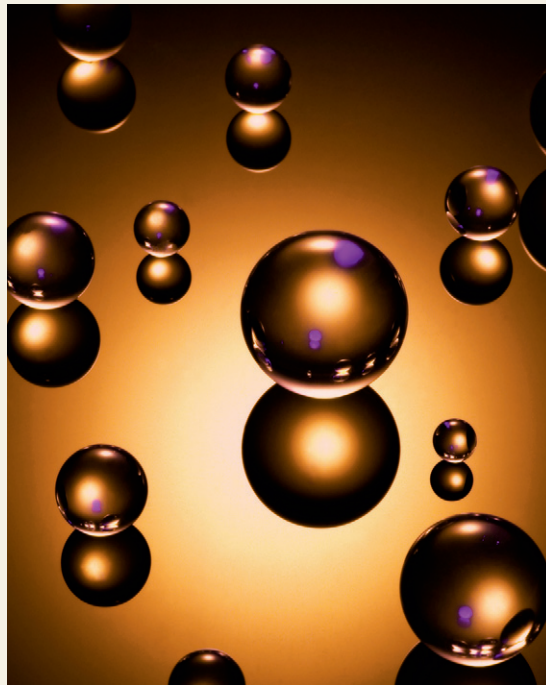


### How We Created the Cover

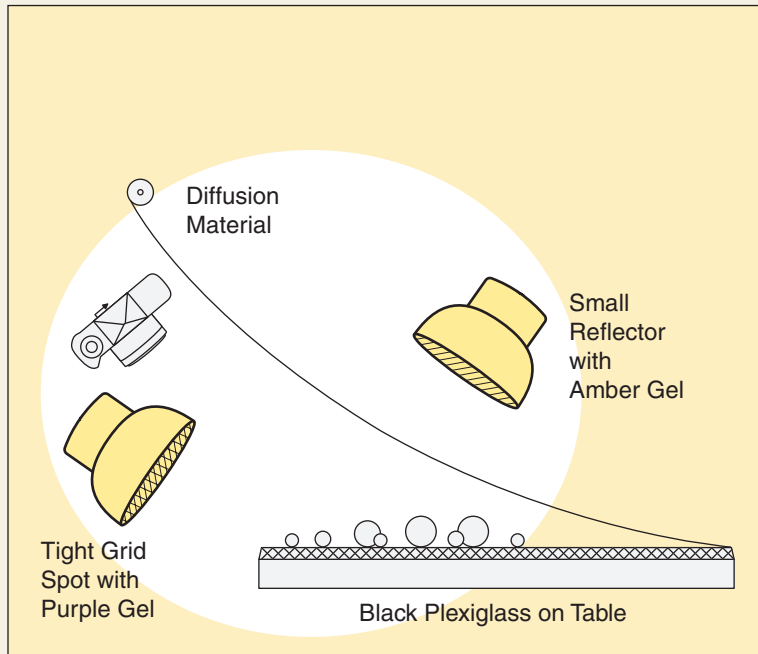
Before the publishing of this fourth edition of *Light—Science & Magic*, several of those who saw its cover asked how our co-author, Steven Biver, made it (Figure 1.1). With that in mind, we offer the following explanation:

*The basic setup.* The first thing that Steven did was to place a sheet of glossy black Plexiglas on his studio table (Figure 1.2). Next, he suspended frosted diffusion material above it as shown in the diagram. (This could have been done in any number of ways. Steven chose to



**1.1** This is the cover image without the type.

## HOW TO LEARN LIGHTING



**1.2** Lighting Diagram For Cover Image

clamp it to the back of the table and attach it to a bar suspended between two stands at the front.)

*The lights.* Once he had the table and diffuser arranged, Steven set up the two lights he planned on using. The first, his main light, was a flash head fitted with a small reflector to which he attached an amber gel. He then secured this light to a boom and suspended it over the center of the diffusion material, and about 1.5 feet above it. Next, Steven fitted a small reflector with a tight grid to which he attached a purple gel. He then put this head on a small stand and placed it close to and camera left of his camera.

*The “pose.”* The arrangement of the clear acrylic balls on the black was very much a work in progress. Because the balls tended to roll off the table at inappropriate moments, Steven resorted to holding each in place with a tiny bit of wax. Later, during postproduction, he digitally “airbrushed” away any of these that showed.

*The results.* When Steven made his exposures, the amber-colored main light produced a soft, circular glow in the middle of his composition. The grid spot at the front of his setup produced the small purple highlights on all the acrylic balls. In addition, because of refraction, both lights produced even smaller secondary highlights on all the balls.

*And finally.* This was an interesting shot to make. We encourage any of you who might be interested to try making a similar image. A quick check online will provide plenty of sources for the kinds of Plexiglas sheeting, diffusion material, and acrylic balls Steven used.

We would love to see the results of your efforts. So would plenty of other photographers. And that’s what the *Light—Science & Magic* site on Flickr is all about. So go ahead and post your work. Become a member of the “family.”