

Elementary Concepts of Studio Lighting

Some Hardware Light Types:

Hard Lights: Strobes, electronic flash (these cause hard shadows)

Diffused Lights: Beauty dish, soft box, umbrella lights. These cast a much broader source of light and therefore have soft or diffused shadows.

Functional Light Types:

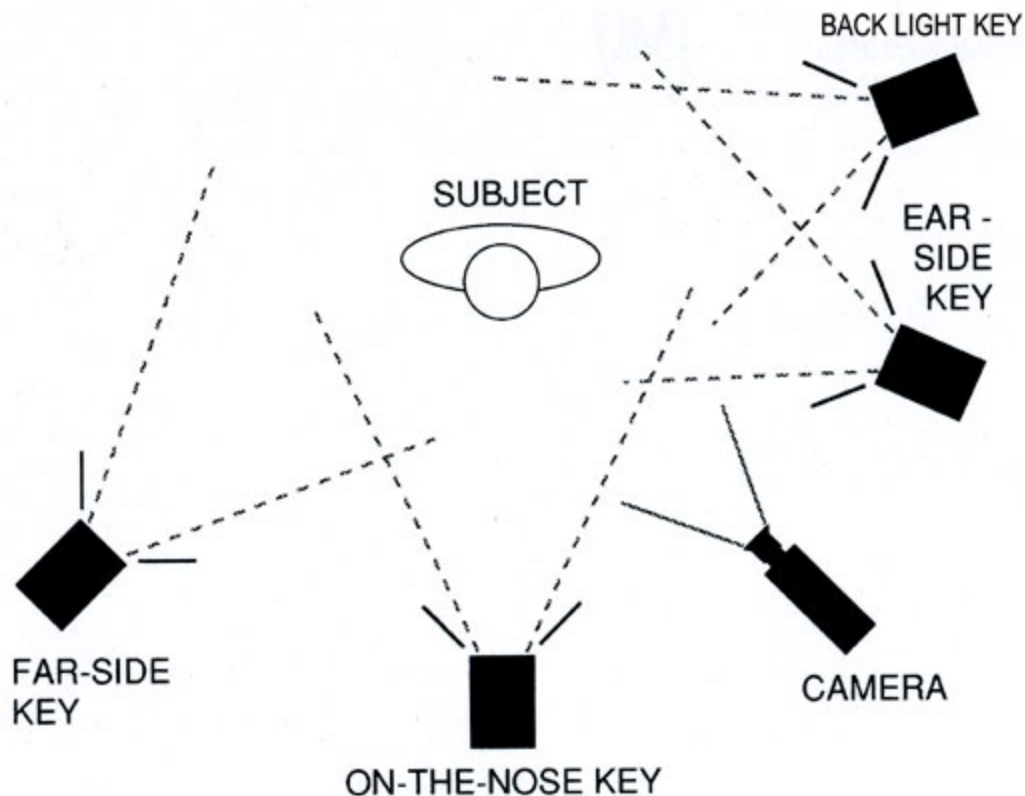
Key Lights - They can provide as much as 3/4 of the available light (see below).

Fill Lights - They can provide approximately 1/4 of available light.

