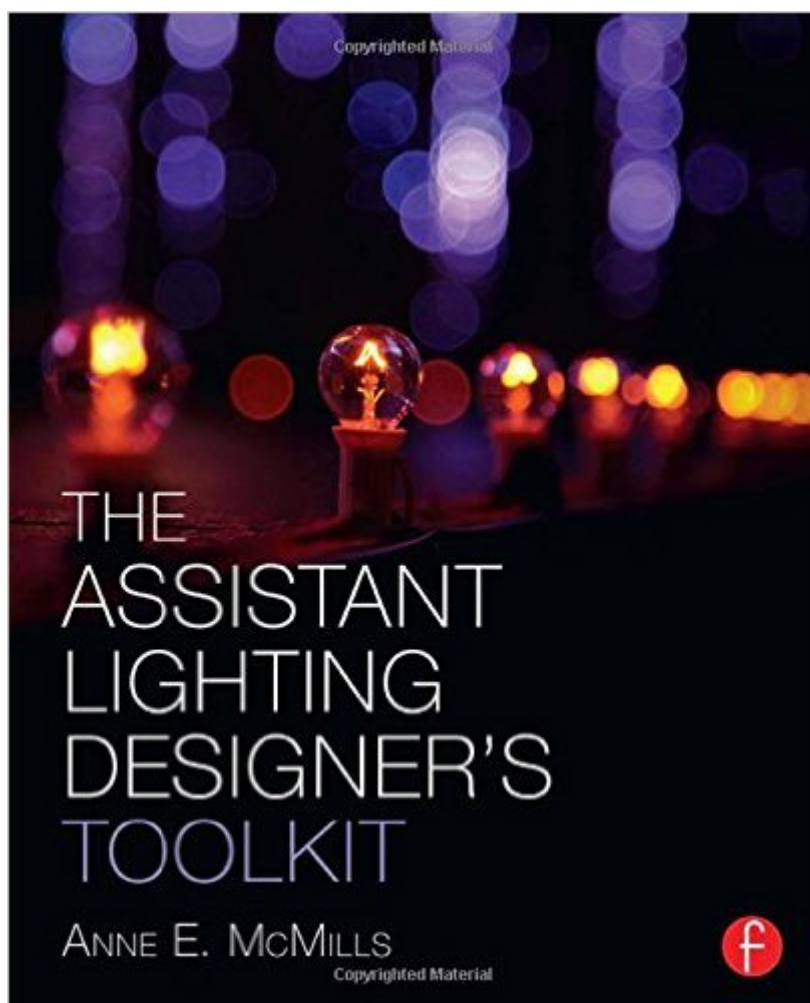# The Assistant Lighting Designer's Toolkit (The Focal Press Toolkit Series)

Synopsis

What are the doâ ™s and donâ ™ts of being a good assistant lighting designer? What are focus tapes, and how do I use them? What is the best method for creating a magic sheet? What should be found in every assistantâ ™s kit? How do I make that first important leap into this professional career?   Answer these questions and many more with The Assistant Lighting Designerâ ™s Toolkit. This definitive guide unlocks the insider-secrets used to succeed as a professional assistant lighting designer (ALD) â " whether choosing assisting as a career or while transitioning to another. This book outlines, step-by-step, the challenges the ALD faces during every phase of production. Never before has a resource existed that views the design process through the eyes of the assistant.   Intermingled among the nuts and bolts of the paperwork and essential procedures, top industry professionals reveal tips for personal survival in this challenging career â " both domestically and abroad as well as in other careers in lighting. Within these pages are the industry secrets rarely taught in school! Â The author's Â website can be found at http://www.aldtoolkit.com/.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Having recently graduated college, I had many questions about the field of lighting as it applies to the New York/regional scale and style of theatre. McMills offers a wonderfully comprehensive guide which provides the expectations required of an assistant, a thorough step-by-step breakdown of the production process and the assistant's role during each step. It is evident from the extensive list of

contributing lighting designers listed in the appendix that her information from many years of experience is supported by some of the most prominent designers and associates in the industry.This book helped demystify many items regarding industry standards, how to organize/create paperwork, and other relevant aspects of the tech process. There are plenty of diagrams, examples of paperwork, lists, definitions, quotes from other designers and assistants that make this guide truly unique. Aside from Craig Miller's article "A Guide for Assistant Lighting Designers: Some Modestly Proffered Notes" written for Theatre Crafts magazine in 1989, there are no other written resources on the specific subject of assisting.I highly recommend this to young aspiring designers and assistant designers who wish to know more of what to expect following graduation. I would also recommend it to be a required reading of all major conservatories or other programs that teach lighting design in some capacity. There is little more to ask after reading this. One should be able to go straight to work with a greater sense of confidence and a better understanding and appreciation for the art of assisting.

As soon as I heard about Anne McMill's book, I pre-ordered my copy. I was so excited to see a publication covering such an important part of our industry that has, until now, not been written about. As a lighting design student, it was particularly interesting to get more insight into the world of being a professional lighting designer - a viable career option for many lighting students today. The book did more than just explain what an ALD's job is, it also includes helpful hints and tips to make you a "Rockstar Assistant". I definitely think Anne's book helped me as both an ALD and as a lighting designer as well. As I start out my professional career, I will be my own assistant/electrician/programmer for some shows, and knowing how to step outside of being the "designer" and handle the "assistant" jobs on the same show, will certainty help make sure everything gets done. It was certainly a great read that I will be recommending to my friends and peers!

Amazingly put together book. The ALD Toolkit gives an insider perspective on the career as an Assistant or Associate Lighting Designer. Anne really cares that her readers know what world they are going into and provides a book of essential knowledge to help you survive in it.

Extremely well done text giving great insight to the job of the Assistant and Associate Lighting Designer. Great reference material for all skill levels.

Anyone involved in the realm of theatrical lighting should purchase this book. Must read.

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