

"THE STUDIO DOCTOR"

Rokunar's Studio Pro System to the Rescue

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PHOTOGRAPHIC'S USER REPORT

We are constantly receiving new and exciting equipment to review for PHOTOGRAPHIC, but many times the packages come unexpectedly. One day the UPS man brought a strange-looking package that we eagerly opened. We removed a long black bag that looked to be a doctor's bag. Actually, the bag contained Rokunar's new Studio Pro multistrobe system, distributed by Aetna Optix, Inc., but we immediately nicknamed the system "The Studio Doctor."

Once we sorted through the bag full of a myriad of gadgets and strobes, we were sure that "The Studio Doctor" could cure whatever lighting problems one could encounter in the studio. We found AC flash units, a softbox, umbrellas, light stands, brackets, slaves, battery packs, snoots, barn doors, power cords, camera brackets, and an assortment of AC sockets. All we needed was a camera, film, suitable background, and a subject to be in the studio lighting business.

The Studio Pro system was designed for the beginning studio photographer who wants a flexible and creative lighting system without having to invest a lot of money. The system offers expandability and versatility with its variety of accessories that allow the photographer to tailor this lighting system to his or her photography.

THE SYSTEM

The Studio Pro 100 seems to be the workhorse of this system. With a guide number of 100 (ISO 100, feet), this small 11-ounce strobe has a standard light-bulb thread on the back, and screws directly into any AC socket. A handy socket clamp that attaches to just about anything, or the light stand socket, are the perfect accessories for the Studio Pro 100. On one side you'll find a red test button. A sync cord is also supplied. A very sensitive slave is mounted on the front, enabling sync from either the master flash on the camera, or another flash in the setup.

A very narrow-beam snoot and conical snoot, with honeycomb, can be easily attached to the front of the Studio Pro 100, to cure your hairlight and

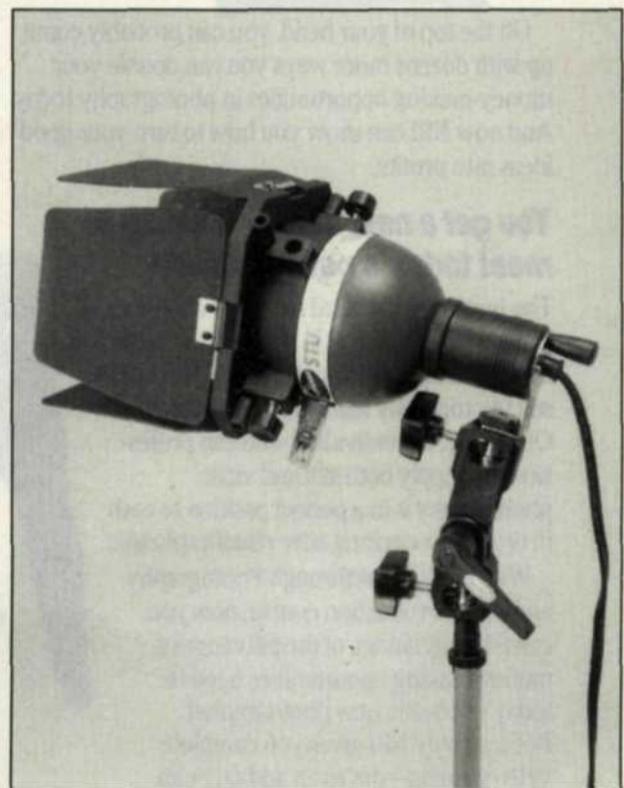
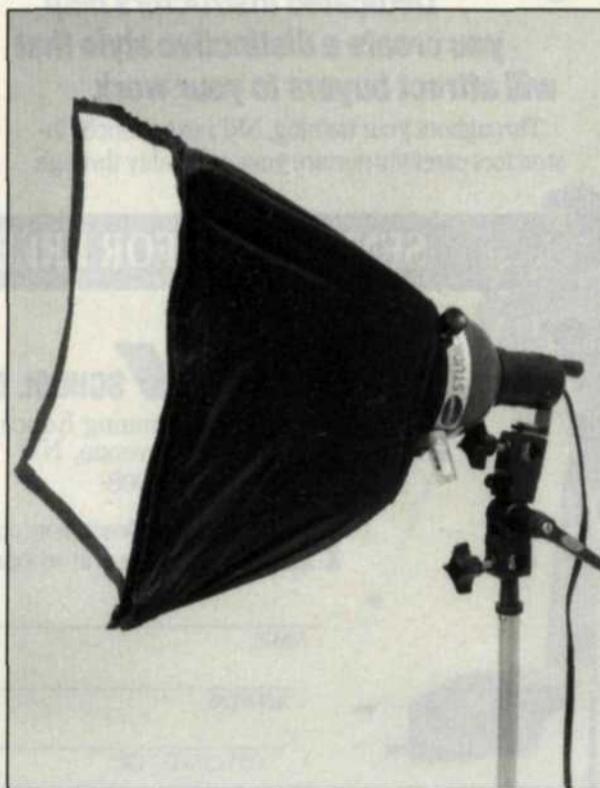
spotlight problems. If more overall control of shadows is necessary, you can attach barn doors to the Studio 100 as a remedy.

