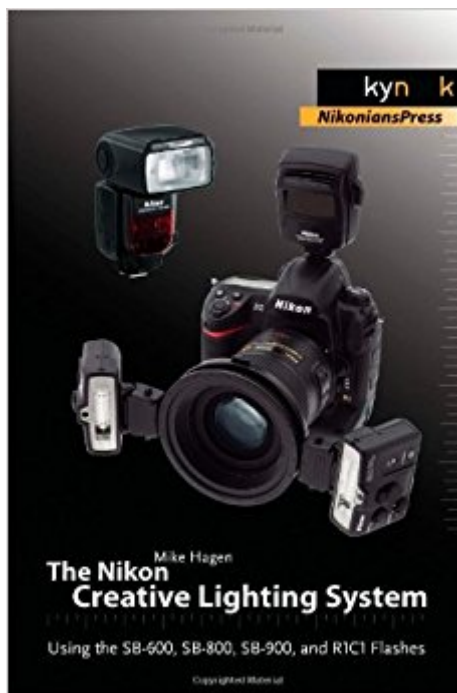




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# The Nikon Creative Lighting System: Using The SB-600, SB-800, SB-900, And R1C1 Flashes



## 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

This book is a simple overview and only does a barely reasonable job of providing dedicated flash operation. Additionally, it glosses over explaining buttons, modes, controls, and operation. The book does help to clarify certain aspects of the overly technical information contained in the owners' manual that Nikon provides with its flash units. However, in-depth samples and illustrations pertaining to the myriad of settings are sorely lacking. If your aim is to understand and set up a

remote lighting system you'll likely find this book useful. If you are looking for a lot of dedicated information for your specific flash unit, look elsewhere. There's no reason why you should purchase a book, read it, and still be left guessing as to how to operate a flash, beyond its basic functions.

If you're a Nikon flash user, you must buy this book. The author leaves absolutely no stone unturned on every minute detail of operation of the listed speedlights. I own the 800, 600 and the SU-800 and thought I was pretty familiar with them until I read this book. It is not a book about creating spectacular magazine lighting set-ups with strobes on top of a skyscraper, if you want that, read the incomparable Joe McNally. This is a book about how to find and use every single feature of the entire Nikon flash system and when to use them and it does it fabulously. It also has numerous recommendations on everything from umbrella holders to rechargeable batteries and there are many detailed lighting examples. A must have book if you use a Nikon flash!!

I've read a number of articles on line and the manual over and over so I had some vague ideas of the concepts already. Let me emphasize vague. This book takes seemingly complicated concepts and explains them in language and examples that made me wonder --"oh that's what the other articles were referring to". Honestly I am still reading the book but so far it's been very easy to read and understand. I'm so excited to finally understand how and why to use different functions. I am a beginner so perhaps you more experienced shooters will not find it as thrilling as me. Very very glad I bought this book!! It's frustrating to buy an expensive piece of equipment and not know how to use it! .....Was Blind but now I see!! How sweet is that!

Mike Hagen has produced an outstanding and comprehensive book on how to use the Nikon CLS system to maximum advantage. It also covers all current Nikon strobes in detail, and the same for Nikon cameras that can use the CLS system. It is written in an easy-to-follow and understandable manner, and makes the set-up and use of the CLS system very easy to master, contrary to Nikon's instructions books which are about as hard to follow or understand as any such instructions I have ever encountered. A really big "plus" for this book is the very high quality printing of both text and photos. Many books of this type fall down on the graphics and photos; this one does not as the graphics and photos are clear, large enough to see easily and demonstrate the function the author is explaining. Last but not least is the author's willingness to respond to emails with specific questions. His email address is in the back of the book. I could not be more pleased.

While Nikon CLS is a really powerful system to take great, near pro level flash photos, the various flash units that fall under the "CLS" umbrella are each unique. Each of the Nikon flashes I have, SB-600, SB-900 and R1 all have completely different controls. I am convinced these were designed in different countries and cultures as the controls for one model has ZERO to do with the others. The Nikon manuals that come with these units are very detailed but there is often no context for the comments. That makes it hard to relate various shooting situations to the methods of how the flash can be used in that scenario. This book is just the opposite. It takes the features and shows examples where they come into play. After reading the sections on my flash units, my shots were clearly better and much less "snap shotish" in appearance. I am convinced the 2 hours it took to read the sections on my flash units has reduced the learning curve by as many weeks. I highly recommend this book.

I was just getting started with Nikon CLS so I was very confused about many things. This book helped guide me through the learning process of the Nikon CLS. I always reference this book and use it along with my owners manual

As a fellow Nikonian, I'd like to say thanks to Mike for making my understanding of the CLS (and the SB600 in particular) a lot clearer. It seems as though every generation of gear gets more and more complex. Yet, the manuals from the manufacturers get more and more useless. This book picks up where the manual doesn't even leave off because the manual never even gets close to explaining the practical aspects of using the system. To put things into perspective, I have about 40 years experience in photography and 30 or so using Nikon equipment. Although I'm more than familiar with using flash in "manual" and "auto", the Nikon CLS only became clear to me after reading Mike's book. If you own, or are planning to buy, a Nikon speedlight, do yourself a favor and order the book at the same time.

Very good read

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