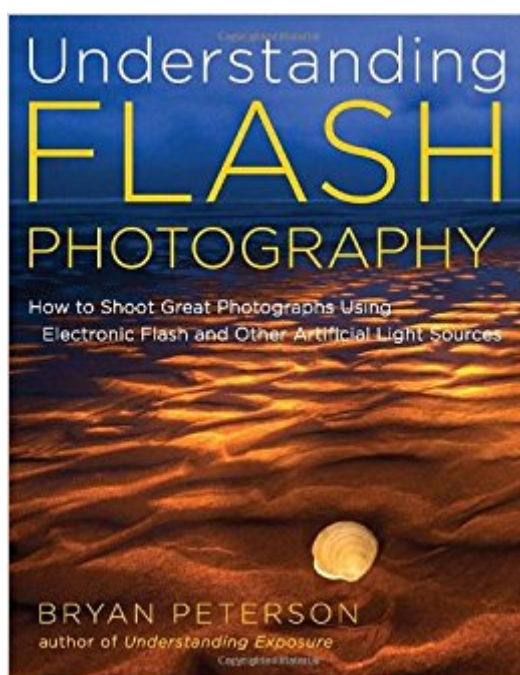


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# Understanding Flash Photography: How To Shoot Great Photographs Using Electronic Flash



## Synopsis

From a master of professional photography, a book that explores the exciting possibilities of artificial light. This guide to on- and off-camera flash picks up where Peterson's previous title, *Understanding Exposure*, left off--helping free photographers from the limitations of auto to get the images they want when natural light isn't enough. For the many amateur photographers afraid to venture past natural lighting, here is the book that will finally help them master artificial light. In his trademark easy-to-understand style, Bryan Peterson explains not only how flash works, but how to go beyond TTL automatic flash exposure to master manual flash, allowing readers to control the quality, shape and direction of light for a perfect exposure, every time.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Bryan Peterson, a professional photographer, is the author of "Understanding Exposure, Beyond Portraiture, Learning to See Creatively," and "Understanding Digital Photography." A well-known instructor, he is the founder of the online school The Perfect Picture School of Photography ([www.ppsop.com](http://www.ppsop.com)). He lives in Chicago.

I have read at least 10 different photography books, watched hours of Youtube videos, read articles, blogs, etc. and nothing was as helpful as Bryan Peterson's books. His *Understanding Exposure* is very well written and after reading it I understood exactly how to use manual mode and make great

photographs. This book is just as good as the other and after only a chapter I already had a much better understanding of flash. His writing style is easy to understand and he reinforces key concepts in such a way that you cannot help but learn them. I highly recommend any new photographer read both of these books before wasting time or money on anything else.

I read the latest Bryan Peterson book from cover to cover within moments of its arrival at my mailbox. I have now also read the reviews and I agree wholeheartedly with the favorable ones and must respectfully disagree with the negative reviews. First, Bryan Peterson is the most understandable, approachable photography author in circulation today. His new book on flash is no different - completely understandable, completely approachable for novice and enthusiast alike. I am a Nikon shooter; if you own a Nikon SB900, the book is a masterpiece. If you don't however, I disagree with the critics who suggest that the book has no application. The thesis of the book is straightforward: compose the shot in full manual mode in your camera, and add light back manually (not in TTL mode) to light the subject. How much light, Bryan suggests, is based on the distance of your flash to your subject. In an SB900, once you determine the distance (you can eyeball it most of the time), the SB900 allows you to input that distance (as well as your ISO and f-stop based on your creative juices when you composed the shot) and as a result, the SB900 will then adjust the flash output for you. The SB800 will also do so for you, as well will newer manual flashes such as the Lumopro. I assume the various Canon speed lite flashes will also do so. If so, great. If not, then the thesis of the book is simply to use full manual mode, and by playing around a bit, the Canon user can determine what level of power matches the distance and subject. I do not read the book as limited to SB900's anymore than I read Syl Arena's book as only for Canon users. I recommend this book as the latest in the string of Peterson books for the everyman photographer.

Background (read: bias): Shoot landscapes & macro, and mostly outdoors, but in the early stages of learning flash photography. More than anything, it put a burning desire to go out & shoot, so I can see what works. Though the author didn't mention his Exposure Solutions book, this book gave me the urge to buy it ... and it was more interesting than this one. Definitely a useful book for outdoor flash user. Finally understand 'Rear Curtain Sync', and not only am I not intimidated by flash usage, but avoid that crutch called TTL flash. The author repeatedly drives home using manual over TTL flash. Tempted to take a star off for the author's instance of chimping. Chimping bad, using a light meter good.

I love Bryan Peterson's books, but this one, left some things to be desired. First, he is dealing with a flash that has all the read outs on the back. I only have a Canon 320EX and a Yongnuo YN560-III that does not have a automated distance scale on the back. I am in the process of rereading the book again, to see if I can better understand it the second time around. Since I am not able to dial in an F stop on my flash, I'm having to try and use the Guide Number Calculator app. When reading the book and trying to compare the distance to be at and what power to use against what he had said in the book, my calculator comes out with a completely different distance than what he came up with. I input the same flash power level, aperture and ISO, but the calculator came out with a distance almost twice what Bryan came up with. This has me very confused and frustrated, so I'm just guessing at all of it when trying to use the flash. He has some great ideas and suggestions for using the flash. I only wish that he had taken into account other flashes and given some suggestions on what to do with limited information that you can put in the flash. I don't think he touched on using a light shed with flash for high key pictures. I will definitely give the book another read, maybe it's just me not understanding it.

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