

Some of the Items in Laura Bracken's 30-Day Workshop for Jewelry Photography

Tripods

- Can be found in hobby stores, sporting good stores, dept stores (Target, etc), camera stores, and Amazon or other online venues. Expect to spend between \$15-\$60. Cell phone tripods should be under \$20. I have purchased several tripods for \$5-\$10 at thrift stores too.
- One thing I learned is to look for little differences depending on my particular set-up. For example:
 - In one instance I needed a tripod that would be a certain height (tall) because my light tent was on a raised table and I wanted overhead shots.
 - In another instance I needed a tripod that could go very short because I needed it on the same surface as my light tent.
 - In another instance I needed a tripod that could swivel all the way into a 90-degree angle (perpendicular to the floor).

Shutter Release Cable

- Can be found in camera stores or Amazon and many other online venues. \$8-\$10. They even have wireless remote shutter release things too. But I don't know anyone who needs a shutter release anymore... they are more old school.

Light Tent

- This is the first light tent I ever used. I still have it. It's a very inexpensive way to start: <https://www.amazon.com/LimoStudio-Photography-Studio-Lighting-AGG349/dp/B005CX9S8A>
- This is a pretty standard photo cube. Mine is 20x20 inches so this is a little larger than mine, but I like the front flap that you can just peek your camera lens through. <https://www.amazon.com/Neewer-Shooting-Diffusion-Backdrops-Photography/dp/B00GKGGICC>
 - They do make one in 16x16 inches but I think that may be just a bit too small for me. Might be good if you have limited space, though. <https://www.amazon.com/Neewer-Shooting-Diffusion-Backdrops-Photography/dp/B008JO1QGQ>
 - Here's a seller on eBay who has the 20-inch ones: <https://www.ebay.com/itm/20-x-20-x-20-Inch-Photo-Light-Cube-Tent-Photography-Tent-Pop-Up-Style-/263023185562>
 - WalMart carries a 12-inch one: <https://www.walmart.com/ip/Square-Perfect-12-Inch-Light-Tent-Photo-Cube-Softbox-with-4-Colored-Backgrounds-For-Product-Photography/34966063>
 - Cowboy Studio has several sizes (I believe these also have the front panel option: http://www.cowboystudio.com/product_p/tent.htm
 - My light tent is discontinued. The brand is EZCube and it has fabric strips on the left and right top interior with grommets.
- This is the other light tent I use. It's a Foldio2. <https://www.amazon.com/Orangemonkie-Foldio2-Portable-Lightbox-Smartphone/dp/B013SVNWF2>
 - If you want to read more about the Foldio, here's their website: <http://orangemonkie.com/product/foldio2/>
 - These look like mini (off-market) Foldios:
 - <https://www.amazon.com/Photo-Light-Jewellery-Small-Backdrops/dp/B078X5QR8J>

- <https://www.amazon.com/Photography-Foldable-Portable-Studio-Lighting/dp/B075C3XB66>
 - <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B06Y1XQTZL>
- Or google “DIY photography light tent”

Light Bulbs

You can probably find more options searching in person.

- 60 watts
 - <https://www.walmart.com/ip/Great-Value-LED-Light-Bulbs-8-5W-60W-Equivalent-Daylight-4-count/53017081>
 - <https://www.homedepot.com/p/Globe-Electric-60W-Equivalent-Daylight-5000K-A19-LED-Light-Bulb-6-Pack-84030/300374651>
 - <https://www.amazon.com/Philips-Non-Dimmable-Frosted-Light-Bulb/dp/B0143925WY>
- 75 watt equivalent
 - <https://www.walmart.com/ip/Great-Value-LED-A19-E26-Light-Bulbs-14W-75W-Equivalent-Daylight-4-Pack/53017077>
 - <https://www.homedepot.com/p/Westinghouse-75W-Equivalent-Daylight-Omni-A21-LED-Light-Bulb-6-Pack-3514120/301619587>
 - https://www.amazon.com/Feit-Electric-A1100-850-10KLED/dp/B01N074DT8/ref=sr_1_20
- 100 watt equivalent
 - <https://www.walmart.com/ip/Great-Value-LED-Light-Bulbs-14W-100W-Equivalent-Daylight-4-Pack/53017078>
 - <https://www.homedepot.com/p/Westinghouse-100W-Equivalent-Daylight-A19-LED-Light-Bulb-3514200/301619581>
 - <https://www.amazon.com/Philips-Non-Dimmable-Frosted-Light-Bulb/dp/B00YEMKJE2>

