

# Photographing People Outdoors

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# Introduction

A question was asked of me: what do you use to shoot people outdoors? To that end, I have assembled one configuration and will outline the details.

Many of the items you can get from Amazon.com or eBay for a modest cost.

## Image (1) - Listed Items

### 1. Universal Cloud Dome Flash Diffuser

I got this from Amazon.com for \$9.58. The diffuser softens the light from the flash when it hits the subject. This diffuser came with an orange filter and a silver focuser. I have yet to use these. The diffuser attaches to the flash using a velcro compression strap. I use a bit of tape to secure it.

### 2. TTL FLASH Remote Cord Nikon SB-900 SB-800 SB-600 SC-28

I got this from eBay for about \$15. This is basically an extension cord for the flash to the hot shoe. All of the signal(s) are passed, so you can use a full range of TTL.

### 3. Nikon SB-600 Speedlight Flash for D300 D3000 D5000 D90

The latest is the SB-900, but I was able to find a used SB-600 on eBay for much less money.

### 4. Pro 1/4" Tripod Screw to Flash Hot Shoe Mount Adapter

The L-bracket has two clips welded to it that are like a hot shoe connector. I wanted to connect my flash to the TTL cable, and the bottom of that has a standard 1/4" thread hole. So, for about \$3.00, I got this adapter. It came from Korea.

## 5. L-bracket with 2 Standard Flash Shoe Mount

This attaches to the bottom of the camera in the 1/4" tripod hole. The bracket allows you to mount a flash off-camera. A flash mounted directly to the hot shoe of the camera is in the same plane as the lens, which makes for flat looking shots. Having the flash off to the side allows for shadow "modeling." This gives depth to the subject. For even more depth, I could mount the flash on the other clip on the L Bracket; however, I find the configuration unstable.

## 6. Nikon 35mm f/1.8G AF-S DX Lens for Nikon Digital SLR Cameras

I got this prime 35mm lens new from Amazon.com for about \$200. It's a fast F:1.8! The images are crisp. Since the Nikon D300s has an APS-C sensor, 35mm gives an effective focal length of 52.5mm. Thus, there are no distortions like you get from wide angle lenses. The camera effectively sees what your eye sees.





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# Tone Garot Photography

Seeking art through a camera

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## About Tone Garot

For me, photography started as a means to chronicle and share my many and varied excursions including desert hiking, peak bagging, caving, and exploration of Mexico. For approximately a decade, I shot only point-and-shoot cameras, starting with film, then switching to digital. Although I did do some post-processing (cropping, auto-levels, sharpen edges), I never really took photography seriously until July 2010 when I bought my first DSLR.

Having a technical background, I rapidly learned the ins and outs of camera basics, lenses, exposure, tripods, etc. I also picked up post-processing quickly.

I spent a lot of time shooting and a lot of time post-processing, all the while experimenting and discovering a whole new world of possibilities. I soon realized that knowing how to use a camera isn't the same as knowing how to take a good photo. Many, if not most, of my best shots have an element of serendipity, even those taken in my home studio.

I am still learning and haven't chosen a particular adjective to describe what I do yet, i.e. I don't know if I want to be a travel photographer, product photographer, wedding photographer, or what. For me, this is a hobby, a pursuit, perhaps even a passion. I don't want to limit myself yet with adjectives.

