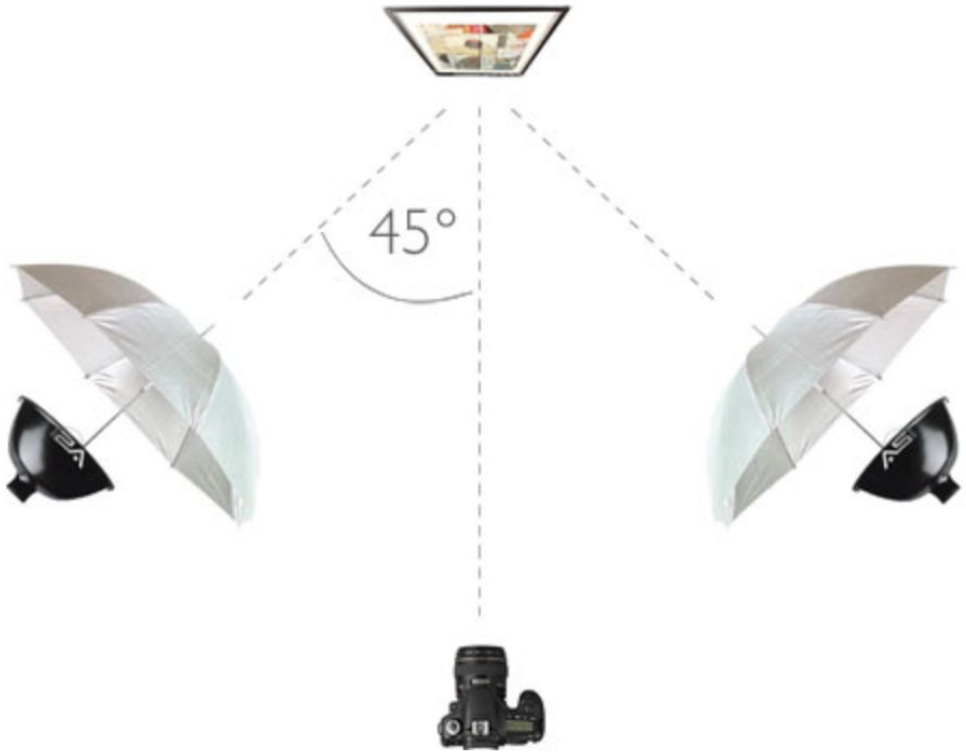
SHOOTING FROM HOME

Same End Goal

- You want to achieve *even* and *identical* source lighting
  - The less warm + cool light you have mixed ➜ the better the result
- Your camera (or phone) is directly parallel to your work
  - It’s also going to be pointed directly towards the center of your piece

You want to mimic this kind of lighting as best as you can



The problem or challenge

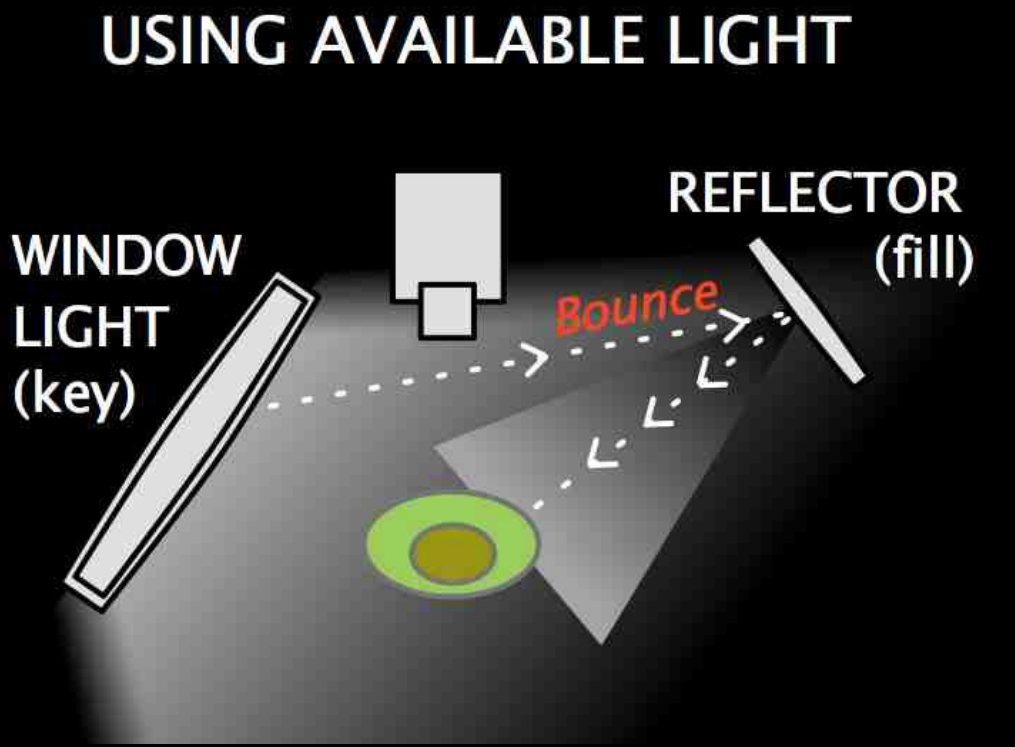
HOW DO I RECREATE STUDIO LIGHTING FROM HOME?

