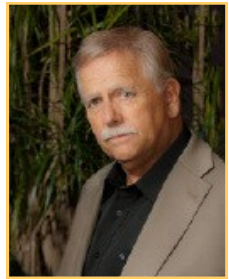




"His programs are filled with valuable business, posing, lighting and studio management ideas. Over the past 20 years Dave has been at the top of his game in the portrait industry and in the teaching and speaking field." PPA Master/Craftsman, Greg Stangl, Aurora, IL.



## Dave Newman's Latest Book Teaches Basic Lighting Techniques for Beautiful Portraits

Newman's recent publication demonstrates how simple lighting techniques can render beautiful and profitable results

By Richard Gatt

Dave Newman wrote *Professional Portrait Lighting* to demonstrate to beginning photographers as well as advanced professionals how to use electronic lighting as well as natural sunlight to create beautiful portraits. The book covers such topics as the various types of lighting used in the studio and lighting ratios with diagrams. It also covers different styles of posing, props, and special lighting situations.

Master Photographer Dave Newman has earned a Craftsman in the P. P. A. in America (Professional Photographers Association), API Degree (Approved Photographic Instructor), Master's Degree in England from the MPA, Fellow Degree from the S. W. P. P (The Society of Wedding and Portrait Photographers). He has taught photography at the Brigham Young Uni-

versity, Korea for 7 years, and is the author of 5 books on professional photographic techniques. Additionally, he has owned and operated the *Newman Photography Portrait Studio* in Salt Lake City from 1975 to 2006.

Newman is famous for being able to take complicated theories and ideas and explain them in very simple terms that anyone can understand. His latest book is no exception. Anyone reading *Professional Portrait Lighting* even if they have just a limited understanding of photography can understand the concepts discussed in this book. The book goes into



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detail to describe the different types of electronic lights that are commonly used in the portrait studio.

Learning how to use studio lights can be a very complicated process,

*Professional Portrait*

*Lighting* explains how these pieces of equipment can be mastered, in very simple terms. The first section of the book discusses the different lights that are commonly used in a typical portrait studio. These are the key light, the background light, the fill light, and the hair light. What makes this book different than other books on the subject is the introduction of two lights not commonly seen in portrait studios. The *Master Zoomspot* and the *Varibeam Spotlight* are discussed in detail. Acquiring these two lights and the ability to use them would set any photographer's work apart from the competition.

Many books written on the subject go into great detail and theories about the history and

proper use of the different lights. This approach has a tendency to overwhelm the reader with cumbersome details especially those people new to the world of photography. Newman spends a minimum amount of time explaining what the lights are and how they are normally used. In this way, the reader can quickly move onto the following sections which discuss how the lights are actually used without feeling overwhelmed and confused by too much technical information. However, there are plenty of references to websites where the reader can learn more about the different light units mentioned if more information is desired.

After reading through the section on the various lights and their use, the reader is introduced to the section on *lighting ratios*. There have been entire books and large sections of publications dedicated to explaining the intricacies of this fundamental concept. However, this book, with its simplistic approach, summarizes the complex theories of *light ratios* in just a few short paragraphs.



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This allows the reader to move on with enough knowledge to apply these principles to the sections that follow, without feeling burdened and overwhelmed with complex formulas that so many other books fill their pages with.

Continuing past the sections on the technical aspects of lighting, the reader is introduced to the real fabric of this book: Simple lighting diagrams accompanied by beautiful portraits. The combinations of lighting diagrams shown with their respective portraits illustrate how simple lighting techniques can create beautiful and dramatic effects. Simplicity is the hallmark of the Newman's work. The reader is shown how h/she can recreate the photos in the book by following the simple lighting patterns illustrated.

The book's primary focus is on professional lighting effects, it would be remiss not to discuss other aspects of portrait photography. Newman does not disappoint. *Professional Portrait Lighting* covers topics like posing, props and special situation when the diagram/photograph examples call for them. For example, the reader is introduced to specific poses of the hands in order

to create an expressive mood that lighting alone cannot accomplish. In other examples, the book explains the use of props and custom backgrounds to create unique portraits to compliment the lighting techniques that the book illustrates.

This book is really more of a manual for lighting than a book on photography. The book's design is a very compact 5 ½" x 8 ½" and has wire binding making it very functional as it will easily fit in any camera bag. This is the perfect reference manual for any working photographer as it will lay perfectly flat so it can easily be used as a reference guide on location or in the portrait studio. This book is highly recommended with a 5 star rating for simplicity and functionality.

