



[Forums](#) > [Photography Talk](#) > **Lighting Setup Tutorials: basic to advanced**

[Rej](#)

[first](#) [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [last](#)



PHOTOGRAPHER

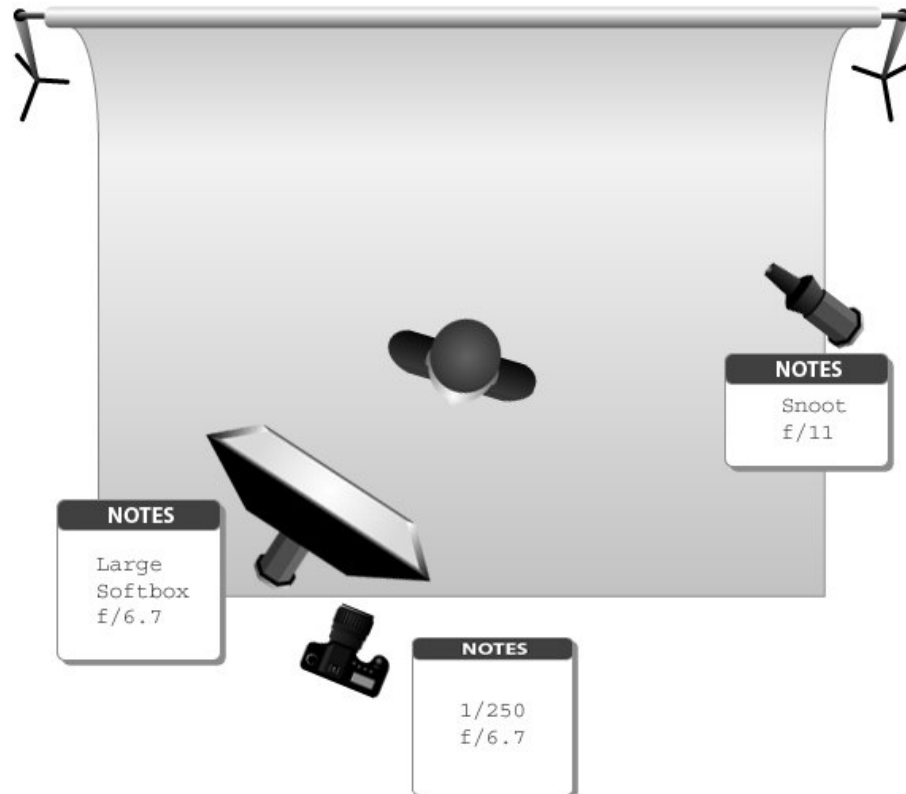
[JM Dean](#)

Male

Location: North
Carolina

Posts: 3,148

Had to give this little drawing dohicky a try...



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Dec 08 06 11:24 pm [Qu](#)



and 41

PHOTOGRAPHER

[JM Dean](#)

Male

Location: North
Carolina

Posts: 3,148

Dec 08 06 11:24 pm [Qu](#)



PHOTOGRAPHER

[Craig Thomson](#)

