

PHOTOLESSONS

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Balancing Natural and Artificial lighting

Understanding the principles of light sources

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Sunlight has been around since creation and its power and effect on life all about us has not changed much from its beginnings. Artists have used it for countless projects and renditions, honing their crafts with its awesome presence and power. Photographic lights attempt to replicate its quality and color. Though the science of it has made for some faithful renditions of the same, it is the end user artist that must understand

the unchanged sun and the variable artificial lighting that is available for his or her use. The two main points to understand is the *penumbra* and *exposure index* of a given setting. For example; in an attempt to include an outdoor scene along with an internal one, both have to be taken into consideration, along with the many other facets of capturing a great image such as composition, subject persona and styling. The *sunny-16 rule*

will help the end user understand what the sunlight is doing. In this case, there is a window screen that blocks about 7/10 stops of light, so it's easy to figure that the internal lighting should reflect that by setting it to F-11, which gives the sunlight backdrop just about 3/10 stops of light over the camera setting, keeping it from going too dark. Balancing the penumbra, given time of day is also important.