

December 9th 2022

# Australian Videocamera

**This week's industry news stories  
plus ...**

**Reviewed: GoPro Hero 11 Black**

**Reviewed: Zhiyun Smooth5 S Gimbal**

**Reviewed: Elgato Key Light**

**Audio: Lend Me Your Ears (and Voice)**

**and much, much more...**





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Cover Image: Polint D'Entrecastaux WA

Shot on: GoPro Hero 8 Black

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## Companies Mentioned in this Edition

- GoPro
- Zhiyun
- Blackmagic Design
- Elgato
- DJI
- Red Giant
- Zhiyun
- Sennheiser
- Miller Tripods
- Hollyland
- Digistor
- EditShare

## Welcome to the latest Australian Videocamera e-Magazine

This has been a week mainly of reviews as you can see. The couriers seemed to be at my front door every day with one new goodie or another and I am getting swamped with empty boxes!

And there is still more on the way I am led to believe.

Apart from reviews though, I have also been working on the new website and name for 2023 so that we better represent the whole film and video making industry and those ancillary areas that contribute to it.

These include drones, lighting, audio, scriptwriting and of course special affects among others – not just “video cameras”.

Everything is mostly on track for a Jan 1 release, and I'll keep you posted as we get closer to the date.

Apart from a couple of days off over Christmas, I'll be working right through the next few weeks to make sure all is in readiness!

As I have mentioned before, the existing website will still remain as an archive and searchable, and there will be plenty of links and notices advising of this.

Keep safe and well!

David Hague  
Publisher / Managing Editor

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## News From Around The Industry

Each edition I publish stories and links to stuff that has crossed my desk over the preceding period I think may be of interest to you. Sometimes there is lots, sometimes very little.

If you have material you want the wider world to know about, send it to me via david@ [david@auscamonline.com](mailto:david@auscamonline.com)

## Screen Australia's Enterprise Program Returns for 2023

Screen Australia is pleased to announce its Enterprise program will open for applications in February 2023 with new guidelines and FAQ now available, following a review of the program in 2022.

The revamped program aims to foster sustainable screen businesses and careers for film practitioners focused in content creation roles.

More [here](#)

## Bluefish444 Receives MegaGrant from Epic Games

Bluefish444, manufacturer of the professional video industry's highest-quality uncompressed video interface cards and signal converters receives Epic MegaGrant.

Bluefish444 has received an Epic MegaGrant to drive the continued development of its 64-bit software plugin to the Unreal Engine for highest quality and lowest latency multi-channel video/audio/data input and output for 3D graphics created in Unreal Engine.

The complete Press Release (PDF) is [Here](#)

## Latest Digistor Newsletter

The monthly newsletter from Digistor has been released. You can read it online [here](#).

## New Pyro Feature in Cinema 4D

There is a new design explosive and flaming feature called Pyro in the 3D animation and modelling package Cinema 4D for both Mac and Windows.

Click [here](#) to register for the weekly seminar or find out more. All sessions are available for streaming after the event.

## Does Colour Correction Seem Like Sorcery to You? Never Fear. Here's The Solution. And It's FREE!



This official Blackmagic Design hands on training guide takes you through a series of practical exercises that teach you how to use DaVinci Resolve's colour correction tools in detail..

Click [here](#) to get it./



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## Review: GoPro Hero 11 Black

*If you line up a GoPro 9, 10 and 11 side by side, I challenge anyone to see an immediate difference, because as far as I can tell, there isn't one.*

### Resolution and Other Techie Stuff

But under the bonnet, things are very different. The biggest single change is the new sensor which has grown in size to 1/1.9 inches and now has available an 8:7 aspect ratio for shooting, and ups the ante for resolution increasing to 27.13MP up from 23MP.

Now of course this aspect ratio means you can shoot almost square still images in high resolution, but there is another bigger benefit if you are a TikTok'er YouTube'er or Instagram'er. If you shoot video at 8:7, you have the option to crop in editing to 1:1, 4:3, 16:9 or even 9:16 for these platforms. If you use the GoPro Quik app, these presets are already there (assuming you don't mind smartphone editing of course). It also means you can shoot stabilised 4:3

video with a Superview (GoPro's widest lens setting).

Another change is you can now shoot 5.3K and 4K at 120Mbps bit rate, an increase of 20% over the Hero 10.

