

Photo Tutorial or How to get great photos, of your books, for the RMABA Featured Item pages.

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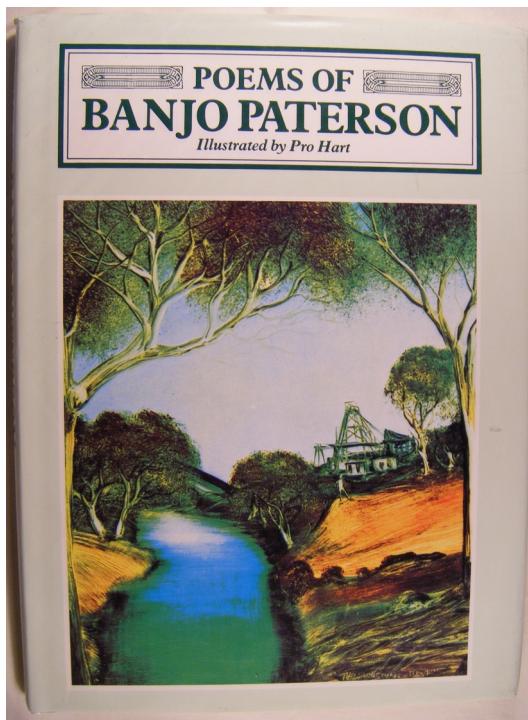
A simple photo setup can be created by using just two lamps, a flat surface, and a contrasting background (towel, pillow case, etc.)



High-intensity lamps work the best, but almost any lamps will do. Just place the lamps so that they shine at approx. 45-degree angle onto the book surface (this helps eliminate glare).

Rotate the camera so that the long edge of the viewer is parallel with the long edge of the book. Zoom in close to get as much of the book in the photo as possible. If your camera has a 'macro-mode' (for close-ups), it may help to use that mode. Shoot the photo in a fairly high-resolution mode, with the camera straight over the book.

If you have photo-editing software, you can rotate the image (if necessary) and also crop it so that there is almost no background.



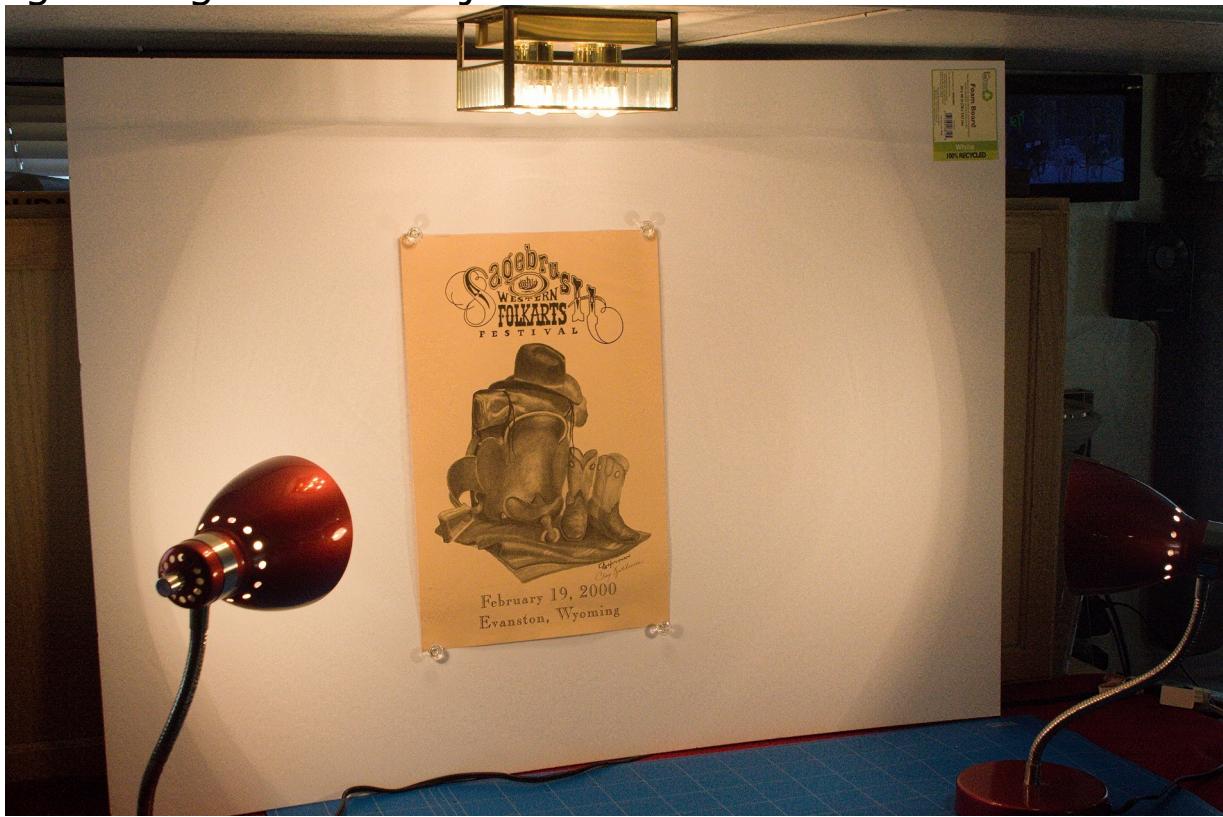
If you can't rotate/crop the images, go ahead and send them anyway - we'll take care of them on our end as long as they are of sufficient size, and well-focused.

