

Feature Article

FLOWERS AND HARSH LIGHT

Contributed by Ken Timm

So you're outside on a beautiful sunny day, see some beautiful flowers, take a few shots, bring your favorite to club competition and hear comments that the light is too contrasty. What to do? Compare the subtle differences in color, backgrounds, glare and shadows in these (very low resolution) photos.

Each of the following 5 photos were taken in Full Sun, ISO 200, Aperture Priority @ f/8, Automatic White Balance, with a 100mm lens about ¼ life- size.



1. 1/500, UV filter



2. 1/320, Polarizer



3. 1/200, 22" Diffuser @ 24"



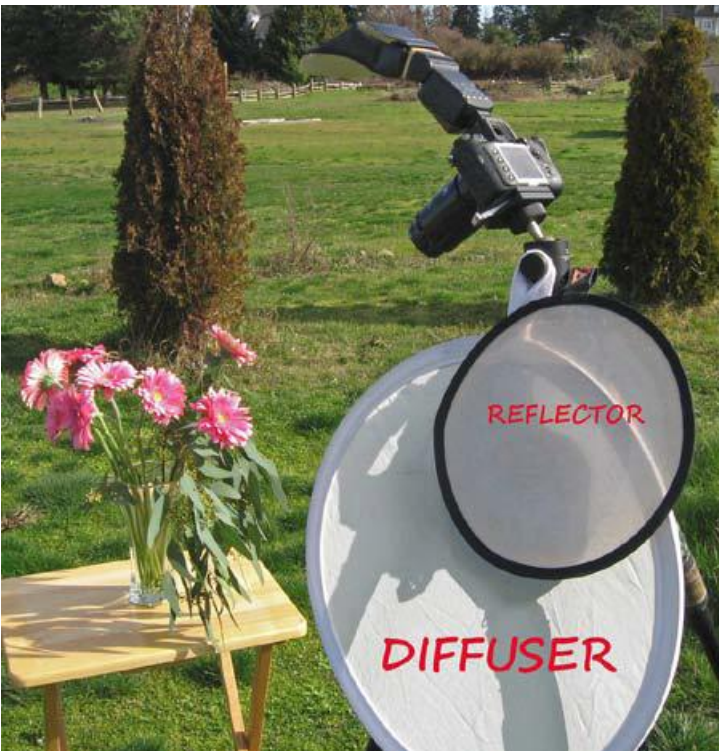
4. 1/320, 22" Diffuser @ 10"



5. 1/320, 22" Diffuser @ 10", plus 12" light gold reflector.

Which do you prefer?

The following picture shows the equipment used, but not the placement of diffuser or reflector. The 22" *Photoflex* Diffuser collapses to 8" and the 12" white/gold reflector collapses to 5", fitting inside the diffuser's case. Both are very lightweight.



The next example uses flash in bright sun: Same set-up as before but now the flash, with *Lumiquest* Pocket Bouncer, set to -0.3 requires f/18, and



1/250.

No corrections

were made to any of the flower photos.

HOW'S THAT DONE?



With a macro lens, water in a shallow glass dish elevated about 10" above some colors, a

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few drops of cooking oil, and lots of patience.
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