

A simple, economic photo studio

One of the many pleasures of collecting has been, with the advent of digital photography, the ability to take images of my collection, and record them in the data base.

Over time, and with help from other enthusiasts, I've developed my own simple, economic studio kit.

Achieving the best end results all boils down to understanding light, and the use of light. Direct light, be it the sun, flash or other electronic source of light is to be totally avoided.

The best light is provided free of charge on an overcast day, or on a bright sunny, well into the shade.

The objective is to provide your subject with even, all round lighting in order to eliminate annoying shadows, and provide as much detail of the item as possible.

Equipment

Three pieces of stout cardboard.

One roll of that Canadian staple – Duct Tape!

Aluminium foil

Vinyl backdrop – white – readily available from Amazon.



Keeping in mind that you want good quality all round illumination of your subject, construct a reflective 'box' from the cardboard, duct tape and aluminum foil.

Locate your vinyl backdrop out of direct sunlight, in a location convenient to erect your reflective box towards the source of the light. You want to capture as much reflected light as possible.





If possible, frame your image from 18 to 30 inches away, and zoom in until your subject fills the viewfinder. Closer will tend to distort the perspective of your subject.

Take lots of images! That's the advantage of digital. Then you can choose the best of the bunch.

Weather plays a part. In Canada, winter means no outside shooting. But a good large window can provide enough quality light for indoor shooting.

The rest is down to editing to refine your image. It's worth the investment in a good program like Photoshop or PaintshopPro. You won't be disappointed.

The final result – an Australian Owen Mk. I/I