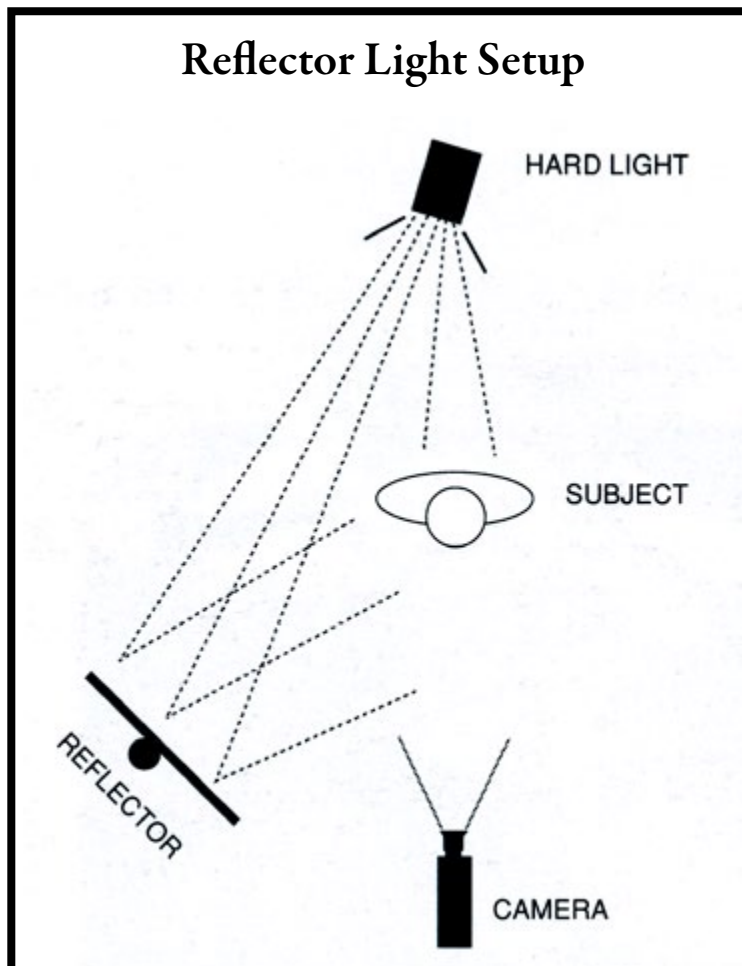
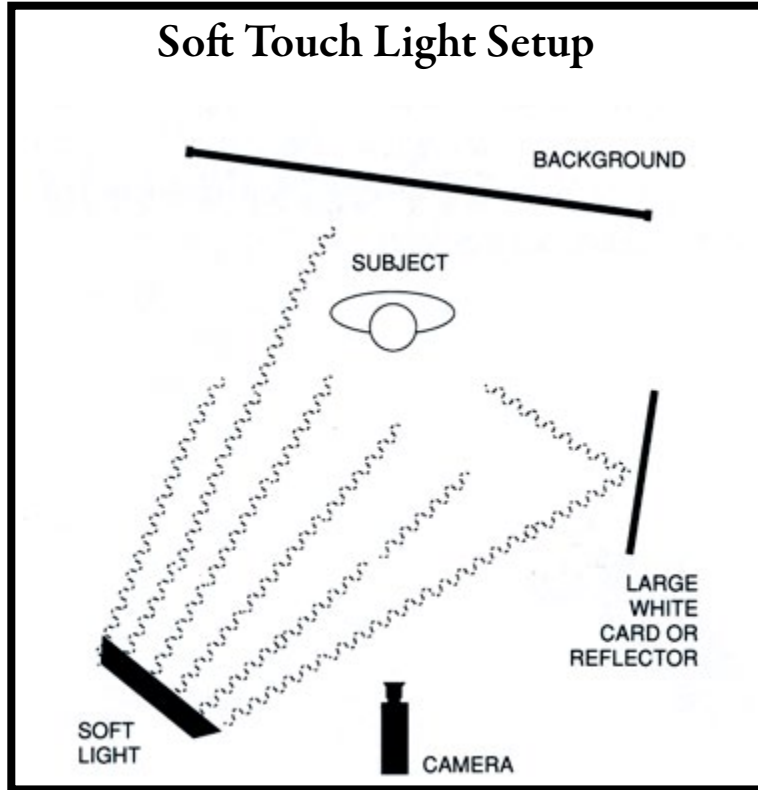
Back Light - Located behind subject/object and aimed toward camera.

Background Light - Located behind subject/object and aimed at background.

