

Photographing Work

Art & Design

Getting a flat, true and sharp record of a piece using ordinary equipment.

Two lights, a tripod and a grey card will do almost everything.

1

Light it evenly

Two sources at 45°, equal distance each side, no direct flash.

2

Square the camera

Lens centred on the work, sensor parallel to the surface.

3

Set white balance

Shoot a grey card in the same light, then correct from it.

4

Shoot raw, low ISO

Tripod, timer or remote, aperture near f/8 for sharpness.

5

Include a scale, then crop

One frame with a rule in shot, and a clean cropped master.

Three-dimensional work needs a raking light for texture and a softer second light to open the shadows. Flat work needs neither.