

Corporate Fashion Portrait with Cinematic Background Gradient

A clean commercial fashion setup that combines soft directional lighting with controlled background separation. The octabox provides flattering light on the face and wardrobe, while the hair light and gridded background light create depth without making the image look over-lit.



Light 1 - Key Light

Position: Camera Right, approximately 45° from the model and slightly above eye level.

Modifier: Octabox with Grid

Purpose

This is the primary light shaping the face and outfit.

The large octabox creates soft transitions on the skin while the grid prevents light from spilling onto the background. The result is controlled contrast with crisp directionality—ideal for commercial portraits where you want softness without losing depth.



Light 2 - Hair / Rim Light

Position: Camera Left, behind the model.

Modifier: Standard Reflector with Diffuser

Purpose

This light separates the model from the dark background by adding a subtle highlight along the hair and shoulder.

The diffuser softens the edge of the rim light, preventing harsh hotspots while maintaining clean separation.



Light 3 - Background Light

Position: Camera Left, aimed across the background toward Camera Right.

Modifier: Standard Bowl Reflector with Grid

Purpose

This light creates the cinematic gradient visible behind the model.

Using a gridded reflector keeps the beam tight, allowing only a portion of the background to be illuminated. Instead of lighting the entire backdrop, it creates a controlled pool of light that naturally fades into darkness, adding depth without distraction.



Gear & Camera Settings

Camera: Canon R6 Mark II

Lens: Canon RF 24-105mm f/4

Shutter Speed: 1/160 sec

Aperture: f/9

ISO: 100



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Why This Setup Works

- Soft, flattering facial lighting
- Strong subject-background separation
- Controlled cinematic gradient
- Minimal light spill
- Excellent for fashion, editorial, personal branding, catalogues, and commercial portraits

The setup uses only three lights, but each light has a clearly defined role, making the final image feel much more sophisticated than the lighting itself.



Pro Tip

Many photographers try to create depth by adding more lights.

Instead, control **where light doesn't go**.

Using grids on both the key and background light keeps the scene clean, creates natural contrast, and gives the portrait a premium commercial look.

