



color lab

# KNOCKOUT

## HAIR LIGHT PLACEMENT

One of the simplest additions for clean hair knockout is the use of a properly angled and exposed hair light. While a hair light is not mandatory, the most frequent cause of additional cleanup charges is from a lack of or poor placement of a hair light.

Specifically, the angle of the hair light is the culprit in many of these situations. The less of an angle between the hair light and subject, the more likely there will be light reflected back into the camera and therefore, color from the background onto the subject and into the camera.

There are two variables in hair light placement: the height of the hair light and the height of the subject. In the illustrations below, Figure A is a subject 5' tall and Figure B is a subject 6' tall. The hair lights are in the same positions for both yet, you will notice as the subject gets taller, the angle of the light from the hair light becomes flatter. This flat angle is what causes color to still be present in the hair and edges of a subject when submitted for knockout.

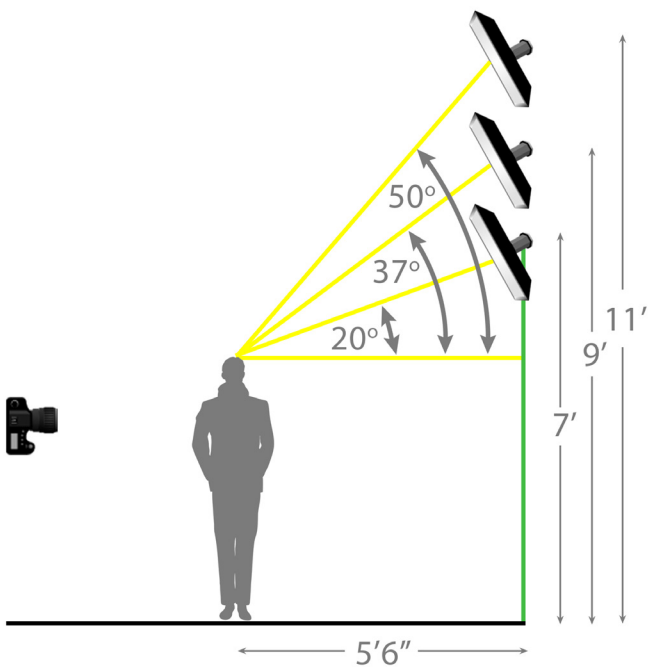


Figure A

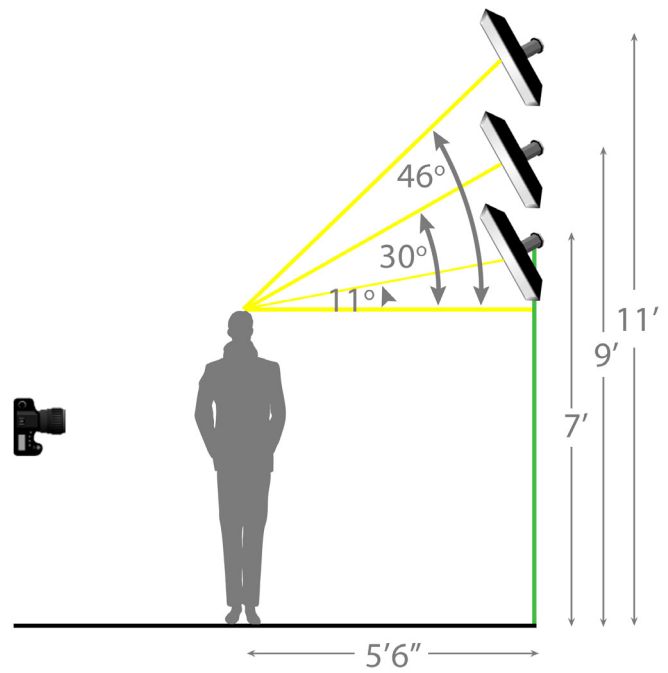


Figure B

Ideally, an angle of 45 degrees from subject head to hair light should be maintained for optimal, clean KO. This could require moving the hair light when shorter or taller subjects need to be photographed or when subjects change from a standing to a seated position.

In many cases it is not feasible to raise the hair light 10 or 11 feet up, so booming out the light is the only solution. Having the hair light approximately 1/2 the distance between the subject and the background should create enough of an angle that there is no problem.

In Figure C below, the hair light is positioned at the same height, but as it is moved away from the background, the angle increases.

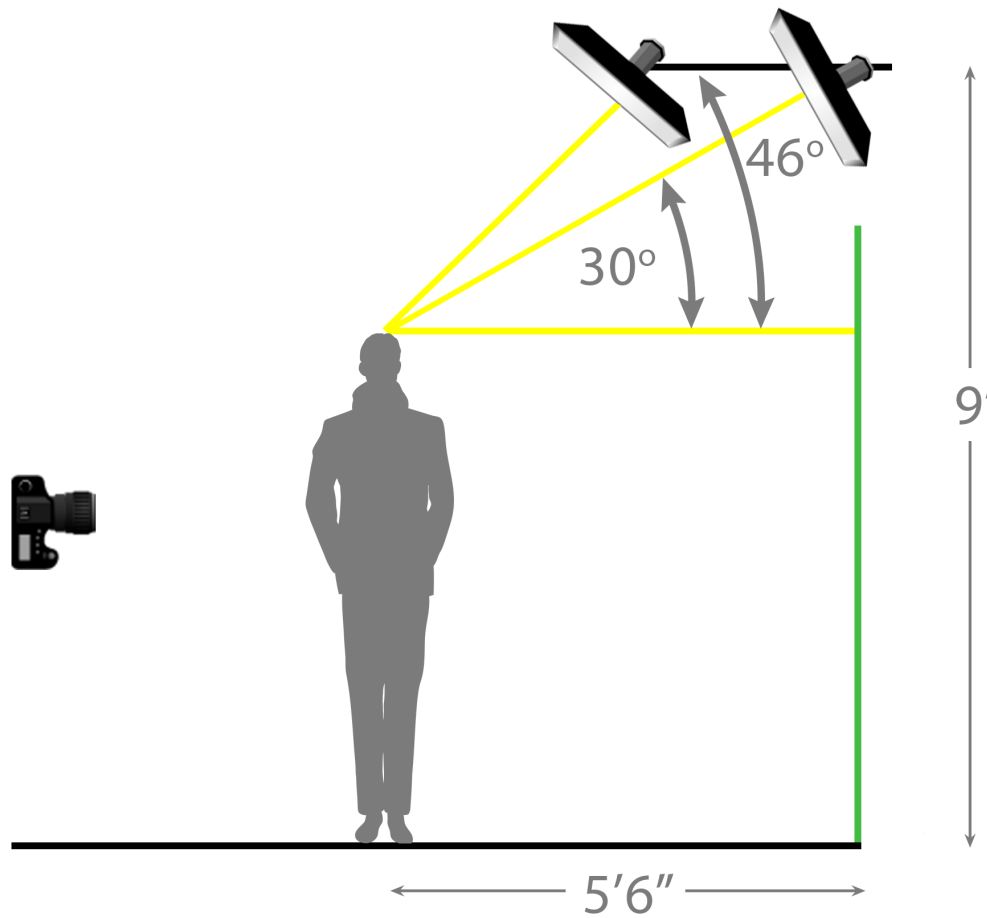


Figure C

When testing it is important to test as you are planning to shoot including the hair light. Use test subjects that are similar in height to your actual job. Sitting/standing, head and shoulders, 3/4 length, all can vary the results and impact your final product!