

# FUN WITH FLASH

## *Things to try out with your own camera/flash*

**Don't be afraid to experiment with different settings particularly when in manual mode  
- it often takes some time to get the correct balance of exposures**

- 1) Check your camera and flash settings
  - a. A bit boring but really important to get things to work properly
  - b. Check:
    - i. The flash sync speed and what options you have for this including high speed sync
    - ii. How to set 2<sup>nd</sup> curtain flash
    - iii. How do you operate FEC and how do manual flash settings work
  
- 2) Test out different flash diffusion techniques
  - a. Use bounce flash with or without diffuser
  - b. Try flash off camera to see what difference it makes compared to simple bounce flash
  - c. Test with either static objects or with willing volunteer models
  - d. Use macro lens/mode (if you have available) to test lighting options with small objects
  
- 3) Test out your flash exposure compensation (FEC)
  - a. You can vary FEC using either flash unit or camera but note that depending on the make, the way that they interact may vary
  - b. Try indoors and out (weather permitting)
  
- 4) Try out second curtain flash
  - a. Only works where there is some movement in the composition (i.e. the subject itself or background objects)
  - b. Note that this may involve a lot of trial and error but can get some good effects
  - c. Find area with low natural light and set up
    - i. Initially work out manual exposure for ambient light with long enough speed to capture some motion (e.g. F5.6 at 1 sec)
    - ii. Then try various FEC settings using E TTL flash (set to 2<sup>nd</sup> curtain sync)
  
- 5) Try out the flash studio
  - a. Canon and Nikon compatible flash units available (maybe others on the night)
  - b. Use willing volunteer models and see how "cheap and cheerful" flash set ups compare with proper studio lights
  - c. Try using one main light plus reflector to balance shadows
  - d. Try other types of flash modifiers
    - i. Beauty dish, grids and snoots
    - ii. Coloured gels
  - e. Try the low key effect
    - i. Underexpose for ambient light to get dark background
    - ii. Use low power diffuse manual flash to illuminate face
    - iii. Make sure that flash does not expose the background