A COUPLE HACKS...

Position your piece perpendicular to a key light source (a window would be ideal, but a lamp would work too)

Illuminate your subject as well as possible and fill in shadows by *bouncing* the light from the window onto your subject

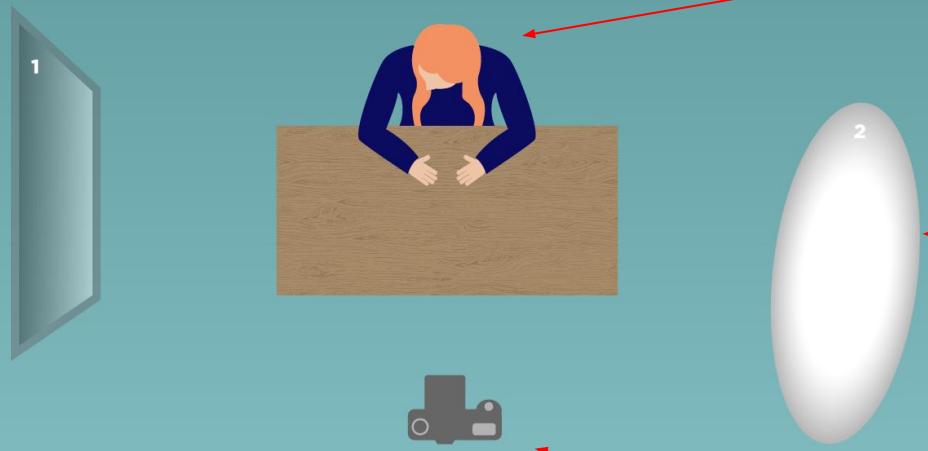
This can be done using any white surface such as foam core as light BOUNCES off of white surfaces



Don't know how to bounce or what a suitable reflector would be? There's more on that later...

WINDOW LIGHTING

1. Position yourself so that the window is to your side and not directly behind you.



2. Bounce the Light

If you find that one side of your face is much darker than the other, use white posterboard or something similar to direct (or "bounce") the light from the window to the opposite side of your face.

