

Essential Equipment

For successful Portrait Photography

Nicholas Hellmuth



FLAAR Reports

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Caption for cover page: Eduardo holds the 30" Lastolite / Westcott reflector. We would recommend a 48" for this situation in order to get more light on Michelle's trousers. You can see that with the medium-sized reflector the light is fine on her face, but not lower down. Photo is near the FLAAR offices on the campus of the Universidad Francisco Marroquin, www.CTPID.ufm.edu.gt. You can learn more about the FLAAR photography programs on www.digital-photography.org.

Essential Equipment For successful Portrait Photography

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Introduction

The advantage of reflectors is that they are as equally useful with traditional cameras as they are helpful with digital cameras.

As part of the popular course on digital photography by Nicholas Hellmuth we felt the participants deserved to learn about the better equipment that was available. Lastolite is pretty much the industry standard indeed both Westcott and Bogen feature reflectors made by Lastolite in England.

You can learn directly from Nicholas Hellmuth

Forty years of experience in traditional photography combined with seven years experience in digital photography go into the course on digital photography available to you from FLAAR. You can take this course from your home or office.



**Short Preview of
Nicholas Hellmuth's**
Course Units on Digital Photography

DP 101: Achieving Quality in Digital Photography
DP 201: Taking Digital Photography to the Next Level



FLAAR
Digital Imaging Resource Center



Here is a perfect example of what not to wear when being photographed with a digital camera. Digital cameras cannot handle pure white and anything dark in the same image. So the vegetation and Michelle's skirt are exposed okay, but her white blouse is completely blown out.



Here Michelle has changed into a red top, that eliminates the problems with white. We wanted to capture the water falling from a fountain, but were not successful. We will try again later with different settings.

All these photos are with an 8-megapixel Sony Cyber-Shot F828. If you are even remotely considering this Sony model, or any 8-megapixel camera, be sure to read Nicholas's report before you make a down payment on this camera. The full report is in the FLAAR course on digital photography, available in the comfort of your home or office via the Internet.



Andrea thought that beige would be okay (we had suggested she not wear white). But of course the camera saw only white and overexposed it. Since we had only a 30" reflector we used it exclusively for the model's face. We will re-take these with a different color top on Andrea. But it is the monsoon season and it has been raining almost every day this week, as perhaps you can tell by how green the vegetation is.

That is Martha Martinez using her Nikon D70. She is Professor Hellmuth's photo assistant, so if you sign up for any FLAAR photo course you will meet her (at least over the Internet).



If you would like to obtain the information on Nicholas Hellmuth's digital photography course write jwomack@bgnet.bgsu.edu. The course is available worldwide via the Internet. You do not have to be a student: you can be any age and any occupation.

If you would like additional information on the Wescott light reflectors and light modifiers, contact the F.J. Wescott Co, P.O. Box 1596 Toledo, OH 43603
Tel (419) 243-7311, fax (419) 243-8401, www.fjwestcott.com



Final results





More Reports

If you are interested in improving your nature photography, check out the upcoming separate report on the benefits of using reflectors in nature photography. Nicholas's avocation and hobby, in addition to being a professional photographer, is photographing tropical plants and flowers.

Now you perhaps understand why he spends several months a year in Guatemala, because the campus of the university where FLAAR has its headquarters is a veritable tropical paradise.

You will learn from Nicholas's experiences that something as simple as a 12" reflector is the difference between a mere photograph and a professional image.

You can learn directly from Nicholas Hellmuth



Learn Digital Photography Online

Registration now being accepted for Dr. Nicholas Hellmuth's next online digital photography course, 2005.

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