



Portrait Photography

**Using the MegaVision E4 Digital Back
and Westcott Spiderlites**







We used a greenhouse as a location since our studio has low ceilings and is not well set-up for portrait photography. Plus a studio is kind of dull. In the greenhouse we used only natural backdrops: we did not move anything. Lighting was with two Westcott Spiderlites.



These almost antique Hasselblad ELX cameras are not easy to focus, even with a Beattie screen. We would recommend a camera that is easier to focus, but since we have two old ELX bodies from decades of shooting with film, this is what we had available. The MegaVision back works on most medium format bodies.



The Westcott Spiderlites are fluorescent and thus create a cool light. Tungsten in a greenhouse would have been too hot (on the plants and on the model). I prefer not to use strobes since with a real light I can see the results in advance.







Contact sheet from the shoot. The bars across some images are when we tried to shoot too fast. The camera system needs time to cycle through a shot before trying to do a second shot. Once you are aware of this, you can avoid the lines. Plus you can see them in the LCD and just delete them, and take a substitute photo on the spot.



Karalynn Repie Photographs model Katie Norman.



Because of tables and edges for the plants, we could not always move the lights close to the model. Since the fluorescent lights are not hot, there is no limit to how close they can be (except if you have an obstacle, such as in this greenhouse).

Even though the lights had to be relatively far from the model, they provided enough light. We shot close to wide open and the model had to hold still to avoid blurring her image. But as you can see, the portraits turned out just fine.

Photographers who are entering the digital world should seriously consider fluorescent lighting. These lights are especially kind to the subjects, both plants and people.



This is one of the Westcott Spiderlites that we used during the photo shoot.



Paul Clark, President of SFC Graphics and Nicholas Hellmuth looking at the results. At PMA it was possible to have some prints done on a Noritsu printer and others done with a Durst printer.



Acknowledgements

FLAAR would like to thank Ken Boydston and Richard Chang for providing the MegaVision E4 camera back for evaluation.

We thank Westcott for providing the Spiderlites. You can learn more about these at:

www.FJWestcott.com

You can obtain further information on MegaVision and their products by visiting their website at:

www.mega-vision.com

You can see these products in person at PMA, PhotoPlus, and some other photography trade shows.

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