

A bride in a white wedding dress and veil stands in a room with a window and built-in shelves. The bride is positioned in the center, facing left, with her back to the camera. She is wearing a long, flowing white gown with a lace train and a long veil. The room features a window with white curtains and built-in white shelves on either side. The lighting is soft and natural, coming from the window. The floor is made of wood, and a patterned rug is visible in the foreground.

the FLASH
CHEAT SHEET

LUKE CLELAND

the FLASH

CHEAT SHEET

KEYS TO REMEMBER

Keep it natural. Bounce light off of the ceiling or walls to create a soft window-light effect. Avoid aiming the flash directly at your subject unless you are looking for a party vibe.

Keep it simple. One flash is enough. I use one flash, a lightstand, video light, elbow mount & radio trigger.

Use full manual. Manual flash and manual camera settings. I know it's annoying but it will really help you learn.

FIRST ask yourself this question: How much ambient light do I want? How much flash do I want?

ALL FLASH

SET ISO

I like to start around 200

SET APERTURE

Decide on what aperture you need for your style. $f/2.8$? $f/1.2$? $f/4.0$? (to get all those faces in focus?)

SET SHUTTER SPEED

Set to $1/200$. (Unless doing high speed sync, then you can go higher). If there is still too much ambient light and you're already at $1/200$, then you'll have to lower your ISO to 100. If it's still too bright, you'll have to raise your aperture.

SET FLASH

Since you'll be using a lot of flash I'd start around $1/8$ power and then go up from there.

If you're at full power and it's not bright enough, you'll have to raise your ISO, or lower your aperture.

AMBIENT & FLASH

SET ISO

I like to start around 800-1000 for dark indoor areas.

SET APERTURE

Decide on what aperture you need for your style. 2.8 ? 1.2 ? 4.0 ? (to get all those faces in focus?)

SET SHUTTER SPEED

$1/100$ can be a good place to start. Use the shutter speed and ISO to get the exposure of the ambient light right.

SET FLASH

I start at the lowest power and then add in more and more until I like the look. If the surface you are bouncing off is far away, or a dark colour you'll need more flash power to light your scene. Remember to bounce your flash off the wall or ceiling, and not directly at the subject.

PARTY VIBES

SET FLASH

This is when I start with my flash settings. I start with the lowest it will go because I'll be photographing people in very low dance light and I don't want them blinded everytime I take a photo.

SET SHUTTER SPEED

This is where the magic happens. Start with $1/6$ and then have fun from there. If you move your camera as soon as you hit the shutter that is where you get that movement. You can lower your shutter even further to get really crazy.

SET APERTURE

Around $f/2.8$ - $f/4.0$

SET ISO

I start around 400, and then alter it until the overall exposure is correct.

TROUBLE SHOOTING

1. *My flash is at full power, but I need more light!*

Start by raising the ISO, then aperture.

2. *The background ambient light is streaking.*

Your shutter speed is low. $1/6$ will make things crazy, while $1/125$ will take it away.

3. *There are dark circles under my subjects eyes when I bounce my flash.*

You are bouncing the flash to directly above. Tilt your flash behind you, away from the subject, or to the side.

4. *My flash battery is getting worn out so quickly because I'm at full power.*

Raise your ISO, and lower your flash power so it's not firing at full power. I like to keep mine at $1/8$ and lower, so the flash can keep up with how many pictures I want to take.

5. *I'm changing my shutter speed, but my image is still overexposed by flash.*

Shutter speed only effects the ambient light. Either lower your ISO, or lower the power of your flash.