

## Basic Photo Equipment

**Camera:** Select a camera within your price range, technology changes quickly so don't splurge. Look for a large number of megapixels (4 or higher), manual features and good battery life.

Digital Photography Review [<http://dpreview.com/>]

**Tripod:** The tripod should reflect the size and weight of the camera. A point and shoot can be held with a portable or plastic tripod, an SLR should use a heartier tripod.

Slik Tripods [<http://www.slik.com/>]

Boden Tripods [<http://www.bogenimaging.us/>]



## Basic Studio Equipment

**Backdrop:** A backdrop can be made from a piece of fabric or paper. The backdrop should be long enough to cover the area within the shot behind and under the subject seamlessly (one piece). Neutral colors (white, black, gray) are the most useful.

**Reflector:** A reflector can be made from a piece of cardboard. Reflectors should be metallic silver or white. Use a piece of white foam core or cover the foam core with aluminum foil.

**Diffuser:** The diffuser scatters the light causing it to be less harsh. A mounted piece of vellum can be used as long as it is large enough to be at least 6 inches from the bulb. A professional diffuser is called an umbrella or a softbox.

**Lights:** The most important part of the light you choose is the bulb. The bulb should be tungsten and color balanced for photography (usually called a photo flood). Look for "continuous light" rather than "strokes" as they require additional equipment. Light kits will usually come with a reflector and light stand so they can be positioned accurately.

B&H Photographic [<http://www.bhphotovideo.com>]

Lowel Ego Light Kit [<http://www.lovelego.com/>]

Cloud Dome [<http://www.cloudome.com/>]