Now, if the patient wants shadowless lighting, then we dig a little deeper into the black bag of tricks to find three flat-lighting setups that all work with the Studio Pro 100 flash system. The first and most common is the umbrella. A single adapter fits on top of the light stand. This holds the umbrella through its center, as well as the

Studio Pro flash, which is mounted on top facing into the umbrella.

The universal Diffusion Screen also provides soft lighting effects, and, although extremely compact, it covers a relatively large area. Both the screen and metal frame collapse into almost nothing, and fit into a small corner of the bag. When unfolded, however, these two items fit together to become a very large diffusion setup that offers very soft, yet directional lighting.

The third, and most compact, soft



lighting setup is the softbox. This efficient unit measures 12×12×12 inches when assembled; and when collapsed, it takes up less than one inch of the bottom of the bag. We found this softbox extremely useful for shooting smaller subjects that still needed soft light, but didn't demand a larger soft-light system.

An external slave can be inserted into the flash sync on the side of the Studio 100 flash when it is used with the softbox and snoots. This slave ensures that the flash will fire even if the front slave is blocked.

If you find yourself too far from an AC socket, the flash units can be plugged into a special, portable battery with twin outlets. These run up to four Studio Pro 100s, and provide up to 400 flashes when using a single Pro 100 (or proportionately less with more SP 100s). This battery has its own charger which takes about 8–10 hours to

recharge.

If you are into raw power, then the antidote might be the Power Bank, a device that holds four AC strobes, each with individual control. The power bank can be attached to the diffusion screen or umbrella so that soft, high-output lighting is possible.

A warming filter, UV filter, ND filter, and wide-angle diffuser all attach to the front of the Studio 100 flash, and add to the creativity possible with the Studio Pro 100 flash system.

Aetna Optix also offers smaller strobes, which we found useful for special applications. The Studio Pro Model 72 (ISO 100 GN 72, in feet), is an even smaller AC strobe that screws into any AC socket. This is very useful for copy-stand work, and is a welcome alternative to standard hot copy lights.

The Studio Pro Bare Bulb Strobe is a special, super-wide-angle strobe, primarily designed for interior photogra-

1. The Rokunar Studio Pro multistrobe system comes with everything you need to create professional lighting setups—and it all fits conveniently into a small, easy-to-carry bag.

2. A softbox attachment provides diffused light, flattering for portrait and small-product photography.

3. The adjustable barn doors let you control the lighting to create dramatic effects, or to block the light from reflecting into the lens.

4. When the snoot is placed over the Studio Pro 100, a narrow beam of light is produced, ideal for hairlighting, or highlighting small areas of a subject.

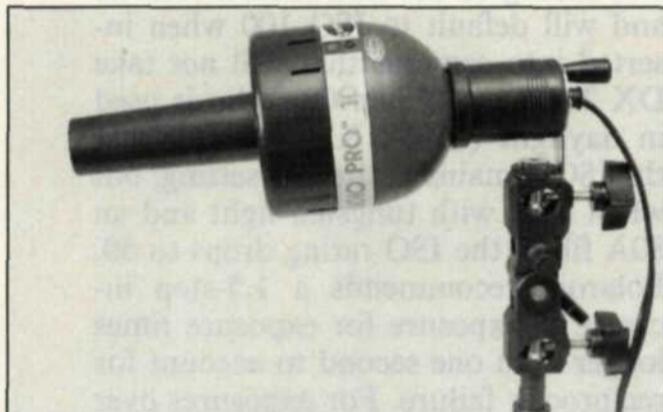
5. The Power Bank accepts up to four Pro 100 units for simultaneous firing, useful when you need to use smaller lens apertures for greater depth of field.

