

Tips for Still Life Photography

Subject

- Typically using items found in everyday life
- Make unexpected combination of items (a brick with some flowers)
- Use odd numbers of items
- Don't be afraid of color

Lighting

- Experiment with different types of light (a desk light, window light, LED light, flash with scrim, etc.)
- Try sidelight

Composition

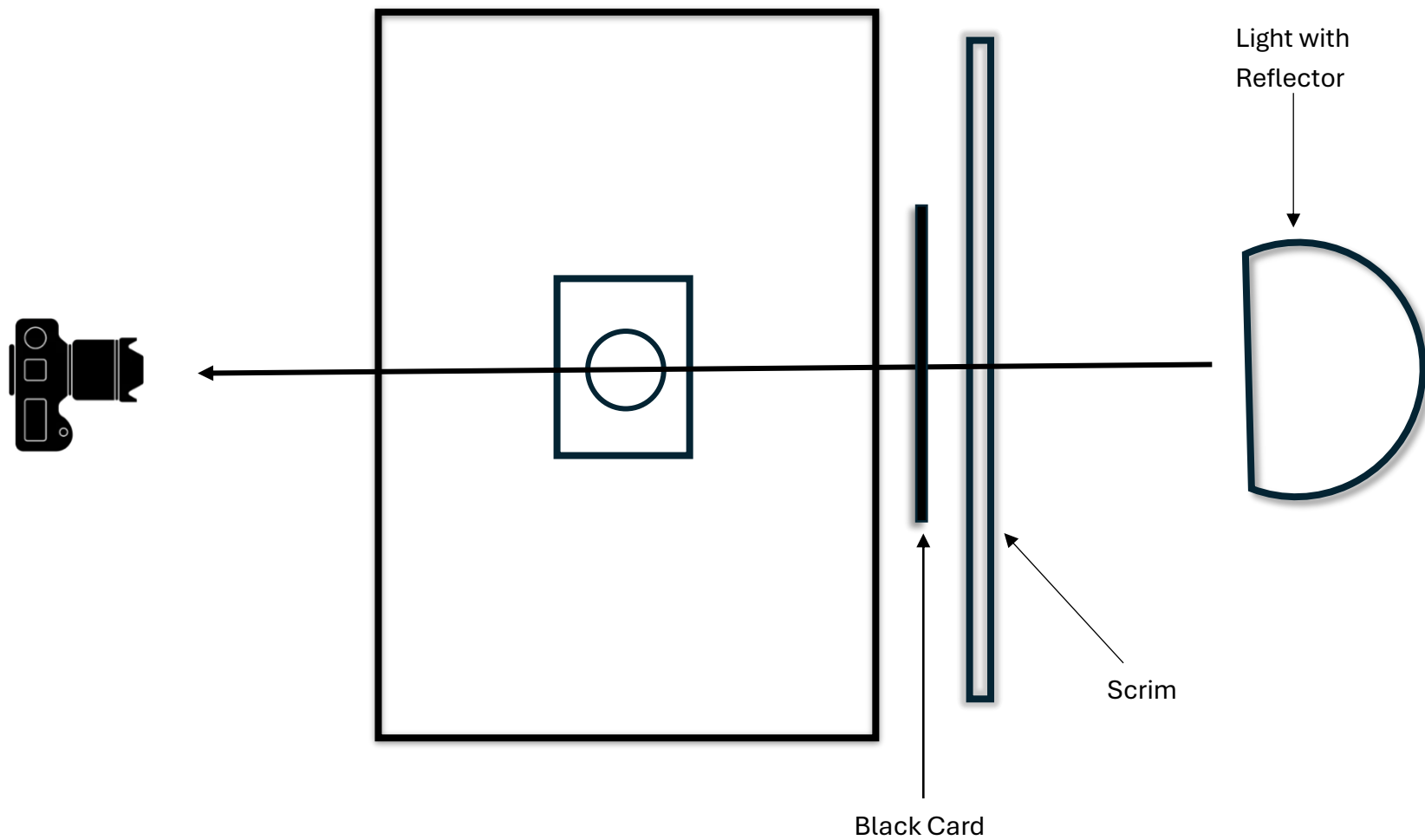
- Use a "hero" subject
- Use leading lines
- Use movement between objects: keep the viewers eye moving around the image from one object to the next
- Avoid overly empty gaps in the arrangements
- Don't confuse the viewer with too much activity