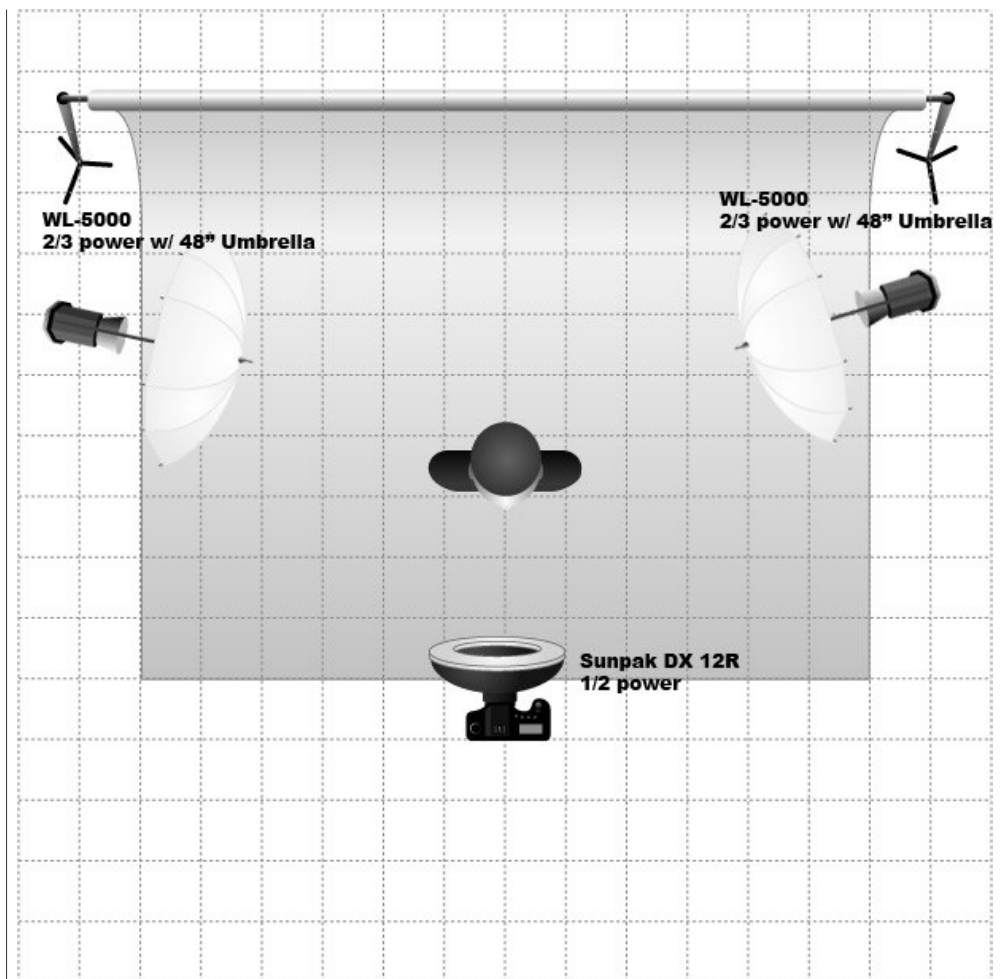
Male

Location: Washington

Posts: 4,887

Ransom J wrote:

hmmm ok I'll play.



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Very nice lighting RJ. Might I ask is she oiled up and if so, what solution did you use?

Edit:

I'm noticing the strobe model left is higher (maybe 2 feet) then the one on the right, is this correct?

Dec 08 06 11:28 pm [Qu](#)

PHOTOGRAPHER

[Ransom J](#)

Male

Location: Michigan,
Las Vegas, Maryland,
DC, Virginia

Posts: 3,359

Craig Thomson wrote:

Very nice lighting RJ. Might I ask is she oiled up and if so, what solution did you use?

Edit:

I'm noticing the strobe model left is higher (maybe 2 feet) then the one on the right, is this correct?

Very observant, it's about 18 inches higher on the left.

And yes she is oiled up. It's baby oil gel and then liberal use of a spray bottle filled with warm water.

Dec 08 06 11:35 pm [Qu](#)

PHOTOGRAPHER

[Legacys 7](#)

Male

Location: California

Posts: 3,210

What are those, White Lighting strobes?



PHOTOGRAPHER

[Ransom J](#)

Male

Location: Michigan,
Las Vegas, Maryland,
DC, Virginia

Posts: 3,359

Legacys 7 wrote:

What are those, White Lighting strobes?

Yup. The old coffee can tanks. These things are GREAT. Rugged, durable, and give a clean, quality light.

Dec 08 06 11:40 pm [Qu](#)

PHOTOGRAPHER

[Legacys 7](#)

Male

Location: California

Posts: 3,210

Ransom J wrote:

Yup. The old coffee can tanks. These things are GREAT. Rugged, durable, and give a clean, quality light.

that's what I had thought. White Lighting Alien Bees are damn good light and anyone who says that they're not should look at your results. Look at Chin's image on here. Done with AB.

I have the Calumet Travelites 750 watts per head. I haven't used them yet. Can't wait for this semester to be over, so that I can get a shooting break. I am anxious to put them to use on location. Say? Do you use a portable battery or generator for location?

Dec 08 06 11:41 pm [Qu](#)Dec 08 06 11:49 pm [Qu](#)



PHOTOGRAPHER

Ransom J

Male

Location: Michigan,
Las Vegas, Maryland,
DC, Virginia
Posts: 3,359

Legacys 7 wrote:

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I have the Calumet Travelites 750 watts per head. I haven't used them yet. Can't wait for this semester to be over, so that I can get a shooting break. I am anxious to put them to use on location. Say? Do you use a portable battery or generator for location?

That's the other great thing about these lights. While everyone else is using 2 thousand dollar power packs on location, I can run these off of a 100 dollar back up computer battery and get enough shots to fill a 2gig card with NO problem.

Dec 09 06 12:00 am [Qu](#)

PHOTOGRAPHER

Brandon Ching

Male

Location: Hawaii
Posts: 717

12 out of the last 13 images in my portfolio were taken with my Alienbees on location. 8 out of those were powered by the [Tronix Explorer](#).

Dec 09 06 12:02 am [Edit](#) [Qu](#)

PHOTOGRAPHER

LightLab Studios

Male

Location: Montana
Posts: 296

thanks everyone for keeping this thread going. i've got two shoots this weekend and hope to photograp one of the setups for a new post.

anyone want to demonstrate the old guard setups like rembrandt, loop, butterfly, etc?

there was a magazine cover this summer that used rembrandt lighting. i believe it was GQ or Vanity Fai it was group shot featuring Keira Knightley if I remember correctly.

