

Browsing internet photo-communities or talking to photographers musing about buying into studio flash equipment, it doesn't take long and they shoot one question at you:

What can one do with this or that light former?

Nice catalog pictures tell nothing about the results one can reasonably expect, let alone how well it will work for the aspiring studio operator's requirements. Even skilled professionals don't know the effect of each and every light shaping tool.

This is where this document starts. We show almost every Hensel light former from our vast portfolio under repeatable field conditions.

The studio set up is listed below:

We put up a gray backdrop in the studio, because gray shows best gradual shadows and contrast.

The backdrop is 2,75m/9ft long and we put it up with the top ending at a height of approximately 2,7m/8,9ft.

The model's position is 2,5m/8ft away from the backdrop which in turn is approximately 2m/6,5ft away from the back wall due to room requirements of the tripod. The red marks on wall and floor are 0,5m/1,6ft apart. The light former is always positioned with its front edge 2,5m/8ft away from the model and the center of the light former is on the same level as the forehead of our model. The distance between front edges of the light former to the back wall is about 5m/16ft. The position of the model is slightly out of lens axis, which allows us to judge nose shadow and light/shadow transition in general. The whole scene is recorded with four cameras from different angles.

The power setting was adjusted for every Lightformer so that a correct exposure was obtained at f 8.0. We used a Hensel Strobe Master flash meter for precise measurements. The main new feature of this meter is an integrated radio trigger and remote control compatible with the Hensel Strobe Wizard Plus system, allowing us to work much faster.

Additional meter readings were taken at the right and left edge of the backdrop at a height of 1,5m/5ft above ground. This gives an impression of the falloff to the edges of the light beam. The power that was needed to achieve f 8,0 on the model is stated for every Lightformer. This offers a basis for calculation according to your personal wishes for depth of field and room conditions. One f-stop more means doubling power (Ws) and vice versa.

Color balance on all cameras was set to factory preset „Daylight“ (sun symbol) picture style „Neutral“. Except for scaling there was no post processing involved.

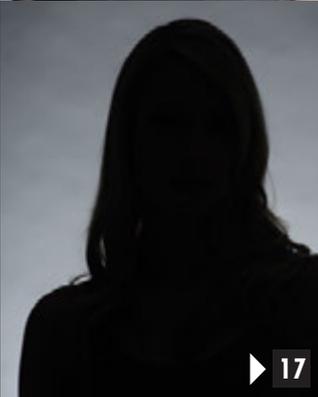
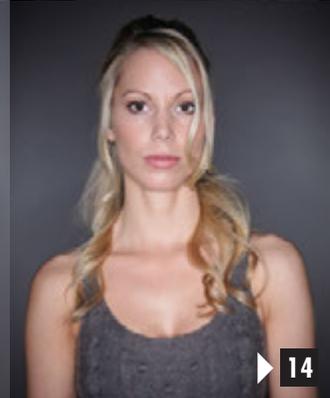
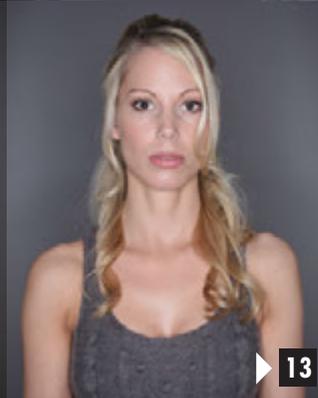
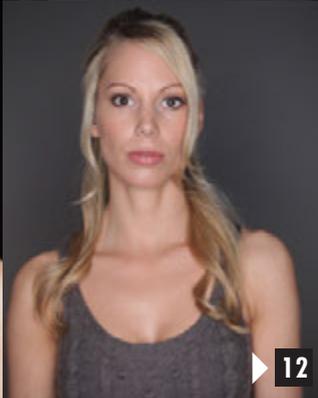
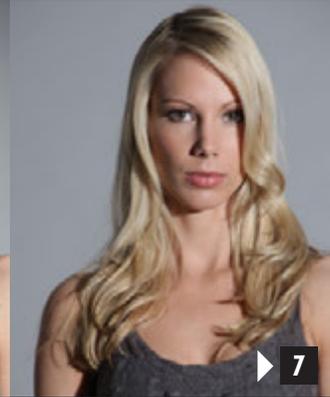


Special thanks to Michael Quack, Head Of Photography, Visual Pursuit GmbH Düsseldorf, www.visualpursuit.de who developed the set up and took all the pictures

The pictures in detail:

