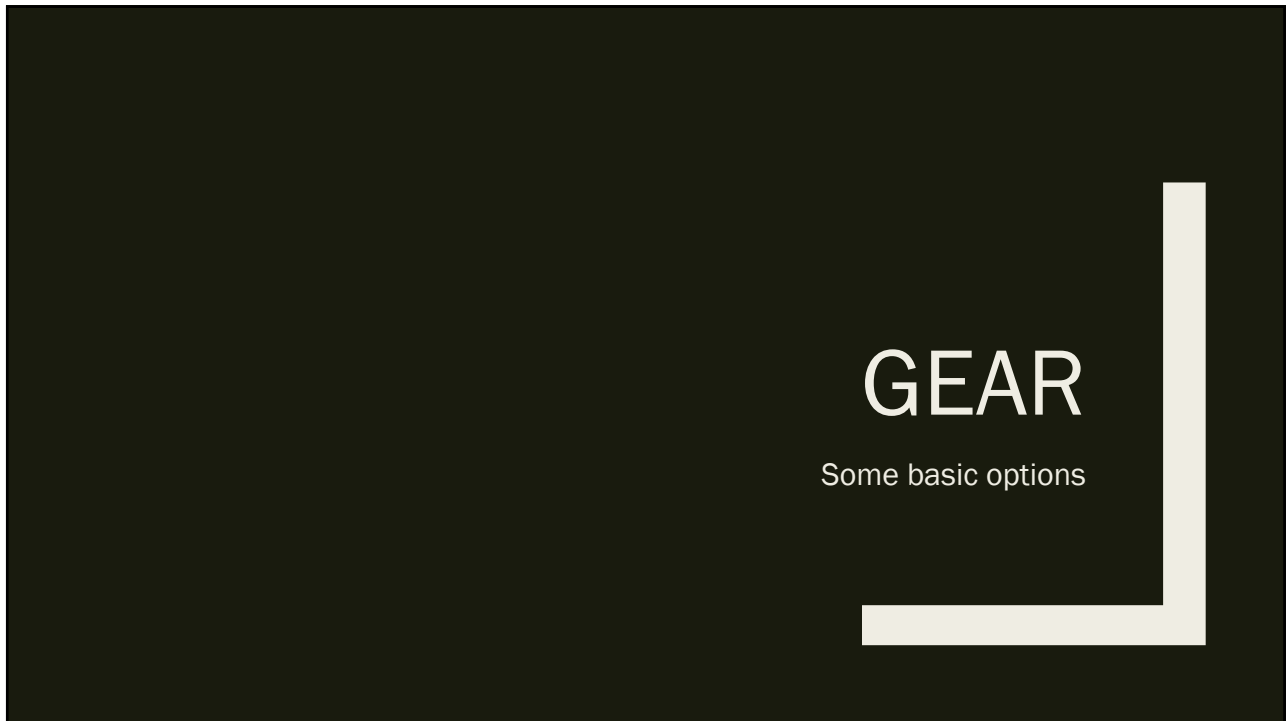


1



2

## Light Pad

- Slide sorting box works
- Light pads have more uniform light
- Desirable features:
  - *Larger is better*
  - *LED*
  - *Dimmable light*
- Various sizes and configurations
- Cost under \$100
- Amazon has good selection

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## Camera Support

- Need to hold camera in position
- Copy stand works well
- Tripod will work also

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## Lens

- Prime lens preferred
- Zoom lenses will creep
- 40-60mm range
- Fixed focus is OK
- f-stop unimportant for time exposures
- Can be a macro lens



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## Tools to Prepare Subjects

- Tweezers
- Sharp scissors or pruning shears
- Sharp knife
- Mandoline
- Dust blower



