

White Balance

White Balance is the first thing I adjust before anything else. If the white balance is off it can mess up a shoot.

The human eye can adjust to the different light sources and doesn't notice the slight hue shifts, but the camera sensor does notice. In general sunlight has more of a blue hue, incandescent lights have a yellowish orange hue and florescent lights have a green hue. The camera needs to be told what kind of light it is so it can compensate for the hue shifts.

I don't use any of the White balance pre-settings. I always adjust after I set my lights and diffusers up. Cameras are different so you'll need to check with your camera's manual to find out how to manually adjust the white balance.

The example photos were shot with 2 incandescent lights. You can see the differences. Even the automatic setting is just a little too yellow.



ISO Settings

The ISO is another setting to control the exposure. It's a lot like the different film speeds. And like film, the higher it goes the grainier it is. I would recommend shooting at the lowest ISO you can. It cuts back on how much noise is in the picture. A high ISO is good for lowlight and action photos. And unless you are running around with your beads at night trying to take photos of them I wouldn't recommend using a high ISO.

