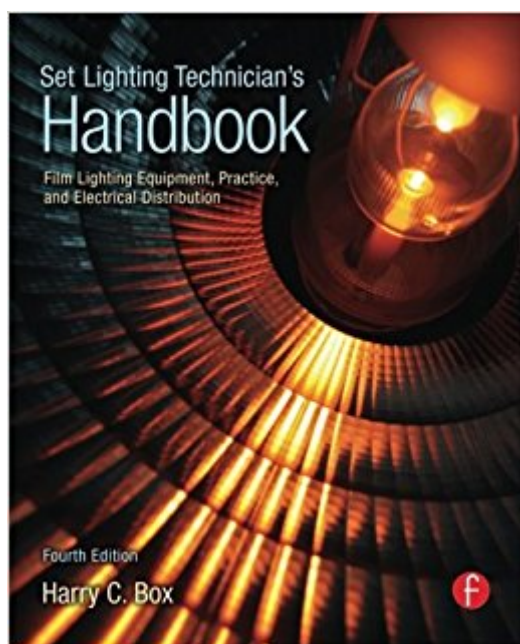


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# Set Lighting Technician's Handbook: Film Lighting Equipment, Practice, And Electrical Distribution



## Synopsis

Comprehensive. Detailed. Practical. Set Lighting Technician's Handbook, Fourth Edition, is a friendly, hands-on manual covering the day-to-day practices, equipment, and tricks of the trade essential to anyone doing motion picture lighting, including the lamp operator, rigging crew, gaffer, best boy, or director of photography. This handbook offers a wealth of practical technical information, useful techniques, as well as aesthetic discussions. The Set Lighting Technician's Handbook focuses on what is important when working on-set: trouble-shooting, teamwork, set protocol, and safety. It describes tricks and techniques for operating a vast array of lighting equipment including LEDs, xenons, camera synchronous strobes, black lights, underwater units, lighting effects units, and many others. Since its first edition, this handy on-set reference continues to be widely adopted as a training and reference manual by union training programs as well as top university film production programs. New to the fourth edition: \* More coverage of the aesthetics of lighting\* Detailed information on LED technology and gear\* Material is harmonized with industry safety and skills training curriculum\* More coverage than ever before about setting up and running DMX512 networks and DMX512 enabled devices, including wireless DMX512 networks\* Completely revised and updated sections of HMIs, tungsten light fixtures, and fluorescent technologies\* Additional information on dealing with current harmonics, working with portable generators.\* New section on using 480V power\* In addition to previsualization software, new material provides a primer on creating professional light plots and using computer aided design software\* New additions to the arsenal of electrical distribution equipment that make our sets safer and easier to power\* More rigging tricks and techniques\* Written in the same friendly, easy-to-read style that has made this book so popular\* Companion Web site contains exclusive articles written by the author, illustrations, and an indispensable resource center with key industry links. Please visit [www.focalpress.com/cw/box-9780240810751](http://www.focalpress.com/cw/box-9780240810751)

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## Customer Reviews

"Harry Box's Set Lighting Technician's Handbook (Focal Press) is a gold mine of information about safety, lighting and studio procedures." - Ron Dexter, ASC

"Harry has taken the mystery out of set lighting for the beginner or pro. Current and includes the most up-to-date tricks of the trade. A book written by a pro who loves and respects his craft and is selfless in sharing information." Mike G. Moyer, gaffer, Steel Magnolias, In the Line of Fire, Ground Hog Day"Box's style is reminiscent of an old buddy showing his best friend the ropes& perhaps the most easily read technical handbook to date& the broadest in scope and coverage, yet carefully covers the essential details." Seth Greenspan, Filmcrew MagazineThe Set Lighting Technician's Handbook is a friendly, hands-on manual covering lighting and rigging equipment, day-to-day practices and tricks of the trade essential to anyone doing motion picture lighting. The book delves into every aspect of lighting: from lighting design decisions to set protocol and teamwork; from rigging safety to equipment troubleshooting; from basic electricity to advanced electrical systems planning. Whether you're a lamp operator, best boy, rigger, gaffer, or director of photography, this trusted, long time industry favorite covers what's important on set.New to the expanded Fourth Edition:\* Expanded coverage of LED lights, lighting control networks, computer applications in lighting, advanced automated and digital lighting devices, creating effects with ellipsoidal spotlights, wet locations and GFCI protection, rigging, dimmer systems, modern battery technology, small generators and much more\*Reflects all the current industry safety standards, guidelines, practices, and codes\*Companion website offers exclusive content, including tables, illustrations, articles, historical information, and more. Please see <http://booksite.focalpress.com/box/setlighting>Harry C. Box has worked in television and motion picture production since 1989. Over the years he has done substantial work as a lighting technician, gaffer, camera operator, director of photography, and as an educator. His recent credits include network and cable television series, such as Heroes (NBC), Brothers and Sisters (ABC), and Everybody Hates Chris (CW). He has worked on major motion pictures, independent feature films, telefilms, documentaries, music videos, commercials, and

industrials.