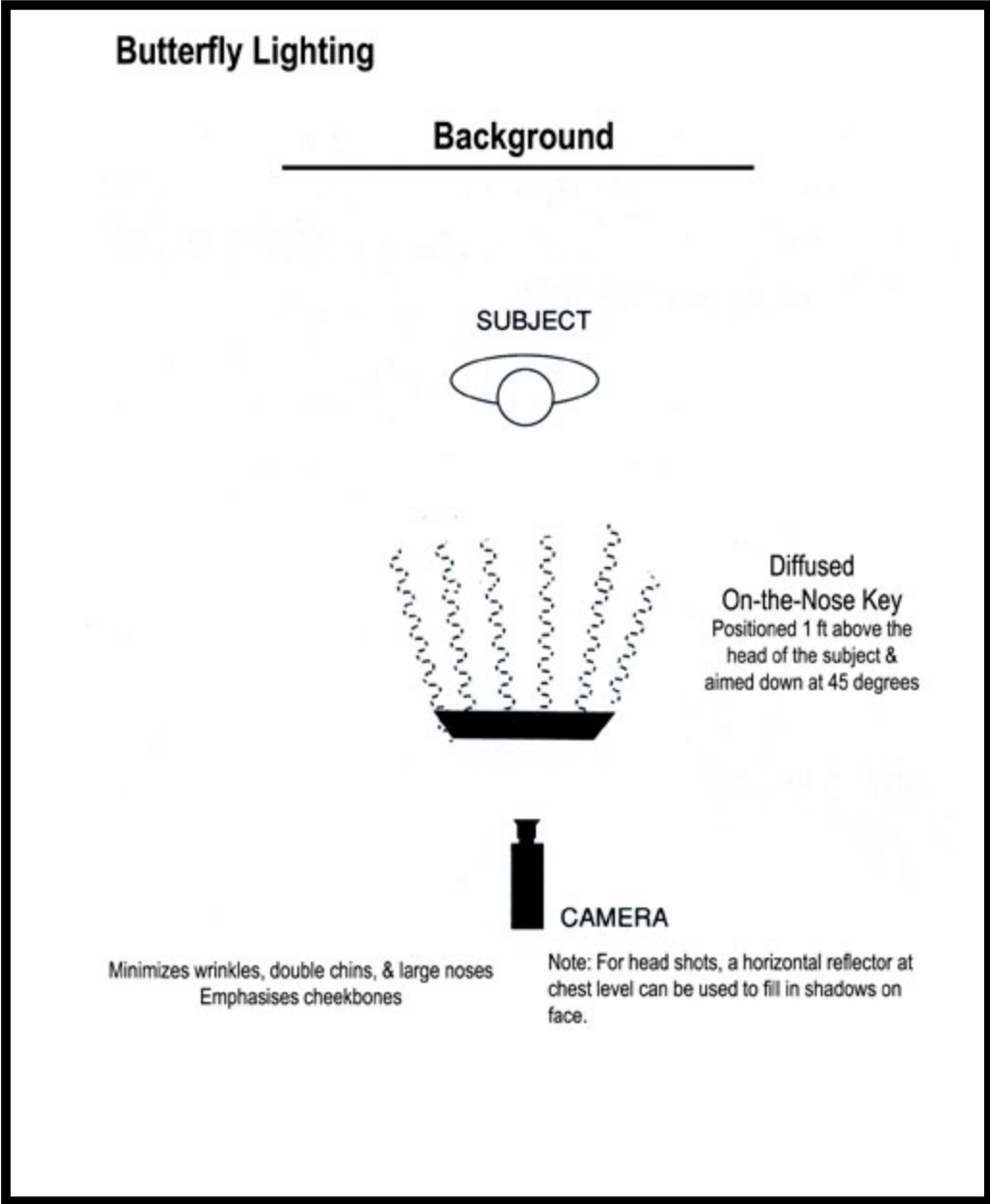
Types of Key Lights



One Light Setups

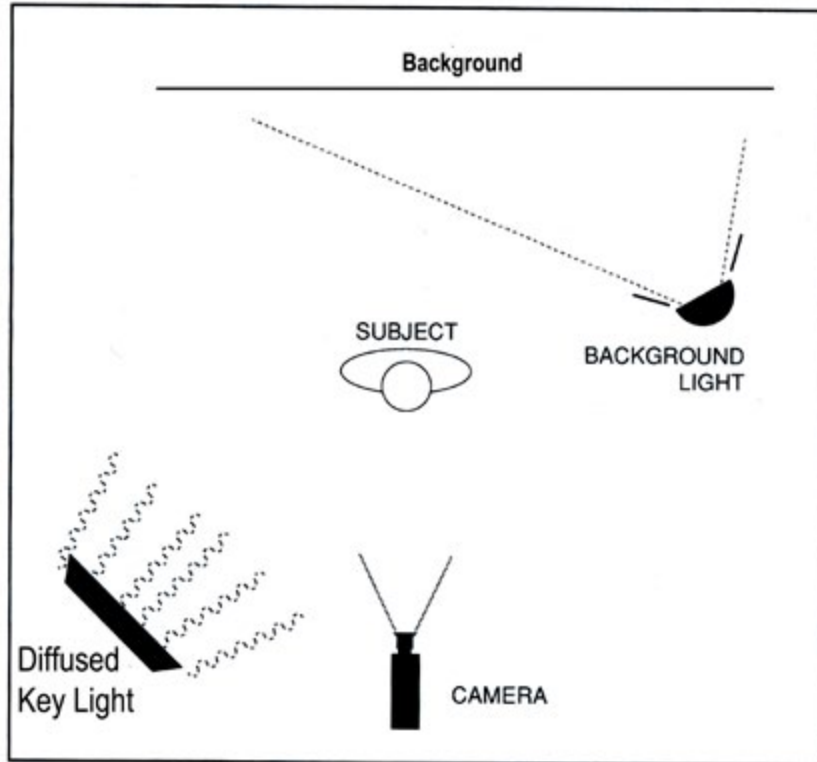


One Light Setups (con't)