And with the Hero 11, GoPro has opted to go the 10bit colour rate for the very first time. If that is pure gobbledegook to you it simply relates to the number of colours the camera can record, in this case it is 1 billion, up from the 16.7 million of the Hero 10.

This means that in shots of the sky with a brilliant sunset say, the gradient between the colours will be considerably smoother and colour definition overall much better.

### Stabilisation

Also scoring a makeover is GoPro's already impressive stabilisation I mentioned earlier. There is a new mode they call AutoBoost which basically means the camera has 'smarts' and can detect any shake automatically and



switch on the Hyper-smooth system.

In conjunction with the stabilisation,

## Review: GoPro Hero 11 Black

tem which basically means as the camera is taken off the horizontal plane (tilted) it will keep the horizon straight in the image. The Hero 10 allowed this up to 27° but the 11 covers a full 360° which means there is a hell of a lot of image processing going on in that sensor which is very impressive indeed.

The other big difference here is that the Hero 11 does all this out of the box whereas the Hero 10 needs the Max Lens Mod.

There is a minor limitation though, in that the maximum frame rate / aspect ratio pair when running at 5.3K is 30fps and 16:9. If you need a faster frame rate, you need to drop the resolution to 4K.

### New Imaging Modes

There are three new imaging modes built in: Light Painting, Vehicle Light Trails and Star Trails.

An example of Light Painting is being in

a dark room and waving a torch about. The camera shutter will stay open, and the Hero 11 creates a short video clip giving the impression of electronic brush strokes created by the light. Vehicle Lights Trails are similar but used to create the same thing from the lights of moving vehicles. Finally, Star Trails creates star lines caused by an open shutter and the rotation of the Earth.

### Power

Sometime back GoPro launched the Enduro battery as an option, but now it ships with the Hero 11. This is said to give you up to 80 minutes of shooting time. GoPro says the Enduro is more efficient when the camera is in "idle" mode.

The Enduro battery is also said to be more efficient in extreme cold.

### Firmware

If you are one of those that just want the minimum off fuss to get your stills or video, the Hero 11 now has two modes,

# Review: GoPro Hero 11 Black

Easy Mode and Pro Mode.

Easy Mode simply gives you less options to choose from, letting you basically point and shoot. If you switch to Pro Mode, you get access to all functions and settings of the camera to tweak and experiment to your heart's content.

## The Downside

All these new features are of course very welcome, but there a few things most users wish GoPro would address. The biggest of these by reading through various Facebook Groups is an overheating issue which many say has been a curse since the GoPro Hero 8. I have an 8, 9 and 10 and have never had this issue personally.

A number of observers have suggested a lot of people have every function turned in the camera – many of them superfluous to the current operation – and this will not only cause overheating but also minimise battery life, so this

is worth checking.

Another solution, and one I often employ, is to remove the battery altogether and use a Power-Bank connected via the USB-C. The drawback to this is of course you'll lose the full portability, but if you have a GoPro mounted on a car, boat, trailbike etc it is a worthwhile option. You need to remove the battery door, sure, but GoPro do also sell a "pass through" door for this very purpose.

The second gripe is the low light usability.

There was hope the larger sensor might have knocked this issue on the head but sadly not. Again of course GoPro do make an add on option, the Light Mod, but this needs a shoe to sit in. The easiest way to get this is via the Media Mod (which I have on my 9 and 10 permanently).

Why?



# Review: GoPro Hero 11 Black

Because I prefer to have external audio from a

## Pricing

The GoPro Hero 11 retails at \$549.98, but much to many dealer's chagrin I'd venture, you can buy through the GoPro online store with a "subscription" and save \$200.

The subscription model offers a few extras, the most notable being automatic Unlimited Cloud Storage. Also included is the GoPro Quik app getting some extra features such as the Speed Tool for slo-mo effects, filters for snow and water and some themes and original music to add to your videos.

You also get offered discounts on GoPro accessories purchased from the site.

## Conclusion

The GoPro is without question the *de facto* "standard" in action cameras. I wrote a few years back that many others – Nikon, Canon, Sony included – tried to muscle in on the market but none really took off (despite the Sony

offerings being very, very good).

DJI is still hanging in there of course, although with the Action 2, I feel they went slightly off the rails and thus brought out the Action 3 which is more conformist, and is in some ways, I think, superior to the GoPro.

But if it's an action camera you want, then the Hero 11 has all the things you need with the caveat of the low light and potential overheating issues.

