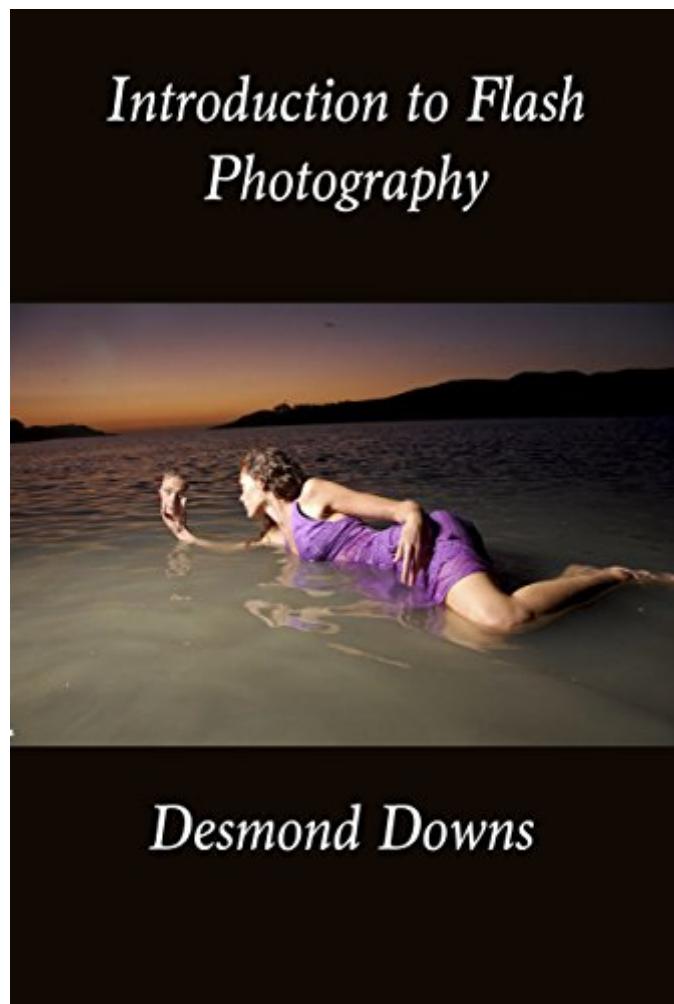


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# Introduction To Flash Photography



## **Synopsis**

This book is a condensed version of everything I have learned about camera flash during my journey into photography. Much of it has been gained from studying online and being involved in discussions on the forums. It is also the result of hours, days and weeks of tests with camera flash to understand the "mind" of the flash metering system of a camera. I have tried to explain the subject in a way that will benefit everyone, especially "visual learners" who like to see pictures that explain the topic rather than having to rely on understanding "too many words" on the subject. I have thrown in several chapters from my book "Photography Masterclass" as well since much of what is discussed regarding flash photography is based on the principles of "available light" photography.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This is an amazing ebook for such a low price. It is filled with excellent examples and instructions on how to get good results with electronic flash units of various types. I enjoyed the teardown section in the beginning of the book that displayed how flash capacitors work, plus examples of using flash to

photograph things like breaking a lightbulb with a hammer or capturing an exploding balloon. Once past the initial hardware discussion, there are several chapters with excellent sample photos having full explanations of how the result was achieved. Downs discusses many flash-related techniques and methods, such as: flash exposure, metering modes, flash modifiers, ambient light balancing, manual flash, wireless flash, various lighting techniques, many humorous anecdotes, and even some explosions. This hands-on book would be a value at five times the price. Downs writing style is easy and fun to read and will help you get better results with your flash, on and off camera. I recommend this book for those who want to learn to control their flash units more effectively.

I have this ebook. It was very informative. The author is knowledgeable for flash photography and its intricacies. He was thorough in his exercises and complete in his analyses. I recommend this book for every person new to flash photography and even those who understand how to use it but are often confused on why and how it works. Desmond is a great teacher and I highly recommend reading this book.

I am a fairly experienced natural light photographer but brand new to flash photography. (My Nikon SB700 is still in its box!) I've followed Desmond on Facebook for quite a while, so I was very interested when I heard that he was publishing a book on Flash Photography. This book has several things going for it, and a few things to be aware of...not negatives per se, but things you simply may not expect from a typical "introduction" book to flash photography. First, its strengths, which is has in spades. I don't think there is a single statement made in the book that Desmond doesn't back up with photographs of his own personal experiments that illustrate his point. He doesn't rely on manufacturers manuals, theories, or how things "should work"...he tests it and shows you how it does work! For people who are visual learners, this is a God-send! And for concepts that can't easily be photographed, he has illustrations to explain his concepts. This is a highly illustrated book! Secondly, Desmond has a good sense of humor, and he puts it to good use in his writing, which makes reading the technical matter slightly less tedious. I'm still scratching my head, trying to figure out where in the world he got his model...He covers a broad range of topics, some of which I had never even heard of before (but like I said, I still haven't even opened my flash unit yet.) He discusses the actual mechanical workings of an off camera flash (and even makes a super flash that could light an entire arena in one go in typical Desmond fashion), and discusses many of the variables that flashes use when calculating their flash power using TTL functionality, including distance to subject, which I thought was kinda cool. He discusses the complexities and variables of

TTL and multiple flashes on single and multiple channels, using a flash in manual mode versus TTL mode, using light modifiers, using flashes with various forms of ambient light, the differences between older and modern flashes...and much more. This is a very informative book, and I would highly recommend it, even just for the experiments he did and the associated photographs of the results. (His pictures make me want to see if I can replicate them myself!) But like I mentioned, there are a few things just to be aware of that kind of caught me off guard. They don't make the book any less valuable, but they did make me pause for a moment while I figured out what I was looking at...While this is titled Introduction to Flash Photography, and Desmond does start at the beginning, he does get pretty technical in a few areas of the book. Desmond does electronics in his sleep, and probably sleep walks photography sessions, so my feeling is that this IS an introduction for him...but for me, I had to really sit down and reread a few sections to get the point of what he was saying. In the end it was worth it, since I now have a intimate knowledge of how flash metering works...but it wasn't always easy keeping up with Desmond! Fortunately, there were only a few sections in the book where he went over my head, and I'm sure that varies from person to person...I just may not be the sharpest tack in the box. But I could also rephrase this and say that for those that are intermediate flash users...there's something in this book for you as well!!!!The other thing to be aware of, for those of you that aren't familiar with Desmond, is that he loves to experiment...and the last chapter of the book is where he finally lets go of the restraint that he's held for the entire book and finally sees what he can do with some flash capacitors, duct tape, and bubble gum. He's gone through more than a few microwaves in his day, and this chapter is where you see why. In no other book on flashes will you find so many warnings to "do not try this at home". Desmond knows his stuff, and in this book he not only shares what he knows, but he shows you how he learned it. He has a corresponding group on FB called Learn Flash Photography where you can post your pictures and get direct feedback from Desmond and others who have learned from him. This book is worth the price just for the reference experiments and illustrations alone...and the occasional laugh with Desmond (or eye roll!)Thanks Desmond for putting this together!!!!

This is an excellent book on flash photography. He covers the basics, then delves into greater detail on the finer points of balancing flash output with existing light, the use of flash modifiers and much more. He gives a very detailed explanation of exposure using various metering modes such as spot, center weighted and matrix. His book is illustrated using Nikon equipment but the principles apply to all cameras.

Excellent for those new to flash photographer and a good source of info for those wanting to "brush up" on their knowledge.

A few spots were a bit advanced for me, but explained in a way that will make sense as you progress.

Great product, great service!

Concise, easy to understand, great examples

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