- 1** The effect of the light former shown on a portrait. Canon EOS 5D Mk III with EF 4.0/70-200mm lens at 200mm focal length. Distance from the model to camera 9ft. ISO 100 / f 8.0. Distance from the model to front edge of the light former is 2,5m/8ft.
- 2** The effect of the Lightformer shown on a full length figure. Canon EOS 5D Mk II with EF 4.0/24-105 mm USM IS L at 50 mm focal length. Distance from camera to model 11ft. ISO 100 / f 8.0.
- 3** The set from above. The sharpness, edges and spread of the shadow behind the model can be judged very well. Canon EOS 1D Mk II with EF 4.0/17-40mm lens at 17mm focal length. Distance from Model to camera 4,5m/15ft. ISO 100/f 7.1.
- 4** The set from above left. The edges of the light beam are clearly visible and the amount of stray light that the Lightformer produces can be estimated. Canon EOS 450D with EF 3.5-4.5/0-22mm at 10 mm focal length. Distance from camera to mode 15,5m/18ft. ISO 100/f 8.0.
- 5** Same as image 4, with an added exposure by a Hensel EH Pro Mini 3000 flash head attached to a Hensel Tria 24SF power pack bounced over the ceiling. This basic exposure alone would have been sufficient for f 4.0. This is two stops below the main exposure and shows the setup areas that would otherwise get no light. Also here are the power values that this light former required in order to achieve f 8.0 on the model and the meter readings from the left and right edges of the backdrop.
- 6** A picture of the light former, including information of the meter readings at the metering points.

* Due to the longer period of time the pictures were taken cameras and lampheads may differ from one set to another.