But I have to say at this point, a GoPro is not designed as a "Swiss Knife" camera. There are some things it is just not designed for. I have seen users ask questions about using the GoPro for wedding photography for example ...

I suggest a good maxim is the one used by a popular outdoor store. The GoPro is for "BCF-ing fun!"

You can get more information from the GoPro website at <https://gopro.com/en/us/shop/cameras>

[Sennheiser MKE 200](#)

as against the on-board mics or the mic in the Media Mod.

I can also use the [Hollyland Lark C1](#) if the situation calls for wireless mic capability.

# Air

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# Review: Zhiyun Smooth5S Gimbal

*If the speed with which DJI and Zhiyun release gimbals, there must be money to be made!*

The latest to enter the Auscam Castle is the Zhiyun Smooth5 S, a gimbal designed specifically for smartphones.

As is the norm these days from companies such as Zhiyun, DJI, Hollyland and others, the packaging is almost a work of art in itself. In the box you get a black carry bag with an external pocket and a series of inside netted pockets for bits and bobs you might want to carry.

You get the main body of the gimbal, a screw in tripod, a magnetic light and coloured filters, USB cable that is branded Zhiyun so you can easily identify it as "special" USB-C for charging and connectivity purposes (I wish more vendors did this) a multi-language manual and a quick reference card.

I recommend a read of the manual and the quick reference manual as there are a couple of potential got-

chas, especially if you are used to earlier Zhiyun gimbals or indeed, DJI ones.

As is the norm, you need to charge the Smooth5 S before it can be used and herein lies the first catch if you haven't studied the manual and especially the schematic of the gimbal.

To charge, the first thing you need to do of course is plug the USB-C cable into the USB-C port and the other end into a suitable charger (none is supplied) right?

Well yes, but after an hour, nothing had happened, no lights came on and I was starting to think maybe I had a dud unit or cable, or for some inexplicable reason, my charger had suddenly failed. By a process of elimination, I discovered the culprit was the gimbal, so decided looking up any sort of trouble-shooter might be wise.

And .. lo and behold there are TWO USB-C ports, the second being on the main trunk of the gimbal and tucked away under a rubber flap, whereas the

one I was using was on the main arm and open. Reading the schematic, this is supplied as a mobile phone charging port. In other words, you can keep the phone in the

gimbal charged from the gimbal's battery which is a very neat idea indeed.

## Teeny Tiny LCD

Now that I had that sorted, another minor annoyance was the LCD panel which doubles as a mode indicator and a battery indicator. It is tiny, very tiny and set on the left side of the gimbal on the main control panel (each side of the squarish body has controls / ports of some description).



# Review: Zhiyun Smooth5S Gimbal

According to the manual, a single press of the power button will show the battery level with a series of dots. It doesn't, it shows the abbreviations for each of the 5 modes, each abbreviation being a 20% battery level.

The specs state charging time is a maximum of 3 hours and 20 minutes is needed, so after that, I placed my Samsung A71 into the clamp on the arm and started to

have a play.

This clamp has a two-way position – vertical or horizontal and a single balancing slide. Once the mount / smartphone is in the desired position, you undo a tightening knob and slide the arm up or down until the phone is perfectly balanced.

By the way, it is recommended not to power on the gimbal without a phone in place, something I have not seen before.

To get the best out of the Smooth5 S / phone combo, of course there is an app, called ZY Cami. When this is installed and activated, you are prompted to connect the Smooth5 S to your phone via Bluetooth; mine simply refused to find the A71 – or more correctly, vice versa. Which was odd as in the phone setting it COULD see the gimbal, so I bit the bullet and manually paired the two.

Back in the app, I was informed there was a firmware upgrade which is pretty

normal. It downloaded OK but refused to install despite many attempts.

This was getting frustrating I have to say.

At this point you might think it is time to start slinging off at Zhiyun for releasing a product and app not yet ready for market.

