

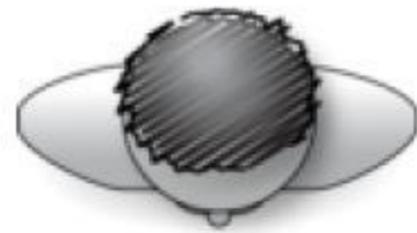


# Light in Photography

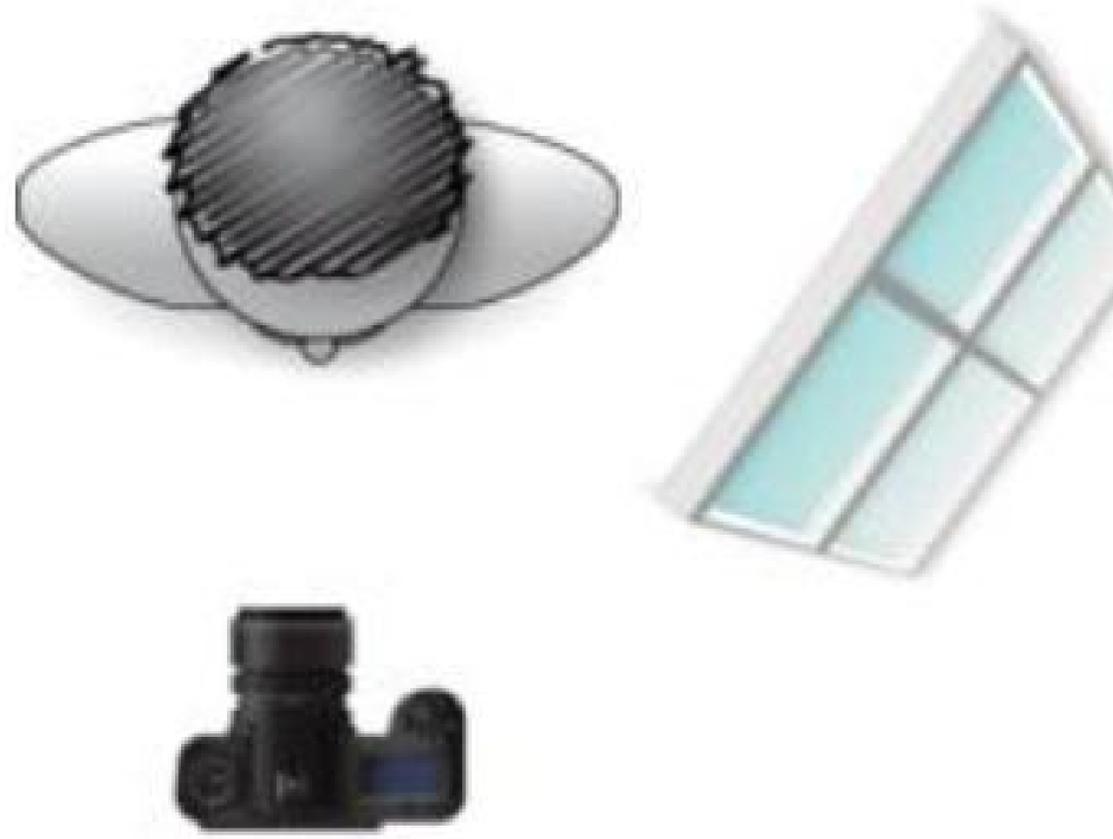
A PHOTOGRAPH SIMPLY RECORDS PATTERNS OF LIGHT,  
COLOR, AND SHADE; LIGHTING IS THE MASTER KEY FOR ALL  
PHOTOGRAPHERS

# TYPES OF LIGHTING

## FRONT LIGHTING



Placing the subject so that light is directly in front of the person or object, brings out the detail. Why? With the light directly in the front, the shadows fall behind the object, so there aren't any shadows in the image to conceal any details. Front lighting is the simplest to shoot, however, it sometimes looks rather flat or boring.



## SIDE LIGHTING

Placing the light source or the subject so that the light hits from the side, fights the boring look of front lighting by creating shadows and depth. Side lighting is still fairly simple to shoot — you just have to be careful and watch how the shadows fall. Side lighting doesn't have to be at a 90 degree angle and even minor adjustments can change the way the shadows fall. When shooting with lighting from the side, watch where the shadows fall — small adjustments in the subject's position can create more interesting or flattering shadows.