Porty Lithium 12, power delivered 280 Ws

Meter reading

① f=8,0, ② f=5,6 +2/10, ③ f=5,6 +6/10





Porty Lithium 12, power delivered 849 Ws

Meter reading

① f=8,0, ② f=4,0 +6/10, ③ f=2,8 +7/10





Tria 3000 AS, power delivered 700 Ws

Meter reading

① f=8,0, ② f=4,0 +9/10, ③ f=5,6 +5/10





Tria 3000 AS, power delivered 700 Ws

Meter reading

① f=8,0, ② f=4,0 +8/10, ③ f=5,6 +5/10



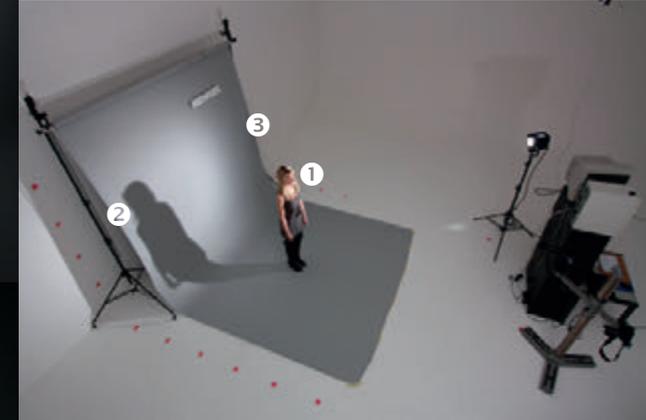


Tria 3000 AS, power delivered 700 Ws

Meter reading

① f=8,0, ② f=4,0 +8/10, ③ f=5,6 +5/10





Tria 3000 AS, power delivered 326 Ws

Meter reading

① f=8,0, ② f=4,0 +5/10, ③ f=1,4 +7/10





Tria 3000 AS, power delivered 175 Ws

Meter reading

① f=8,0, ② f=4,0 +8/10, ③ f=2,8 +7/10



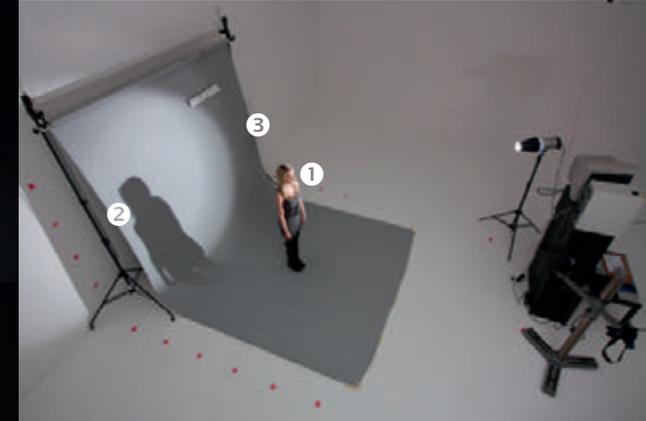


Tria 3000 AS, power delivered 31 Ws

Meter reading

① f=8,0, ② f=4,0 +1/10, ③ f=1,0 +6/10



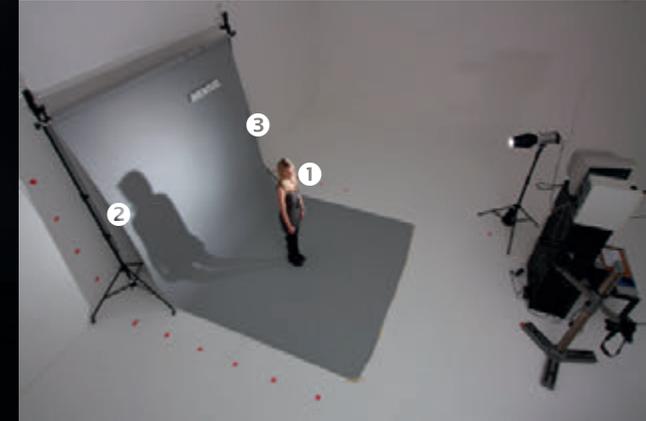


Expert Pro Plus 1000, power delivered 1000 Ws

Meter reading

① f=8,0, ② f=4,0 +5/10, ③ f=1,4 +1/10



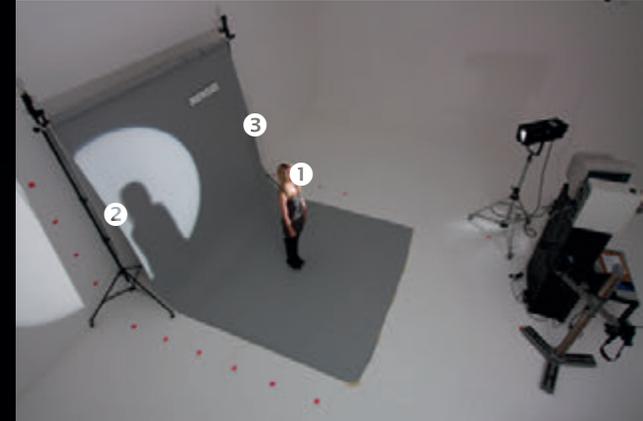
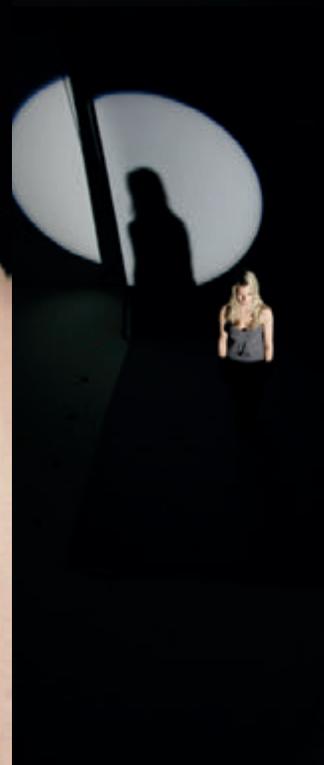


Expert Pro Plus 1000, power delivered 812 Ws

Meter reading

① f=8,0, ② f=4,0, ③ f=1,4





Tria 3000 AS, power delivered 3000 Ws

Meter reading

① f=8,0, ② f=4,0 +6/10, ③ f=1,0





Porty Lithium 12, power delivered 114 Ws

Meter reading
① f=8,0, ② f=2,8 +1/10, ③ f=2,0 +9/10



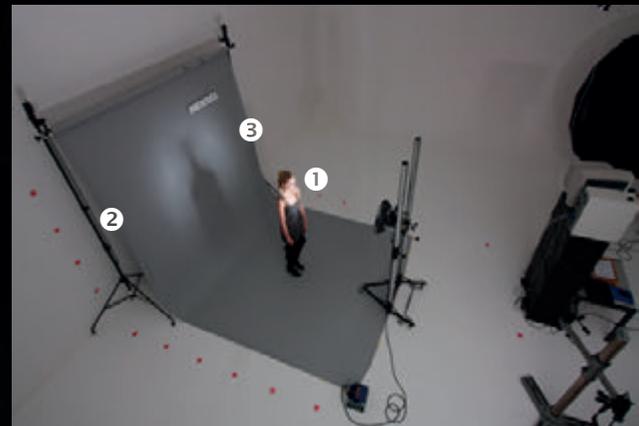


Porty Lithium 12, power delivered 185 Ws

Meter reading

① f=8,0, ② f=2,8 +9/10, ③ f=2,8 +8/10





Porty Lithium 12, power delivered 424 Ws

Meter reading

① f=8,0, ② f=1,0 +4/10, ③ f=1,0 +4/10



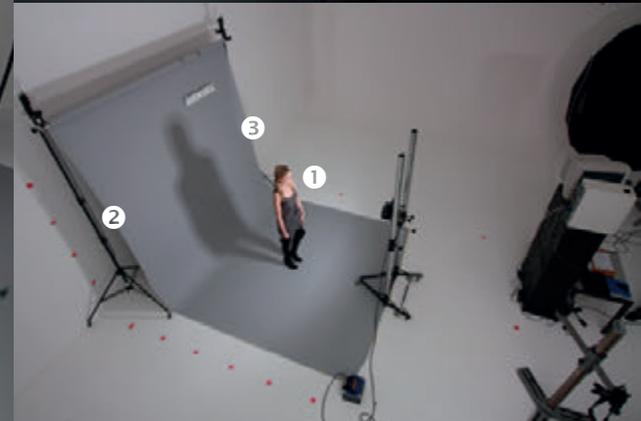


Porty Lithium 12, power delivered 185 Ws

Meter reading

① f=8,0, ② f=4,0 +5/10, ③ f=4,0 +6/10





Porty Lithium 12, power delivered 53 Ws

Meter reading

① f=8,0, ② f=2,8 +4/10, ③ f=2,8 +4/10





Expert Pro Plus 250, power delivered 77 Ws

Meter reading

① f=8,0, ② f=2,0 +1/10, ③ f=2,0 +5/10

