

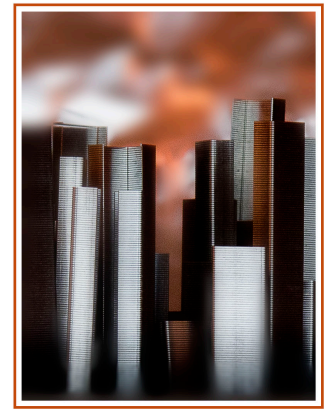
STAPLE TOWERS

A really simple technique that can deliver stunning effects.

You will need:

- A sheet of tin foil
- A piece of white tack (Blu Tack) about A5 size (10 x 15 cms)
- A packet of ordinary staples
- A torch or off-camera flash
- Optional – different coloured card or coloured surface that will bounce light

This is very easy to set up, but will probably take a bit of fiddling to get the right effect as it very much depends on your camera.



Essentially you want 'build' a series of tower blocks and then 'throw out' the foil backdrop to make a pseudo-cloudy background that is indistinct, yet atmospheric. This means using a very shallow depth of field (f2.8 for example) and, depending on your camera's capability, you might need to move the staples further away from the background and use your zoom to get the correct effect.

As an added creative touch, try lighting the staples from the side while bouncing light off a coloured card. Sunset in Manhattan!



Close up made easy...

For the purpose of these techniques, we recommend that you use **Aperture Priority Mode** or **Manual Mode**. For this particular set up you will want to minimise the depth of field so that the background is out of focus; this will require a **large aperture** for best results (e.g. f2.8).

Although a larger aperture gives captures the ambient light more efficiently, it will still require a relatively slow shutter speed to give you a good exposure and, as for the other set-ups in this series, a **slow shutter speed** adds the risk of camera shake and a blurry image.

You have two options to avoid this. You can **increase ISO to 800+** but run the risk of too much grain affecting the appearance of your image or, better still, use a tripod. Ideally use a **remote shutter release** or, the no-cost option, use the **self-timer at 3-5 seconds** – both will avoid any camera shake at the point of exposure.

Of course there are many ways to achieve a good image, but many are more complicated and costly. We hope that with the simple suggestions above you can get an image to be proud of.