Tips for photographing glassware

- **White background:**
 - Keep the center of the light in the center of the subject.
 - All corners should be equally lit
- **Horizon Line:** Keep the bottom of the subject even with the horizon line. Do this by moving the subject back.
- **Use a backlight:** Place your light source behind the glassware so that it shines through the glass, which helps define its shape and reduces the chances of direct reflections.
- **Avoid Direct Light:** Never shine a light directly at the glass, as this will cause harsh, unwanted reflections and hide details.
- **Control Reflections:** Wear black clothing and gloves to prevent your own reflection from showing in the glass. Place black foam board on the sides of the subject to create defined black lines and block stray light from the room.
- **Diffuse the light:** Use soft boxes, diffusers or umbrellas to soften the light and create a more even illumination, which helps reduce harsh highlights.
- **Work in a dark room:** Turn off all overhead or unnecessary lights in the room to help control the light hitting the subject.
- **Position the camera:** Adjust the camera's angle and height to find the best view. A lower camera angle will show the back rim lower than the front. A higher camera angle will show the front rim lower than the back. A level camera angle will make the rims level.
- **Use a longer focal length:** A longer lens can help you stay farther away from the subject, which minimizes your own reflection in the glass.
- **Consider a polarizing filter:** A polarizing filter can help reduce reflections and improve the appearance of the glass.
- **Try different backgrounds:** A white background can create a clean look, while a black background can add drama and emphasize the shape of the glass.
- **Use gels:** Experiment with colored gels on your lights to create different moods and effects.

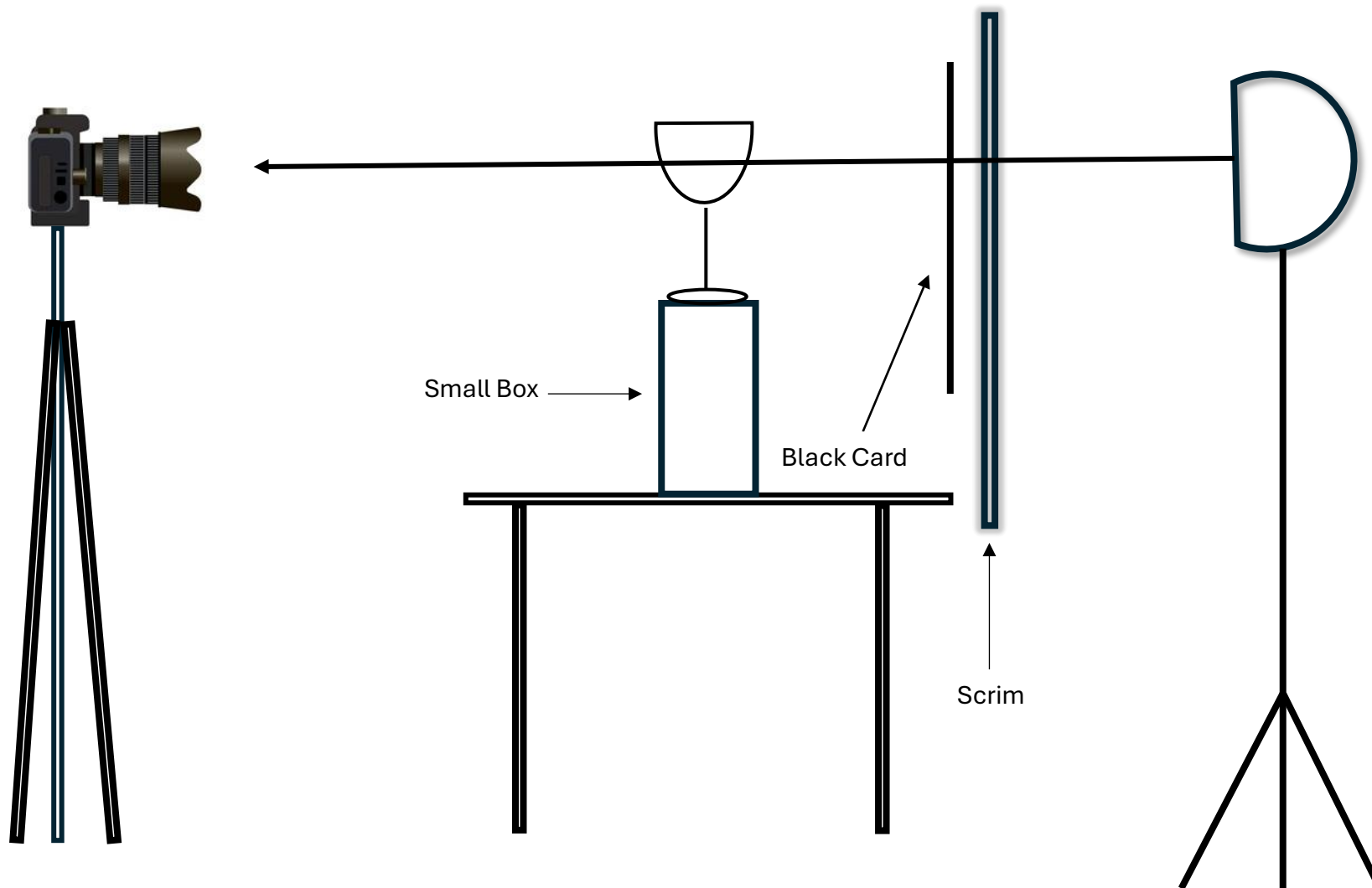
Lighting Diagram for Glassware with a Black Background

