

# PHOTOLESSONS

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## Multiple Lights and catch light. Controlling your Exposure index artistically

John Pringle

The exposure index basically covers the lightest white, to the darkest black areas of an image. Color negative film has an EI of about 7-stops of light, B/W negative film has about 9-stops, Slide films have about 1/2-stop EI and digital chips vary by manufacture. B/W paper max out about four stops light to dark.

Start with a main light, or one that you will set your camera to, for example; F-11, then use a second

light to control the shadow area, perhaps F-5.6. Your shadow control lighting should keep your shadow detailed areas within the latitude of your capture medium and/or print medium.

Penumbra is important to take note of, that the two light sources do not cause competing shadows for the point of light origin. By mixing specular and diffused lighting, you must be careful of each light source

message, that it does not create confusion and frustrate the viewer.

Catch lights are visible in the eye as well as on any shiny surface. Be mindful of it and make sure that it also conveys the proper mood of your subject matter. These will keep your 3-D subject appearing so as rendered on a 2-D surface. If you can hold the viewers attention span for more than about three seconds, you may have it just right.