

Al's Photo Tips January 2010

I have no secrets. Here is how I shot my January 2011 Competition entries.

A simple table top setup with black background paper. Three strobes – you could also use SPOT reflector floods. Halogen 90 watt would do. It is all just a matter of positioning the lights and getting the exposure right. You might have to use some creative light controls to keep light from falling on the wrong places. Black construction paper works fine. **THE EQUIPMENT DOES NOT MATTER – LIGHT IS LIGHT!!!!!! REMEMBER THAT ALWAYS!!!!**



Here is the final result. The shot was ISO 200 @ f16. Anyone can do it.



Here is the setup I used to do the glass photos.

The technique is called "Dark Field Photography". The white thing in the background is a piece of translucent white plastic called TransLume. A bed sheet will also do. The two lights are shooting through the plastic from behind. There are no other lights and the room must be totally dark. You generally do not want any reflections off the front of the glass. Note how the black paper appears in the glass. Moving the paper and changing its size gives you control over the effect. The shot was ISO 200 @ f16



Here is the final shot.



To make the composite image I created a black background. Then I added 14 layers with a glass in each layer. I use a totally black background so I can set the Layer Blend to LIGHTEN. That way you can blend all the images and the black background of each image is transparent. See the bottom corners of the black square in the glass. I screwed up. Look close and you can see the black masking tape I used to stick the paper to the white background! I also should have rounded the corners of the paper.

