








Photography Studio Equipment

Here's how I chose and set up the photography equipment for my home photography studio. After a while of freelancing photography, I decided it was time to create a dedicated space at home where I could show up consistently and feel proud of what I was making. Below, I'll walk through how I built a practical and functional home studio.

Planning & Purchasing

I chose a spare bedroom that is used occasionally for guests. But the way my studio is structured, it could easily work in a space that is used more often. Once I decided on a space, I moved on to select a desk. Since I photograph products, I needed a surface to place the products on, as well as a desk to work at when I'm not actively photographing. I chose a desk on wheels that could easily be moved in and out of the space depending on if it's being used or not. What I love about the metal go kart styled desk I found is that it's as aesthetic as it's practical! It doubles as a worktable for products that I'm shooting, as well as a desk when I'm editing or doing other computer work. A folding table is another great, more affordable option. Next, I kept the camera that I already had as a hobbyist (the canon t6i) which I purchased from my favorite photography equipment site, B&H. The t6i is discontinued but a great comparable camera for an aspiring photographer would be the Canon EOS R50. Be sure to select the camera lens that works best for you. Another option is to start off with the camera on your phone. As an aside, B&H has incredible customer service! If you need any help choosing the gear that best suits your needs, they will be happy to assist you. I ordered a tripod from B&H as well. I decided to go with an inexpensive tripod and only upgraded once I saw the need to do so. For my lighting setup, I chose to invest in good lighting right at the start. I purchased two of the Paul C Buff Einstein flash units with compatible stands. However, if two lights exceed your budget, you can definitely start with one light and a reflector. In addition to the lights, I purchased one trigger transmitter and two transceivers (you'll need one transceiver per light); they activate the lights' flash. I also ordered two 32" x 40" foldable softboxes. I purchased a simple background stand. My go to for background paper is the Savage seamless photography paper. They come in many colors and are super photogenic. I started off with one roll of the color Super White #01 and slowly accumulated a collection of colors as time went on.

Essential **Photography Studio** Equipment

Item	Purpose	Notes
<p>Table</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Hirsh Ready-to-Ass...  4 Feet Foldable Tab... 	Doubles as a surface for the the product you are shooting and as a desk.	Using a desk that is easy to move or fold is helpful when you're short on space
Camera	Captures photo and/or video	Use what you have first; upgrade when you hit a real limitation
Tripod	Stability and sharpness	Start with a basic one upgrade when you hit a real limitation
<p>Lighting setup</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Einstein Flash Unit  13' Air-Cushioned L...  32" x 40" Foldable ...  Cybersync Trigger ...  CyberSync Transce... 	Controls exposure and mood	One key light + reflector can go surprisingly far
Background stand	Supports a background	The stand could easily be unassembled and put away when not in use
Backdrop / background	Creates a consistent look	Paper roll, or fabric—choose what's easiest to reset



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💡 Pro Tip

Spend your first dollars on lighting before chasing a new camera—those upgrades make everything you already own look better.

The Setup Process ⚙️

1. Measure the space and map out where the camera, subject, and lights can live without blocking walkways.
2. Install or position lighting first, then mark “home base” spots on the floor so resets are quick.
3. Arrange the camera, tripod, and backdrop.
4. Tackle cable management with ties and a power strip plan so nothing becomes a tripping hazard.
5. Do a full test: record a short clip or take a few photos.

6. Adjust as needed—tiny changes to light angle, and background spacing make the biggest difference.

Challenges I Faced

- **Lighting balance** — Mixed daylight and artificial light looked inconsistent, so I committed to one lighting “mode” per shoot and stuck to it.
- **Space constraints** — I couldn’t leave everything spread out, so I chose gear that folds away and created a simple storage spot for quick setup.
- **Budget** — I set a “minimum viable studio” list and upgraded one piece at a time after I proved I’d use it weekly.

Key Takeaway

A home studio doesn’t have to be big or expensive—it just needs to be consistent and easy to use. The moment I optimized for quick setup and repeatable results, I started creating more (and stressing less).

Final Thoughts

Now that my studio is set up, I spend less time fighting my environment and more time actually creating— my photos look cleaner and feel more intentional. The best part is how much it’s boosted my creativity, because the space invites me to start. If you’ve been thinking about building your own setup, begin with what you have and improve it step by step—you’ll be surprised how quickly it comes together.