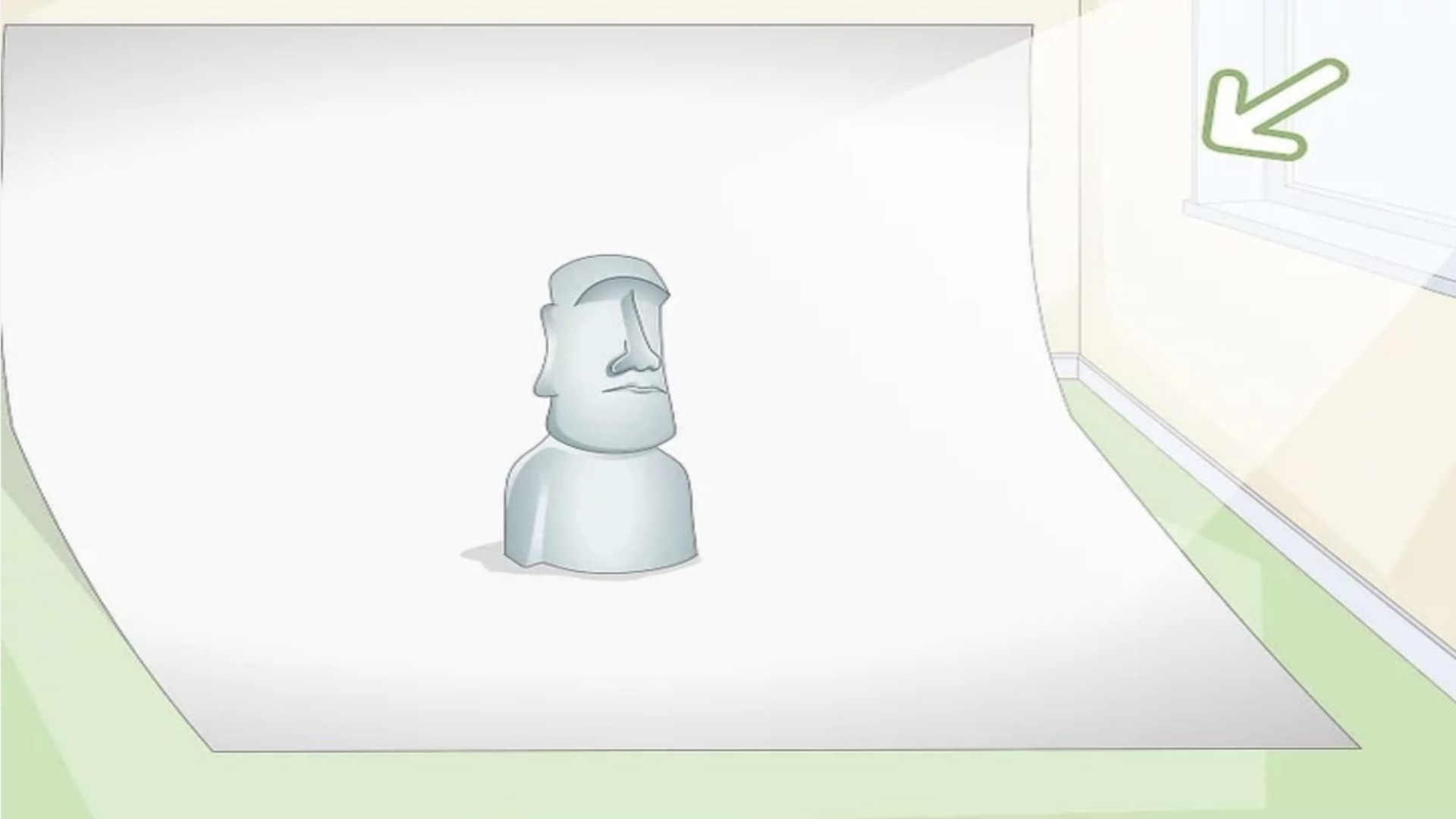
Subject i.e Artwork

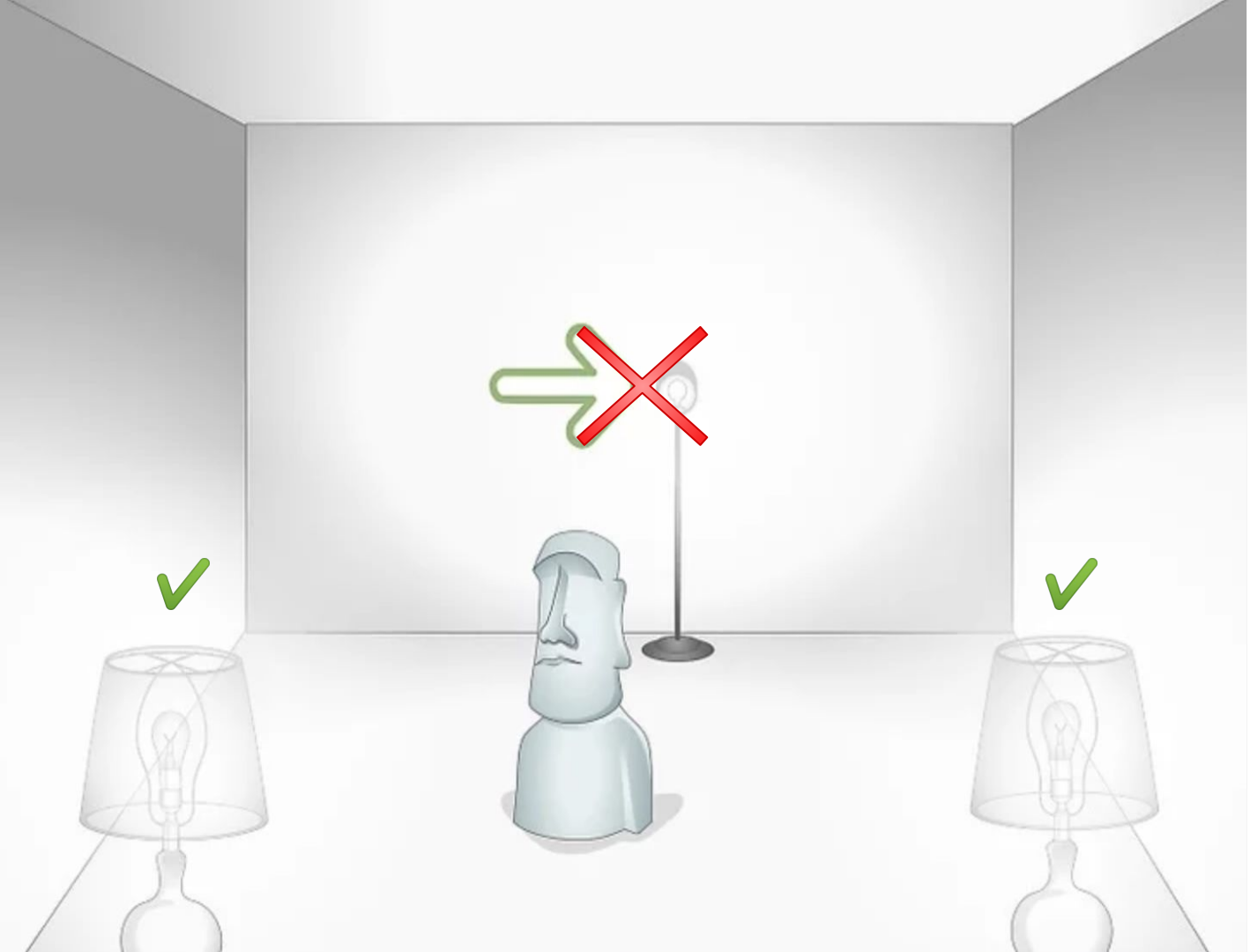
Poster board, foam core, or metallic surfaces like aluminum work too!

You

Also try to make sure that what's BEHIND your subject is completely clear of objects

If you don't have a white wall available you can always prop a sheet up as a makeshift backdrop



