Dosch HDRI: Outdoor Lighting

Description of the illumination setup of these HDRI-effects: The scenes were specifically designed for the use with virtual models, and provide absolutely realistic lighting options … just like a at real, professional photo shoot. Lighting options range from light source variations (bright, diffuse, shadow, twilight) to color tone (warm/gold, neutral/silver).

01. Sun position behind location (opposite reflector); gold reflector placed pretty closely in front of the object is ideal for pictures with plenty of optical warmth and "mood". Effects Nr. 2-4 are variations of this effect with different modifications. Effect Nr. 32 is also similarly structured, but with a slightly more distant silver (!) reflector, instead of gold-color.

02. Gold reflector (as in Nr. 1) but object location in the shadow of a strategically placed sun diffuser. While Nr. 1 has full sunlight on the object, this setup reduces the light exposure significantly, while at the same time softening the light. The gold reflector from the front results in pleasant skin tones and overall optical warmth. The diffuser takes the edge of the harsh sunlight and reduces contrast.

03. Full sun from behind as in effect Nr. 1, but additionally with silver reflector from front left, beside the gold reflector (i.e. mixed light-tone). Depending on positioning of the HDR-image in relation to object, the result is increase or reduction of warm gold-tone effect. Due to the gold and silver reflectors this lighting setup is quite flexible and overall better suited for warm-light applications. The 2 reflectors also result in separate light borders.

04. As effect Nr. 3 with gold & silver reflectors, plus object location in a soft shadow by using a sun diffusor, which benefits visualization of light-colored fabrics and blonde hair. Ideal when sunlight in Nr. 3 is perceived as too strong.

05. Object is shaded by a sun diffusor with broad silver illumination through horizontally placed silver reflector in the front, and lesser golden illumination (warm light) from the front right. Resulting is more of a "beauty-light" for cosmetics promotions and the like. Due to the type of shadow this setup is better suited for lighter-colored clothing, blond hair and fair skin-tones.

06. Relatively soft beach-light due to thin cloud-cover (haze) with silver illumination from the front left. The black cloth on the front right results in deeper shadows and more contrast in the light exposure. The silver reflector helps to "separate" the object from its background. This setup also lends itself for product stills.

07. Sun-light already somewhat diffused by a thin cloud-cover is further diffused through a sun-blocking diffusor. The diffused sun-light emphasizes impact of illumination from silver reflector (placed at front left) when compared to effect Nr. 6, thereby allowing a higher contrast and a more interesting lighting situation. The black cloth in the front adds more contrast to the image, and minimizes object reflections in the product category.

08. Silver reflector illumination from left, plus object location in the shadow of strategically placed sun diffusor for softer sunlight. The silver reflector once again improves the lighting without changing the natural colors … resulting in a standard setting for catalog pictures and the like.

09. Black „cloth canopy" above object. Silver illumination from the right and broad gold illumination from the left. The direct sun is mostly blocked by thin cloud cover. This is more of a studio setup, and

therefore suited for visualization of products etc. in a dim natural light, as well as people in a very advantageous lighting situation. The black cloth above the object prevents reflections from the sky. The 2 reflectors produce various light borders and moods.

10. As effect Nr. 9, but with a black cloth instead of the gold reflector. This increases contrast as well as depth of shadows, thereby rendering a more dramatic light for certain portrait and product shoots.

11. Very soft, frontal sunlight from an overcast, almost "threatening" evening sky. The silver reflector as opposite light source provides a better separation from the object background (at rear left) while the black cloth next to it (at rear right) increases lighting depth. The silver plastic liner on the ground produces reflection from below and thereby an even softer illumination of the object from every front angle.

12. Similar to effect Nr. 11, but without the silver reflector. The sky is a bit darker still (twilight), and the black cloth behind object supports depth perception. The evening mood of the natural light combined with the added illumination from ground reflections off the plastic liner offers a special lighting mood for product visualizations.

13. The large canopy diffusor (i.e. plenty of soft light) above the object results in soft shadows, plus an even reflection from the objects. The black cloth off to the left, behind the object increases depth of the shadows, and the silver reflector from behind results in clear lighting with reduced contrasts. This setup is fitting for visualization of catalog attire. Effects Nr. 14-17 are variations of this effect with different element modifications.

