

Ed Verosky's

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Series

The Strip Softbox

Versatile Portrait
Lighting Modifier



WORKSHOP REFERENCE GUIDE

About This Handbook

This handbook is your companion guide to the corresponding workshop series video. It provides a clear and concise reference for the key concepts, techniques, and demonstrations you'll see in the video.

Keep it handy! This guide will be your go-to resource as you revisit the workshop video and put your new photography and lighting skills into practice.

Got questions? Our discussion group (link in the workshop video page) is the perfect place to connect with fellow photographers and get expert insights. Share your questions and lighting experiments there!

We're excited to be on this journey with you!

-- Ed Verosky

This is a companion guide to Ed Verosky's Photography Workshop Series.

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Introduction

Welcome to this guide accompanying our "Strip Softbox" workshop video. Here, we'll illustrate some of the versatile capabilities of strip softboxes and how they can enhance your creative lighting techniques.

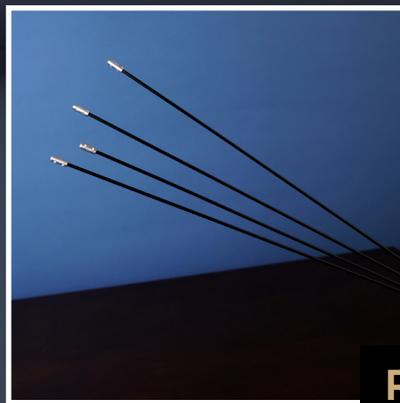
A strip softbox is a special type of light modifier known for its long and narrow shape, creating a soft, directional light that's great for shaping subjects and adding drama to your photos. Unlike regular square or round softboxes, strip softboxes have unique advantages for portrait photography. Their shape allows for precise control over where the light goes, making them perfect for rim lighting, accenting certain areas of the subject, and creating smooth background gradients.

In this handbook, along with the workshop video, we'll cover the parts of a strip softbox, illustrate different lighting setups using strip softboxes as key lights, rim/kicker lights, and for background lighting. We'll also briefly discuss how to use strip softboxes effectively for bodyscapes and figure photography, unlocking the full potential of this versatile lighting tool.

Get ready to add the use of strip softboxes to your portrait lighting skills!

Components of the Strip Softbox

The strip softbox comprises key components including the main housing material, tension rods for shape maintenance, a speed ring for mounting to the flash/strobe, and an optional inner baffle for improved light dispersion. A front panel of translucent nylon ensures even light distribution, while an optional fabric grid controls and focuses emitted light, optimizing performance and versatility in different setups.



Rods & Speed Ring



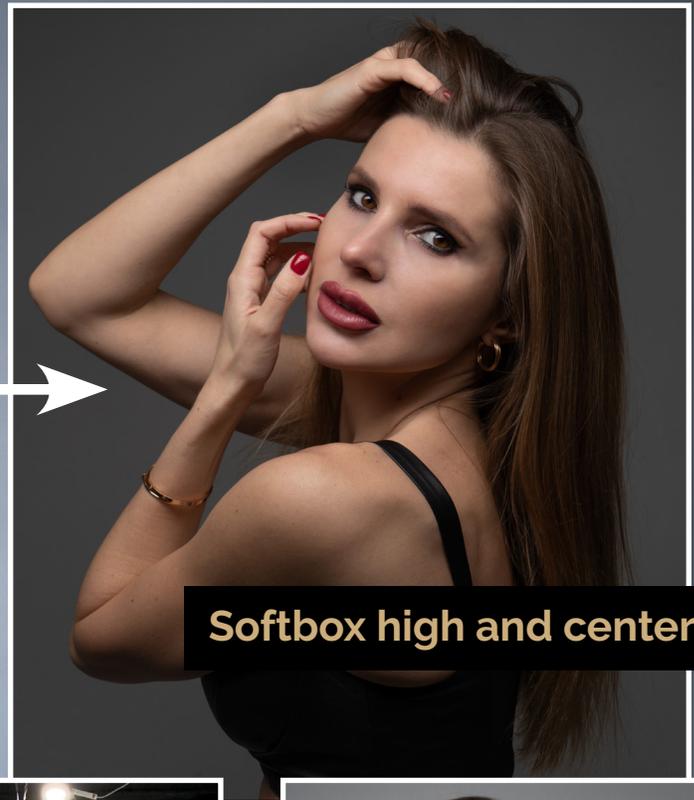
Baffle for interior diffusion



Grid helps direct light

The Strip Softbox as Key Light

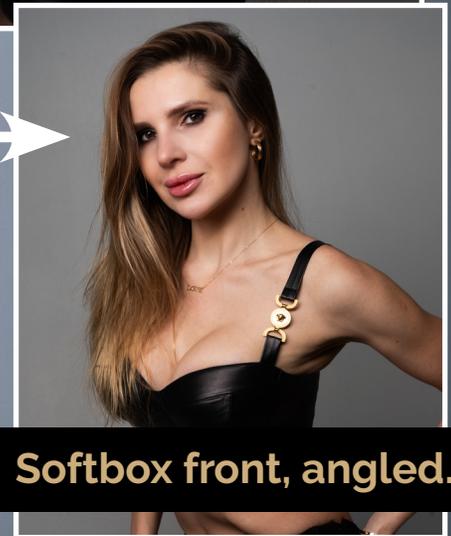
Although round modifiers are usually used for the key light role, in a pinch, a strip softbox can be used for the same purpose. This offers the creative use of the distinctive light pattern cast by this narrow light source. Different positions and orientations create different looks.



Softbox high and centered.

Tip!

Position the strip softbox slightly above and angled towards your subject to create flattering lighting that highlights facial features while minimizing harsh shadows. Adjust the distance and angle for different effects and moods.



Softbox front, angled.

Strip Softbox as Rim/Kicker

A strip softbox positioned to one side and behind the subject serves as an effective rim light or kicker, adding dimension and separation. Placed strategically, the strip softbox casts a narrow band of light along the edges of the subject, defining their form against the background.

The strip softbox creates a rim light accentuating the contours of the subject.



A strip softbox positioned to the side and behind the subject.

Tip!

Rim lights, hair lights, and other accent lighting should appear as brighter highlights compared to the key light. Increase the power of these lights accordingly to achieve the desired effect.



Strip Softbox for Bodyscapes and Figure Photography

A strip softbox is a modifier suitable for bodyscape and figure photography due to its unique ability to provide contour highlights. When positioned strategically, the elongated shape of the strip softbox creates a narrow band of soft, directional light that beautifully accentuates the curves, contours, and textures of the human body.

Tip!

Use a grid attachment along with a black backdrop. This helps reduce light spill and focuses the light more precisely, resulting in sharper highlights and better subject isolation in your photographs.



Different effects are possible depending on the orientation of the subject and light.



Strip Softbox for Background Illumination

Incredibly versatile, a strip softbox serves as an excellent background light, allowing photographers to achieve various effects, including controlled gradients as shown in these illustrations. By positioning the strip softbox behind the subject and aimed/feathered towards the background, it's possible to create several different gradient effects across the backdrop. Try this technique with different colored backdrops.



Tip!

Position the strip softbox behind and to the side of your subject, aiming at the background. This adds a soft, gradient illumination for background separation without overpowering the main subject. Experiment with distance and angle for different effects.

Feather the strip softbox against the background to create a gradient effect.

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Make sure to watch the corresponding workshop video for a more comprehensive understanding of the topics illustrated in this guide.

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