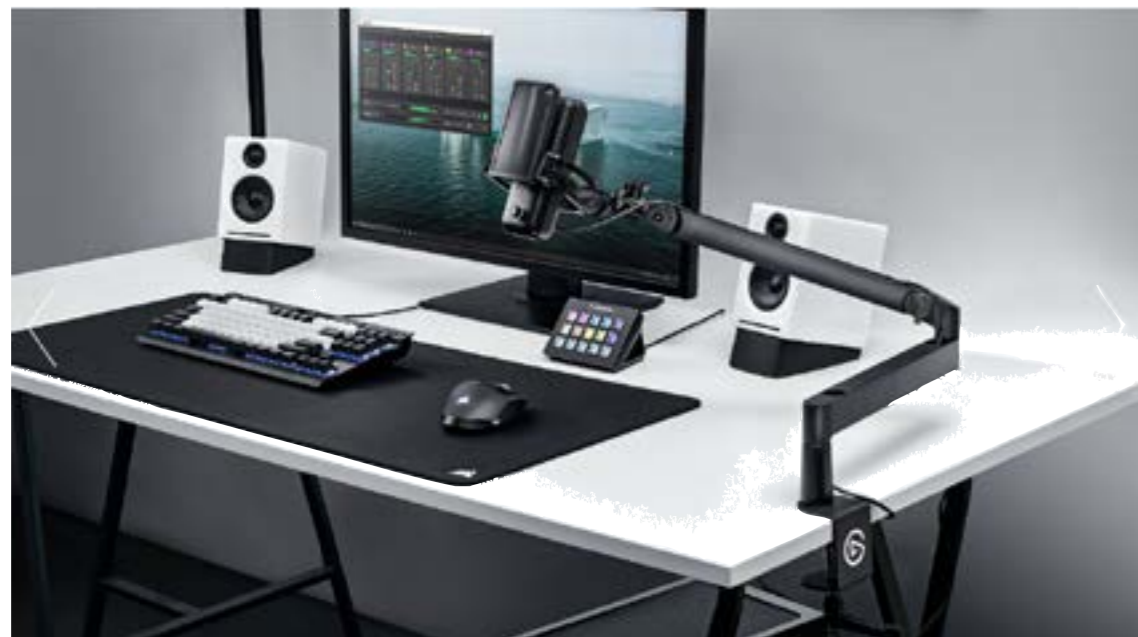
And you'd be wrong.

You see, if I had thought to have a look at the compatibility table, I'd have seen the Samsung A71 is not compatible, and this would have saved me a number of hours of cursing and swearing.

So, rule of thumb, before buying anything electronic / gadgetry these days that requires a host and OS of any description, always check the compatibility list!

To read the rest of the review, please [click here](#).

## Review: Elgato Low Profile Mic Arm



*Cast your mind back to primary school. Remember the first time you saw a strange horseshoe shaped piece of red metal that was grey at the ends?*

And then your teacher – Mr Phillips or Miss Smith or Mrs Ellicot – threw some metal filings on to a piece of card paper, placed the horseshoe object underneath and lo! Wonderous patterns suddenly appeared.

Of course, you and your classmates all gasped! It was magic! How could this be?

We now know this is called “magnetism”, and even if we don’t know WHY it does what it does, we at least understand what is happening.

A few companies in the film and video making biz have successfully incorporated the properties of magnetism into

their products, with to me, the most notable being DJI which is using it very successfully as an “attachment” medium; that is using magnetism to connect two or more devices together. The Action 2 used it extensively.

[SmallRig](#) also uses it to cleverly attach Allen keys to its rigs, so you don't need to go hunting for one to assemble or dismantle or even remove a camera from the rig [Zhiyun](#) has done the same thing with a screwdriver on some of its gimbals.

Which leads me neatly onto the Elgato Low Profile Mic Arm.

I [reviewed the Elgato Multi-Mount system](#) back in July last year. This is a series of articulated arms attached to an upright with a clamp at the end to attach it to a desk or benchtop.

The cleverness is the adaptability at the end to being to connect a mic holder of various types, tablet holders

## Review: Elgato Low Profile Mic Arm

or even cameras as well as the option to add further different length articulated arms.

Conversely, the Elgato Low Profile Mic Arm, whilst having standard 1/4" thread at the end – and is supplied with a pair of adaptors for different sizes (1/4" – 5/8" and 1/4" to 3/8") – it is primarily designed for microphones as the name suggests.

Again, there is a standard bench clamp – more on that in a second – and the Low Profile Mic Arm slides onto a vertical spigot allowing full 360° rotation.

It has to be said this was a very tight fit and needed a bit of bash file persuasion to nub down correctly, but thankfully, was easily again removable for transportation to somewhere else.

A clever feature of the clamp is a button on the windy handle thing (called a ratchet apparently) that allows you reposition it after tightening so that it isn't jammed up hard against some-

thing or otherwise difficult to get to.

