

USING FLAGS WITH YOUR LIGHTING

Once you have begun using lights for your productions, you will hopefully begin to notice the quality of your videos has improved. However, there may be times when you will want to fine tune your lights. Diffusion lighting elements are easily available with our kits and in the studio; but it creates light over a large area that is sometimes hard to control. Simply dimming the overall light won't solve problems with shadows, flaring, and glares. Perhaps you are lighting an interview, and in addition to the subject, your lights are spilling onto the white wall in the background creating a hot spot. Or maybe you are lighting a subject with a green screen behind them and you want to keep your key and fill lights from spilling onto the green screen creating an imbalance for your digital image during editing.

A flag is a tool used in video production that blocks light to a specific area. Flags come in all shapes, sizes, and materials, and virtually anything that is opaque can be used. The "industry standard" flag that you would find on a typical film shoot would consist of a wire metal square or rectangular frame stitched with black duvetyne (a velvet-like fabric), which is placed in front of a light to block unnecessary spill. Black wrap (a black foil) and light reflectors (translucent, silver, gold white, and black) are other examples of flags.

Good luck with your lighting. And again, if you are filming a two-person dialogue scene and your key light is supposed to hit the main character only, you can use a flag to block the light so it doesn't spill onto the other person.