

Dan Brody's Perfect Camera Room

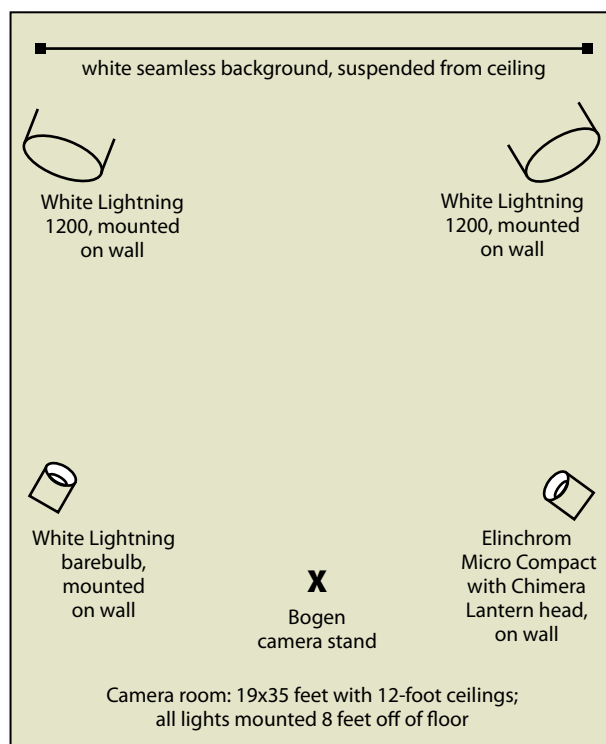


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"I have the dream camera room," says Dan Brody. "The dimensions of the room are 19x35 feet, with 12-foot ceilings. I have a Photo Tech motorized seamless paper backdrop with four rolls of white paper suspended from the ceiling. And I have four lights permanently mounted at eight feet high: two for background and two to illuminate people." For subject lighting, Dan uses a combination of barebulb and the more diffuse Chimera lantern to "capture details beautifully with softness." Asked to comment on his camera room and lighting set up, Dan says simply, "It just works."

Dan's studio setup is dialed in so he can photograph any size family with the same lighting. The high-key, barefoot, full-length family approach is his studio's signature portrait and has helped make Dan Brody Photography a staple in the Philadelphia area.

Dan takes an emotional, intuitive approach to finding the perfect shot. "I'm not really looking for the perfect picture," he says. "I'm anticipating it. My approach is that I will think the moment is coming, and I'll know a second from now. But if I wait until I see the perfect moment, I'll miss the shot." What is the perfect moment, and how does Dan know it's coming? "The perfect moment is usually not posed and is something kind of unconscious, when the people I'm photographing are engaged with each other rather than looking at me," Dan explains. "They'll say 'Oh, I wasn't ready for that,' but it's exactly that particular image that will really capture the relationship of the family. I call it 'weaving,' and really, to a large extent, my job as the photographer is to find ways to wrap my subjects together through communication and touch. My as-



sumption is always that there is love in this family, and I look for the emotional thread that ties them all together." 