

Filmmaking Lighting Basics 3



PLAY PICMONIC

Softbox

Beauty Commercial

A softbox is a box-shaped lighting modifier that fits over a preexisting lighting fixture. Like its namesake, a softbox softens the light, creating a glowy light on the subject with soft shadows. Softboxes are traditionally used in commercials and documentary interviews.

Gobo

Handpuppet

If you've ever seen black and white detective films, they likely used gobos to make it look like light was coming in through window shades. Gobos are like shadow hand puppets. When placed in front of a light, the holes in a gobo allow the light to escape in very specific areas, thereby reshaping the light. Gobos are often used to add texture to a light, creating an illusion there is something there that is obscuring the light