6. The Pro 72 is a small AC strobe that can be plugged into any standard socket and clamped onto just about anything.

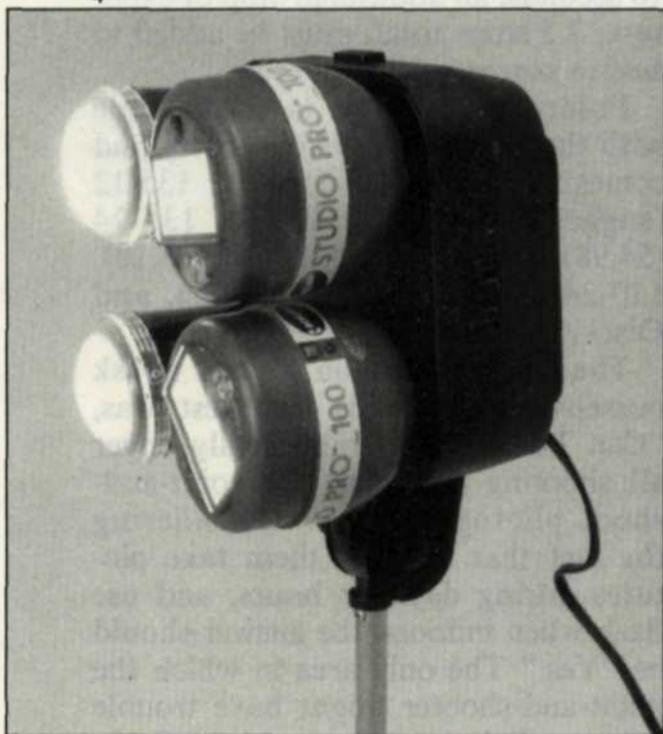
7. The silver umbrella provides a circular reflected light pattern over a fairly large area, and produces pleasing feathered-light effects.

8. The Pro 150 consists of a diffusion screen with four slaved AC strobes surrounding a 60-watt modeling light. It provides variable-power control, and accommodates the umbrella and diffusion-screen systems.

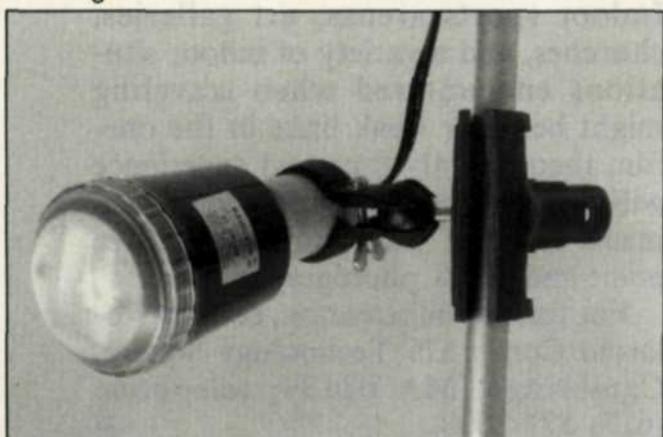
ALL PHOTOS BY THE AUTHORS



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phy. By substituting the daylight-balanced SP Bare Bulb in place of a standard tungsten bulb, you won't have to worry about color imbalances caused by long exposures.

If you are looking for variable power and modeling-light capabilities, the Studio Pro 150 is the answer. The 150 consists of a large diffusion ring with four slaved AC strobes surrounding a powerful 60-watt modeling light. The 150 has its own power cord, slave system, and variable power control from 1/16-power to full power. Indicators on the back of the 150 confirm power setting and flash status. Because of the heat created by the modeling light, a very quiet fan inside the flash keeps the system cool. The 150 has its own barn-door system, and, like the Studio Pro 100, it will accommodate both the umbrella and diffusion-screen systems.

EVALUATION

The Rokunar multistrobe system is a versatile and affordable cure-all for your lighting problems. This is a system that grows with you and your lighting requirements, without emptying your pockets, or taking up a lot of space. We prescribe several Studio Pro 100s, a softbox and umbrella, and an accessory or two...but please don't call us in the morning!

For more information concerning Rokunar's Studio Pro multistrobe system, contact Aetna Optix, Inc., P.O. Box 268, Island Park, NY, 11558; telephone 1-800-645-2645. ■