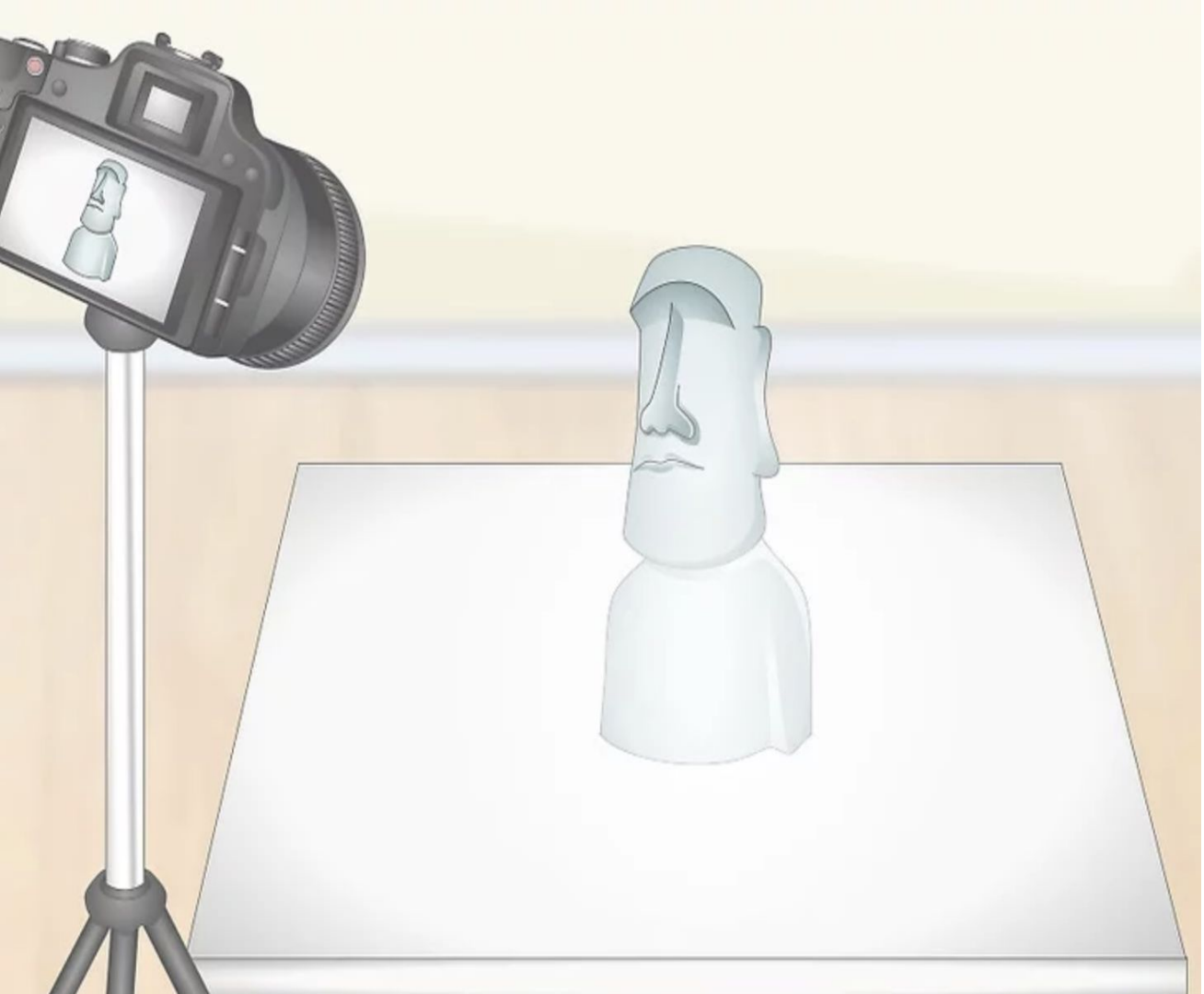


Use lamps!

Position lights at 45° at equal distance from the work for even lighting

Try to keep bulb color cast consistent

*the backlight isn't necessary



TIP

Lay a foam core board on a table to reflect light. If you're shooting objects on a table, lay down a white foam core board underneath your subject. Use clamps to secure your foam board to the table and tilt your camera above your subject (best for 3D works). The foam board will reflect light to make it easier to get a good exposure at a high shutter speed, and will serve as a clean, minimalistic background for your compositions.

*White paper can have a similar effect, but it's easily damaged and torn.

MAKESHIFT LIGHTS

Reflectors

Angle your reflector opposite your key light source to bounce light back onto your subject

Why is this important?

Successfully mimics the job of two lights (for even lighting) when you only have access to one

Fills in shadows cast from key light source

Reflectors

This one is made out of aluminum foil and cardboard

Reflectors

Cheap and Easy ✔️

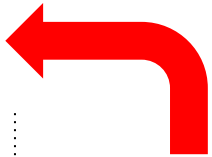
Reflectors

Have one of these lying around? This works as a reflector too!