The horizontal arm that extends from this has a joint halfway along allowing 180° rotation in the horizontal plane in the vertical axis will go from full vertical (90°) to 60° below the horizontal giving lots of flexibility.

As mentioned, on the end of this is a standard 1/4" thread on a ball joint that has a range of 90° (vertical) to -90° (straight down).

It is thus relatively easy to set this up so that the mic is at head height no matter you are sitting or standing. I used the Elgato Wave:3 that uses a USB-C connector without issue.

So where does the “magnetism” thing come in you ask?

One of the banes of anyone involved in audio and video is cable management.

We are all familiar with the site of extra cable being wound around the boom and mic stand,

I am sure! What Elgato has cleverly done is create compartments in the two arms of the Elgato Low Profile Mic Arm in which the cable can be fed and thus kept out of sight.

Access to these compartments is via a pair of magnetically attached “lids” covering the top of the arm. Simply lift this off, run the cable through and pop it back on again.

Very nice and well thought out.

The Elgato Low Profile Mic Arm can be bought for around \$150 – a bit less if you shop around. You can get more information from the [Elgato website](#).

*To see a video of the Low Profile Mic Arm in action, please [click here](#).*



# Review: Elgato Key Light

*One thing all cameras need, whether they be video, still, smartphone, dashcam, action camera or pinhole even, is light. That's what allows the image to be created.*

And how that light can be setup, manipulated, coloured and so on has been the content of probably millions of articles and thousands of books and even probably more than that in lectures.

But if the source of the natural light available is not playing the game – too dark, too shadowy, or even too bright - we need ways to tamper it, tame it, and even substitute it.

In the science of lighting, the most basic is what is known as 3-point lighting and those three points are called key, fill and back. By placing these three light sources at strategic points around the subject, each

illuminates a separate dimension of the subject to create a greater representation of height, width, and depth in the resultant imagery.

This diagram shows the most basic lighting setup.

Elgato has released a specific light designed to act as a key light and whilst it is aimed it seems, specifically at vloggers, it can be used in many other locations as well, and has some rather nice features.

In concert with its sibling, the [Elgato Ring Light which I reviewed back in September last year](#) the Elgato Key light supports Wi-fi letting you control its settings right from the desktop of your PC or Mac.

Using the Elgato Control Centre app, you can turn the light on or off, change the brightness, the colour temperature or even have it synched with other lights. Featur-



ing a 2800 lumen output from 160 LEDs, you can change the brightness from a very bright right down to a very subtle glow, through color temperatures ranging from 2900 to 7000K.

In my testing the diffusion was utter-

# Review: Elgato Key Light

plarity itself. The power source is a 240v adaptor that thankfully has a long lead (about 3 meters) that plugs into the LED panel. This in turn is screwed onto a vertical extendable arm.

The connection point is a ball joint allowing large freedom in choosing angles to point the light.

The actual screw fitting is a standard ¼" thread so the Elgato Key Light can actually be mounted on any tripod or bracket supporting this size (or with an adaptor of course if that is needed).

ly glare free and I could see no hot spots or other deviation.

A major advantage of using LEDs of course is the heat generated factor is minimal and power usage is much less than standard lighting systems.

To set the Elgato Key Light up is sim-

use the Elgato Control Panel to detect and connect.

The only issue I found is a common Wi-fi based peripheral problem; as the IP address is used, if you are using non-fixed IP addresses in your network which is common, if you reset the modem / router, it may allocate another IP address so you'll have to reconnect.

The Elgato Key Light is available for around \$329. There is a Key Light Air available as well which I have not seen, and that retails for around \$219.

You can get more information on the Elgato Key Light at the [Elgato website](#).

*To see a video of the key light in operation please [click here](#)*

## Audio: Lend Me Your Ears (And Voice)

*I've never been one much to do Christmas gift idea lists for my readers, and so it is again this year.*

But Sennheiser sent me a list of equipment ostensibly as a "gift buying guide" thing, and it actually does stand up as a guide to "what mic for what task" as well. Thrown into the mix are some suggested headphones too.

This information might be particularly useful if you are considering starting up vlogging for example.

Now I freely admit I use Sennheiser mics and headphones, and due to this, I am happy to say that I have at some point used most of the ones suggested, and can vouch for their build and sound quality.

So here it is: I hope it proves useful (and the Chrissy decorations on the images are their idea, not mine) □

### MKE 200



Upgrading your video blogging audio is just one microphone away – Sennheiser's MKE 200 brings presence to your voice, while features like a built-in windscreen and shock mount keep your recordings sounding cleaner than ever before.

