

## Light the Artwork

notes

### Two's Better

If you want even lighting of your artwork, as you should, then you must use two light sources...because two's better. Let me show you why.

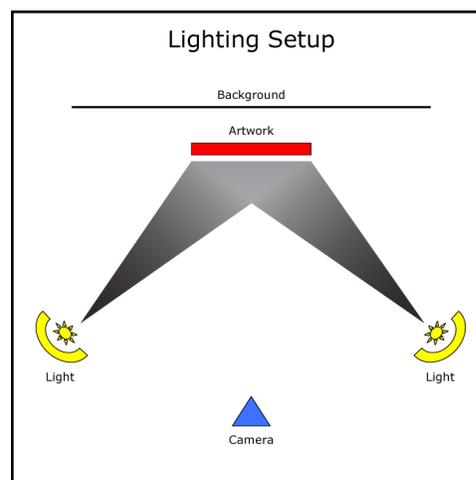
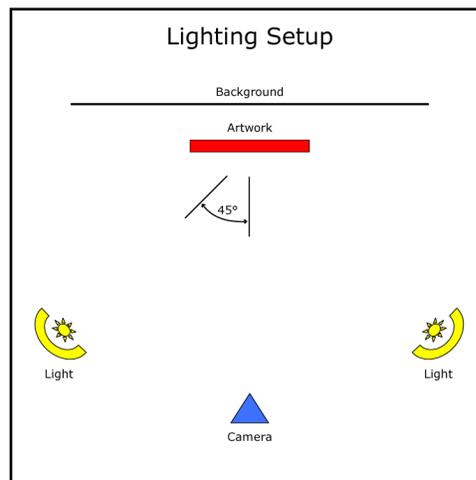
### Two-Light Setup

The two-light setup is very straightforward, especially for flat artwork, fabric, or anything that hangs on a wall.

First, I recommend shooting indoors using lights. You'll have more control over the lighting and, need I say it, the weather conditions. Then you won't have to go outside to take a photo if it's cold or rainy.

I find it's easiest to use an easel to hold flat artwork upright and at a comfortable working height, or you can just hang it on a wall. Put dimensional pieces on a pedestal or table with a suitable background.

The goal is to light the artwork evenly from both sides. In this overhead view, you can see that a light is positioned on each side of the art—at about a 45° angle and at the same height as the work. This placement avoids the light reflecting off the art and being visible in the image. The lights also should be placed far enough away from the artwork so the lighting is even.



### Even Lighting

Remember the problem we had with one light and uneven lighting? The lower intensity of the light falling on the side of the artwork opposite the source caused it to be darker. And I told you I had a solution.

When you add the second light source, each one supplements the other and the lighting on the piece evens out. Problem solved!

Have you tried photographing your art using two lights?  Yes  No

If yes, was the lighting better?  Yes  No Why? \_\_\_\_\_