

Setup Instructions

L Gobo

Style: 1411

Description

A top and side blocker.

Product Contains

- [1] 42" Silver/Black Panel
- [1] 42" White/Black Panel
- [1] Set of Connector Straps
- [1] Illuminator Arm

Instructions

L-GOBO

Too much light coming from the sky directly above a subject causes dark eyes and bright highlights on the forehead and nose. Adding fill light with flash or reflectors could reduce that problem, but a better answer is to block that unwanted top light. That can be done by placing the subject(s) under a tree. When that isn't available, you can use an overhead light-blocking device ("gobo") mounted on a light stand.

The Westcott L-Gobo is a portable light modifier using 42" square flex panels that can be used to reflect light, subtract light, or both. (Square panels block light better than round flex panels). The black sides face the subject to subtract light. The silver and white sides are used to reflect light.

As shown in Figure 1, one of its panels can block top light. This top gobo is mounted on a light stand with a Westcott Reflector Arm Holder. It should be positioned flush with the back of the subject's head. As a result, the only light that can reach the subject's face comes from the front and slightly above.

A 42" gobo needs to be about 3' above the subject's head... so that the light can come from no higher than 45 degrees. If it's too low, too much light would be subtracted from the face relative to the body. That would cause dark, flat light on the face. If it's too high, the gobo won't be effective. Note that larger light-blocking objects, such as trees, can be farther away. Also, being farther away, there is less difference in light falling on the face compared to the lower body.

As shown in Figure 2, using the side panel, attached with the Velcro® strips, the L-Gobo also subtracts side light from the face, causing a desirable shadow or "modeling" to the face.

Placement of the L-Gobo with the side panel is the same as when only using the top panel gobo.

This works best when the subject is out in the open on an overcast day, or in shade.
Note: On sunny days, it's better to use a translucent scrim for soft, portrait light.