Dec 09 06 12:06 am [Qu](#)



PHOTOGRAPHER

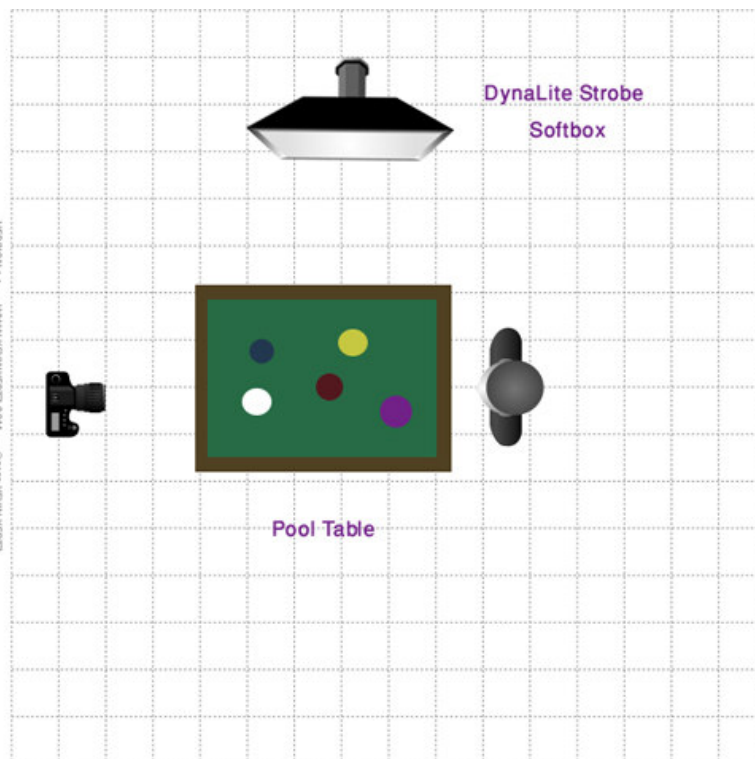
[Legacys 7](#)

Male

Location: California

Posts: 3,210

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Dec 09 06 12:45 am [Qu](#)

PHOTOGRAPHER

[Legacys 7](#)

Male

Location: California

Posts: 3,210

Ransom J wrote:

That's the other great thing about these lights. While everyone else is using 2 thousand dollar power packs on location, I can run these off of a 100 dollar back up computer battery and get enough shots to fill a 2gig card with NO problem.

I agree. I need a small generator. I never thought about using a computer battery. It never entered my mind that it will have enough juice.

Dec 09 06 12:58 am [Qu](#)

PHOTOGRAPHER

[Ransom J](#)

Male

Location: Michigan,

Las Vegas, Maryland,

DC, Virginia

Posts: 3,359

Legacys 7 wrote:

I agree. I need a small generator. I never thought about using a computer battery. It never entered my mind that it will have enough juice.

Well it works fine with my set up. Though the WL-5000's are only 500 watts a piece and I've NEVER ran more than three at one time on it, most often only two, but it gets the job done for my location work.

Dec 09 06 01:02 am [Qu](#)

PHOTOGRAPHER

[Legacys 7](#)

Male

Location: California

Posts: 3,210

Ransom J wrote:

Well it works fine with my set up. Though the WL-5000's are only 500 watts a piece and I've NEVER ran more than three at one time on it, most often only two, but it gets the job done for my location work.

send me a link where i can see a computer battery?

Dec 09 06 01:08 am [Qu](#)

PHOTOGRAPHER

[Ransom J](#)

Male

Location: Michigan,

Las Vegas, Maryland,

DC, Virginia

Posts: 3,359

Legacys 7 wrote:

send me a link where i can see a computer battery?



You can buy them at Best Buy or COMPUSA or any computer/ electronics store.

Dec 09 06 01:15 am [Qu](#)



PHOTOGRAPHER

[Legacys 7](#)

Male

Location: California

Posts: 3,210

Ransom J wrote:



You can buy them at Best Buy or COMPUSA or any computer/ electronics store.

I'll look into this. good looking out.

Dec 09 06 01:21 am [Qu](#)



