

DREAMY HAZE

A Simple 2-Light Setup + A DIY Lens Trick
Lighting Breakdown by Siddology

THE LOOK

The objective was to create a **dreamy, warm and cinematic fashion portrait** with soft highlight roll-off and a hazy atmosphere.

The lighting was intentionally kept simple with just **two lights**. Most of the character comes from the direction of the key light, subtle hair separation and an optical effect created directly in-camera.



01. KEY LIGHT

Light: Nanlite FC-120C

Modifier: Fresnel

Position: Camera left

The FC-120C with Fresnel was positioned on camera left and directed towards the model.

The Fresnel gives a controlled, directional quality to the light, allowing us to shape the face while keeping the lighting relatively dramatic.

The key light creates the primary exposure and gives definition to the face, while the warm colour palette works with the skin tones and white outfit to create the overall cinematic mood.



02. HAIR LIGHT

Light: Simple bowl reflector

Position: Camera left, behind the model

A simple bowl reflector was placed behind the model to create subtle separation around the hair and shoulders.

The purpose wasn't to create an obvious rim light. It was simply there to prevent the darker areas of the hair from disappearing into the background.

Keep this light controlled. The hair light should support the key rather than compete with it.



03. THE SECRET: DIY DIFFUSION FILTER

This is the part that isn't obvious from the final image.

Instead of using an expensive diffusion filter, I used a **simple UV filter** and applied a thin layer of **petroleum jelly around its outer edges**.

The centre of the filter was kept relatively clear.

This creates a beautiful **sharp-to-soft transition**. The centre of the frame retains detail while the edges become hazy and the highlights start to bloom.

The result is a dreamy, cinematic and slightly nostalgic quality created **in-camera**.

Experiment with it

- Thin layer = subtle haze
- Thicker layer = stronger glow
- More coverage = softer image
- Less coverage around the centre = sharper subject

Don't apply it directly to your lens. Use a cheap UV filter that you can dedicate to experimentation.



04. CAMERA SETTINGS

Camera: Canon R6 Mark II

Lens: 24-105mm f/4

Shutter: 1/160 sec

Aperture: f/4

ISO: 2000

These settings were used for this particular frame. Your exposure will change depending on the light output, distance and ambient conditions.

When using a diffusion effect like this, expose while the filter is already on the lens because highlights can bloom significantly once the filter is introduced.



SetMyLight
by Siddology

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 uLightz.com

05. HOW TO RECREATE IT

1. Place your model against a warm or neutral background.
2. Position the FC-120C with Fresnel on camera left as your key light.
3. Place the bowl reflector behind the model for subtle hair separation.
4. Establish your exposure without the DIY filter first.
5. Mount a UV filter on your lens.
6. Apply petroleum jelly around the outer edges of the filter, keeping the centre mostly clear.
7. Shoot a few test frames and adjust the amount of jelly according to the desired haze.
8. Use highlights intentionally. Bright areas will produce more visible glow and bloom.



THE TAKEAWAY

You don't always need more lights or expensive modifiers to create a distinctive fashion image.

This look was created with **two simple lights and a DIY lens technique**.

The real trick is understanding how **light direction, separation, exposure and optical diffusion** work together.

Sometimes the interesting part of a photograph isn't what you add to the lighting setup.

It's what you put **in front of the lens**.

