

CLEAN BEAUTY - SOFT COMMERCIAL LIGHTING

Lighting Breakdown by Siddology

The Look

This setup was designed for a **clean, soft and polished beauty/fashion look**. The goal was to keep the light flattering and even on the model while still maintaining enough contrast to give the images shape.



01. KEY LIGHT

Modifier: Octa with Grid

Position: Just above the camera

The main light is a large **octabox with a grid**, positioned slightly above and close to the camera axis.

The large source gives soft, flattering light across the face and body, while the grid prevents excessive spill and keeps the light controlled.

Keeping the light close to the camera also minimizes harsh shadows and gives the skin a smooth, commercial quality.



02. FILL LIGHT

Modifier: Rectangular Softbox

Position: Just below the camera

A rectangular softbox was placed **below the camera** to lift the shadows created by the key.

This creates a controlled **top-to-bottom lighting ratio**. Instead of eliminating the shadows completely, the fill keeps them soft and clean.

This is particularly useful for beauty and fashion because it preserves facial shape while maintaining a polished skin tone.



03. BACKGROUND LIGHTING

Modifier: Shoot-through umbrellas × 2

Position: Camera left and camera right, aimed at the backdrop

Two simple **shoot-through umbrellas** were used to illuminate the background evenly.

Placing one on each side helps create a more consistent brightness across the backdrop and prevents the centre from becoming noticeably brighter than the edges.

The background was intentionally kept bright and clean to complement the pastel styling and maintain the commercial aesthetic.



04. NEGATIVE FILL

Modifier: Black panels × 2

Position: Both sides of the model

This is the part that gives the setup its contrast.

Two **black negative-fill panels** were placed on either side of the model to absorb unwanted bounced light.

Without the negative fill, the white environment and bright background would bounce light back onto the model from everywhere, making the image flatter. The black panels create controlled shadow and separation along the sides of the body, helping retain dimension even though the overall lighting is very soft.



05. CAMERA SETTINGS

Camera: Canon R6 Mark II

Lens: 24–105mm f/4

Shutter: 1/160 sec

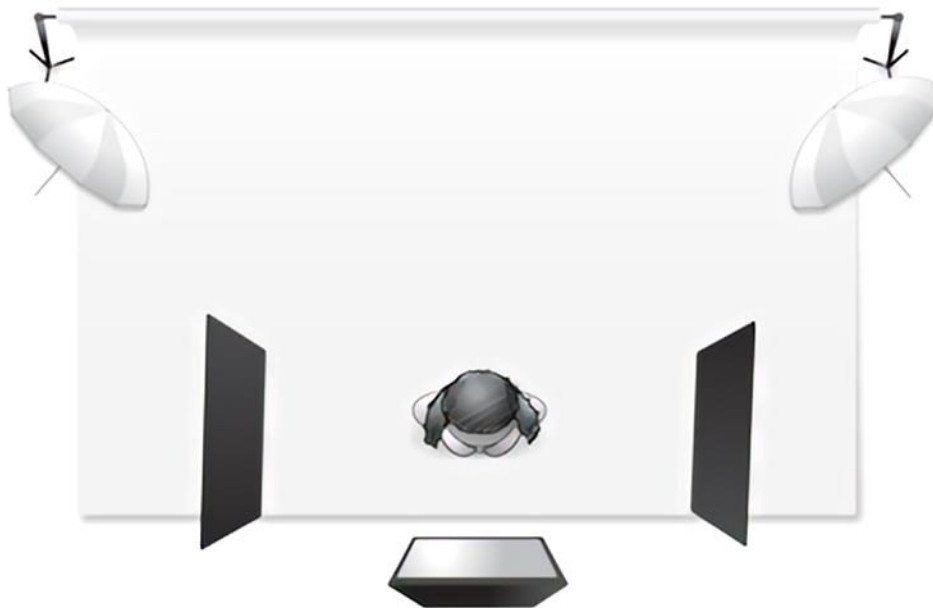
Aperture: f/9

ISO: 200

These settings were used for the shoot.

The **f/9 aperture** provides enough depth of field for full-body fashion frames while keeping the model consistently sharp.

At **ISO 200**, the image stays clean and gives plenty of flexibility when working with powerful studio lights.



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ISO: 200



THE LIGHTING FORMULA

Key: Soft + controlled

Fill: Shadow control

Background: Even + bright

Negative fill: Contrast + definition

The important takeaway is that **soft light doesn't have to mean flat light.**

The octa and softbox create the softness, while the black panels bring back the contrast. The result is a clean commercial image that still has dimension and shape.

Simple setup. Controlled light. Clean result.

