

Studio Problems

If you're in one of our studios you may find you're experiencing some of the following issues. You can always ask an expert, but the following are the problems we hear the most

Big, black lines across photos

You've exceeded the maximum flash sync shutter speed of your camera. Stick to 200ms (in general) and below.

Lights are syncing but images are dark

Turn off your electronic front shutter. Check the shutter selection, it can be different for each brand of camera

Losing detail to the background

If you're shooting dark, use a very low powered fill light to separate it out.

Over exposed foreground elements

Your back-lights are too strong, especially if edges appear to dissolve into white light. Use black surfaces and black polyboards to cut things down and turn everything down

Catch-lights are distracting

You'll only ever notice this in post. So only use them if you know what you're doing and use them sparingly

Unwanted shadows or contrast

Don't use beauty dishes or modifiers for the sake of it, start with nothing but the light and build up to get the result you want.

Messy backdrop with lots of marks

Move the model, shoot to one side or if it's really bad get it cut. It's cheap and easy to ask for and it will save you a lot of cloning work later on.

Something doesn't work

So many studio problems are down to poor prepping. Do a test before you do an actual shoot in a new space

Not getting what you want at the end

Professional photographers do practice shoots. Doing something twice (or more) isn't a bad idea if you want to get it right. Try an idea and get it right by doing it as many times as it takes

Multiple face shadows

Your lights are too low or high and they're at angles that are creating 45 degree angle patterns. Mix things thing up and move things about a bit

COMMON MISTAKES

Using too many lights

The default behaviour of newbie photographers is to use an expensive light or soft-box because it's simply there and they think it will make things look nice. Some of the best results come from single lights with no modifiers or boxes. Less can be more.

Using too few lights

When you get comfortable with lighting learn to use more lights as subtle enhancements. Don't just stick to 2 or 3 light set-ups because that's what you know. Add a few more, sparingly, as a way to create more depth.

Not preparing

Most shoots go wrong due to poor preparation. You literally can't over prepare for a studio shoot. There's a lot of things that need organising and you should be the one to make sure you're not fouling it up.

Being disorganised

The more structured your shoot is the better it will go. Plan the 'get in' the main shoot, the finish and the follow up experience. People who work with you will really notice this, so will the results you get.

Trying too hard

Studio shoots often suffer from people trying too hard to create a result they cant really pull off. Start with simple concepts. Simple ideas and simple set-ups first. Make good images before you try to push the envelope.

Not using a MUA

A make up and hair artist will make your shots shine. There's nothing worse than bad hair on a shot so get a profession to add to your shots with their skills. You'll see the results after you've spent the money on a studio shoot.

Not practicing

If you are trying a new technique, new piece of kit, new method or idea then practice it first. Many pros will often do a test shoot in a location first just to get a feel for the place. Practice doesn't just hone skills it also builds confidence.

Over editing

Probably the one thing many people do when they could just hold back a bit and get a better result. Some images need a lot of work, but the best ones are often hardly touched and purists don't believe in editing.

Not backing up

Once you've lost an image it's probably gone for good. Back up your files, then back up your backups. Just ask any pro photographer and they will tell you a sob story about the time they lost a ton of images. Don't get caught out.