Top View



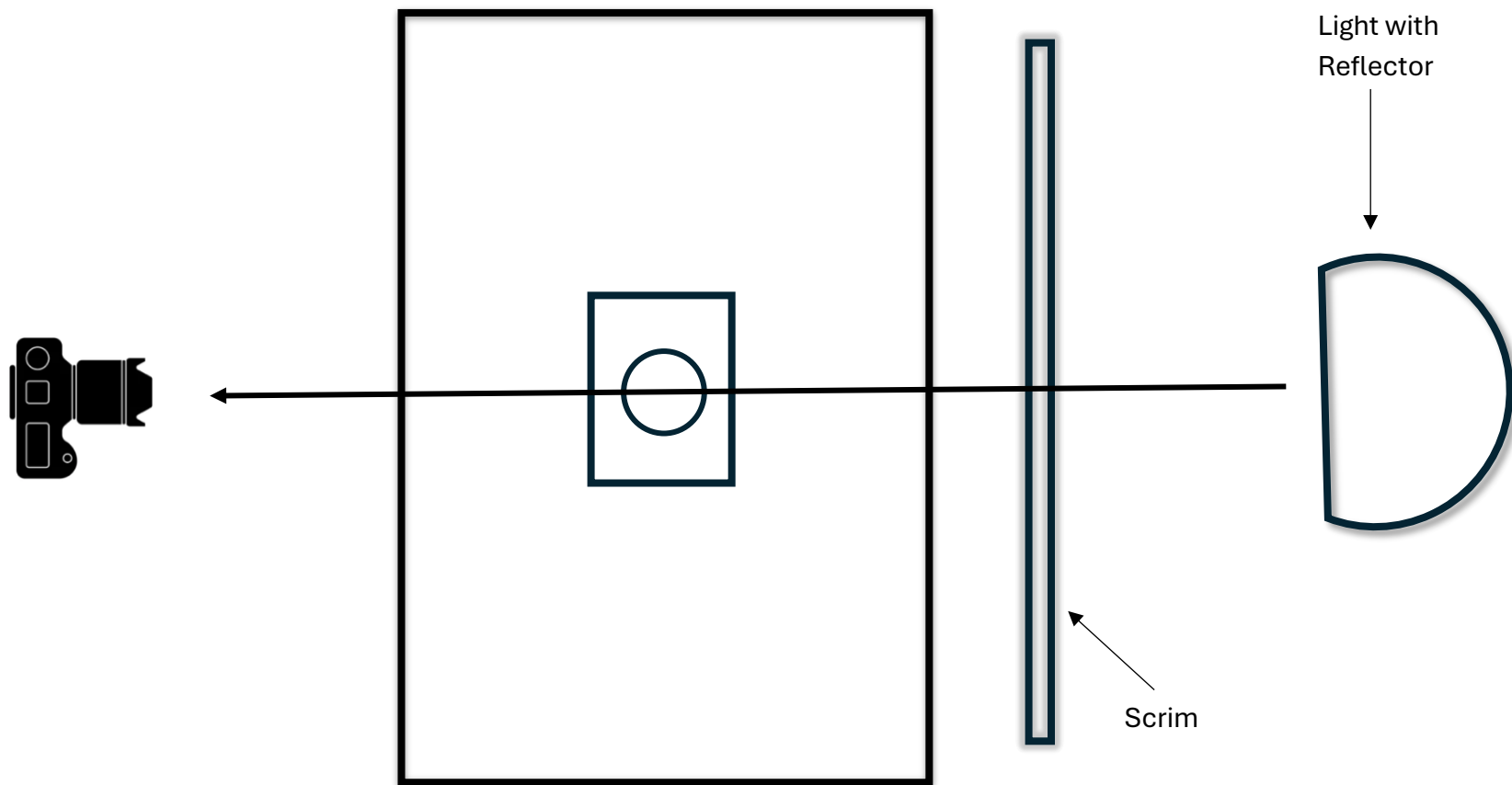
Lighting Diagram for Glassware with a Black Background

Side View



Lighting Diagram for Glassware with a White Background

Top View



Lighting Diagram for Glassware with a White Background

Side View