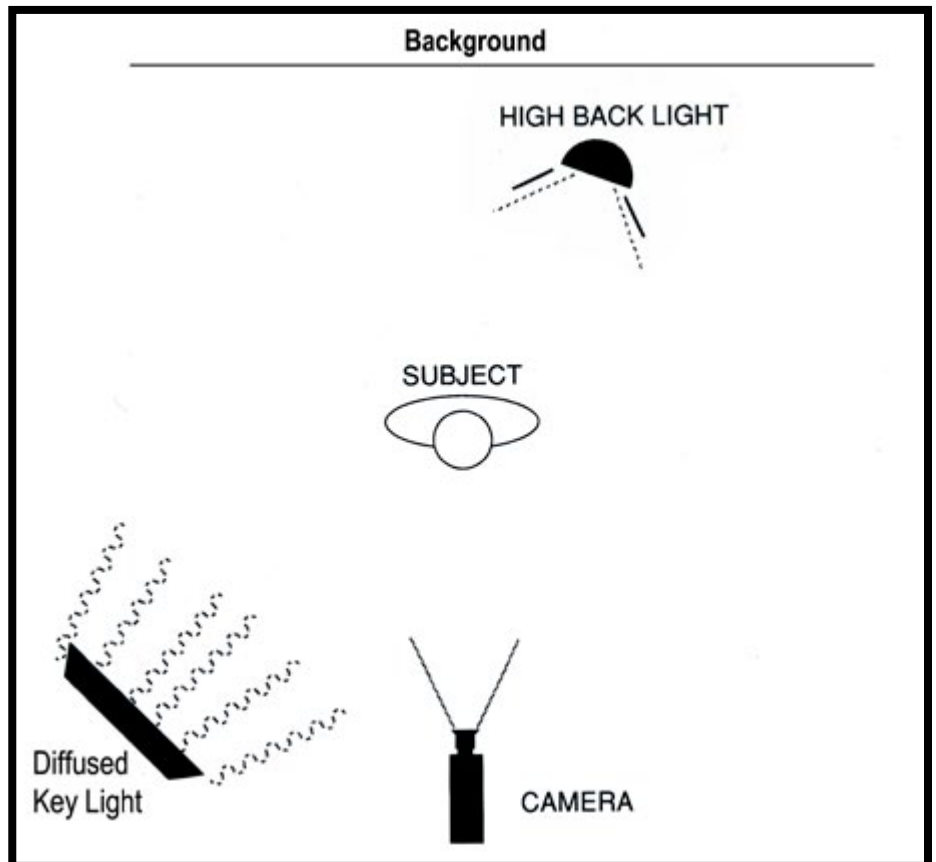
Two Light Setups

With Background Light



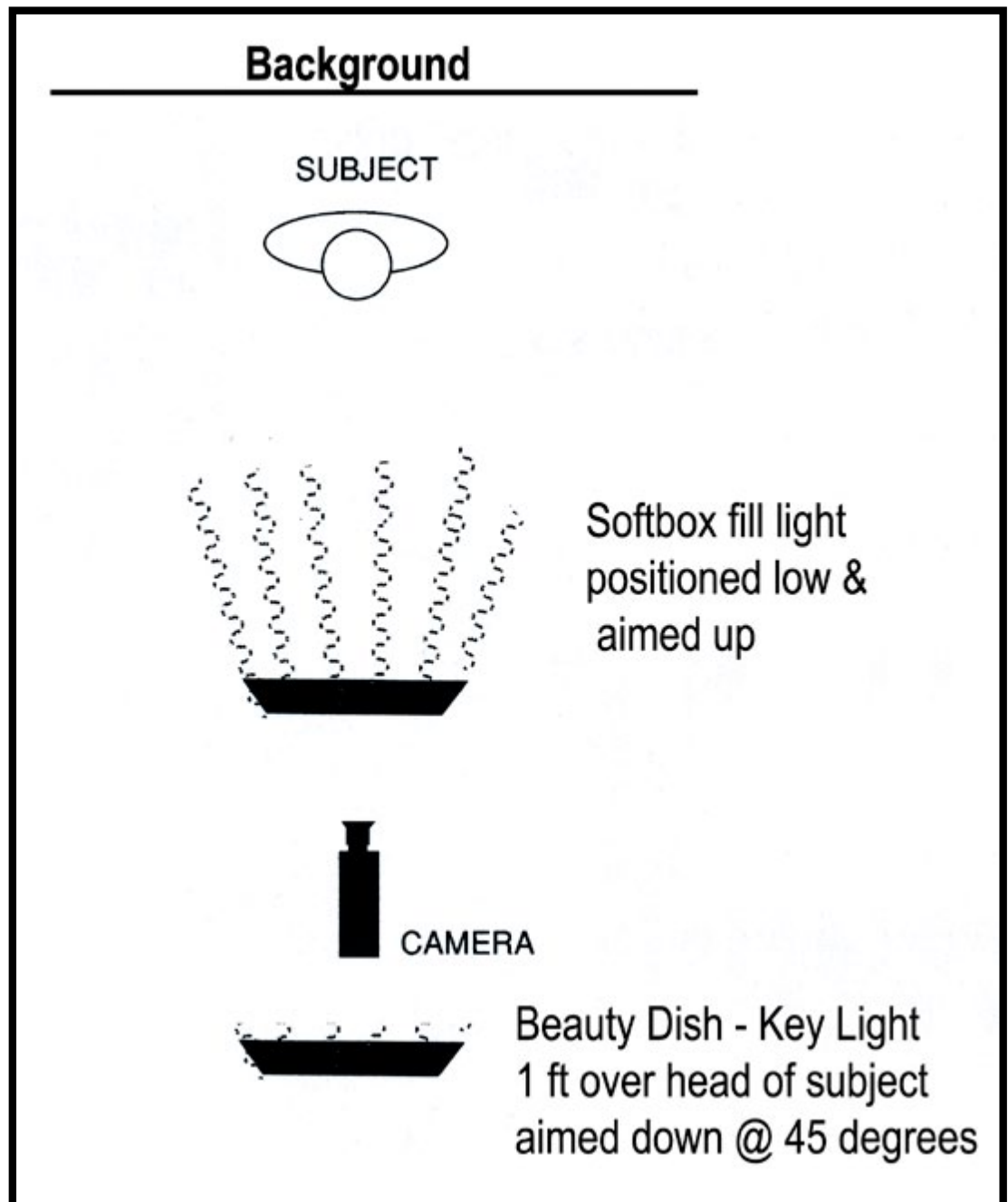
The first thing new pros do with a second fixture is over-light the background.