Reflective Collars

- <https://www.homedepot.com/p/HDX-150-Watt-Incandescent-Clamp-Light-HD-300PDQ/205031467>
- <https://www.amazon.com/Simple-Deluxe-Listed-Aluminum-Reflector/dp/B01E9IY6US>

Other Lighting Ideas

I would try this if I had the room

- <https://www.amazon.com/LimoStudio-Photography-Continuous-Softbox-Lighting/dp/B005DFP6M4>

Background (vertical)

- If you can find a small (light tent size) gradient (black to white) backdrop let me know. I can find none on vinyl (the one I custom ordered won't work with photography) and the paper ones scratch too easily.
- During our workshop time, I'm going to try out the printing shop idea. I will keep you posted.
- If you end up wanting to print a background yourself or taking a file to kinkos for special printing, here are some backgrounds I created (need to be printed in highest resolution possible): <http://www.artisimportant.com/SRAJD/resources/Backgrounds.htm>

Background (horizontal)

- A large piece of black construction/scrapbook paper
 - For some reason this won't ship to California but you can get packs like this at Joanne's, etc. I use the black one for under my glass and I use the other colors sometimes as backdrops in my other light tent: <https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B01KI4E50I>
- A 15x15 inch x ¼ inch piece of smoked black glass (mine was \$42 at my local glass shop)
 - If you will be moving yours a lot, you might ask them to grind or soften the edges. Mine never moves. You could also put tape all around the perimeter... I don't want you cutting yourself.
- For the horizontal portion of my light tent #2, I will often use black floor or wall tiles from Home Depot or Lowe's. I also have a few slate tiles for when I want an organic look.

Bounce light paper

- This is the paper I use in my light tent #1 for my bounce light:
<https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B015GSZIZM>

Jewelry Holders

- So it turns out I got a lot of my photography stuff from places that are no longer in business (like TableTop Studios). To make an earring/pendant hanging thing, get some of that white foam board and use a utility knife to cut out a large rectangle in the center. Alternately you could use the cardboard mat for a picture frame (5x7 or 8x10).
 - <https://www.amazon.com/WHITE-Picture-Matting-White-Pictures/dp/B00BN1XIR2>
 - <https://www.amazon.com/WHITE-Picture-Matting-White-Pictures/dp/B00BN1XIR2>
- To get that to stand up, get some large clips (here are some in different sizes... maybe even clothespins would work too).
 - <https://www.amazon.com/Metal-Spring-Clamps-Soft-Handle/dp/B013ZVVPL8>
 - <https://www.amazon.com/Evelots-Plastic-Muslin-Spring-Clamps/dp/B072M1TFPB>
 - <https://www.amazon.com/MegaDeal-Spring-Metal-Clamp-Wholesale/dp/B07358C5SJ?th=1>
- In setting up a demo shot to show you guys how to use a picture mat as a jewelry holder, I just solved a problem I've been having with my light tent #2. You'll see in the video of lesson 2, that I mention the shadows on the background caused by the frame I use to hold the jewelry. So when I created this scenario (below) to show you how to use a cardboard mat frame, I realized that if I got one tall enough (right to the top of my light tent), the shadow would also be higher and thus out of my way. And I was right. So this is what I'm going to use now instead of the expensive acrylic one I had.
 - Two compromises I had to make included:
 - The whole set up is shifted to the left because my 2" clamps didn't hold the mat upright so I had to use a really big one.
 - Also notice that I put a small thing under one side of the clamp so the mat is leaning back ever so slightly. That's so that my earrings and pendants rest on the horizontal fishing line.
 - The other compromise was that I can't use my clips at the top of the mat (the clips that hold the earring fishing line) because the mat is too tall. So I just taped the fishing line to the mat instead.