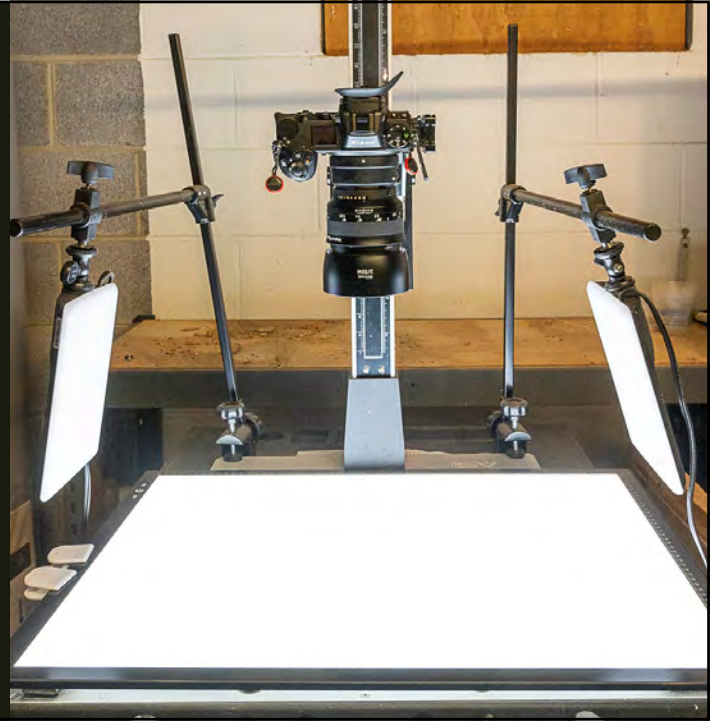
6

# My Setup

Smith Victor Copy stand

HSK A2 Light pad, 18X 25" (\$70)

Zeiss Milvus 50mm f/2 makro lens



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# MAKING IMAGES

Composition and exposure are key

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## Arrange Subjects

- Arrange subjects
- Composition key to great photos
- Some possibilities:
  - *Circles and curves*
  - *Facing pairs*
  - *Mirror images*
  - *Individual subjects*

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## Expose for Post-Processing

- Make multiple exposures (HDR)
- Capture both whites and blacks fully
- 7-9 exposures
- 1 EV difference
- Manual exposure
- Low ISO
- Vary shutter speed
- Keep f-stop constant
- f/8 to f/11 is good
- f/16 to f/22 if more depth of field needed
- Use enough depth of field to capture whole subject depth

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## Some Possible Subjects

- Flowers and petals
- Fruits and vegetables
- Plants and weeds
- Leaves
- Shells
- Items to silhouette

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# PATTERNS AND ARRANGEMENTS

An opportunity for creativity

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**SINGLE SUBJECT**

For example, a slice of fruit or vegetable showing its profile



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**PAIRS OF ITEMS**

Two similar or contrasting items in a facing pair



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**PATTERNS**  
Items arranged naturally,  
in designs, or randomly



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**CIRCLE**  
Arrange items in a circle



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## Other Possibilities

The range is as wide as your imagination

- Fans
- Spirals
- Geometrical patterns
- Pictorial designs
- Extreme close-ups
- Random placement

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## Light Pad Shines Through Subjects

- High key photography
- White background
- Creates more delicate effect
- Reveals internal structure of subjects

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# OPAQUE SUBJECTS

Light pad provides white background

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## Different Procedures Needed

- Need some front lighting to reveal dark subject
- Side lighting will reveal texture
- Light pad is mainly white background
- Light pad may shine through some subjects
- Copy stand with side light panels works well here
- Same exposure methods as for translucent subjects
- Can use raking light of different colors

