Browsing internet photo-communities or talking to photographers, musing about buying into studio flash equipment, it doesn't take long and they shoot one question at you:

What can one do with this or that light former?

Nice catalog pictures tell nothing about the results one can reasonably expect, let alone how well it will work for the aspiring studio operator's requirements. Even skilled professionals don't know the effect of each and every light shaping tool.

This is where this document starts. We show almost every Hensel light former from our vast portfolio under repeatable field conditions.

The studio set up is listed below:

We put up a gray backdrop in the studio, because gray shows best gradual shadows and contrast.

The backdrop is 2,75m/9ft long and we put it up with the top ending at a height of approximately 2,7m/8,9ft.

The model's position is 2,5m/8ft away from the backdrop which in turn is approximately 2m/6,5ft away from the back wall due to room requirements of the tripod. The red marks on wall and floor are 0,5m/1,6ft apart. The light former is always positioned with its front edge 2,5m/8ft away from the model and the center of the light former is on the same level as the forehead of our model. The distance between front edges of the light former to the back wall is about 5m/16ft. The position of the model is slightly out of lens axis, which allows us to judge nose shadow and light/shadow transition in general.

The whole scene is recorded with four cameras from different angles.

The power setting was adjusted for every Lightformer so that a correct exposure was obtained at f 8.0. We used a Hensel Strobe Master flash meter for precise measurements. The main new feature of this meter is an integrated radio trigger and remote control compatible with the Hensel Strobe Wizard Plus system, allowing us to work much faster.

Additional meter readings were taken at the right and left edge of the backdrop at a height of 1,5m/5ft above ground. This gives an impression of the falloff to the edges of the light beam. The power that was needed to achieve f 8.0 on the model is stated for every Lightformer. This offers a basis for calculation according to your personal wishes for depth of field and room conditions. One f-stop more means doubling power (Ws) and vice versa.

Color balance on all cameras was set to factory preset „Daylight“ (sun symbol) picture style „Neutral“. Except for scaling there was no post processing involved.

The pictures in detail:

1. The effect of the light former shown on a portrait. Canon EOS 5D Mk III with EF 4.0/70-200mm lens at 200mm focal length. Distance from the model to camera 9ft. ISO 100 / f 8.0. Distance from the model to front edge of the light former is 2,5m/8ft.

2. The effect of the Lightformer shown on a full length figure. Canon EOS 5D Mk II with EF 4.0/24-105 mm USM IS L at 50 mm focal length. Distance from camera to model 11ft. ISO 100 / f 8.0.

3. The set from above. The sharpness, edges and spread of the shadow behind the model can be judged very well. Canon EOS 1D Mk II with EF 4.0/17-40mm lens at 17mm focal length. Distance from Model to camera 4,5m/15ft. ISO 100 / f 7.1.

4. The set from above left. The edges of the light beam are clearly visible and the amount of stray light that the Lightformer produces can be estimated. Canon EOS 450D with EF 3.5-4.5/0-22mm at 10 mm focal length. Distance from camera to model 15,5m/18ft. ISO 100/f 8.0.

5. Same as image 4, with an added exposure by a Hensel EH Pro Mini 3000 flash head attached to a Hensel Trio 245F power pack bounced over the ceiling. This basic exposure alone would have been sufficient for f 4.0. This is two stops below the main exposure and shows the setup areas that would otherwise get no light. Also here are the power values that this light former required in order to achieve f 8.0 on the model and the meter readings from the left and right edges of the backdrop.

6. A picture of the light former, including information of the meter readings at the metering points.

We hope that this information will be helpful in choosing your lighting equipment and inspires you to use new Hensel light shaping tools.

