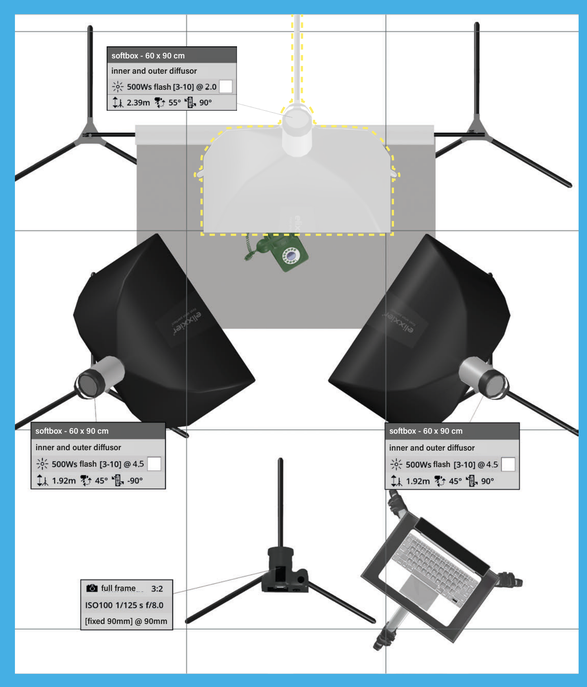
OBJECT PHOTOGRAPHY I

Workstation and Lighting

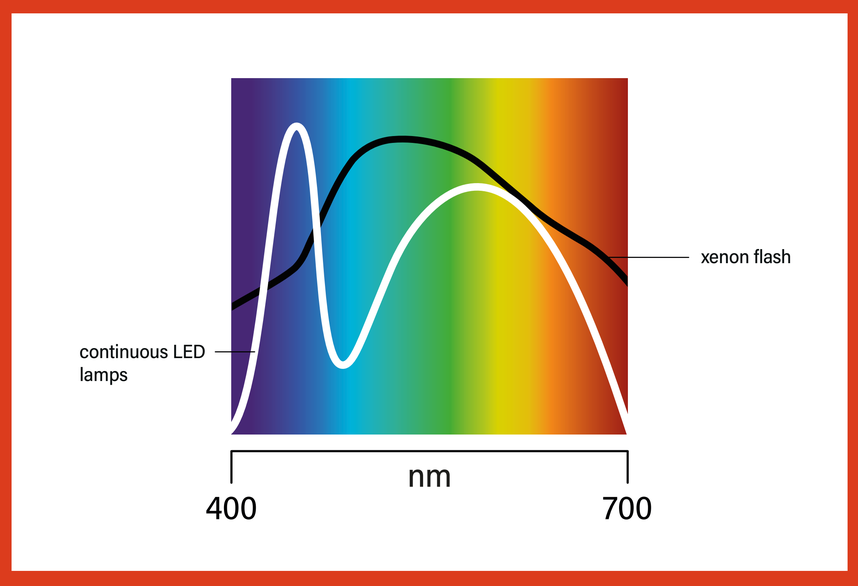
1. Construct a background system with a concave profile (infinity cove).
2. Illuminate the object from the side, shifted to 45° and inclined, using the same light intensity and distance for each object.
3. Use softboxes for diffused light and subdued shadows.
4. Mount the camera at the center of the tripod, usually with a slight incline (e.g. 15°).
5. Position the laptop for remote camera control.
6. Assess the cable layout for hazards and remove any tripping risks.
7. Arrange gloves and cleaning tools (brushes) for use.
8. Choose portrait or landscape orientation consistently for each object.
9. Position the object centered in the frame, in front view or rotated 45° to the left.
10. Rotate the object clockwise around an imagined axis at consistent intervals.

Setup



Most objects require two flashes and two softboxes. When encountering harsh, persistent shadows, a third softbox may help to evenly illuminate the background.

Flash or LED?

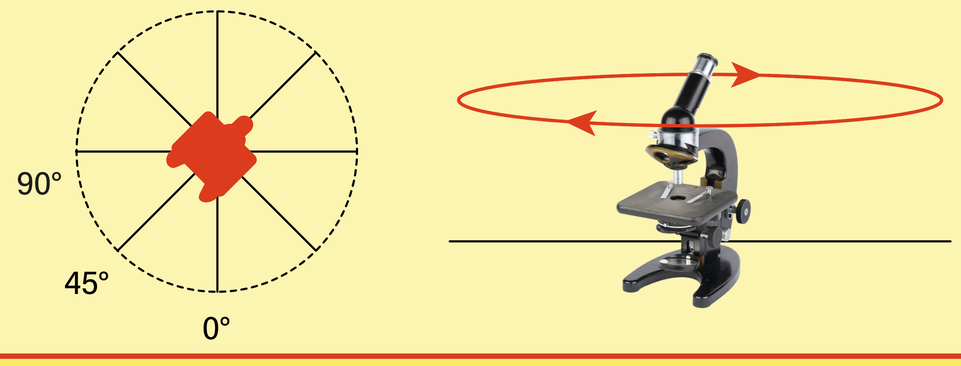


The light spectrum of a xenon flash is continuous and similar to sunlight. Xenon flashes emit more light than continuous LEDs. Therefore, they are more versatile and able to illuminate large objects.

Studio flashes provide a modeling light. Thus, the preview of the object before triggering the flash (left) differs from flash photography (right). The use of LED lamps is more practical, because you can immediately observe the qualities of the final image.

Object Placement

The object is centered and positioned with sufficient surrounding space so that no part of it leaves the frame during subsequent rotations.



The starting position is the front view or a 45° rotation to the left. Objects are typically photographed while being rotated clockwise in 45° or 90° steps.

Choose the rotation axis so that it creates a harmonious sequence of images.

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Thüringer Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Jena

Funded by
Stiftung Innovation in der Hochschullehre

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