With Back Light



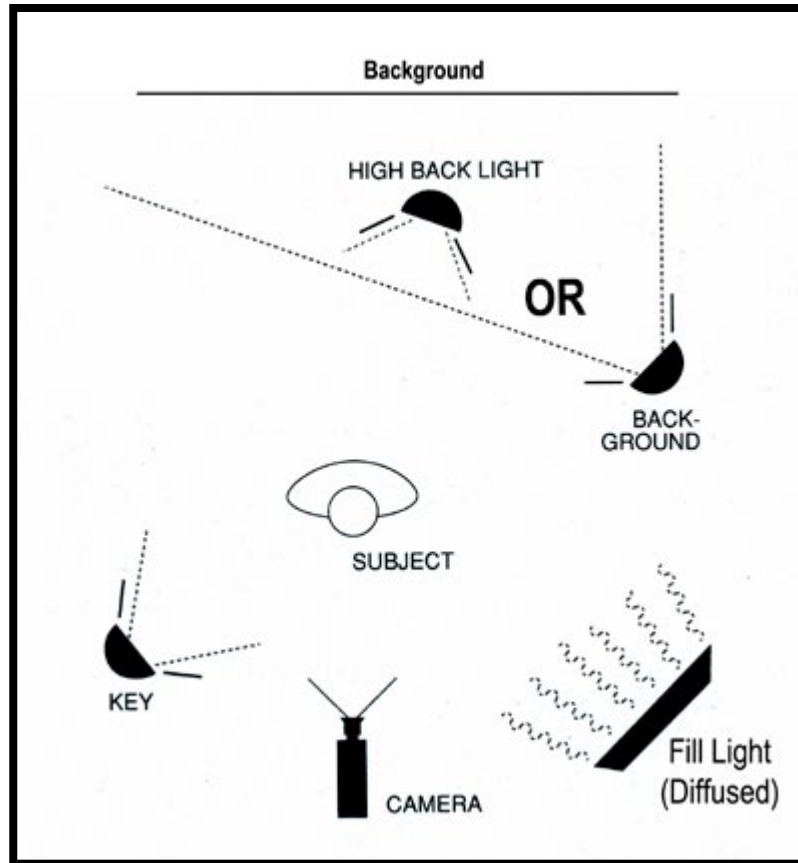
2 Light Setups (Con't)

