

## Resources for table top shooting

This list is by no means complete, nor does it list all items which can be found at any one source. Instead it tries to suggest the types of things, and some of the more specific items, which you can find at these locations. I would encourage members to add favorites to this list later.

### B&H Photo (Also Adorama)

Rolls of Savage Translun in various weights. Lots of grip gear, including specialized clamps, screw adapters, etc. Light tents, sweep tables, etc. These tend to be expensive.

### Harbor Freight

Harbor Freight is a low cost source for lots of small tools which are useful for tabletop photography, as well as supplies like O rings. While these are available for less than many other outlets, they make it even easier to save money. Periodically in your junk mail you should be getting fliers with a page of ads from HF. These are different from the catalogs you get if you sign up at the store. But they usually have a “20% off any one item” coupon, and often, along with the catalogs, coupons for free items “with and purchase.” Plus, they regularly discount stock even below their normal prices. Here’s how to use these.

- 1) Make a list of items you want to get.
- 2) Collect current coupons.
- 3) Periodically (monthly) visit and see what items on your list are on sale.
- 4) Purchase the most expensive item on your list which is on sale at any given time. Also use your 20% off coupon. Take your free item coupon and get things like the flashlight which can be used as a modeling lamp on your speedlights (and don’t be afraid to get duplicates so you have a reserve when the first fails).
- 5) As you purchase the more expensive items, do the same thing with the less expensive items.
- 6) Take your time. Unless you have a business need, you don’t need anything right away. Game the system.

A clamps, steel. Pick & probe sets. Tweezer sets. Dial indicator stands. O ring sets (get the cheapest sets – you don’t need fancy materials for these). Flashlights for modeling lamps for speedlights. Extension inspection mirrors, small round and large, rectangular. Painter’s tripods.

### Hobby Stores (Michaels and Hobby Lobby)

Many kinds of decorative and metallic paper in the scrapbooking section. Closed cell foam sheets in the section with felt. Rolls of cellophane. Rolls of paper, including tracing paper. Tacky waxes and putties. Foamcore including colored. Poster board. Pre-cut mat boards. Small mirrors. Storage boxes.

### Home Depot & Lowe’s

Toilet shims. Painter’s tripods. Behr paint chips (HD only. The largest I know of – preferred, about 350 different colors - Free). Valspar paint chips (L only. The next largest and most useful to Behr, about the same number of colors - Free). ¼ x 20 hardware including nuts, bolts, threaded rod and coupling nuts. Same 3/8 x 16. Decorative punched metal sheets can be used as cuculoris. Various vent covers for the same use. Venetian blinds, same use.

### Walmart

Foamcore. Poster board. Tacky waxes and putties. Tee pins. Cosmetic sponges. Cosmetic mirrors, including concave magnifiers. Pre-cut mat boards. Bagged sets of plastic A clamps. Storage boxes. Lots of other stuff.

Office Supply stores  
Binder clamps

This is only included because these items are hard to find. Audio cable adapters for syncing flashes and connecting cables are almost non-existent except on-line. But the HB Pro Sound store in El Paso, (6000 Gateway Blvd E) just off I-10 on the frontage road eastbound just after the Trowbridge exit (right after the US 54 Spaghetti Bowl) has a good assortment at reasonable prices. I use these for connecting my various older and newer flash units to controllers, etc. I need to work between cell phone audio plugs (2.5 mm), mini audio plugs (3.5 mm), and regular audio plugs ( $\frac{1}{4}$  inch), and I need gender benders, step ups, step downs and splitters. This is the only place I've found locally that has them.

Some other things are hard to find locally. Aerosols like dulling spray and smoke in a can are only available in person. I've found dulling spray at Artisanos in ABQ or Santa Fe. Canned smoke is harder. I got mine in WI..... Most of us are old enough to remember Edmund Scientific. NASCO in Fort Atkinson, WI supplies school science and art programs, and has many similar items, but still isn't the same.