



MINIMALIST CAVE PHOTOGRAPHER

ASSIGNMENT OVERVIEW

Today is the day you pull it all together and break through the limitations of your equipment. Whatever your limits have been in the past with either having enough light to illuminating a room that seems too big for your equipment, or having enough lights to get the effect you are after, in this assignment you will leverage the power of compositing to overcome those limits.

WHAT YOU WILL MASTER

Compositing multiple images into a single image that overcomes the limitations of your equipment.

ASSIGNMENT CHECKLIST

If you are limited in the number of lights you possess and find it difficult to get the shot you want when lighting a small or medium sized room then start with that. If on the other hand you are blessed to have a whole army of lights with slaves, push yourself by photographing a massive chamber.

As you are shooting a couple of things to remember. (1) Remember that if you are including a person in your shot that if they shift a little during each shot that you might run into a challenge when you go to composition. Not impossible, but it might be difficult to get it just right. (2) As you are changing your position and changing the angle of the flash, as mentioned below, try not to take an excessive amount of variations. The more layers you end up having in Photoshop the more difficult it can be to keep track of what is what. (3) Lock that tripod down. The slightest shift will make compositing extremely difficult if not impossible.

Remember when you are shooting you are not trying to get it perfect. Each shot you do will probably look pretty crappy. The magic will happen when you get into Photoshop and begin compositing.

Follow the steps below:

- Set up your tripod and remember to lock it down so that it won't shift at all for a long time. Remember to use a remote timer or cable release. You don't want your hand to touch the camera after it is locked down.
- Move to your first position fire the flash for the first shot.
- In the next shot keep your same position but change the angle of the flash. Maybe in the first shot you pointed it straight down the passage and this time you angle it left, then right, then up, then down.
- Keep changing your position and changing the angle of the flash until you feel like you've explored enough variations to have a lot to play with in Photoshop.
- Move on to another location and repeat.
- Pull it all together in Photoshop.



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REFLECTION

1. Did you have any issues aligning layers? What do you think might have been the cause of these issues?
2. Did you have any issues with people you may have included in your shot? How will you overcome those issues next time?
3. What challenges did you face when compositing the layers? Too many layers? Not enough? Couldn't figure out which layer went to which light? What do you need to do next time to make it work better?