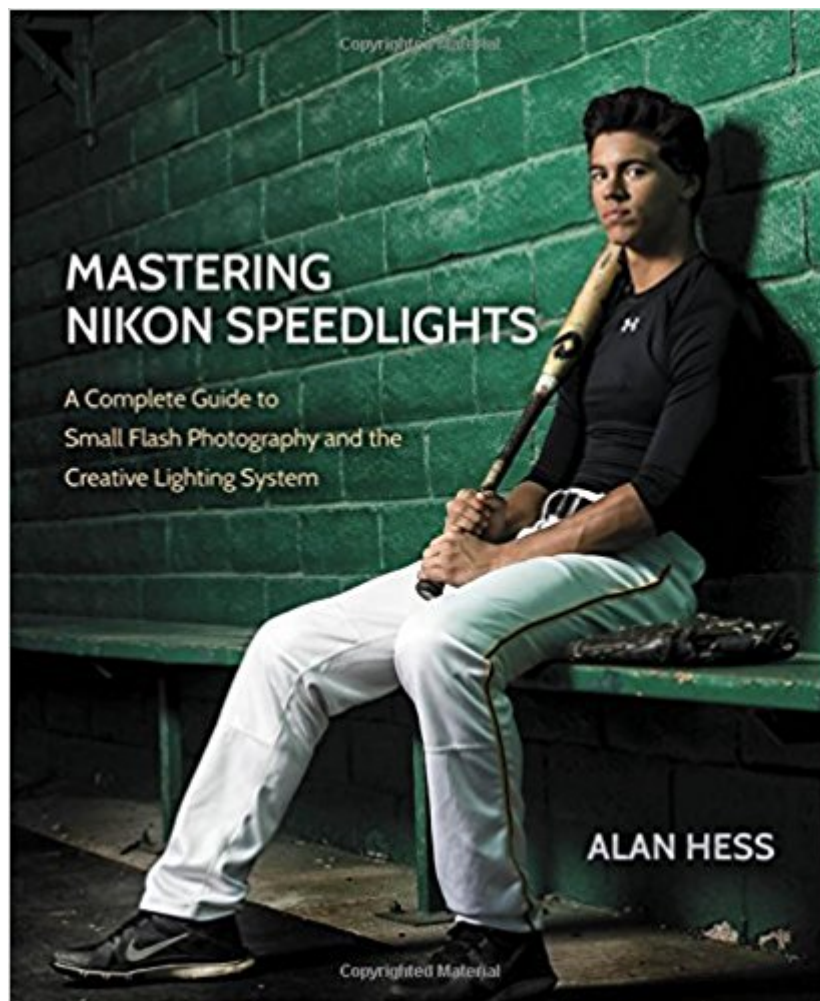




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# Mastering Nikon Speedlights: A Complete Guide To Small Flash Photography And The Creative Lighting System



## Synopsis

Mastering Nikon Speedlights is the most comprehensive guide available for anyone using or wanting to learn more about the Nikon Creative Lighting System (CLS). Starting with an exploration of how to work with light, the book teaches you everything you need to know about understanding the direction and intensity of light, using light meters and metering modes, controlling exposure, and much more. You'll learn the specifics of how to use the full range of Nikon Speedlights and accessories, including past and current models of cameras and CLS compatible flashes—and in the process you'll find out how to get the best shots with your gear, whether you have a whole box of equipment or just the basics. The book includes practical, real-world photo shoots—portraits, action shots, and product photography—starting with one light and gradually working up to multiple lights so you can observe the progression of the light from one flash to many. No matter what your subject or shooting scenario, Mastering Nikon Speedlights is an essential resource that teaches you how to produce the light you need to achieve great results. Offers a thorough discussion of the qualities of light, how the camera measures light, and the settings needed to record an image with proper exposure Provides a complete overview of all the components that make up the Nikon Creative Lighting System, outlining how to use the different Speedlights and accessories to correspond with each camera's unique capabilities Covers how to use the Nikon Speedlights off the camera using the Advanced Wireless Lighting (AWL) features built into the Creative Lighting System Features several examples of real photo shoots, showing you how to take great photos in a variety of situations, building from one flash up to multiple flashes

## Book Information

Paperback: 416 pages

Publisher: Peachpit Press; 1 edition (August 9, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0134085914

ISBN-13: 978-0134085913

Product Dimensions: 7.4 x 0.9 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #280,068 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Photography & Video > Equipment, Techniques & Reference > Flash Photography