Advanced techniques on next page:

If you have at least two flash-units, and your camera can control those, you can use those instead of the desk-lamps shown in this tutorial.

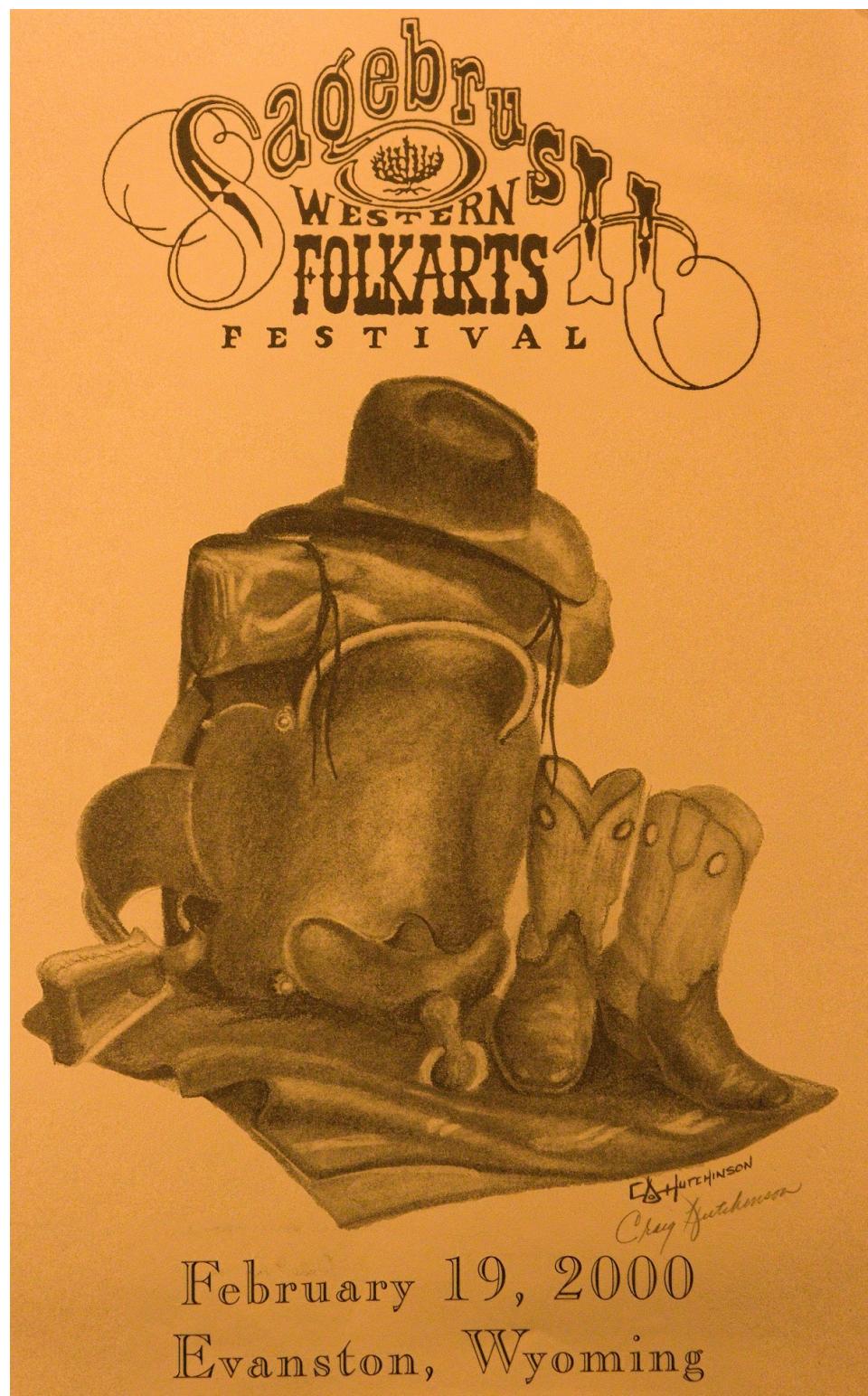
If you have a poster, art-print, etc. where you can't get the entire object in the camera frame with the simple set-up mentioned above, this next technique may work well for you.