Fashion 2 Light Setup

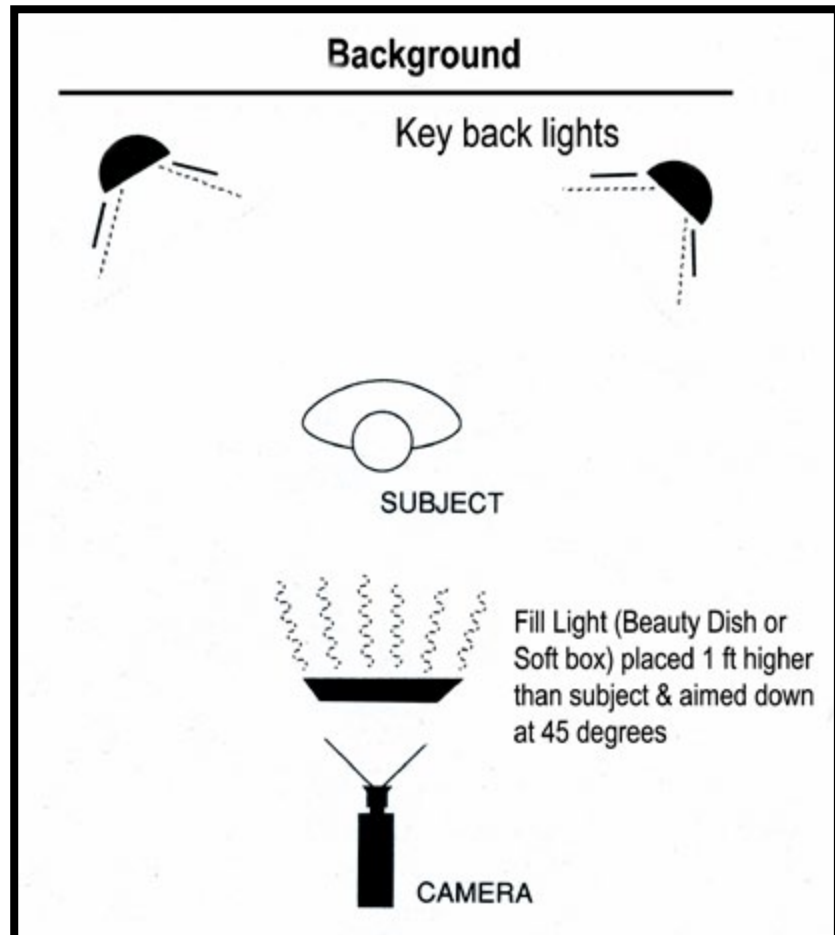


3 Light Setups

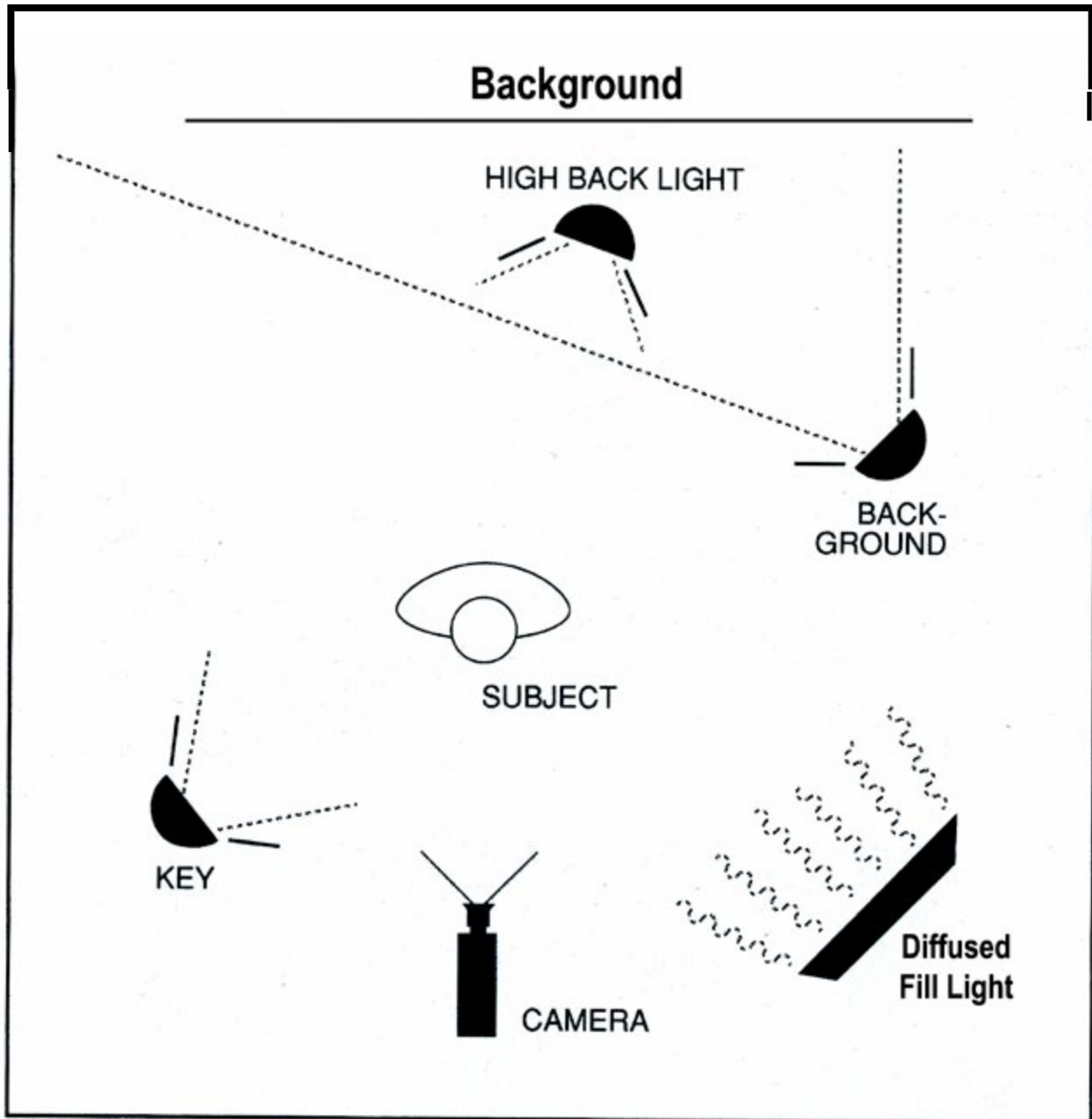
Classic Triangle



Fashion Triangle



4 Light Setup



This classic lighting setup was once considered a sacred formula. Now, it is only one among many possible variations. The one you choose should depend upon your subject, mood, media, contrast range, individual style, and — sometimes most significantly — time limitations.