* Due to the longer period of time the pictures were taken cameras and lampheads may differ from one set to another.
Light Shaping Comparison for Soft Light
Softbox 30 x 40 cm, front diffusor only (max. 300 W pilot light)

Meter reading

1 \( f=8,0 \)
2 \( f=5,6 \)
3 \( f=5,6+7/10 \)

Expert D 1000 compact head, power delivered 500 Ws

Softbox 30 x 40 cm, front diffusor only (max. 300 W pilot light)
Softbox 30 x 40 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle
(max. 300 W pilot light)

Meter reading

1. f=8.0
2. f=5.6
3. f=5.6+7/10

Expert D 1000 compact head, power delivered 500 Ws

Softbox 30 x 40 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle (max. 300 W pilot light)
Expert D 1000 compact head, power delivered 500 Ws

Meter reading

1. f=8,0,
2. f=5,6,
3. f=5,6+7/10

60 x 80 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle
Softbox 60 x 120 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle

Expert D 1000 compact head, power delivered 406 Ws

Meter reading:
1. f=8.0,
2. f=4.0 + 7/10,
3. f= 5.6+6/10
Hensel Tria 3000 AS + EH Pro Mini Head, power delivered 2799 Ws

Meter reading:
1. f=8.0
2. f=4.0 +4/10
3. f=2.8 +4/10

Softbox 90 x 120 cm + Louvers
Softbox 60 x 120 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle, horizontal

Expert D 1000 compact head, power delivered 435 Ws

Meter reading:
1. f=8.0,
2. f=5.6,
3. f=5.6+6/10
Softbox 90 x 120 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle

Expert D 1000 compact head, power delivered 500 Ws

Meter reading
1. f=8,0,
2. f=5,6+1/10,
3. f=5,6+7/10
Softbox 120 x 180 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle

Expert D 1000 compact head, power delivered 467 Ws

Meter reading
1. \( f=8.0 \)
2. \( f=5.6 \)
3. \( f=5.6+8/10 \)
Expert D 1000 compact head, power delivered 467 Ws

Meter reading

1 f=8,0, 2 f=4,0+8/10, 3 f=5,6+6/10
Softbox 100 x 100 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle

Meter reading

1. $f=8.0$
2. $f=4.0+8/10$
3. $f=5.6+6/10$

Expert D 1000 compact head, power delivered 406 WS
Stripbox 30 x 90 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle

Expert D 1000 compact head, power delivered 574 Ws

Gemessene power delivered:
1. f=8,0
2. f=4,0+8/10
3. f=5,6+6/10
Stripbox 30 x 90 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle, horizontal

Expert D 1000 compact head, power delivered 574 Ws

Meter reading
1. f=0,0,
2. f=4,0+7/10,
3. f=5,6+5/10
Stripbox 30 x 120 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle

Meter reading

1. f=8,0
2. f=4,0+9/10
3. f=5,6+5/10

Expert D 1000 compact head, power delivered 616 Ws
Stripbox 30 x 120 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle, horizontal

Expert D 1000 compact head, power delivered 659 Ws

Meter reading

1. f=8.0,
2. f=4.0+6/10,
3. f=5.6+6/10
Expert D 1000 compact head, power delivered 659 Ws

Meter reading
1) f=8,0,
2) f=4,0+8/10,
3) f=5,6+4/10
Stripbox 30 x 180 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle, horizontal

Expert D 1000 compact head, power delivered 758 Ws

Meter reading

1. f=8,0,
2. f=4,0+9/10,
3. f=5,6+8/10
Softstar, Ø 105 cm

Expert Pro Plus 500, power delivered 330 Ws

Meter reading

1. f=8,0, 2. f=5,6 +2/10, 3. f=5,6 +8/10
Expert Pro Plus 500, power delivered 354 Ws

Meter reading

1 f=8,0, 2 f=5,6, 3 f=5,6 +4/10

Master Umbrella White 40” / Ø 105 cm
Expert Pro Plus 500, power delivered 354 Ws

Meter reading:
1 \( f=8,0 \), 2 \( f=4,0 +8/10 \), 3 \( f=5,6 +5/10 \)
Expert D 1000 compact head, power delivered 406 Ws

Meter reading:
1. $f=8,0$
2. $f=4,0+8/10$
3. $f=5,6+4/10$

Master PM, Ø 80 cm, white
Expert D 1000 compact head, power delivered 330 Ws

Meter reading

1. $f=8,0$
2. $f=4,0+6/10$
3. $f=5,6+5/10$

Parabolic Umbrella Master PXL, $\varnothing$ 135 cm, white
Parabolic Umbrella Master PXL, Ø 135 cm, silver

