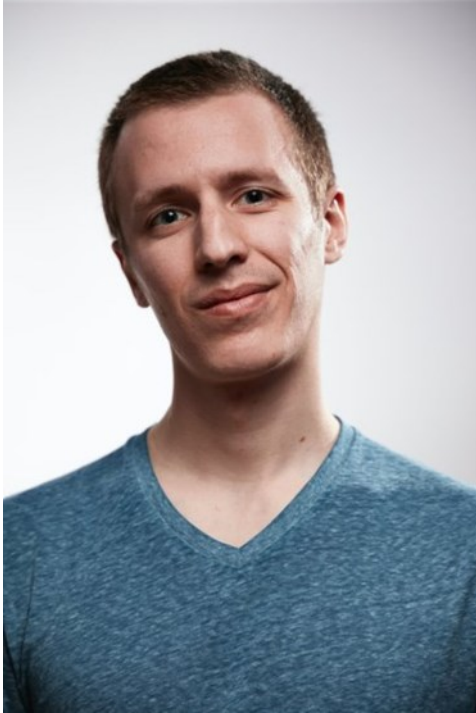
It may sound ridiculous, but I actually like to take the shades off lamps and use them as bare-bulb sources. Sure, the effect is harsh, but harsh lighting can look good when used well.

To start, just position the main light in front of your subject and off to one side. (I also recommend raising the light several inches above their head.) This will give you a classic split-lighting or Rembrandt-lighting pattern, though the shadows will look rather heavy. (To soften the illumination a bit, try adding a diffuser in front of the bare lightbulb; it won't cost much, but it'll make the lighting far more flattering!)

And once you master the basic one-light setup, place a second light behind and off to the side of the subject. This will serve as a backlight or kicker, adding a bit of three-dimensionality to the shot.



3. Once you're comfortable, use a modified flash



It's often best to start out with natural or household artificial light sources, but over time, you'll likely want some added flexibility. That's when dedicated flash units will come in handy.

You can purchase flashes with metering capabilities, but I'd recommend using a manual flash instead. You can mount it to a light stand, position it by your subject, then spend some time adjusting the strength until you get a good result. While you may struggle at first, you'll quickly get a feel for the flash and how it works; pretty soon, you'll wonder why you ever felt so intimidated in the first place!

I don't recommend using a flash on its own, however. You'll want to grab some sort of modifier – such as a softbox – to soften the light. (As you become more experienced, you may find yourself accumulating a whole collection of modifiers, and that's okay!)

Working with a flash is no different than working with a window or a lamp. You'll want to start with basic lighting patterns – such as Rembrandt lighting – but

as discussed in the previous tips, don't be afraid to experiment. Eventually, consider purchasing a second flash and even a third; you can use them to create more complex lighting setups that include fill lights, rim lights, and hair lights.

Note that you can always purchase a set of continuous lights rather than flashes. Continuous lights are weaker than flashes, but they do let you see the lighting effect and let you adjust it in real-time, so it's worth considering whether they might be the better buy.

4. Use a reflector to handle heavy shadows

Shadows can be a tricky business. Even when your lighting seems just right, you might find pockets of darkness that you'd rather do without. A reflector can be a boon in these situations. Placed opposite your light source, a reflector bounces light back onto your subject, filling in those dark shadows to create a more balanced, visually pleasing portrait.

Reflectors are also incredibly versatile. If you're bothered by dark shadows under the subject's chin, simply angle the reflector to direct some light upward; if you want a bit more separation between the subject and the background, adjust the reflector so it's farther back. These are easy adjustments that make a world of difference!

Finally, from collapsible reflectors that are perfect for small spaces to large, more specialized versions, there's a model for every need and budget. While you can improvise with a simple piece of white cardboard, a professional reflector designed for photography will provide more consistent results.

5. Get the background right

Now, let's talk about the elephant in the room: the background. A messy or distracting background can pull focus away from your subject, marring what could have been a perfect portrait. One way to mitigate this is to use a wide aperture. With settings like $f/1.8$ or $f/2$, your lens will naturally blur the background, putting your subject front and center.

