



Suggested hardware considerations as of 10.01.2024

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LIGHTING

Two Neewer Brand LED-Softboxes with dimmable and color-adjusting LEDs (approximately \$106!!! - Almost 50% Price Drop!)

<https://amzn.to/3XEzGOI>

NEW!!!

TRAVEL Lighting

AMBITFUL A2 Full-Color RGB Tube Light, CRI 95 TLCI 97 Accurate Color, 2500K-8500K Adjustable, RGB CCT HSI Mode, 29 Fx Light Effect, APP Control Support, Brightness Adjustable, Magnet Design (A2)

<https://amzn.to/3zCuK4U>

MY Back Light TOP CHOICE: -

Inexpensive Back Light (aka: "Hair light")

Bohon Clip-Light -

<https://amzn.to/3qtkAPG>

BACKDROPS

Currently, almost any background is acceptable to most casting directors (*barely*), when you can, *provide a solid color wall*, or better yet, use a seamless backdrop like this example:

Pop-Up Backdrop with stand: <https://amzn.to/454gTyX>

Check out the color options on pop-up backgrounds. There are several to choose from. Go for a solid color - but not too dark or bizarre.

Make sure you get a set with a STAND. Making it work after the fact can be very frustrating. Keep it as simple as possible. My favorite choice is still a pull down "Seamless" paper background: (space permitting) -

NEW SLIGHT PRICE INCREASE -

Seamless Paper Backdrop Hardware

(My favorite color choice is: Superior Seamless #111441 or #41 "Marine Blue")

<https://rb.gy/15gwa>

If you can't locate The SEAMLESS Brand, Amazon carries the SAVAGE Brand Called "Gulf Blue" which is very similar, and a great color! <https://amzn.to/3qsP4kG>

please note: the colors displayed on some websites are not exactly accurate.

The ACTUAL colors are here on the manufacturer's website:

<https://www.superspec.com/solid-color-seamless-paper.html>

Whatever background you choose, try to stay within the realistic choice "acceptable-color" realm - watch the [TTSTTT Video](#): for suggested colors.

And don't forget: you can PAINT A WALL in any color, or use a bedsheet or portable backdrop if you want.

TRIPOD ADAPTER - NEW LOWER PRICE -

Here's a great inexpensive rotating adjustable smartphone tripod adapter: <https://amzn.to/3XT0JHm>

Almost any tripod will do. Don't spend too much!

If you're above 5' - Try to go up to 72" if possible, to give a better camera angle when needed. Try to keep the camera about 3" above the subject's eyeline for the most flattering angle. There are good Mics available, but most of the time if you have your phone/camera close enough to get a nice frame - as opposed to zooming in from far away - the built-in mic should be sufficient. If you can afford it, I've found a GREAT shotgun mic at a good price:

MICROPHONE - NEW LOWER PRICE -

The Shure MV-88 - price varies.

<https://amzn.to/2Ur1BoD>

There are lot's of mic options. If you decide to go with a Shotgun or Lavalier mic - make sure you get one that's compatible with your phone. iPhones in particular are very picky - go to the Apple website to see Mics, and then google to find the best prices.

That's how I found the SHURE MV-88 but I paid \$50 more than it costs on Amazon right now!

XLR MICROPHONE ADAPTER

If you have an XLR professional Microphone that you want to use that requires 48v "phantom power" (I use my Sennheiser 416) - there are options to use your really GOOD mics.

This analog to digital connector is awesome! I use mine for every session!

<https://amzn.to/3OUqanu>

Here are a couple of refreshers from my workshops for you:

Tim's Top Ten Self-Tape Tech Tips:

<https://bit.ly/3cBROPK>

Self Tape Tech Tip #4 123-45°

(Explains how 3-Point lighting works)

<https://bit.ly/2A8Kmyl>