

# Off-camera flash

Photography Lighting Techniques

## Stiletto, a personal project

Some years ago the Belgian editorial [Tectum](#), that had seen my work in the book "[Nudes Index I](#)", edited by [Könemann](#), invited me to take part in the nude pictures yearbook "[Nude Bible](#)".



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I chose to contribute to it with a more extensive project on the object paraphernalia involved in some erotic and sexual practices. Till the date all my personal projects had been inspired on my childhood and this was my first approach to an "adult" subject. One of the references that immediately came to my mind was the fantastic work of [Helmut Newton](#), who had been my idol in my early youth. Also he work of Jean Loup Sieff, Guy Bourdin or Bettina Rheims, among others, has always been a great influence in my photography. Finally I decided to pay tribute [David Lynch](#) and his emblematic TV series [Twin Peaks](#).

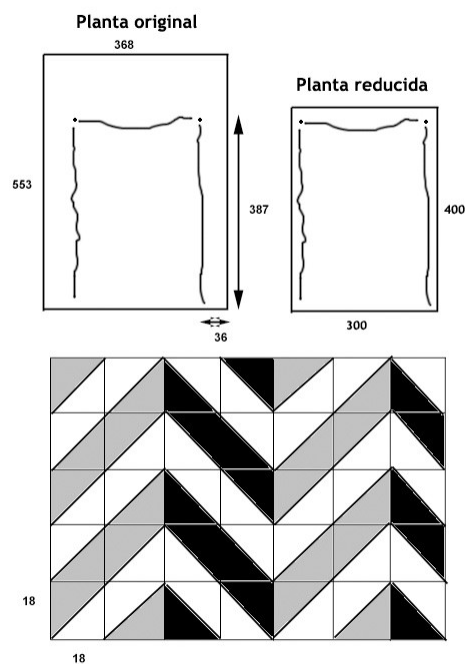
In that TV serie there was one episode that really caught my attention. It was in the third episode from the first season called "[Copper's Dream](#)". In the program the policeman Dale Cooper dreams about the assassinated girl called Laura Palmer, and a dwarf, [The Man from Another Place](#). Everything really seemed to be "from Another Place" and the scenery was the beginning of my personal serie "[Stiletto](#)".



Same way music is an important element in Lynch's work, [Laurie Anderson](#) song "Born, never asked", which [talks](#) about an enigmatic curtain, was my inspiration for this series of pictures.



But let's go back to the lighting! Because my budget was limited and could not afford red velvet for my set, I used a very thin grey fabric, in which I projected red light. I did the same on the floor that had been painted in white, black and grey. To avoid losing the red hue dominant, we directed the main 5500° Kelvin white light only to the model.





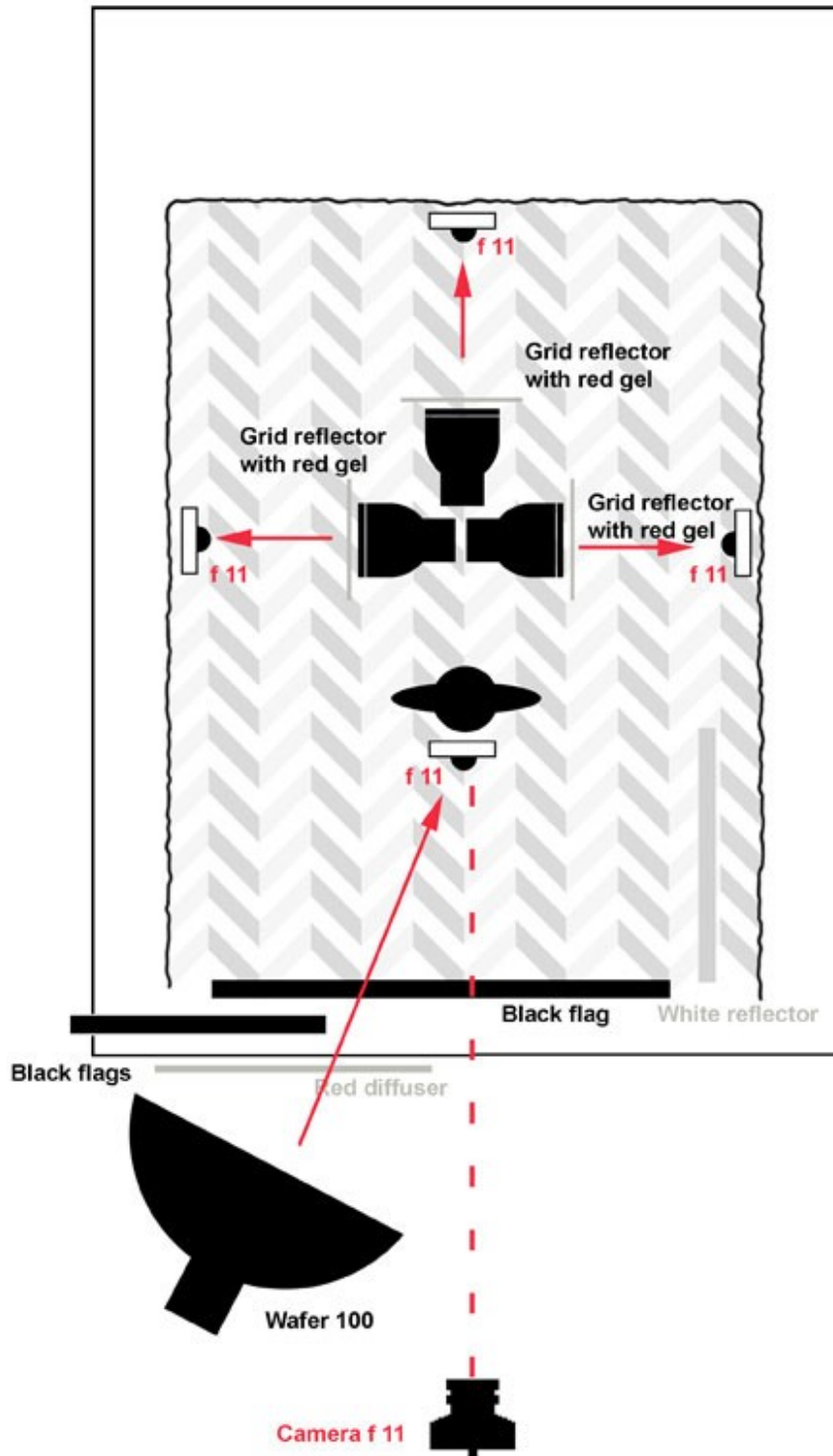
The main light source was a [1000 w/s Bowens](#) flash and for the background there were three [1500w/s Bowens](#) flashes with red gelatins hanging from the ceiling. They were used at their maximum power since red gelatin absorbs more than +1 EV.

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In the wider shoots it could be noticed that the red light projected on the floor looked faded because of the incidence of the main light. This had to be later retouched with Photoshop. This though wouldn't be a problem because we had been using a [Hasselblad](#) with Imacom digital back.







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