PHOTOGRAPHER

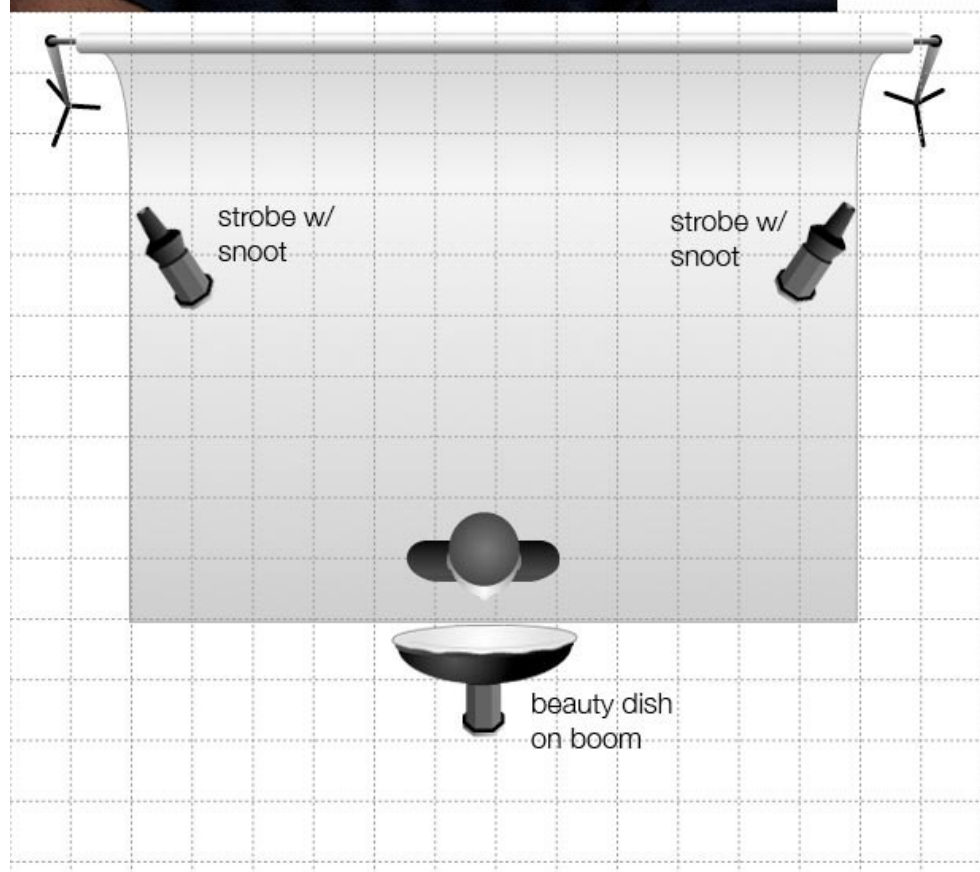
heres one of mine, probably my favorite lighting plot as of right now. tried to copy a portrait i saw taken by clayton cubitt. pay no attention to the fact that its a picture of my ugly mug and that it looks like i havnt slept in a week.

open aperture

Male

Location: Pennsylvania

Posts: 251



Dec 09 06 01:25 am [Qu](#)

PHOTOGRAPHER

[Brandon Ching](#)

Male

Location: Hawaii

Posts: 717

I thought those computer UPS things weren't true sine wave and you risk damaging your lights or overloading the inverter since they aren't designed for the huge rush of power the flash capacitors draw while they're recycling?

Dec 09 06 01:27 am [Edit](#) [Qu](#)

PHOTOGRAPHER

[Brandon Ching](#)

Male

Location: Hawaii

Posts: 717

open aperture wrote:

heres one of mine, probably my favorite lighting plot as of right now. tried to copy a portrait i saw taken by clayton cubitt. pay no attention to the fact that its a picture of my ugly mug and that it looks like i havnt slept in a week.

Aren't your snoots pointing the wrong way? LOL..

Dec 09 06 01:29 am [Edit](#) [Qu](#)

PHOTOGRAPHER

[open aperture](#)

Male

Location: Pennsylvania

Posts: 251

they are arnt they. ha! oh well, you get the idea

Dec 09 06 01:31 am [Qu](#)

PHOTOGRAPHER

[Ransom J](#)

Male

Location: Michigan,
Las Vegas, Maryland,
DC, Virginia

Brandon Ching wrote:

I thought those computer UPS things weren't true sine wave and you risk damaging your lights or overloading the inverter since they aren't designed for the huge rush of power the flash capacitors draw while they're recycling?

Hmmm, maybe so but I had my father (master electrician) check out everything before buying it and he said it was a go, but that my limit was two heads on full power or all three on 1/3 power. Anything more and I'm asking for trouble.

Posts: 3,359

Dec 09 06 01:31 am [Que](#)

PHOTOGRAPHER

[Ransom J](#)

Male

Location: Michigan,
Las Vegas, Maryland,
DC, Virginia

Posts: 3,359

Another

NOTES

**WL-5000
2/3 power
barn doors**

NOTES

**Sunpak DX 12R
full power**

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Dec 09 06 01:35 am [Our](#)

PHOTOGRAPHER

[Brandon Ching](#)

Male

Location: Hawaii

Ransom J wrote:

Hmmm, maybe so but I had my father (master electrician) check out everything before buying it and he said it was a go, but that my limit was two heads on full power or all three on 1/3 power. Anything more and I'm asking for trouble.

I wouldn't recommend people to use APC UPS unless they pick up the ones that produce True Sine Wave and have a VA rating at least 150% of their max power requirement i.e. if your strobes draw 10 amps @ 110V, that's 1100 watts.

