

Off camera flash

Lighting techniques on photography

Gobos, spots and fulgurators

In the previous post I explained how, from a technical point of view, the [Image Fulgurator](#) had the same function as a spot light, like [Zoom Spot 18-135](#) or a [Mini Spot Lite](#), both from Elinchrom.



Elinchrom Zoom Spot 18-135

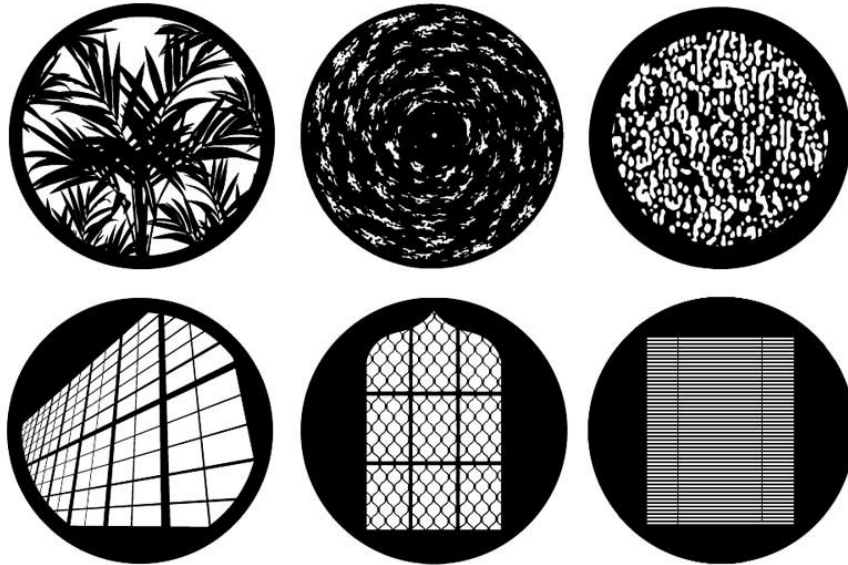


Elinchrom Mini spot lite



DIY Image Fulgurator

The special features of these accessories is that they have an optical part – lens or condenser – that allows that image located between a strobe and the optical part, to be projected in a background. These metallic parts that can be put between the light and the optic, are called Gobos (Goes Before Optics). There is quite a [large variety](#) of options that can emulate venetian blinds, foliage, and stars, among others.



Gobos

On one occasion I used them on a photo shoot for [Clara](#) magazine. It consisted of making a cover on [Araceli Segarra](#), followed by an illustrated article that could be the first of a series of covers, dedicated to prominent women in different professional areas.

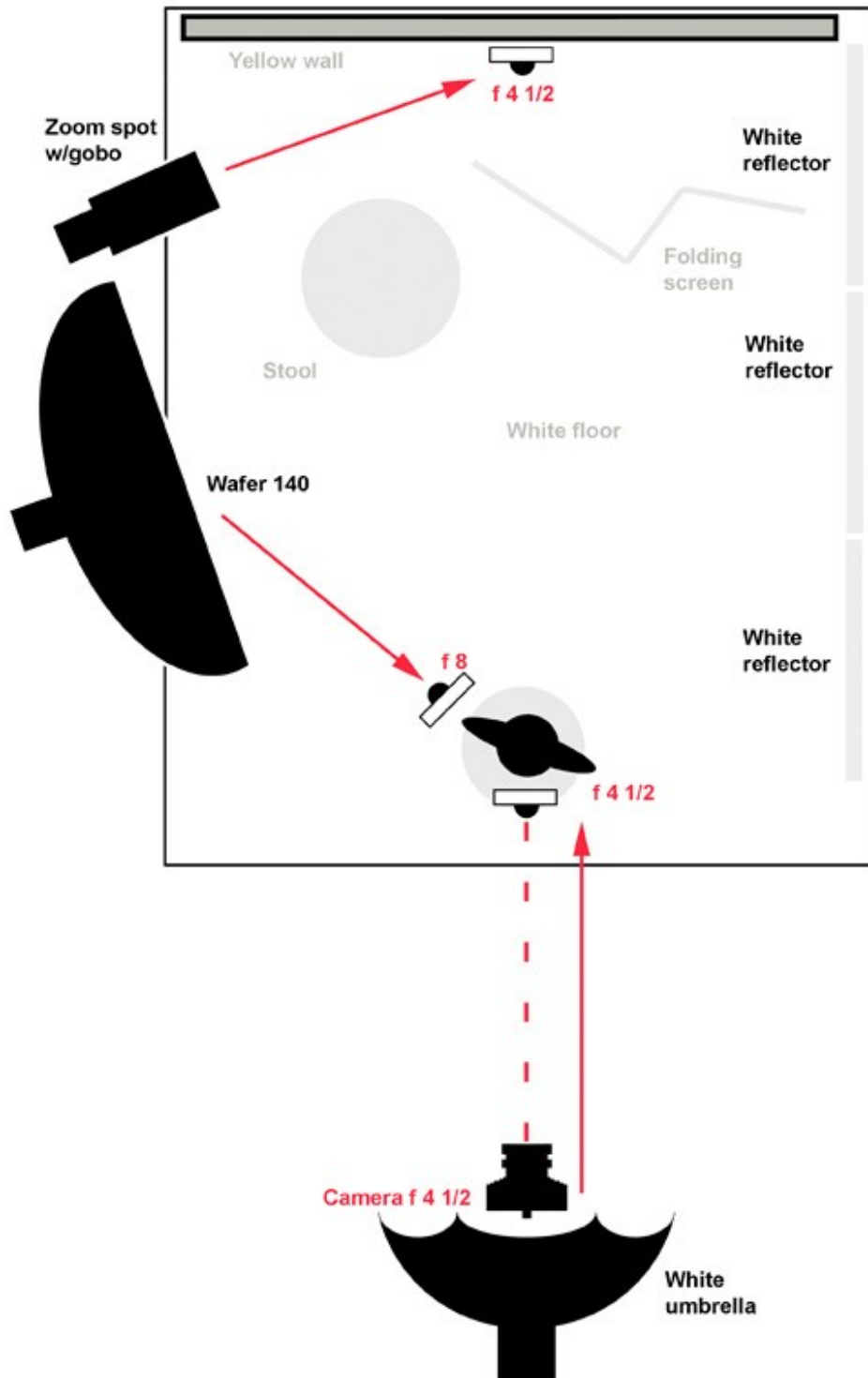
The ambience on the set shouldn't have to have too many elements because any of the pictures could be considered a possible cover. There had to be enough empty space to allow for text and headlines.



It had to look like it was a wide space with natural light. To achieve this, we used a [Wafer](#) big softbox with a [Bowens 1500](#) strobe and the contrast was decreased with three big expanded polystyrene reflectors (Porexpan®, Telgopor®, Styrofoam®, Frigolit®, etc).

A big white umbrella was set above the camera, exposed at $-1 \frac{1}{2}$ EV below Wafer softbox power, to light up Araceli. Finally, an Elinchrom Zoom Spot 18-135 adapted to a Bowens's bayonet was used together with another Bowens torch at 1500 W/s. A gobo with the image of a venetian blind was placed on to the spot light.

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The shot was taken with a Kodak slide film EPP100. In the analogical world a correct exposure and the power ratio correspondence between the strobes ,was key because of the little latitude margin of the slide film, (error margin in the exposure). But also nowadays it is very important a correct exposure in order to the make the most of our raw files.

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