Or you can get fancy and turn your lamp into a studio light

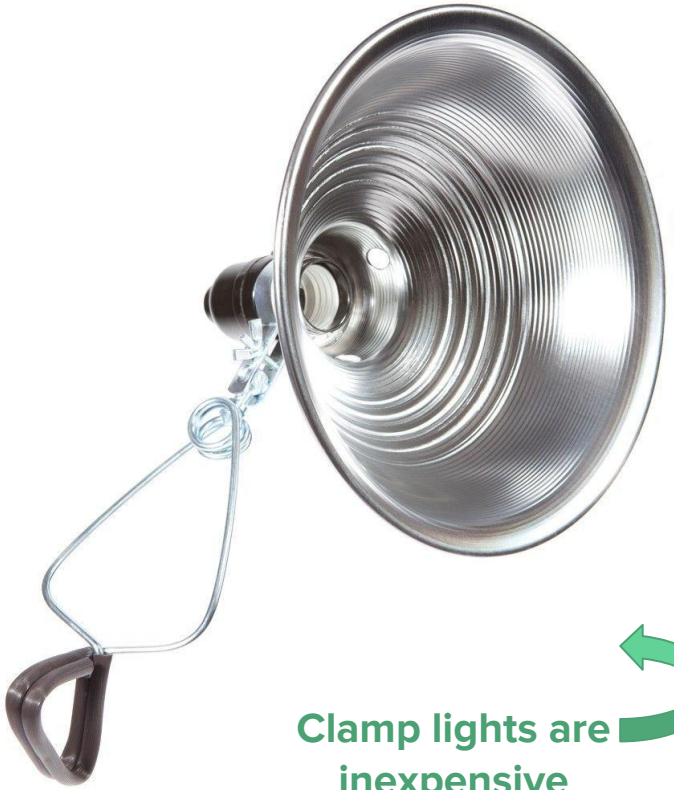
DIRECTIONS:

- Take 2 cardstock sheets and simply tape the aluminium foil all over (you can do the back too if you want it to look even and nicer).
- Trim off excess tape from the edges.
- Wrap the card stock around your lamp, on the outside and then tape to the lamp, also on the outside. (you can also apply aluminium foil tape on the inside of your lamp if you need super strong lighting; just make sure the foil doesn't touch any electrical wires).
- Trim the "cone" to the desired size (or just leave it as is if your lamp is small and needs a big extension).
- Apply tape over raw edges.
- Take 4 card stock sheets and tape them together with aluminium foil tape.
- Place lamp's head over the large card stock sheet, face down, and draw a circle around it then cut the circle out using a razor knife.
- Tape aluminium foil over raw edges.
- Pass the head of the lamp through the hole, slightly bending the card stock head until it fits through.
- Place the head close to the hole and tape together using aluminium foil tape. Slightly bend the card stock towards the inside.
- And you're done! Now take your awesome DIY light reflector and go make some beautiful indoor photos!



Instructions on how to make that studio lamp

Or use it as reference to build your own!



Clamp lights are inexpensive resources and great for makeshift lighting

Tools and materials needed:

- Flashlight
- White balloon

Cost: Under $1

Arthur Brouthers shows how he uses white panels to reflect light and a finished piece "Slipping II" on his Instagram.

LIGHT HACK: If you don't have professional grade lighting kit, you can easily hack diffusing the light with a white sheet or white plastic between the lights and your work. This helps to evenly distribute the light. Alternatively, a few sheets of white foam core can be set up to simulate a "raking light" effect where the lights are pointed at the foam core and the whiteboard reflects the light back at the piece.

A little more challenging but this person is using their ceiling to bounce the light.

Additionally they're using two sheets of foam core to reflect light onto their work.

This doesn't need low or high grade lighting. The same thing can be done with lamps. Paired with flood lamps or LED bulbs you're sure to get great results.

Lastly...