$1100 \times 1.5 = \text{a } 1650 \text{ VA rating}$

Posts: 717

AlienBees/WhiteLightings draw 8 amps at 120V (per light) or $960 \text{ watts} \times 1.5 = 1440 \text{ VA}$

I'd say you'd have to get their 1500 VA to power 1 light at full power safely. Of course there are larger and more pricier units but at that point, you're better off buying a Vagabond/Tronix, or building your own battery/inverter combo.

Dec 09 06 01:54 am [Edit](#) [Qu](#)

PHOTOGRAPHER

[Ransom J](#)

Male

Location: Michigan,
Las Vegas, Maryland,
DC, Virginia

Posts: 3,359

Brandon Ching wrote:

I wouldn't recommend people to use APC UPS unless they pick up the ones that produce True Sine Wave and have a VA rating at least 150% of their max power requirement i.e. if your strobes draw 10 amps at 110V, that's 1100 watts.

$1100 \times 1.5 = \text{a } 1650 \text{ VA rating}$

The AlienBees (B400/B800/B1600) draw 8 amps at 120V or $960 \text{ watts} \times 1.5 = 1440 \text{ VA}$

I'd say you'd have to get their 1500 VA to power 1 light at full power safely. Of course there are larger and more pricier units but at that point, you're better off buying a Vagabond/Tronix, or building your own battery/inverter combo.

Again I didn't recommend anything and i just relayed was a master electrician told me i'd be safe operating at. I trust his judgement (he IS my father) and luckily if something DOES happen he'll rebuild my strobes from the ground up. FOR FREE! lol.

Dec 09 06 01:59 am [Qu](#)

PHOTOGRAPHER

[Brandon Ching](#)

Male

Location: Hawaii

Posts: 717

Exactly, it works in your situation! ..but I wouldn't want people to followup and just pick up any UPS and be disappointed at its performance and possibly risk damaging their lights or UPS or both. Better to err on the side of caution.

Dec 09 06 02:12 am [Edit](#) [Qu](#)

PHOTOGRAPHER

[Sean Armenta](#)

Male

Location: California

Posts: 600

WOW how cool is this little diagramming thing! sweet!

this:



14 of 25



and if you want to see the video of it, go here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oftbXkMw0NA>

Dec 09 06 02:26 am [Qu](#)



PHOTOGRAPHER

[MatthewAllen](#)

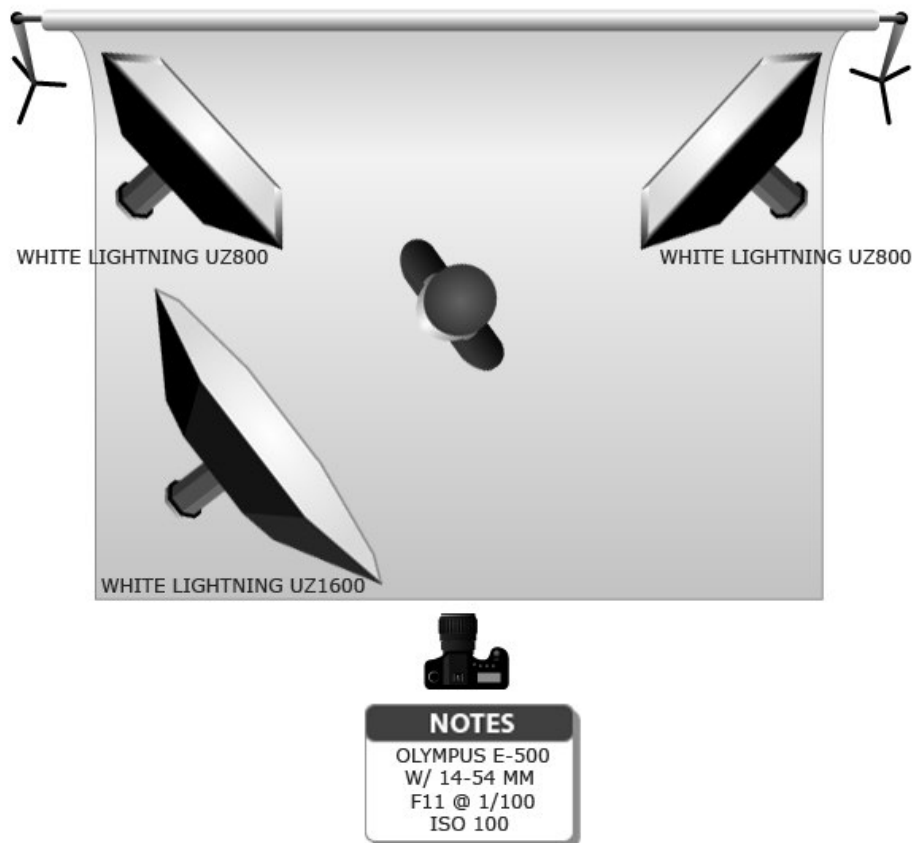
Male

Location: Georgia

Posts: 2

Guess it's my turn:

this:



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gave me this:

Dec 09 06 02:57 am [Qu](#)**PHOTOGRAPHER**[Legacys 7](#)

Male

Location: California

Posts: 3,210

Brandon Ching wrote:

I wouldn't recommend people to use APC UPS unless they pick up the ones that produce True Sine Wave and have a VA rating at least 150% of their max power requirement i.e. if your strobes draw 10 amps at 110V, that's 1100 watts.