However, the best photos generally start with a clean background to begin with. If you're striving for a polished, studio-portrait look, consider investing in high-quality backdrops. These can be ordered online and come in various textures and colors. Alternatively, you can also create your own backgrounds. Grab a canvas and some paint, and let your creativity flow! Either way, the more you eliminate distractions from the get-go, the better your photos will be.



6. Shoot in RAW



This is a quick tip, but a necessary one:

No matter your level of experience, make sure your camera is set to shoot in RAW.

The RAW format will retain all data gathered at the moment of capture. As a consequence, you'll be able to adjust the exposure, the white balance, and the colors in post-processing to achieve a high-quality final image.

If you shoot in JPEG, on the other hand, your camera will discard information, so when you try to shift the colors or recover shadow detail, you'll get subpar results.

Unfortunately, RAW files are larger than JPEGs and they do require (minimal) processing before they can be shared online or even viewed. But the benefits of the RAW format far outweigh the drawbacks.

7. Experiment with different props

One of the joys of indoor photography is the freedom to use props creatively. The sky's the limit when you don't have to cart items to an outdoor location. Consider using everyday objects like books or teacups to add a whimsical or sophisticated touch to your portraits. These props not only make your photos more engaging but also help in telling a

story.

Props like umbrellas, balloons, and scarves offer opportunities for dynamic compositions. They add layers to your photos, creating depth and visual interest. You can play around with props of various textures and colors to achieve a look that complements your subject and setting. Experimenting before your shoot can help you find combinations that work well together, giving you a much more harmonious final product.

8. Go for a low-key look

There's something incredibly dramatic and captivating about low-key portraits, and achieving this look is much easier indoors. Start with your lighting; you'll need a source much stronger than the room's ambient light. A standard speedlight or strobe will both work great!

Now, the goal is to have the light source focused on your subject while leaving the background in darkness. Distance is key. Make sure your subject isn't too close to the background. You want to prevent your flash from illuminating it, keeping the attention squarely on your subject.



Playing around with camera settings and angles can also help you achieve this look more effectively. A good starting point is to position the light source around 45 degrees from the lens. And don't neglect your camera settings; slight underexposure – by using a narrower aperture and a low ISO setting – can help the background fall into complete darkness.

9. Post-process your indoor portraits






Post-processing is a key part of the image-making process, even though it's far less glamorous (and fun) than actually shooting with a camera.

Every image is different, but most RAW files can do with a contrast boost, a bit of extra vibrance or saturation, and some sharpening. You can also consider adding noise reduction, especially if you shot at a high ISO – though be careful not to go too far, as excessive noise reduction will degrade image quality.

I'd also recommend carefully adjusting your white balance until your files look natural. Not all light sources produce the same color temperatures, and it's important that you handle these unwanted color casts from the get-go. If you're struggling to get the white balance right, you might also try converting the images to black and white.

ITEM of the MONTH



Meike FC-100 Macro LED Ring Flash Light for Canon Nikon Olympus Camera Pentax


Condition: Brand New

Quantity: 6 available / 3 sold

Price: **AU \$40.99**
Buy now, pay later available

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Additional service available

☐ [Full Protection for Cameras and Other Personal Electronics from XCover.com](#)
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[I have read and agreed to the policy terms. The policy is provided by XCover.com and underwritten by Pacific International Insurance Pty Ltd.\[1\]](#)

This Ring flash is very good for taking Portraits.
Check it out [HERE](#).

You can also add some artistic finishing touches to your portraits, such as a vignette or a subtle color grade. Finally, consider selectively increasing the exposure in the subject's eyes for a bit of extra sparkle.

Even if you're not totally comfortable working with a post-processing program, I encourage you to spend a little time each day experimenting with different editing sliders. Start small – with minor exposure and white balance adjustments – then build your confidence over time. Make sense?

Indoor portrait photography: final words

By now, you should be armed with a variety of techniques and insights to elevate your indoor portrait photography. From investing in the right gear to the nuanced use of props and lighting, each element plays a pivotal role in the final outcome. And don't forget the magic of low-key portraits; they offer a dramatic flair that's easier to achieve indoors.

So find a subject, determine the right lighting, and enjoy yourself. Follow the tips I've shared, and you're bound to capture some amazing images!

For Info or Contact - dapto.camera.club.web.editor@gmail.com