Mount the poster to some foam-core, cardboard, etc. and prop vertically against a wall or cabinet. Use the same basic light set-up mentioned above, just point the lamps at the object to be photographed. The important considerations are to keep the object evenly lit and keep the lights at about a 45-degree angle to the object.



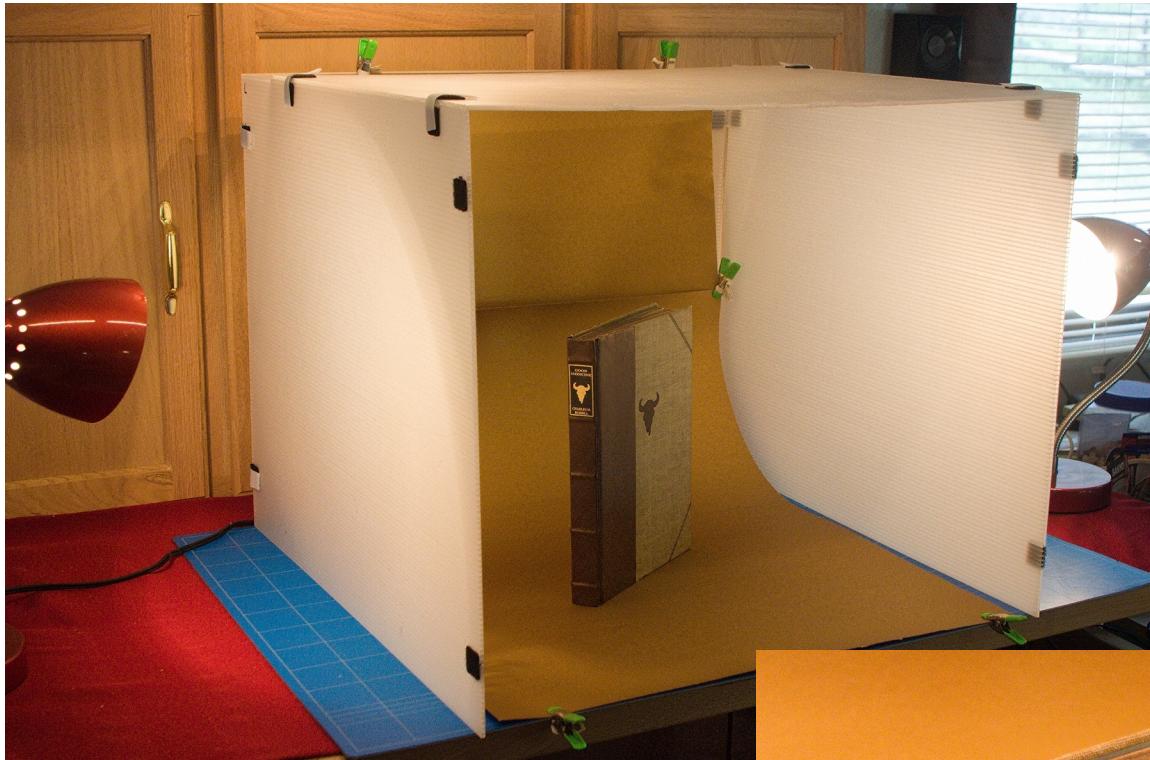
Depending on the size of the poster, you may need more than two lights.

Resulting image after cropping and a bit of editing:



If you wish to be able to show the 3-dimensional aspects of an item, a light tent will aid greatly in getting nice images.

The light tent that I have is a home-made DIY unit made from translucent corrugated plastic panels, and using poster board for a background. This setup provides a nice diffused light with no harsh shadows.



Sample image after cropping and a bit of editing:

