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# Portrait Photography: From Snapshots To Great Shots





### Synopsis

In Portrait Photography: From Snapshots to Great Shots, author and photographer Erik Valind shows you how to get the best shots of your subjectsâ "whether youâ ™re in a studio or outdoors, at a family get-together, or at a formal event. Starting with the fundamentals of portrait photography, including how to select the right camera settings and lenses and how to compose your shots, Erik covers building a rapport with your subject, and offers suggestions for poses that flatter your subject to achieve great shots. He then addresses the problems and opportunities of both natural and indoor light, offering ways to resolve lighting challenges of both, showing when and how to use a flash and how to add and modify light to improve the guality of your images. Finally, he walks through several portrait scenarios, including creating single-person shots such as headshots and environmental shots, and group shots such as family and wedding photos. Follow along with Erik and you will: Learn the basics of capturing great portraits, such as focusing on the eyes, stepping back and zooming in, and turning your subject into the light Evaluate focal length, compression, and working distance to select the best lens for any given shoot Establish trust with your subject and provide helpful direction and feedback so they feel at ease and look their best Address challenges associated with natural light such as shade and direct lighta "and tame or redirect the light for improved photographs Improve the light with modifiers and other helpful tools such as strobes, umbrellas, and reflectors Go â œbehind the scenesâ • and walk through the process of creating great portraits with two chapters of start-to-finish examples Beautifully illustrated with large, vibrant photos, this book teaches you how to take control of your photography to get the portraits you want every time you pick up your camera.

#### **Book Information**

Series: From Snapshots to Great Shots Paperback: 264 pages Publisher: Peachpit Press; 1 edition (April 4, 2014) Language: English ISBN-10: 0321951611 ISBN-13: 978-0321951618 Product Dimensions: 7.4 x 0.7 x 9 inches Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies) Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (45 customer reviews) Best Sellers Rank: #186,926 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #213 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Portraits #256 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Visual Arts > Photography #350 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Digital Photography

#### **Customer Reviews**

At various times I have ordered books to help me learn photography...I open them and put them down. Never to revisit.But this book ...All I can say is thank you Erik...for taking the mystery out of photography! He really shows you step by step how to make awesome portraits.If you purchase any book it should be this one!! usually do not post reviews unless an author bats it out of the park and in this case he does.I cannot exclaim enough how this book has helped me.

I knew Eric's work from Kelbyone (former Kelbytrainning). Thanks to his classes I start to appreciate the lifestyle genre in photography. This book is a valuable asset for those who want to develop skills in portrait photography, mainly in interesting locations with challenging light scenarios. I enjoyed a lot and became a source of consultations

I'm primarily a landscape photographer. There's little I love more than a stunning vista and a nice waterfall. But, my boss asked me to photograph our company's upcoming Annual Meeting and my Aunt has asked me to be the unofficial official photographer at our first family reunion in July. I CANNOT let either of these people down. And thanks to this book...I'm confident that I won't! This book has great advice, primarily for those who are breaking into portrait photography, but I think most hobbyists could walk away having learned something. I love the diagrams showing camera and light placements and the later reminders of earlier, important, tips. I'm so glad I bought this book! It really will save my life this year and I strongly recommend it.

I really enjoyed this book. I have bought many photography books in the past but I have to say that this is by far my favorite one. Erik makes it simple to understand and gives great examples in the book. If you're a beginner like I am and feel like you just need some helpful tips/explanations, then this is the book for you. I feel like I really learned a lot from this book. I will always use it for my "go to" book when I need some tips/clues. I would definitely recommend this book to anyone wanting to learn how to take some great shots!

I am always looking to improve my work and was able to find some very clear examples that

explained certain conditions such as using sun flare in great detail. You not only learn how the author conquered such obstacles, but you are given a very good explanation with before and after photos to see the difference. Very happy with my purchase.

This was the book I needed to get consistent portraits. They share basic but critical concepts and techniques to take my hobby to the next level in understanding lighting. I really like this line of books.

Very useful. To me it is just the right mixture of tips, tools, and gadgets to get yo started. If you are an amateur photographer who wants to improve his portraits, but not invest \$1000+ in equipment, this book is for you. It will yield better pictures instantly.

The book is very well written. The Author wrote this book in a very easy way to understand each topic of the book. What you will learn from the book is the camera setting, equipment to control the light and the way to have a better light condition on the model... What you won't learn is the composition that is missing from this book.By finished reading this book, I feel confident to take the portrait photo for my family or friend. What I just need is the equipment beside camera. The Author is really done a good job to sharing his knowledge and experience to the read...

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