## BACK LIGHTING

It's the trickiest of the bunch — proceed with caution. Without a light modifier or the understanding of manual mode, you'll end up with a silhouette. Beginners are often best to avoid backlighting scenarios, like when you place the subject directly in front of a window. Don't ignore it for too long however — once you're comfortable in manual mode, backlighting can create spectacular images. When backlit, many things appear to glow — leaves and flowers, for example. Backlighting also gives portraits a nice pop and almost a halo effect.

With the light hitting the subject from behind, all of the light's shadows are in the front of the subject, which turns the subject into a dark silhouette. Using manual modes, however, you can adjust the exposure so that the subject will be properly exposed. That will leave the background overexposed.



See how the background is completely overexposed behind the model? To prevent overexposing the background, a reflector or a flash in front of the subject can provide a more even exposure while still giving the subject that backlit glow





## OVERHEAD LIGHTING

The light in this case falls from above. It offers different results, but it can also cause unflattering shadows.

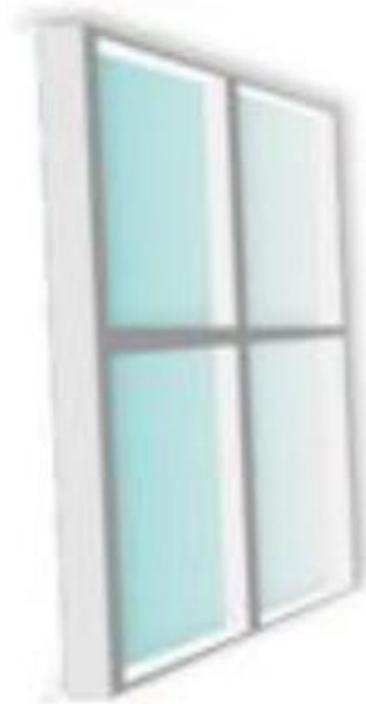
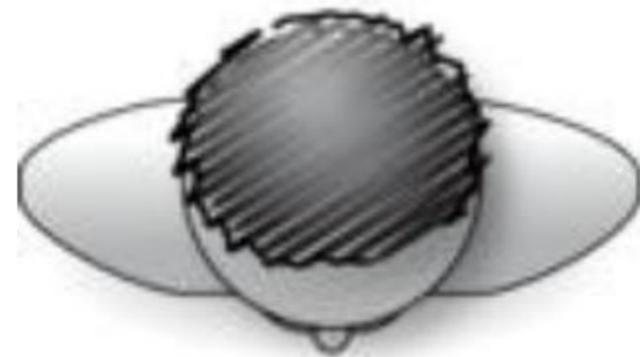
**TIP:** Stand at a height above the subject and ask him to look up. In this way you will achieve a frontal light but with a much more perspective interesting and attractive.

# LIGHT IN PORTRAITURE

In classical portraiture there are several things you need to control and think about to make a flattering portrait of your subjects, including: lighting ratio, lighting pattern, facial view, and angle of view. I suggest you get to know these basics inside out, and as with most things, then you can break the rules. But if you can nail this one thing you'll be well on your way to great people photos



# Split Light



In this type of portrait, one side of the face is totally darkened. You can achieve this effect more dramatic by placing the light source in a side of the model and forming an angle of  $90^\circ$  regarding your camera.



# Loop Lighting

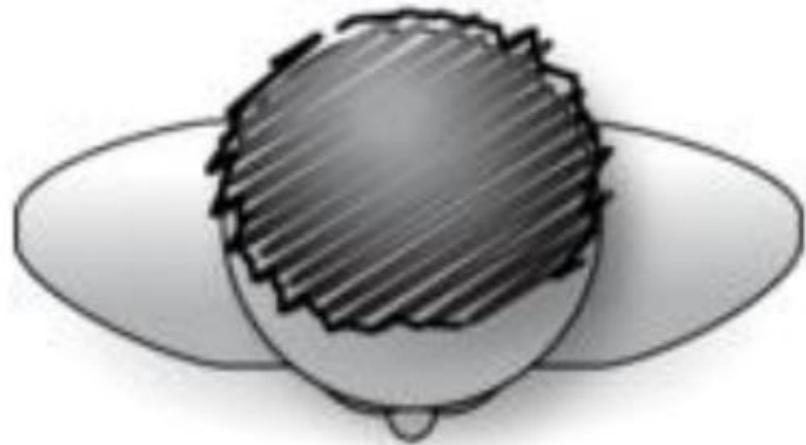
Loop lighting is made by creating a small shadow of the subjects noses on their cheeks. To create loop lighting, the light source must be slightly higher than eye level and about 30-45 degrees from the camera (Depends on the person, you have to learn how to read people's faces).