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AlienBees/WhiteLightings draw 8 amps at 120V (per light) or $960 \text{ watts} \times 1.5 = 1440 \text{ VA}$

I'd say you'd have to get their 1500 VA to power 1 light at full power safely. Of course there are larger and more pricier units but at that point, you're better off buying a Vagabond/Tronix, or building your own battery/inverter combo.

That's a good point. My mind was tired when I replied to the APS unit and didn't think about asking about if these units have true and clean Sine Wave. I have a power inverter that has Sine Wave. Some of the Honda generators have it.

Dec 09 06 06:55 am [Qu](#)

PHOTOGRAPHER

[GLB Graphics](#)

Male

Location: California

Posts: 1,079

This thread is awesome. Thanks for posting it.

Dec 09 06 07:45 am [Qu](#)

PHOTOGRAPHER

[RBDesign](#)

Male

Location: Maryland

Posts: 1,217

I think that this thread is pretty good, given the average MM photo/lighting thread. One thing that I would suggest to make it way more useful to people looking to learn lighting setups is that posters include the distance of lights from subject, distance of subject from background, etc. One of the things that most photographers just starting out with studio lighting really screw up on is placing lights/reflectors/etc way too far away from subjects and subjects way too close to backgrounds.

Just my \$.02

RB

Dec 09 06 09:40 am [Qu](#)

PHOTOGRAPHER

[open aperture](#)

Male

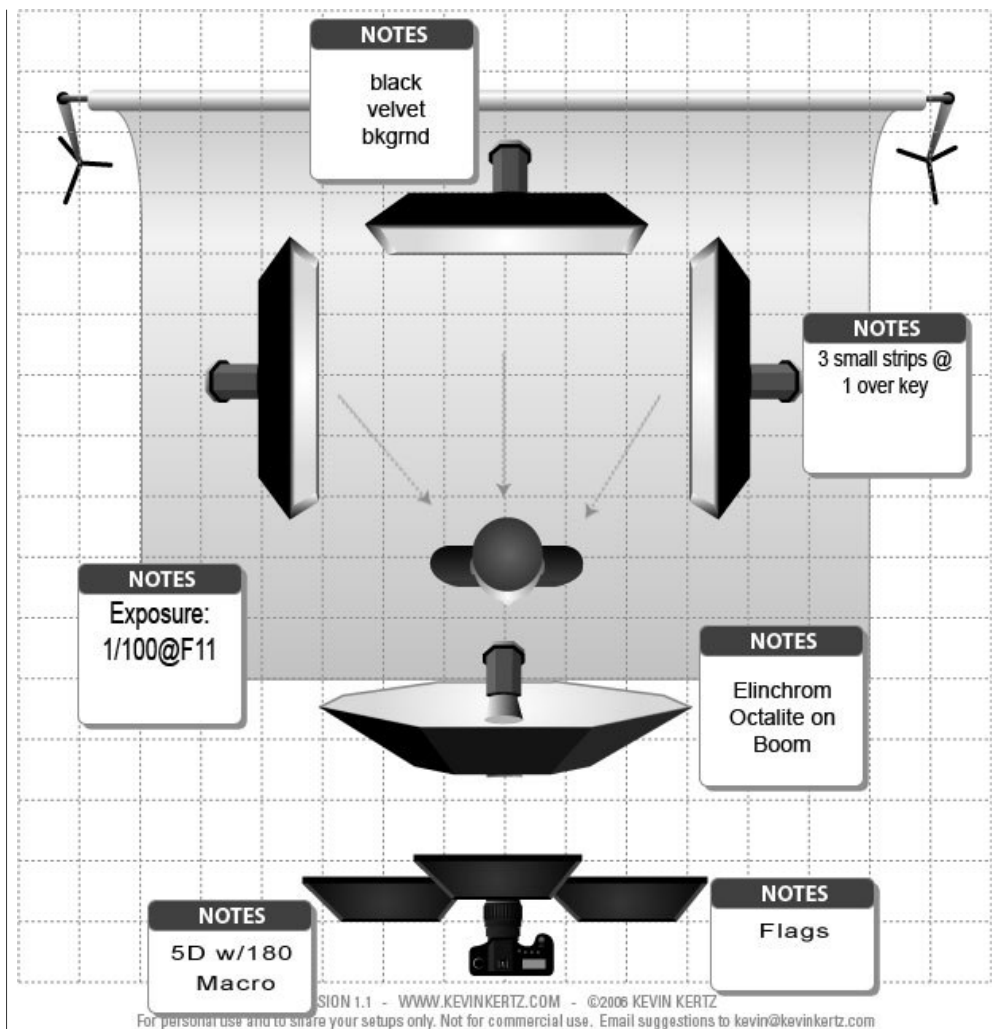
Location: Pennsylvania

Posts: 251

Sean Armenta wrote:

WOW how cool is this little diagramming thing! sweet!

this:



gets you this:



and if you want to see the video of it, go here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oftbXkMw0NA>

hey Sean,
how did you get what looks like a catchlight in the bottom of her eye? is that just bounce from the floor

Dec 09 06 10:28 am [Qu](#)



PHOTOGRAPHER

[919](#)

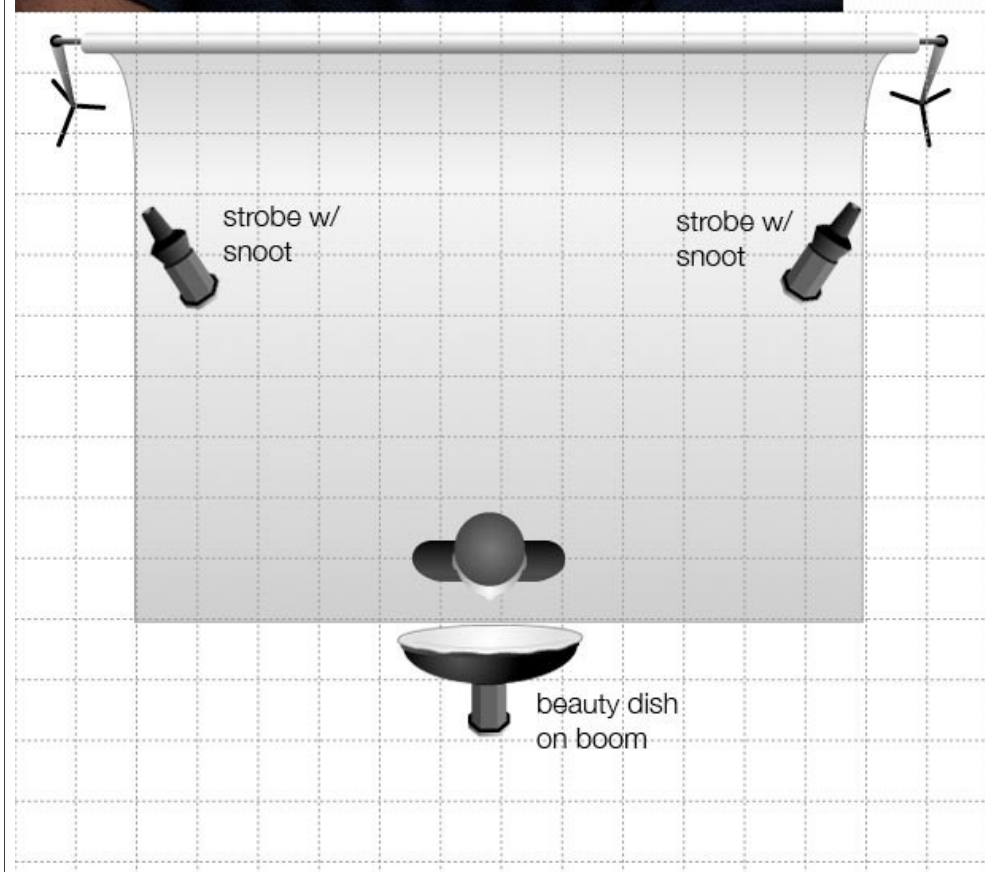
Female

Location: Michigan

Posts: 861

open aperture wrote:

heres one of mine, probably my favorite lighting plot as of right now. tried to copy a portrait i saw taken by clayton cubitt. pay no attention to the fact that its a picture of my ugly mug and that it looks like i havnt slept in a week.



Maybe its because I haven't slept in a week.....but I find you incredibly hot.

Dec 09 06 10:32 am [Qu](#)



PHOTOGRAPHER

[Brandon Ching](#)

Male

Location: Hawaii

Posts: 717

RBDesign wrote:

I think that this thread is pretty good, given the average MM photo/lighting thread. One thing that I would suggest to make it way more useful to people looking to learn lighting setups is that posters **include the distance of lights from subject, distance of subject from background, etc.** One of the things that most photographers just starting out with studio lighting really screw up on is placing lights/reflectors/etc way too far away from subjects and subjects way too close to backgrounds.

Just my \$.02

RB

That's what the grid is for! 1 square = 1 foot 😊

...but yes, it would be helpful if people would actually position things to scale.

Dec 09 06 11:36 am [Edit](#) [Qu](#)



PHOTOGRAPHER

[LightLab Studios](#)

Male

Location: Montana

Posts: 296

yes, i agree, showing the approx distances between lights and subject in the setup is extremely helpful. so try to stick to scale when making diagrams. thanks.
tom

Dec 09 06 12:25 pm [Qu](#)



PHOTOGRAPHER

[SculptedLife](#)

Male

Location: Maryland

Posts: 107

Legacys 7 wrote:

I'll look into this. good looking out.

When you are at the store ask where the UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supplies) are located. If you ask for computer battery they will point you to little circular things that look like oversized watch batteries. These UPS devices come in all sorts of shapes and sizes and weights. It is a terrific idea for portable power.

Dec 09 06 12:36 pm [Qu](#)



PHOTOGRAPHER

[Legacys 7](#)

Male

Location: California

Posts: 3,210

SculptedLife wrote:

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That's what Ransum J pointed out. But I'm also glad that Brian addressed the Sine Wave issue. My mini was brunt out lastnight (school) when I had replied to this topic. Are you using UPS for your lights?

Dec 09 06 12:49 pm [Qu](#)



PHOTOGRAPHER

[open aperture](#)

Male

Location: Pennsylvania

Posts: 251

919 wrote:

Maybe its because I haven't slept in a week.....but I find you incredibly hot.

you should really get some rest ;)

Dec 09 06 04:39 pm [Qu](#)

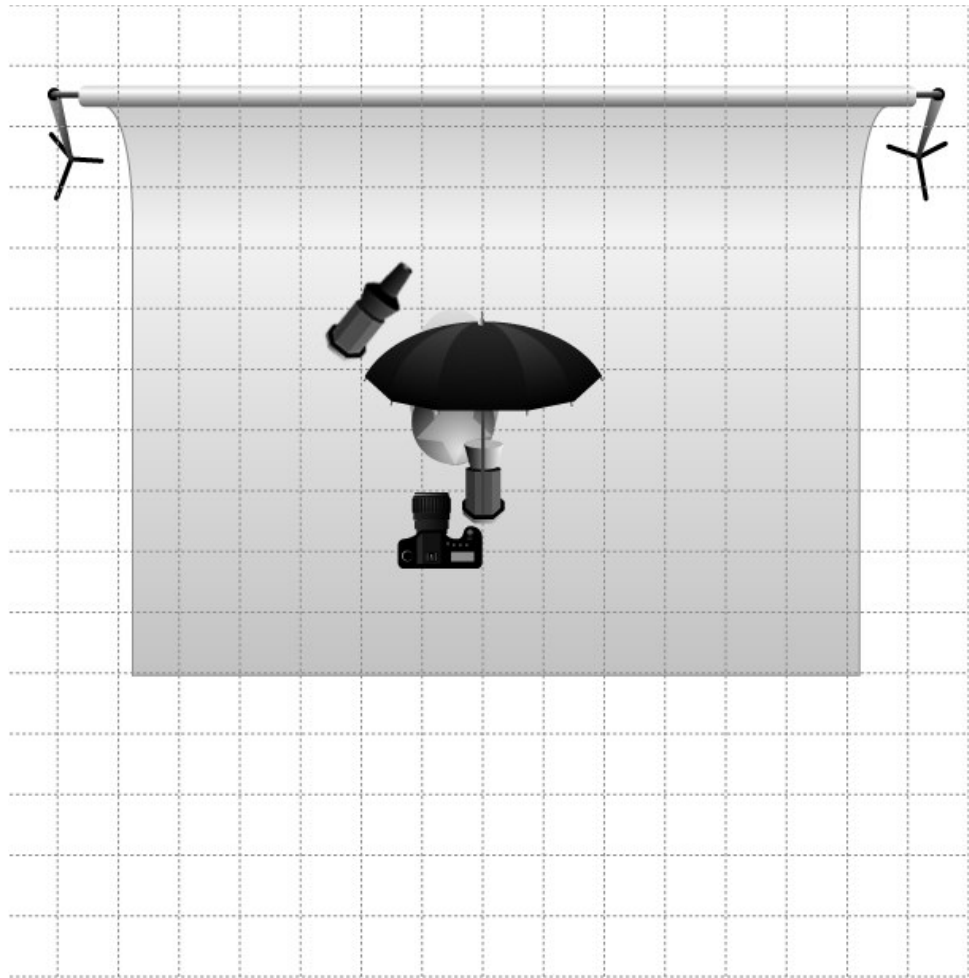
PHOTOGRAPHER

[sebmour](#)

Male

Location: Ontario

Posts: 27



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Light was overhead with a bounce umbrella. Taking the picture myself at arms length. snoot with red gel behind to create color on background. Reflector at chest height.

Result is this



Dec 09 06 04:58 pm [Qu](#)



PHOTOGRAPHER

[919](#)

Female

Location: Michigan

Posts: 861

open aperture wrote:

you should really get some rest ;)

Meh. I find its easier when I don't sleep.

Dec 09 06 08:24 pm [Qu](#)



Sleep is over-rated...you can't shoot when you're sleeping. 😊

PHOTOGRAPHER

[ward](#)

Male

Location: Ontario

Posts: 540

Dec 09 06 09:41 pm [Qu](#)

[first](#) [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [last](#)

[Rej](#)

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