

HOW TO DEAL WITH HUMAN IMPERFECTIONS

Shape of the Face.

The shape of the face will determine the angle at which you should position your main light. A narrow face calls for a somewhat more frontal and broad lighting to widen the face. A round, pudgy face calls for a three-quarter position and short lighting with relatively strong shadows on the side of the face closer to the camera in order to slim it.

What Is Short Light?

Short light is type of studio lighting setup, where the face side which is further from the camera gets the main light. see the diagram for details. In this type of lighting setup, the side of the face which is toward the camera gets less light then the side facing away form the camera. The effect you get when using this lighting setup is a thin face, this is why it is good to photograph fat (or chubby) people with a short light setup.

To create a short light, pose the subject to show a 2/3 or 3/4 view of the face and direct your main light toward the side of the face that is furthest away from the camera. Although short lighting was considered the masculine style of lighting, today this style is used more than any other, when photographing women as well as men.

What Is Broad Light?

Broad light is just the opposite of Short light. In the Broad Light setup, The side that is getting the most light is the side turning towards the camera. This setup is less commonly used for portraits as it tends to make people look chubby. See the diagram for setup.

To create a broad light, pose your subject to show a 2/3 or 3/4 view of the face and direct your main light toward the side of the face that is closest to the camera. A broad light can be used to add weight to a face that is too thin. Years ago, teachers of photography told us that broad lighting was the feminine style of lighting. This is the sort of rulebook thinking we need to put behind us.