In that portrait a part of the face is brighter than the other, the dark part of the face has a small triangle of light. To achieve this, you must place the flash at a 45° angle to the camera. On the opposite side you can put a reflector.

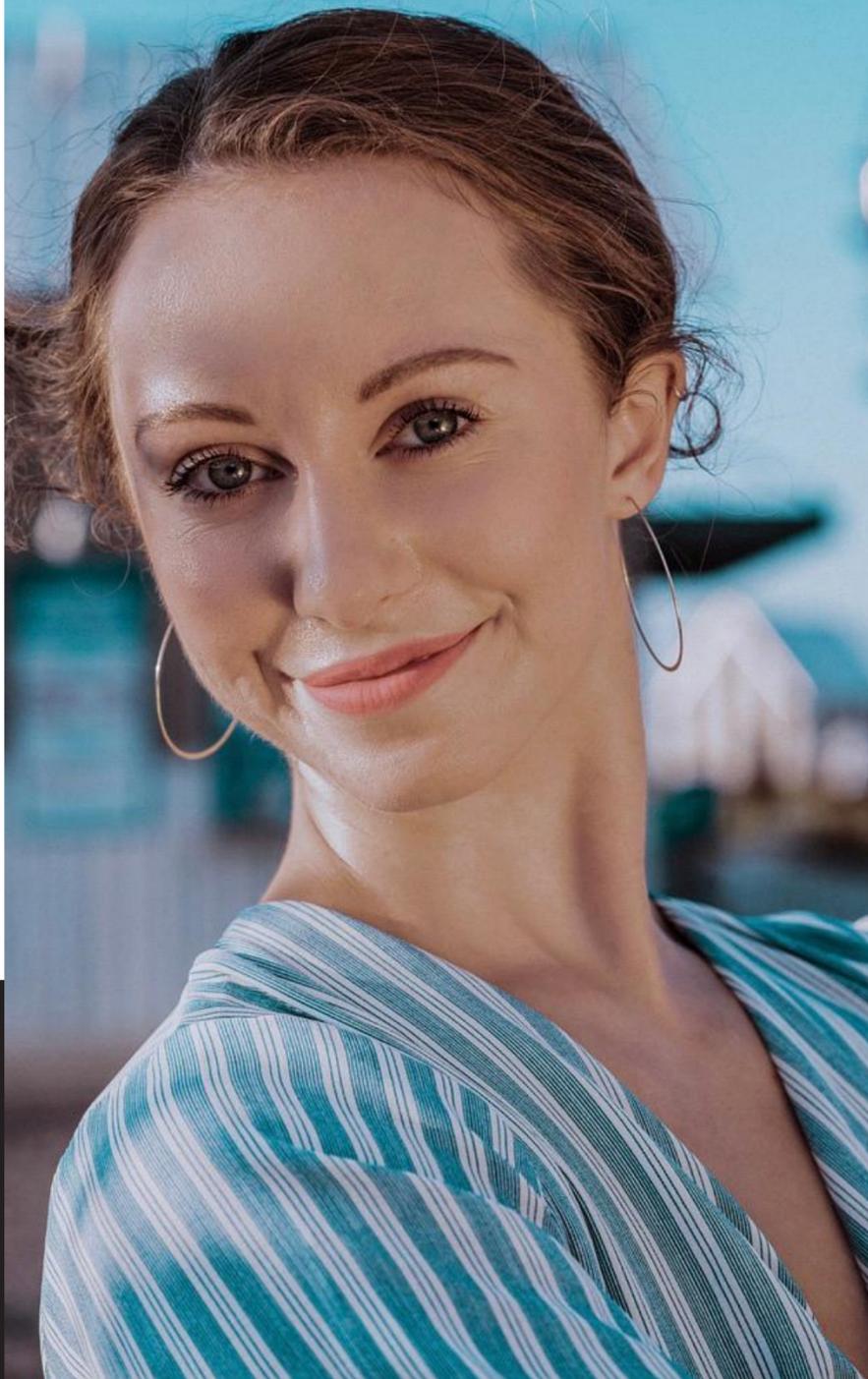
# Rembrandt Lighting



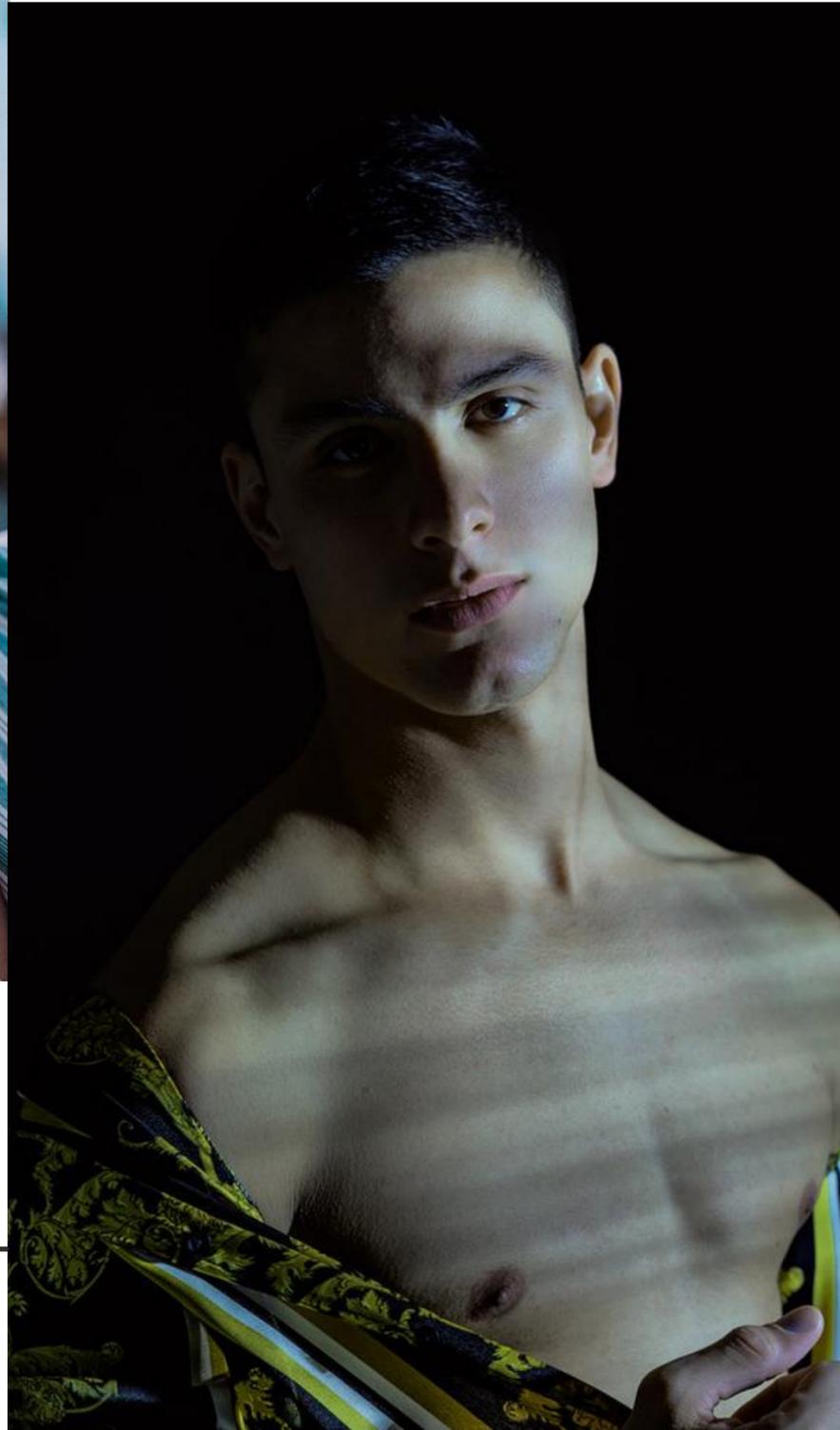


# Butterfly Lighting

It is known by this name of Butterfly because it creates a shadow under the nose in the shape of butterfly. This happens when you place the light source at a  $45^\circ$  angle on the camera and the model receives the light from above.



[www.pablosaccinto.com](http://www.pablosaccinto.com)



These are the four most used types of lighting with portraiture photography, but remember that here you are the creative.

You can play with the light however you want.

Get your own results, move the model, the light, experiment with natural light and artificial light.

## HARD LIGHT

Bright light that casts harsh shadows and draws attention to a specific part of a photo. In hard lighting, the transition between the light and the shadows is very harsh and defined. When your subject is bathed in hard light, their silhouette will cast a distinct, hard shadow.

## SOFT LIGHT

Is light that tends to "wrap" around objects, casting diffuse shadows with soft edges. Soft light comes from a light source that is large relative to the subject

## HARD LIGHT VS SOFT LIGHT

