

# CAMERA FLASH NOTES

## HISTORIC CONTEXT -BEFORE THERE WAS "FLASH"

### Flash Powder

1) Before there were "flashes" on cameras, photographers used alternative sources of light such as \_\_\_\_\_ powder

### Flash Powder Advantages

2) The bright flash allowed photographers to speed up the image making process and to shoot in locations that had been too \_\_\_\_\_.

### Flash Powder Disadvantages

3) The amount of light was \_\_\_\_\_.

4) Flash powder could also be \_\_\_\_\_. Sometimes it exploded and burned or blinded the photographer/subject.

## HISTORIC CONTEXT -FLASH COMES TO THE MASSES

### Flash bulbs -invented & popularized in the 1930's.

5) Flash bulbs provided \_\_\_\_\_ with new opportunities for low-light shooting.

6) Images shot with flash bulbs had a particular "look" characterized by a brightly lit \_\_\_\_\_ with hard background shadows and dramatic "fall-off" of light around the edges of the frame, making the edges very dark.

### Flash Bulb Advantages

7) Flash bulbs were mass produced – making flash photography available to more \_\_\_\_\_.

8) There was an evolution of flash bulb photography, starting with flash \_\_\_\_\_, then flash \_\_\_\_\_ and finally flash \_\_\_\_\_.

### Flash Bulb Disadvantages

9) Technology still not perfect, the bulbs had \_\_\_\_\_ flash output  
-there was a limited # of flashes per bulb or cube.  
-frequent replacement reduced "candid" opportunities.

## CURRENT TECHNOLOGY

The “Strobe” or “Flash” -provided huge benefits over previous technology.

### Strobe Advantages

- 10) Consistent & reliable \_\_\_\_\_.
- 11) Instantaneous output, allows you to \_\_\_\_\_ virtually any activity.
- 12) Strobes are also compact and the light is "balanced" to match the color temp. of \_\_\_\_\_

### Strobe Disadvantages

- 13) Strobe's burst of light is so \_\_\_\_\_ that it is impossible to tell what the lighting looks like.
- 14) Because of this, a \_\_\_\_\_ light is needed to "see" your lighting.
- 15) Proper \_\_\_\_\_ can be tricky.
- 16) Direct on-camera flash can be really ugly looking, characterized by hard \_\_\_\_\_ light and hard background \_\_\_\_\_, which makes your images look like "Weegee" style photos.

## THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR FLASH PART #1

### FLASH SYNC SHUTTER SPEED

17) Flash and shutter are "synchronized " via an electrical connection which is called your flash \_\_\_\_\_ speed.

- 18) WHEN SHOOTING, YOU CAN USE A SHUTTER SPEED THAT EQUALS YOUR CAMERA'S FLASH SYNC SPEED OR \_\_\_\_\_
- 19) SHOOTING \_\_\_\_\_ THAN CAMERA'S FLASH SYNC SPEED RESULTS IN A BLACK STRIPE ACROSS YOUR IMAGE.

## THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR FLASH PART #2

### FRONT, OR REAR CURTAIN SYNC?

**You have a choice about when the flash fires during your exposure.**

- 20) Most cameras are set to fire the flash at the \_\_\_\_\_ of your exposure, this is known as \_\_\_\_\_ curtain sync.
- 21) Some cameras allow you to change that setting, so that your flash fires at the \_\_\_\_\_ of the exposure. This is called " \_\_\_\_\_ " curtain sync.
- 22) You can experiment with your flash and slow shutter speeds. Using slow shutter speed with flash allows the \_\_\_\_\_ to expose the subject and the slow shutter speed determines the \_\_\_\_\_ exposure.

**WE WILL TALK MORE ABOUT USING THE SLOW SHUTTER SPEED + FLASH TECHNIQUE AT A LATER DATE...**