

SETUP TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE

Q: I don't have a good surface or background for my photos. What can I use in the meantime?

A: You can really make use of what you already have around your home. Chances are you have a wall, coffee table, curtain, sheet of fabric or set of linens that will work just fine as a background or surface. For inspiration, here are some ideas.

Surfaces: Coffee table, kitchen table, cork board, cutting board, kitchen counter, chairs, breakfast trays, wood floors, linens, placemats

Backgrounds: Poster board, walls, windows, upright cutting board, upright chalkboard, fabric hung/taped on a wall

Q: I'd like to invest in some backgrounds and surfaces. Where should I look?

A: I usually go to Hobby Lobby or other craft stores to pick up items like poster board, chalkboards and cork tiles, but you could also try general stores, garage sales, thrift stores, etc. I've been in some antique stores that have lovely items that would work great, such as old windowpanes, doors, tables and fabrics. Look around and get creative. You don't have to spend a lot of time or money by any means to round up a versatile collection to add variety to your photos.

Q: Do I need to change my surfaces and backgrounds every time I shoot?

A: Not necessarily, but it is nice to add variety to your photos. Nobody is going to be exactly "blown away" by your kitchen table for the 80th time in a row. Though your subject is the primary focus, it would be smart to rotate in new backgrounds and surfaces every once in a while, be it through a new linen, cutting board or color of poster board, etc.

Q: Do I need a camera bag?

A: No, you don't "need" a camera bag but it's a good idea to have one, especially if you have a nice camera. In my clumsiness I know I'd accidentally bump or drop my camera if I wasn't careful, which is why we invested in [this versatile camera bag by Case Logic](#). We've been extremely pleased with and it holds our camera, extra lenses, USB chords, extra batteries/chargers, etc. Plus, we can take it along with us on trips and pack any extra items that we may need for travel.