#57 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Equipment, Techniques & Reference > Lighting](#) #110 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Equipment, Techniques & Reference > Handbooks & Manuals](#)

## Customer Reviews

"Alan's book rocks! Takes you from soup to nuts in terms of flash work. Excellent job, approachable, understandable writing." — Joe McNally

Alan Hess is a San Diego-based photographer specializing in concert and live-event photography. He has photographed hundreds of concerts in clubs and arenas, including some of the biggest names in music, ranging from Justin Bieber to The Who. Alan is currently the house photographer for a large venue in Southern California where he photographs a wide variety of concerts and events. When he isn't out shooting concerts, he is writing. Alan has written numerous photography books, covering such topics as concert photography and the basics of exposure and composition. Find out more at [www.alanhessphotography.com](http://www.alanhessphotography.com).

This is a really good book. The manner in which Alan starts from the basics, explains the functions of each Speedlight, and then goes on to explain how they are used, is brilliant. I really like that he has used lighting diagrams, and has included photographs of the gear that he uses. What I like is that he stays focussed on those who don't have, or can't afford too many Speedlights. This is an essential read and what he needs to do, is to write a more advanced version of the same

I found this to be one of the best written books on the use and practice of Speedlights. The simple detail and examples made for easy and comprehensible reading for someone like me new to the system. Plenty of examples and recommendations. Loved it!

I have found this book very informative, however, the section on repeating flash should note that it is possible to use an SB600 and SB700 in repeating flash mode with the SU800 speedlight commander (which is mentioned in the book) as the master with the SB600 & SB700 set to remote/slave.

Great information! Easy to follow. Many great equipment suggestions.

I haven't read everything yet since I just recently purchased the book. I like how the book is organized. As other people have mentioned, the book starts slowly, which is good for a beginner and even for advanced people. I found details that were very valuable in the first chapter even though I have used speedlights for CLS. The book has lots of images making it easy to understand the author's point. I am in the process of reading it, so I can't say more, but I do like this book.

Great product!

"Mastering Nikon Speedlights" is just that, a masterful expose on Nikon Speedlight photography. I cannot think of anything that was missed about Nikon Speedlight photography. The enlightenment shed on available equipment and technique is superb. The book's format, style and content is excellent.

Back in the day, if an ordinary photographer wanted to add light to a scene, his only choice was to stick a bulb into a holder attached to a camera, measure the distance to a subject, divide that into a guide number, set an f-stop and send out a pulse of glaring light. In a studio, photographers could move around heavy hot spotlights to get more light. Today, smart flash systems allow photographers to manipulate light easily and creatively. But the smarter flash systems require smarter photographers to extract the most from them. Nikon developed the Creative Lighting System (CLS) to allow for easier manipulation of artificial lighting. Alan Hess offers a seemingly comprehensive guide for using CLS. The book begins with an explanation of the qualities of light, followed by a description of the lighting tools available, including Nikon's cameras and Speedlights (as Nikon calls its flashes), as well as ancillary tools, from batteries to brackets. He then explains how CLS works to allow such tools as wireless multi-Speedlight synchronization. He discusses three kinds of lighting; for portraits, action and product photography. He wraps up the book by showing the use of a single on-camera flash, a single off-camera flash and then multiple flashes for portrait, action and product photography. (Occasionally his explanations seem repetitious, but that may just be because the reader understood and learned what the author had to say.) His explanations cover a great deal of ground, and are given in straight forward, easily accessible language, and as an explanation of flash photography seem as comprehensive as any single volume I've encountered on the subject. However, it is by no means all-inclusive. For example, one of the problems that often overwhelm new users of Nikon Speedlights is how to set the various switches and menus necessary to utilize a particular Speedlight. While Hess provides explanations

of how to set a Speedlight for wireless operation, he ignores most of the other menu items, like how to set a Speedlight for manual zoom. While this information is available in the manual that comes with the Speedlight, many users find the manual unnecessarily terse and intimidating. Moreover, many of his explanations of settings are generic rather than Speedlight- or camera- specific. I would also have liked to have seen discussions of the use of flash for other genres, like wildlife and wedding photography. When it comes to Speedlights, no one book covers all aspects of the subject. Photographers interested in mastering the use of Speedlights should expect to read several books for a comprehensive grounding. Still, on the road to flash mastery, this is a good start.

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