

# FILL LIGHTS & REFLECTORS

## KEY TO CAPTIONS

This table presents rows of images taken under the same lighting conditions but using either a diffused "window" light or a bare light. Each row's key explains where the light was, and refers to the illustration on page 178 for horizontal, vertical, and reflector position.

### Shadow-fill

The purpose here is to compare shadow-fill effects, using a standard matte silver reflector (note how much less insistent this is than the fill light used on the previous pages). Each lighting direction has a pair of images: without fill and with fill. The base is neutral gray plastic and the background is drop-out black (velvet). Shadow fill is more obvious, and more necessary, when the key light is behind rather than in front of the subject.

Exactly the same sequence of lighting directions, with and without shadow fill, as on the previous pages, the difference being that the sphere is placed on a white plastic scoop. This immediately gives a substantial ambient fill, and when the light is overhead, for example, the effect of a matte silver reflector is hardly noticeable. The light, as before, is a 40 x 40 cm square "window."

	Window light		Bare light	
	White background	Black background	White background	Black background
◀▶ 180°				
▲▼ 45°				
none				
◀▶ 180°				
▲▼ 45°				
1, 4				
◀▶ 0°				
▲▼ 0°				
none				
◀▶ 0°				
▲▼ 0°				
1, 4				

	Window light		Bare light	
	White background	Black background	White background	Black background
◀▶ 0°				
▲▼ 45°				
none				
◀▶ 45°				
▲▼ 45°				
none				
◀▶ 45°				
▲▼ 45°				
2				
◀▶ 90°				
▲▼ 45°				
none				
◀▶ 90°				
▲▼ 45°				
2				



**The subject**  
This near-spherical piece, painted in a marbled fashion with selective removal of layers, by artist Yukako Shibata, is the model on these and photographs.



**Window light**  
Window light, or softbox, providing a diffused light.

	Window light		Bare light	
	White background	Black background	White background	Black background
◀▶ 135°				
▲▼ 45°				
none				
◀▶ 135°				
▲▼ 45°				
2				
◀▶ 225°				
▲▼ 45°				
none				
◀▶ 225°				
▲▼ 45°				
3				
◀▶ 270°				
▲▼ 45°				
none				

	Window light		Bare light	
	White background	Black background	White background	Black background
◀▶ 270°				
▲▼ 45°				
3				
◀▶ 315°				
▲▼ 45°				
none				
◀▶ 315°				
▲▼ 45°				
3				
◀▶ 45°				
▲▼ 0°				
none				
◀▶ 45°				
▲▼ 0°				
1				



**Soft shadow**  
When lit by a window light, the shadow is soft around the edges; compare this to one of the "Bare light" shots.



**Bare light**  
*In contrast to the diffused window light, the bare light leaves a sharp shadow.*

	Window light		Bare light	
	White background	Black background	White background	Black background
◀▶ 90°				
▲▼ 0°				
none				
◀▶ 90°				
▲▼ 0°				
2				
◀▶ 135°				
▲▼ 0°				
none				
◀▶ 135°				
▲▼ 0°				
2				
◀▶ 225°				
▲▼ 0°				
none				

	Window light		Bare light	
	White background	Black background	White background	Black background
◀▶ 225°				
▲▼ 0°				
2				
◀▶ 270°				
▲▼ 0°				
none				
◀▶ 270°				
▲▼ 0°				
3				
◀▶ 315°				
▲▼ 0°				
none				
◀▶ 315°				
▲▼ 0°				
3				



**Bare light**  
*Even where a reflector is used, the shadow cast by the bare light is clearly visible to the left of the sphere.*