

# Off camera flash

Photography Lighting Techniques

## Not everything is neither light nor Photoshop

Last year in December, I decided to make a Christmas card with a vintage look, in which also the city of Barcelona could be recognized. After giving it quite some thought, I took a picture of the city's amusement park, at the mountain of Tibidabo...adding to the composition a tin Santa Claus!



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Amusement parks are a recurrent subject in my author's work, around which I have two series of photographs. The first one, entitled "[Rodó Park](#)", deals with a fairground where I used to go when I was a child. A few years later went back to the same place to take the series "[Bismarck, el Hombre Araña uruguayo](#)". For years I have been a keen collector of "[tin toys](#)" and thought that a tin Santa could look cool, as if it was another attraction in the park. I browsed in internet and found the perfect one. Once I had it, headed to Tibidabo to take the shoots.

I wanted to work with natural light and waited till dusk to get long shadows with a reddish hue that I needed. To take this picture it was key to match up the perspective in both captures in order to make the photomontage easier for [the retouchers](#).



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Finally, I wanted the picture to have a selective blur that would give it a rather unusual look. Because I didn't want to leave it to be worked at post-production, I thought I would use a tilt&shift or perspective control lens. But, I didn't have any, so I decide to build it myself!

I tried with different old lenses that I have at home. The best one was an old, but excellent Componon 1:5,6/80 enlarger lens. It's medium format ring wouldn't cause vignetting in a 35mm full frame sensor.



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It was time to think on how to make a bellows like the one in optical bench cameras. I looked for it at Aironfix™, ConTact™, (I don't know the name of their equivalents in every country). The most difficult was to wait until the different Canon adapter threads and bayonets arrived from Hong Kong!



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