14. Once again the object is located under the large light-diffusor. The gold reflector lies tilted near the ground, which illuminates shadows under the chin with a warm color-tone (beauty-light). The silver reflector at back right provides better separation of the object from the background by adding another light border.

15. The diffusor covered object receives plenty of soft sunlight, as well as gold illumination from front right and silver illumination from front left. Because of the interplay of the different light borders this light situation can very well be used for the visualization of a large variety of products. For fashion catalog applications etc. the soft light is ideal when flowing, light-colored fabrics are shown.

16. Similar to effect Nr. 14, but with gold reflector more off to the left and not as low to the ground. The silver reflector provides light border from the back right for added object separation from background, and a more pro-photographic look.

17. The strong gold illumination from below, combined with the silver reflector from the right and the pervasive diffused light from the large diffusor canopy above are providing a very interesting product lighting. The black cloth next to the gold reflector gives the light substantial depth and contrast without being too intense in the shadows.

18. The white diffusor serves as illumination from the right side, and thereby reflects a shadow light with a hint of blue. The silver reflector at the front produces a neutral light, while the somewhat filtered sunlight (incl. clouds, tree top) helps with separation of the object form the background. The black cloth behind the object adds some depth to the shadow lines.

19. The 2 different reflectors (silver on the left, gold on the right) almost opposing the full sun create a mixed-light situation with a quite warm color-tone for "people-illumination" that provides natural and realistic skin tones. At the same time the harsh direct sunlight is useful for dark hair and dark clothing.

20. The mixed-light illumination from the left (silver & gold reflectors) & front right (white diffusor) has an emphasis on the gold reflector for a warm lighting mood. The black cloth to the right produces a light border as separation from the background, and gives shadows the necessary depth.

21. Very similar to Nr. 20, but without gold reflector, und silver reflector is positioned quite a bit closer to object (at front left). The latter evens out some of the shadows cast by the sun's direct light, while the black cloth provides better separation of the object from the background.

22. Very diffuse frontal sun with a moderate silver illumination from the right results in a variation of fashion catalog lighting with neutral color balance. The black cloth in the rear once again provides the light border, and the white, diffuse illumination from rear left is softening the light exposure just enough to avoid hard shadows or an average overall-appearance.

23. As effect Nr. 19, but with object in a distinct diffusor shadow for a softer light. Helpful for blonde hair and light-colored clothing, and also less contours than with un-diffused direct light.

24. A strong silver illumination from rear right and the diffuse white illumination from rear left are well suited for visualization of product names. Clear light reflexes in the object illuminate it well and this way create a sunny and natural look.

25. Very similar to effect Nr. 24, but here the silver reflector's light effect is being emphasized by a more significant silver reflex from moving the reflector a bit to the right, and a bit closer.

26. The golden illumination from the right and the white cloth as diffuse illumination from the left create a soft portrait light which retains enough light clarity in order to not be classified as "Beauty-light". The pretty evenly cloud-blocked (diffused) sun from the front assures a neutral light-mood which also makes the HDRI suitable for product visualization.

27. With the sun straight ahead with a moderate golden illumination from the right and a soft white illumination from behind yields a sunny impression suitable for Mediterranean light moods. The black cloth creates clear impressions and allows use of this HDRI also for product shoots.

28. With the sun once again straight ahead, and with a silver reflector from rear left (with black cloth and diffusor in its background) this HDRI is destined for portraits and product pictures with a lot of character, without depriving them of the natural light mood, or letting it appear as an ordinary studio effect.

29. Similar to Nr. 28 with black cloth and diffusor in the background of the silver reflector, which is placed to the right of the object. This offers an interesting combination which allows the user the combination of various light directions due to the light-intensity balance between the sun and the reflector … no type of light dominates.

30. A very diffuse, cloud-covered sun at twilight, and a white diffusor on the right result in a very soft standard light, which –despite it different light-sources- does appear as a natural light to the observer, and thereby limits the risk of renderings which appear too artificial.

31. Similar to Nr. 30 but with silver reflector as additional light from the front (in front of black cloth), and a white diffusor front right. The scene shows a sunset with color and light moods very much useful for visualization of product and fashion catalog images – without the interference of excessive shadowing though.

32. Sun from rear right and silver reflector from front left. Natural coloration through silver reflector prevents color changes in light-colored attire. Also beneficial for catalog projects.

33. Sun high above and from straight ahead. The frontal gold reflector assures warmer skin-tones.