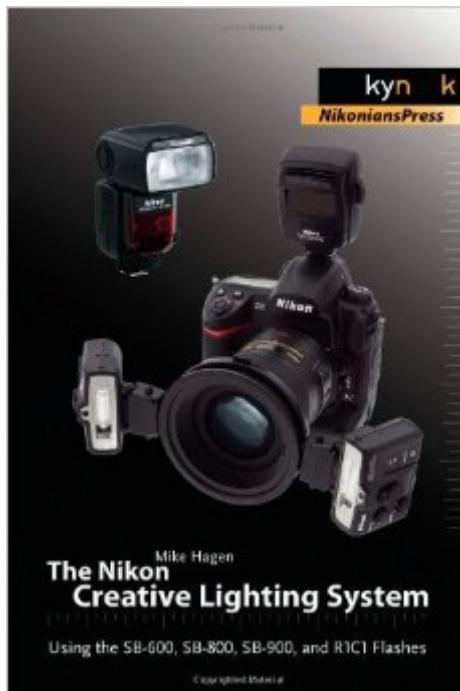


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# The Nikon Creative Lighting System: Using The SB-600, SB-800, SB-900, And R1C1 Flashes



## Synopsis

Flash photography, especially advanced light modeling with modern iTTL flash systems, has become an art by itself, which should be mastered by every aspiring amateur photographer - and even professionals are often helpless when it comes to using the full potential of these systems. Many photographers are already well versed in photography but don't have a clue about flash photography. It is a brand new world, so the book starts at a basic level and then moves up from there so that advanced users also gain insight. The book shows a simple, step by step method for setting up and using the newest Nikon iTTL flash units. It solves people's frustrations with flash and specifically, shows them how to use their SB-900, SB-800 and SB-600 strobes. It also has a complete chapter showing system configuration so readers can duplicate the photos on their own. The book teaches everything you want to know about using Nikon's iTTL flash system. It shows all the steps required to set up consistent and amazing flash photos.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Amidst all the hype about megapixels and flicker, a new technology seemed to slip in under the radar. The Nikon Creative Lighting System (CLS) arrived and gave users of the brand an unprecedented way to control large numbers of lights with an ease that would help to make better images (whatever better means). Lots of Nikon flash guns, or speedlights as they are now called, could be spread around a subject and fired again and again, while the photographer looked at

resulting images on the camera monitor and adjusted the speedlights without ever leaving the shooting place until the photographer got just the lighting desired. Unfortunately, with this increase in versatility came an increase in complexity. It's this complexity that Mike Hagen is attempting to deal with. The book includes chapters on the CLS system and flash theory in general; the buttons, modes and operations of each of the speedlights in the system, including the SB600, SB800, SB900, the SU800, the SB200, and the R1C1; the capabilities of the Nikon cameras that are integrated into the CLS system; batteries; and technique, including some examples of the use of the system. The author aims primarily at the functions of the equipment rather than applications about which there is little discussion. For example, multiple flashes are quite useful in lighting interiors but there is no mention of this in the book. Nikon actually provides a pamphlet with their speedlights that does a better job of showing applications. Unfortunately, the author often shows a lack of precision in discussing topics.

The detail in the book on how to operate the functions of each flash unit is explained well and there were several useful tables of information. I liked the author's writing style and sense of humor yet even though he obviously knows his material, I feel like I need to get another reference for more info on how CLS works and how to set up multiple flash arrangements. Of the 16 chapters only one covers case studies and examples on how to set up and use multiple flashes using CLS. The author didn't follow a standard format for each case study so the level of detail provided for each example is different. The most annoying part was that this chapter doesn't show clearly how the flashes are positioned to create the example photo (and that makes a big difference in being able to get the result shown). I've seen other books and web tutorials use diagrams and drawings to show where flash units would be positioned to create the image but those are absent from this book. The final photo is shown and a long list of settings is provided but positioning is critical in a book about lighting and here the author chose to describe it in words instead of using illustrations. For example "The SB-800 key light on the left side was set for CH2..." The term, 'key light' is not defined and 'left side' is a relative term and I couldn't tell if it was left side from the reader's perspective or left side of the model in the photo. In a different chapter, the author actually shows a photo of the lighting equipment with the subject posing in the photo but again the figure is not adequately labeled and in his explanation "Group A is on the left, Group B is on the right, and Group C is behind the subject" I was only able to identify the Group C set of flashes.

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