AUD\$199

### MKE400



If you're searching for that perfect on-camera microphone, look no further! The MKE 400 is a compact, highly directional, on-camera shot-

gun microphone designed to isolate and enhance the audio for your video, and comes with built-in windscreen and shock mount.

AUD\$299

### MKE600



Even the most demanding filming challenges can be handled with an MKE 600 shotgun mic. Thanks to its high directivity, it picks up sounds from the direction in which the camera is pointing and effectively attenuates noise from the sides.

AUD\$499

## Audio: Lend Me Your Ears (And Voice)

### MKE 440



MKE440 Prefer stereo sound? The MKE 440 on-camera stereo mic has two aligned and matched mini shotgun mics, so it captures the natural audio you want and rejects off-axis noise.

AUD\$599

### MKH416



A classic – Sennheiser's MKH 416 moisture-resistant interference tube microphone lets you capture su-

perb broadcast-level audio in demanding conditions. Ideal for your next professional film, TV, or location recording.

AUD\$1069

### LAV USB-CX Lav USB-C



Whether connected to a computer or a mobile device with a USB-C port, with XS Lav USB-C you can record yourself simply and effectively, helping you instantly produce better content.

AUD\$12

### XS Wireless Portable Lav Mobile Kit



Designed for vloggers, content creators and streamers on the go, the Sennheiser XSW-D Portable Lav Mobile Kit includes everything you need to get high-quality audio into your smartphone videos.

AUD\$349

### MK4



With the typical warm sound of a studio condenser mic, the MK 4 is a great all-rounder for podcast-

## Audio: Lend Me Your Ears (And Voice)

ing and voice-overs, as well as for recording vocals and instruments. It delivers fantastic sound quality, while still being an affordable choice for home recording. AUD\$419

### MD421



One of the best-known microphones in the world, the cardioid MD 421's full-bodied sound and five-position bass control make it an excellent choice for most instruments, as well as group vocals and radio or television broadcasting. AUD\$635

### HD25



Great sound, super-rugged and lightweight! The iconic HD 25 is one of the most widely used headphones among professionals. It's ideal for any professional monitoring environment.

AUD\$349



### HD280 Pro

The HD 280 PRO monitoring headphones boast extremely robust construction combined with the sound

quality, modular design, and excellent noise isolation you need in the field

AUD\$179.95

### HD300 Pro



Modelled on the precise sound reproduction of the legendary HD 250 Linear headphones, the HD 300 PRO delivers a neutral, high-resolution working sound, at the same level of precision you apply to your production. Its sound pattern remains delicate and accurate in every application

AUD\$369

## TUTORIAL

## Tutorial: Difference Between Ring / KeyLight

*I've had several people ask me when to use a key light and when to use a ring light.*

Let's start answering that by first defining what each is.

A ring light as the name suggests, is a circular light that either fits around a camera's lens or is large enough for the camera to shoot through it.

A key light on the other hand is the main source of light in a scene (as distinct from a fill light that is designed to "fill in" any shadows created by the key light).

So, by the perfect definition, a ring light COULD be a key light just to confuse things. However, ring lights are designed for a very specific purpose, and that is to cast an even light onto your subject thus reducing shadows in the face and illuminating the eyes. As a side benefit it will also minimise any blemishes.

This is why ring lights are often used in portrait photography and glamour shots.



But they are also useful in imaging a single subject and why they are often used in shots of food for example, and as you may have seen if you are fan of forensic type shows on TV, the police love to use them at crime scenes too.

From a vlogger point of view, a ring light is perfect if used in a dark room. The one I reviewed a while back, the [Elgato Ring Light](#) has a mount inside the

ring for a camera and so by placing it behind your monitor, if you are streaming gaming, or creating tutorials, everything looks very natural.

Under the same circumstances, a [key light](#) would most likely need a fill light and a back light to add a three dimension look to the image otherwise it runs the risk of being "shadowy", unless of course you want that sort of look to emphasize the drama of a situation.

This is also often used a crime and spy shows, for example, when the subject is "hiding in the shadows" so to speak. This by the way is commonly called "split lighting".

Lighting in photography and video is a science to itself, which is why in bigger productions there is a separate Lighting Director. If this interests you, there are a million on-line tutorials available and they best way to start is with basic 3-point lighting – key, fill and backlight - and experiment from there.