Getting the most out of your camera phone

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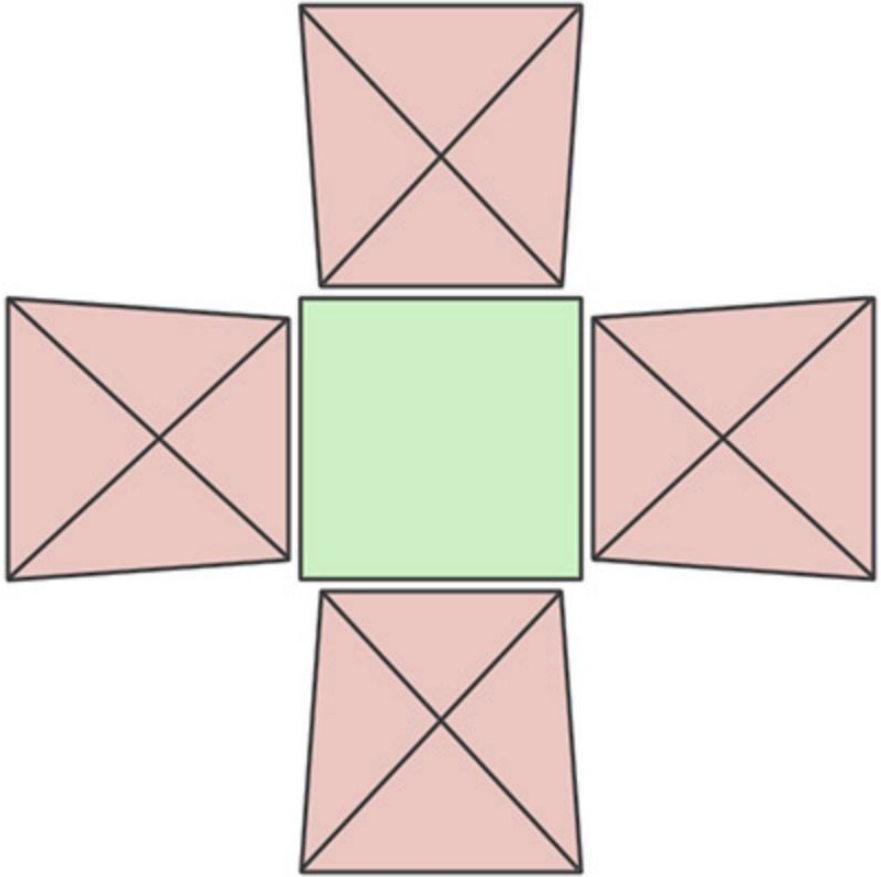

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Don’t take the photo from an angle, or you’ll get “keystoning.”


Use your camera’s grid to level your work
You can do this under Settings → Camera → Grid
HDR
SLO-MO
VIDEO
PHOTO
SQUARE
PANO

- Keep a clean lens for clearer photos
  - Wipe off fingerprints
- Select your focus ***manually*** by tapping on your focal point
- **LOCK** your focus by tapping on your subject and holding your finger down for a couple of seconds
- If your headphones have a remote use it as a **shutter release** or place your camera on self-timer to avoid camera shake for sharper photos


MANUALLY ADJUST YOUR
EXPOSURE FOR A PERFECT SHOT
HDR
PANO
SQUARE
PHOTO
VIDEO

Turn on HDR Auto

Your iPhone comes with a software feature called High Dynamic Range, or HDR: This lets you snap photos that may have high contrast light sources (say, a bright sunset against a darkening mountain) and still capture a nice image without distorting either the light or the dark area of the picture. Your iPhone does this by snapping several pictures in quick succession at different exposures, then merging them together to create a unified image.

Post-Production

Even if your image doesn't turn out that great, upload your shots to programs like Adobe Lightroom and fine-tune your image for a crisp clean look.

If you don't have access to a computer there is an Adobe Lightroom app for your phone where you can **fix your lighting, crop, correct any camera distortion or skew, sharpen your image, and apply presets.**

It's simple to use, and offers its own in-app camera for making professional images.

GOOD LUCK 😊⚡

DIY tripod for your cellphone
https://youtu.be/TTtJovKtujo