

Light the Artwork

notes

Bright Lights

Right about now you're wondering if you need special lighting gear to shoot your artwork? The short answer is no—just bright lights.

Lighting Gear

No expensive lighting gear is needed for photographing most art. You don't need to spend a lot of money, and inexpensive lighting equipment you may already have is sufficient to get the job done.

The simplest choice is a pair of clamp lights from the hardware store for as little as \$10 each. Maybe you already have a pair of work lights around the house. If not, buy a couple from the home improvement store for about \$50 each.

Or purchase a photo light kit. You can pick one up online for under \$100, and it includes two reflectors and stands.



Unlike shooting with slide film, no special bulbs are required. Compact fluorescent or newer LED bulbs are safer than traditional photoflood bulbs because they run cooler.

I suggest you buy the highest wattage bulbs you can easily find—you'll see why later. And don't mix types of bulbs, or you'll have trouble setting a good white balance. Remember, you can find the color temperature of the bulbs listed on the packaging.

Your Lighting Equipment

- Do you already have some kind of lighting equipment? Yes No
If yes, check the box next to any of the equipment you have:
 - Clamp or work lights
 - Photo light kit
 - Other: _____
 - Incandescent or photoflood bulbs
 - Fluorescent or LED bulbs
- If you have the packaging for the bulbs, look for the color temperature and write it here: _____ °K. Are the bulbs all the same type, wattage, and color temperature? Yes No