Meter reading:
1. f=8,0,
2. f=4,0+9/10,
3. f=5,6+6/10

Expert D 1000 compact head, power delivered 406 Ws
Parabolic Umbrella Master PXL, ø 135 cm, silver, with diffusor cover

Meter reading

1. f=8.0,
2. f=5.6,
3. f=5.6+8/10

Expert D 1000 compact head, power delivered 574 Ws
Octabox, ø 90 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle

Meter reading:
1. f=8,0
2. f=4,0+8/10
3. f=5,6+4/10

Expert D 1000 compact head, power delivered 467 Ws
Expert D 1000 compact head, power delivered 406 Ws

Meter reading:
1. f=8,0,
2. f=4,0+8/10,
3. f=5,6+4/10

Octabox, ø 120 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle
Expert D 1000 compact head, power delivered 467 Ws

Meter reading
1 f=8,0,
2 f=4,0+8/10,
3 f=5,6+4/10

Octabox, Ø 150 cm, front diffuser + inner baffle
Expert D 1000 compact head, power delivered 406 Ws

Meter reading
1. f=8,0,
2. f=4,0+8/10,
3. f=5,6+7/10

Octabox, Ø 200 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle
Grand softbox, ø 90 cm, inner baffle

Expert D 1000 compact head, power delivered 88 Ws

Nut reading

1 f=8,0, 2 f=4,0+4/10, 3 f=2,8+1/10
Grand softbox, Ø 90 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle

Expert D 1000 compact head, power delivered 467 Ws

Meter reading:

1. f=8,0
2. f=4,0+6/10
3. f=5,6+1/10
Expert D 1000 compact head, power delivered 177 Ws

Meter reading
1 f=8,0, 2 f=5.6+2/10, 3 f= 5.6+5/10

Grand softbox, ø 120 cm, inner baffle
Grand softbox, Ø 120 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle

Expert D 1000 compact head, power delivered 467 Ws

Meter reading:
1. f=8,0
2. f=5,6
3. f=5,6+7/10

Grand softbox, Ø 120 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle
Grand softbox, Ø 190 cm, no diffusers

Expert D 1000 compact head, power delivered 77 Ws

Meter reading
1. f=8.0, 2. f=5.6, 3. f=2.8+8/10
Grand softbox, Ø 190 cm, inner baffle

Expert D 1000 compact head, power delivered 95 Ws

Meter reading
1 f=8.0, 2 f=5.6+1/10, 3 f=2.8+8/10
Grand softbox, \( \varnothing \) 190 cm, front diffusor + inner baffle

Meter reading

\[ \text{Expert D 1000 compact head, power delivered 354 Ws} \]

\[ \text{Meter reading} \]

\[ 1: f=8.0, 2: f=4.0+8/10, 3: f=5.6+1/10 \]
Expert Pro Plus 1000, power delivered 616 Ws

Meter reading

1 f=8,0, 2 f=5,6, 3 f=5,6 +5/10

Beauty Dish white
Expert Pro Plus 1000, power delivered 1000 Ws

Meter reading:
1. \( f=8.0 \), \( f=4.0 +2/10 \), \( f=1.4 +6/10 \)

Beauty Dish white + 22” (ca. 58 cm) Full Grid
Beauty Dish white + 7” (ca. 18 cm) Grid

Expert Pro Plus 1000, power delivered 406 Ws

Meter reading

1 f=8.0, 2 f=4.0, +9/10, 3 f=4.0, +6/10
Expert Pro Plus 500, power delivered 134 Ws

Meter reading:
1. f=8,0, 2. f=4,0 +4/10, 3. f=2,8 +6/10
Beauty Dish silver + 22” (ca. 58cm) Full Grid

Meter reading

1. f=8,0, 2. f=4,0 +6/10, 3. f=1,0 +8/10

Expert Pro Plus 500, power delivered 203 Ws
Beauty Dish silver + 7” Grid

Expert Pro Plus 500, power delivered 117 Ws

Meter reading

1. f=8.0, 2. f=4.0 +6/10, 3. f=2.8 +4/10