Synopsis

Motion Picture and Video Lighting, Second Edition, is the indispensable guide to film and video lighting. Written by the author of the industry bible Cinematography, this book explores technical, aesthetic, and practical aspects of lighting for film and video. It will show you not only how to light, but why. Written by an experienced professional, this comprehensive book explores light and color theory, equipment, and techniques to make every scene look its best. Now in full color, Motion Picture and Video Lighting is heavily illustrated with photos and diagrams throughout. This new edition also includes the ultimate 'behind the scenes' DVD that takes you directly on a professional shoot and demonstrates technical procedures and equipment. In addition, 20 video clips include lighting demonstrations, technical tests, fundamentals of lighting demos, and short scenes illustrating different styles of lighting.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

After a long lifetime as a practicing director of photography, I now also teach graduate film and video lighting at the San Francisco Academy of Art University. In a quest for the best book for my students, one that provides background and needed information to the hands-on work we do, I searched through most of the available texts and found Blain Brown’s to be by far the best book out there for aspiring directors of photography. Until this semester, I used his previous edition. I am delighted by this new edition, which brings many out-of-date issues up to date. For a purely technical book, a gaffer’s "bible," see Harry Box’s Set Lighting Technician’s Handbook, Third Edition: Film
I am less than an amateur so my opinion should be taken with a large dose of salt. That said, this book received such high praise that I figured I could learn a ton from it. There is definitely a lot of information in it but more than half of it is VERY technical. I am talking about a whole host of things that go FAR beyond types of lights, placement, gels and so forth. There is simply too much info that I do not need as a beginner videographer - a whole bunch that I won’t even need down the road as far as I can tell. This book, I believe, is used as a textbook in film schools and covers that kind of ground. It would also be a great reference book for someone whose job is only lighting a set. However, for someone like me that is doing all things related to a video shoot, I do not need much beyond the first couple of chapters. I am not giving it a bad review, it's well written and there is useful info in it. It's simply not for beginners.

I teach film and video at the college level, and whenever a student wants a book recommended as a general learn lighting book I recommend this.1. This comes with a great DVD that shows visually the difference between many types of hard and soft light as well as numerous light placements and types of bounce. A lot of people who get into film are visual learners, and this DVD is awesome for those of us who like to look at something for results based on how the lighting is set up.2. I love that Blaine gives such a detailed description of how electricity works. This is something that is very difficult to learn unless it’s really laid out there for you. The book is almost worth it just for this section.3. The pictures in his book are great. They are from very accessible movies and are great examples of each thing that Blaine is trying to show. Along with Blaine Brown’s cinematography book you really only need to get two books to get a great understanding of the medium. I would never recommend reading over real world experience. But by being on set and reading this book you'll be off to a great start.

This is a fantastic book. As someone who has shot a limited amount of both film and video, I wanted to learn more specifics about lighting, exposure theory, color theory, and so on. Brown’s book is PACKED with highly useful, very practical information, and comes at a much better price than some competing books which are not nearly as good. Plus, it includes a DVD with lighting demonstrations, technical tests, and short scenes illustrating the lighting principles covered in the book. Also, I really like the section of Brown’s book that lists all the major types of lights used on professional shoots (from Fresnels and HMIs to PARs, Dino’s, MaxiBrutes, FAYs, Soft Lights, Space Lights,
fluorescents, and so on). Yes, Brown’s book is a bit more technical than some, but he also covers the basics very well.

I don’t read a lot of books, but this one is definitely worth the time. It’s extremely detailed and in-depth. If you’re a beginner, this book will give you the complete knowledge you’re looking for without going over your head. If you’re a seasoned pro, you’ll find this helpful as a reference, or to fill in the gaps of things you might have missed. At any rate, HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!

Fairly decent coverage of lighting devices, only a little out of date. This book focuses on lighting with big crews, and does not get much into the techniques of smaller crews. The significant coverage of film issues instead of modern cameras is dated. Some of the coverage of log curves in film would be better applied to digital representations, for example, for today’s world. The book, in general, is a little too ‘professorial’ in my view for typical lighting people. Nevertheless, a lot of important issues are discussed, and pretty good advice given, in general. The stuff on HMI flicker is dated. What I think it needs most is some more discussion of particular moods, lighting plans, and techniques for creating particular looks. I think most readers would like more of that.

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