- Tip: If you make “v” shapes with your fishing line rather than taping both ends together in the same place, your earrings have a better chance of facing forward from top to bottom.



Invisible Help

- Fishing line/nylon thread
 - Probably at many local stores or sewing or craft shops.
 - <https://www.amazon.com/SINGER-Clear-Invisible-Thread-135-Yard/dp/B000IGEBSS>
 - <https://www.amazon.com/Diameter-Fishing-Beading-String-Como/dp/B00B14LRLU>
- Plastic clips to hold invisible thread:
 - <https://www.amazon.com/Mainstays-Multi-purpose-Hanger-Clips-Piece/dp/B00GK8OVOC>
- Ring Holder (wax/putty)
 - <https://www.amazon.com/Butler-G-U-M-Orthodontic-Mint-Pack/dp/B00VQTO7EY>
 - <https://www.amazon.com/Quakehold-99111-Collectors-Museum-Putty/dp/B000FJU290>
 - <https://www.amazon.com/Quakehold-66111-2-Ounce-Museum-Wax/dp/B000FJU29U>
 - <https://www.amazon.com/Elmers-Tac-Stik-Reusable-Adhesive/dp/B001CEMCXQ>
- Third Hand
 - <https://www.amazon.com/Hawk-TJ1100-Third-Cross-Locking-Tweezers/dp/B00454Q700>
 - <http://www.michaels.com/bead-landing-third-hand-with-tweezers/10224665.html>

Make Up Brush

Local drug or dept store or online. (\$2+)

- <https://www.amazon.com/Elf-24112-e-l-f-Total-Brush/dp/B00WAJBFAS>
- <https://www.walmart.com/ip/e-l-f-Professional-Total-Face-Makeup-Brush/43984081>

Mannequin

- Sometimes I'll grab one of my show busts to shoot a necklace on.
 - These guys have a lot to choose from:
 - <https://www.nilecorp.com/necklace-pendant-body-display/necklace-stand.html>
 - My preference is the black faux leather (like this one, but select "black leatherette" under "color"):
 - <https://www.nilecorp.com/necklace-display-7-1-2-w-x-6-d-x-8-h.html>
 - I also have a torso mannequin and I'll use that for some necklace shots, but I just ordered a new mannequin that is a head bust (head + shoulders). If I like it I'll tell you where I got it. I'm hoping it'll be good for earrings as well as necklaces.

Foam Board

- Local drug or craft stores
 - <https://www.amazon.com/ELMERS-Pre-Cut-White-Sheets-950020/dp/B00C1JVO4Y>
 - <https://www.walmart.com/ip/Elmer-s-Sturdy-board-Foam-Board/37755448>

Photo-Editing Software

- This one is a toughie because there are too many options and too many reasons why a particular one would work best for a particular person. Are you a PC or a MAC person? Are you a desktop person, a tablet person, or a cell phone person? Are you good with computer technology? Do you want software with all the bells and whistles or just the basics?
- The software program(s) I'm using are pretty old.
 - I have a version of Photoshop that I installed from disks. If I got a new computer and wanted Photoshop again, I'd have to do the subscription thing. I don't think they offer disks any more.
 - \$10/month <https://www.adobe.com/products/photoshop.html>
 - My version of Photoshop Elements is several versions back. Apparently I have version 8 and version 13 on my computer.
 - You all should have received my email with Adobe's sale that ends on Feb 20th for the latest version of Elements at \$70. This page shows the differences in the most recent versions of the software:
 - <https://www.adobe.com/products/photoshop-elements/buying-guide.html>
 - I installed GIMP on my computer so that I could help those who don't want to purchase photo-editing software and I'll try to learn as much as I can during the 30-days so that I can help those of you who are using GIMP.
 - <https://www.gimp.org/>
 - I'll also mention FotoFuze here even though I haven't used it in many years and I think a lot has changed since I used it. But it's an online service (\$3/month if you want larger photos or free if you don't mind smaller ones) that will help you clean up the backgrounds on your photos.
 - <https://fotofuze.com/>