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# SEMI-OPAQUE SUBJECTS


Need a little side or top lighting to reveal surface color and texture



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## APPLE SLICE

A little side lighting reveals color and texture



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## Bean collage

Depends on top or side lighting to reveal subject colors and texture

Can create silhouettes

Light pad provides white background



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## Tea Leaves

Light pad provides white background

Side lighting illuminates surface



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# POST-PROCESSING

Need a program that allows layers and masks

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## Post-Processing

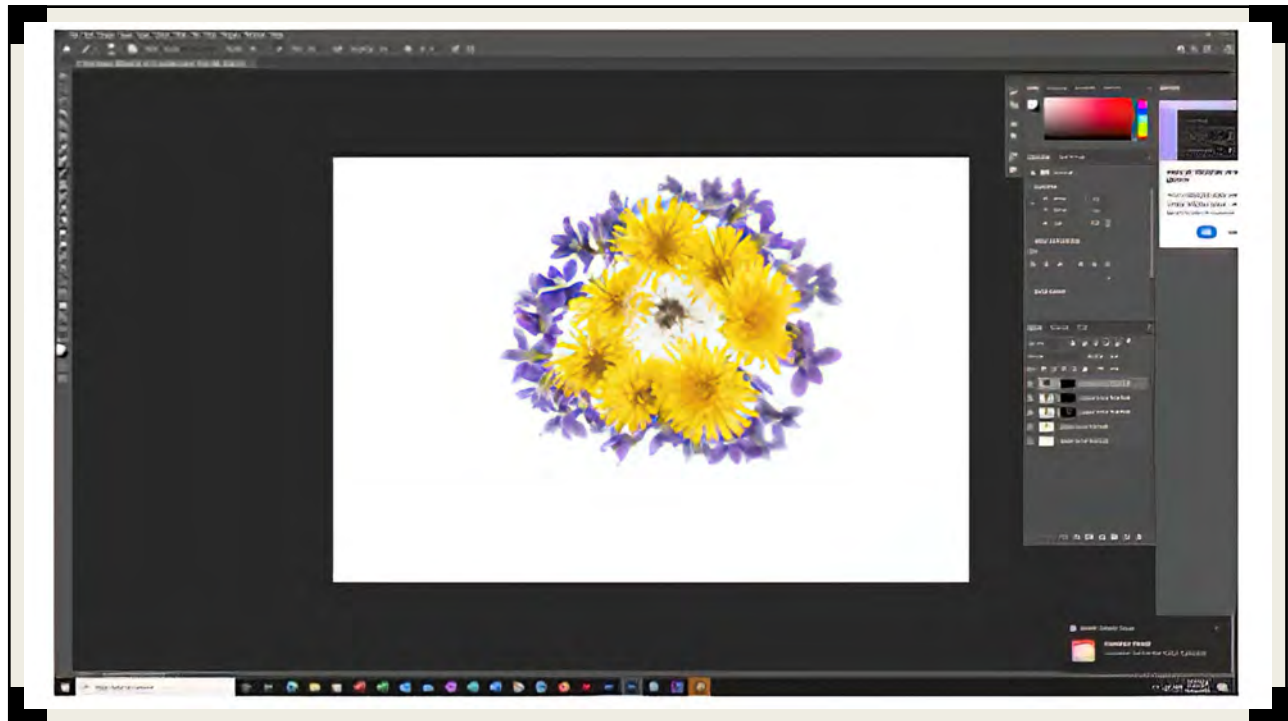
- Edit in program that uses layers and masks
  - *Photoshop*
  - *On1 Photo Raw*
  - *Others*
- Arrange layers by light levels
- Create an HDR composite
- Import into Photoshop as layers
- Put lightest layer on bottom, darkest on top
- Use “hide all” layer masks to paint in each layer with white
- Blend in the HDR composite if desired

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## Editing in Photoshop

- From Lightroom, choose Edit In/Open Photoshop as Layers
- Stack images with lightest at bottom, darkest at top
- Set background layer to lightest image background using eyedropper
- Create “Hide all” layer masks
- Paint in desired features for each layer with white
- Choose soft brush
- Adjust opacity and flow of brush as needed; 50% is good start
- Do not need to use all layers

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# OTHER TECHNIQUES

Some options for advanced processing

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## Swapping Luminosity Channels

- Use Photoshop
- Convert RGB to LAB mode
- Select L (Luminosity) channel
- Invert the channel
- Reconvert from LAB to RGB mode
- Changing the A and B channels can be used to create special effects

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## Luminosity Inversion

Convert RGB to LAB mode  
> Image/Mode/LAB  
Select L (Luminosity) channel  
Invert the channel  
> Image/Adjustments/Invert  
> Or, Cntl-I  
Reconvert from LAB to RGB mode  
> Image/Mode/RGB



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## Monochrome

Some images work well in monochrome  
Convert using your favorite method



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<h2>Harold Davis is a Great Resource</h2> <p><i>Creative Garden Photography</i> has a wealth of ideas</p> <p>Other books on flower photography, Photoshop techniques</p> <p>His YouTube broadcasts give much more detail</p> <p>Zoom training sessions at low cost</p> <p><a href="http://www.digitalfieldguide.com/learning">www.digitalfieldguide.com/learning</a></p>	<p>Creative Garden Photography</p> <p>rockynook Harold Davis</p>
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## Give It a Try

- Get subjects from your garden or yard
- Weeds and grasses from ditches
- Good Covid activity
- Low cost photographic activity
- May already have a good lens
- Used 50mm lenses are cheap