

Smoke

Items Needed:

- Incense sticks for smoke
- Black background
- Desk Light
- External flash with manual controls
- Way to trigger external flash
- Stand for flash
- Black "Flags" for the flash to direct the light
- Camera – Manual Mode – Shutter 1/160 to 1/250 – Aperture f8.0 – f 14
- Camera Lens (almost any lens will work)



Technique

1. Place background 1+ feet behind the incense
 - a. Black background
2. Light incense
3. Position desk light to the side of the incense stick
 - a. distance not necessarily important
 - b. Aim toward smoke. This will help get focus on the smoke and NOT for lighting the smoke for photos
 - c. "Flag" if necessary
4. Position flash on the other side of the incense
 - a. "Flag" the flash with some black paper or modifier to direct the light directly toward the smoke. This will help with light spill on the background
5. Camera used hand held (Tripod could be used if preferred)
6. Camera settings:
 - a. Camera in Manual Mode (M)
 - b. Aperture: f8.0 – f14
 - c. Shutter : 1/160 – 1/250 (sync speed of flash)
 - d. White Balance: Auto
7. Remote trigger set up for flash
 - a. sync cord- from camera to Flash
 - b. wireless remotes- transmitter on camera – receiver on flash
8. Flash settings:
 - a. Manual mode
 - b. Zoom: 105mm or smallest zoom on the flash
 - c. Power: ½
9. Get Focus
 - a. Auto Focus (AF) using desk lamp to help light the smoke
10. Start Shooting
 - a. Keep smoke framed within the background
 - b. Wave hand or blow on smoke to get interesting patterns
11. To change color of smoke
 - a. Change White Balance
 - i. tungsten will give a blue tint
 - b. Option 2 – Post Processing
 - i. Hue / Saturation or tint to change color of smoke
 - ii. INVERT the image in Photoshop or Picnik to change the background color from black to white