

Smoke Photography

Equipment:

- Incense sticks + holder of some type
- flash + sync cable
- snoot for flash or 2 pieces of paper/foam to direct light
- tripod
- macro lens (works best) will work with other lenses
- black background (fabric or paper)
- side light (desk lamps work good)

Instructions:

Use your tripod to hold your flash at a 45 degree angle to your smoke. Be sure that your flash does not hit your background material by using a snoot or two pieces of paper or foam to direct your flash in a small beam towards the smoke.

Use side or overhead lighting to allow you to focus on the smoke. You will be hand holding your camera the side/overhead light just needs to allow the auto focus to pick up the grey smoke on the black background.

Light the incense stick and place it in a container or holder in an area that has no draft/ wind. The incense smoke will naturally flicker and curl but if it is going too straight run your finger through the smoke to create a disturbance.

While handholding your camera set the camera to Manual and adjust the Shutter speed to your flash sync speed and the Fstop around the F8-11 range to start with. Autofocus is easiest as the smoke moves constantly. Remember flash freezes action.

This is another of those “ just start snapping” types of photography, you can't wait for a formation and then try to capture it as it will be gone before you get the camera up, shoot 3-5 then pause and see how you're doing.

Online help: The last video is one of the best and leads to others by the same author :

[Smoke-Digi-Blog Photographing](#)

[Smoke Photography Capturing Delicate Wisps of Smoke - The F-Stop Spot The F-Stop Spot](#)

[Smoke Photography made simple - week 62 - Duration 745.](#)