I have written, produced, or directed nearly 300 corporate videos, and though I'm functional at the aesthetics of lighting a set, I'm woefully ignorant about watts, volts, amperage, foot candles, and most of the electrical side of lighting. I had the privilege of working a shoot with the gaffer who lit the TV show Northern Exposure for four years, so I asked him how I should go about learning the electrical side. He enthusiastically cited this book, and said, "If you read it and actually master it, it will be as though you have five years experience as a gaffer." Though he now has 30 years of experience lighting, he told me he keeps this book on his Kindle to this day in order to refer to all the comprehensive tables in it. I gave it a try, and discovered he is right -- this is an incredibly detailed encyclopedia of everything a lighting technician should know, ranging from set etiquette all the way down to every bulb you can put in a cinema light. The recently updated version includes details on LEDs and on DMX lighting, so it not only spans the gamut of topics; it spans the gamut of Hollywood lighting, nearly from the beginning until now. Some knowledge is required to benefit from the book. A stark beginner will find it too jargony. But if, like me, you have intermediate experience lighting sets and are largely self-taught, this book presents a wonderful way to find out what you were unaware of, fill in the gaps, and have a thorough foundation in the language, processes, gadgets, and techniques that an experienced gaffer should master. By the way, if you don't know what a gaffer is -- the book begins by identifying all the roles on set. Director of Photography, following the vision of the Director, decides what lights are needed. The gaffer is the electrical technician that makes it happen. The best boy is the gaffer's chief assistant. If you've always wondered about both the obvious and the arcane sides of lighting, this is absolutely the book for you. If you know just enough about lighting to get in over your head, grab this book, sign up for Shane's Inner Circle, and get good!

This book covers so much detail of the lighting aspect of film that it's no wonder most refer to it as the must have 'bible' for filmmakers. It's loaded with tons of info, but the downside is that it is not exactly an introduction guide to basic lighting 101; Rather, it is definitely a professional guide and reference tool for folks who already have a clear understanding of lighting, aperture, ISO, shutter speed and the electrical aspect of this craft. However, DO NOT let that scare you off! Just because you're an indie filmmaker on a low/no budget with a single DIY light-kit doesn't make this book an expensive paperweight. The info in this book gives one the solid foundation to improve their skills, no matter what level. Granted there are lots of 'advanced' details, and I would say that a lot of the

ground covered on electricity might be a bit much for those who only use a few lights plugged into a standard socket, however if you're serious about learning the craft, this book covers it. Even BETTER: The chapters that cover lighting, color temperature and gels is an excellent reference tool for the amateur. As lighting kits become more affordable, more people are skipping the DIY work light set up and going with pro kits. The only problem is most folks just turn on the lights without giving much thought to placement, temperature, and diffusion. Too much of the wrong light is just as bad as not enough of ANY light and this book covers more than just the generic "3 point setup" along with the details of placement, rather than just a generic diagram with no explanation. PROS It covers the craft, art and history of lighting in film and how to achieve each look via reference charts and guides as well as detailed info on pretty much every light standard on a set/shoot in today's industry along with more info on electricity and the various tools and equipment used to power and achieve the lighting 'look' and feel for a scene. CONS I can't really list any cons, aside from pointing out that it isn't an introduction to DIY lighting; (which isn't a con since it never implies it as being a guide to DIY) - If you only plan on shooting with basic DIY work lights (and there isn't ANYTHING wrong with that) you will probably find this book is geared more for the pro's - However, even if you can't afford the standard ARRI kits, the info is invaluable and if you're serious about film, this book and the info will go from being foreign techno garble to an invaluable tool. Another plus is the homage and detail it pays to the standard Fresnel and Lowel lighting kits as well as the invaluable info on warming/cooling/converting lights with gels and diffusion. So you don't have a \$100k Grip package? No problem. This book will give you the info and tools needed to crank out shots that will make your \$200 Ebay lighting package look like you have a killer lighting package. I am by no means a pro (at anything) but this book is a must have whenever I tackle a shoot (still or video) where there is a lot of MIXED lighting and not a lot of options for controlling it (or so you think..) - Read the book, practice and tinker with your lights and you will be amazed at the difference after applying some simple knowledge gained from a few chapters in this book.

Whether you already have knowledge of set lighting or just starting out, this book is considered the essential guide for TV, Theatrical and Film Set lighting. Written by longtime cinematic guru Harry C. Box, the book is penned in a casual and easily understandable manner, yet covers all the technical aspects and jargon of film lighting and electrical distribution theory. The book is a complete overview of all lighting practices, associated hardware, techniques and includes information on electrical power systems. Included is a humorous history of TV and Film, an outline of departmental titles, responsibilities and jargon, an overview of the industry's major unions and a complete guide to

professional lighting. Not surprisingly, this book is actually required reading for most lighting and film unions and guilds - it is indeed the essential guide for any aspiring lighting technician. Highly recommended.

I own the original and it has been an invaluable reference over the years. I decided to upgrade and wasn't sure what to expect, whether it would be worth the price or not. I'm so glad I did. The new book is twice the size of the old one. Harry Box really went all out with this upgrade. It's packed full of useful information and it's going to take me a good while to study it all. I'm grateful to have a book like this. It contains things that would take years to learn on the job.

Good for electricians on set as advertised but hoped for some creative lighting ideas not in this book.

Basically just a list of equipment and some technical details of light...

Really really complete (everything you'll ever need to know is in the book) but a bit too dense to read by itself. Most things are learnt better actually handling the equipment and using the book as a mere reference for details.

A very thorough book, and to the point.

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