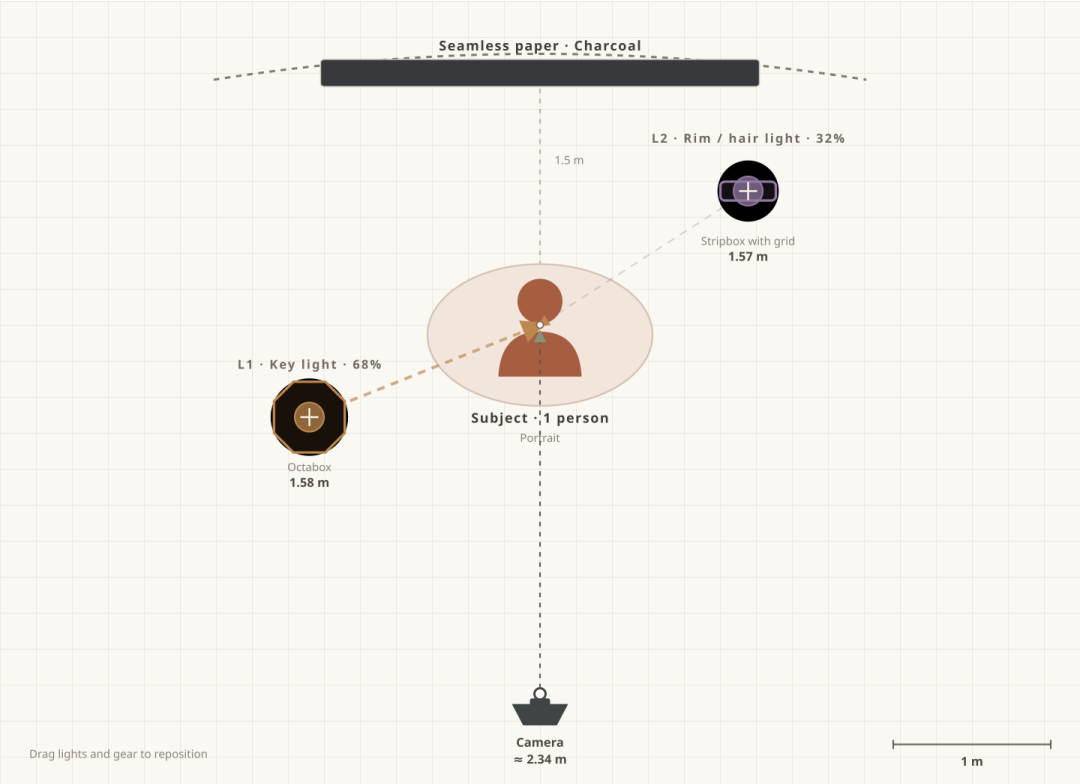
Low-key portrait with a rim light

Portrait · 1 person



On-set sequence

1. Place the key light. Studio monolight · Octabox · 45° left · 68%

2. Control contrast. Check the shadows on the face.

3. Arrange the set. Lights 2 · Set gear 0 · Backdrop distance 1.5 m

4. Take a test shot. f/8 · 1/160 s · ISO 100. Check the light and focus on every subject.

Personal notes

Set the key first. Add the gridded strip and use a test shot to check how far the rim wraps onto the face.

Technical references

Session
Portrait

Subjects
1 person

Backdrop
Seamless paper / Charcoal

Backdrop distance
1.5 m

Camera to subject (estimate)
234 cm (2.34 m)

Camera to backdrop (estimate)
384 cm (3.84 m)

Lens and framing
35 mm / 23.5 × 15.6 mm / Vertical / Height 155 cm

L1 · Key light
Studio monolight / Octabox / Octagonal / Ø 120 cm / Depth 48 cm / 400 Ws / 68% / Modifier center height 205 cm / Light tilt 17° / 158 cm (1.58 m) from subject

L2 · Rim / hair light
Studio monolight / Stripbox with grid / Strip / 30 × 120 cm / Depth 34 cm / 400 Ws / 32% / Modifier center height 220 cm / Light tilt 14° / 157 cm (1.57 m) from subject

Light direction
45° left

Quick fill preset
No fill

Gown
Velvet / Black

Starting exposure
f/8 / 1/160 s / ISO 100

White balance
Flash / 5400 K