

Clonakilty Camera Club Practical Night 3 April 2019

At the recent practical night I demonstrated a portable Lightbox. This comes in a briefcase type zipped unit with handle. See picture right. Nicholas Cooper gave a talk on how to make a Lightbox at a previous practical night. This involved using a cardboard box and parchment paper but I, being lazy, decided that it was far easier to purchase one.

On opening the case one is presented with a folded plastic unit, a white and black cloth type insert, a section of black acrylic and a USB cable.



The unit is unfolded and the sides clamped together as I found the magnetic discs on the sides are a little weak.



The usb cable is attached to the internal light strip and can be powered from a computer, mains telephone charger or a power pack. I find the internal light strip one of the biggest advantages to the portable unit.

Below are two photographs of a pear. One taken using the internal light strip and one taken using a flash unit.



As can be seen the photograph on the right which was taken using a flash unit shows a distinct shadow as against the photograph on the left which is virtually shadowless.



The above photograph of the various fruits taken using the internal light strip can be further improved with the addition of reflectors or a reduced power fill flash to remove the shadow under the banana. All changes can be effected on a trial and error basis.

On the practical night I used three watches of different metal types in order to show different reactions under the internal light. See Below.



I also took a photograph of one the watches using the acrylic plate as a base to show the effect of reflection on a product. The lightbox that I was using is best suited to small objects and the best result is obtained using a dedicated macro lens.

