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GET OUT THERE AND TAKE SOME DAMN PHOTOS!
SELFHELPHOTOGRAPHER.COM

Preparing For A Successful Photoshoot



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Preparing For A Successful Photoshoot

Communicate With Your Model Client

This is of the **UTMOST** importance. If you don't have good communication you won't have a successful shoot.

Make sure you and your model/client are on the same page about:

- Location
- Start Time
- Wardrobe & Props
- Hair/Makeup
- Concept

Prepare Your Gear

SHOOTING IN YOUR STUDIO

This is easier, because if you are in your own studio, all of your gear should already be there. However you'll still want to check everything and do any studio cleanup necessary, as well as prepping your shooting area with the backdrop(s) or other studio setups/props that you may be using.

SHOOTING ON LOCATION

If you will be shooting on location, you will need to pack all of your gear in preparation for the shoot, and you should have a checklist that you use for packing. If you do not, [click here to download a starter packing list](#). This list is by no means exhaustive but it's good enough to get you started customizing your own list.

Also, be sure to pack your gear ahead of time so you're not scrambling to find things you need to pack and end up running late.

Finally, regardless of whether you're shooting in studio or on location, **DON'T FORGET TO CHARGE YOUR BATTERIES.**

Format Your Memory Cards

This can save you lots of headaches later on. In the heat of a shoot you want to be sure your memory cards are clean and error free.

Loading in a memory card that has photos from a previous shoot could mean you run out of space after a short period of shooting, and could lead to card errors that could cause you to lose photos from the shoot.

Plan Your Shots

If you've been communicating with your model/client then you should have a clear idea of what your goals are for the shoot. With that in mind you should make sure to spend some time planning your shots.

Two key things you can do in your planning are to gather reference/inspiration photos and to prepare a shot list.

Prepare/Practice Lighting Setups

Armed with your shot list you should be thinking about the lighting you'll be using (if you use flash) and what you'll need to do to execute each of the shots you intend to get.

I HIGHLY recommend spending time before the shoot practicing and testing any lighting setups that you have not done before or that you feel might be challenging for you to execute.

In practicing make sure to take any notes necessary. This may include camera settings, light settings, and light positioning. It may also help you to take a reference photo of the lighting setup to refer back to later during the shoot.

Prepare The Music

Music can help set the mood and add critical energy to your photoshoot so always be sure to have a good set list ready. It's also a good idea to consult with the model/client you're working with to make sure the music caters to them.

Conclusion

Thank you for taking the time to read through this guide. Keep it handy so you don't forget the critical points. There's nothing worse than having a bad experience on a photoshoot!

And, if you want to get a real jumpstart and learn everything you need to know to take amazing flash photos, so you don't have to agonize over your lighting or wonder if mother nature's gonna give you the light you want, check out my [Understanding Flash Photography Video Course](#).

Understanding Flash Photography expands on everything you need to use flash to create AMAZING photos, including:

- Detailed walk through of how to use TTL flash
- Detailed walk through of how to use Manual flash
- How to shoot with your flash on and off camera
- The different types of light modifiers you can use
- How to use second curtain sync
- How to use High Speed Sync
- and much more...

[Go check it out](#), and then...

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