#	Question
1	**How do you avoid the shadow of the phone?**
	For product photos, to avoid the shadow of the phone: Use overhead or side lighting angled slightly to the front, so the phone isn't between the light and the product. Raise your phone slightly and shoot from a top-down or angled perspective. Diffuse your light with a softbox, white sheet, or light tent to soften shadows. If possible, use a tripod and remote shutter or timer so your hands and phone stay out of the shot. These help create clean, shadow-free images that focus on the product.
2	**I struggle with the phone casting a shadow on the product if shooting from above - any tips?**
	As Above
3	**Are there particular settings that we use on the smart phone?**

	Use the rear camera – It's higher quality than the front-facing one. Turn on Grid Lines – Helps center the product and follow the rule of thirds. Use HDR Mode – Captures more detail in highlights and shadows. Set focus manually – Tap on the product to ensure it's sharp. Lower exposure slightly – Prevents overexposure and retains more detail (slide down after tapping to focus). Turn off flash – Use natural or continuous light instead of harsh built-in flash. Shoot in Portrait Mode (for lifestyle/product-in-use shots) – Creates a soft background blur (bokeh) if needed. Enable Pro/Manual mode (if available): ISO: 100–200 for best quality. Shutter speed: ~1/125s to 1/250s for handheld shots. White balance: Adjust based on lighting (or set to auto if unsure). Format: RAW (if your phone supports it) for better post-editing flexibility
4	**1. optimal time of day? also the shadow issue** **2. props vs neutral background (former can look too busy)**

	Depending on the type of look you are wanting shooting photos towards the end of the day when the sun is less harsh has always been my preferred method for catching the perfect light. Midday sun will most likely cast harsh shadows.
	Answer to 2nd question ->
	The use of a neutral background and props serve two different purposes in our product photography. Firstly we actively choose some kind of 'neutral background' as the space surrounding our product(s) will be in our photos, therefore we want to choose something that complements our products and makes them look desirable. So this is all about choosing something that is quite plain and neutral and doesn't visually distract, so things like a wooden table, some plain fabric, a plain brick wall etc. If you don't have these to hand you can use wallpaper samples to 'fake' this. The use of props is to illustrate the product, convey a sense of scale and 'dress' the products. For example if you have a vase, you might add flowers to show how the product is used. Likewise put fruit in a fruit bowl, put tea in a mug, perhaps show the mug being held by a pair of hands etc. This is all light-touch additions, which don't take up too much space in the photo, but help the visitor understand the item for sale. You are right to identify if things feel 'too busy' - ask yourself what can I remove? Check that your props are serving the purpose of illustrating the product. See if you can find a lighter/smaller way to achieve the same 'illustration effect' but without distracting from the main product.
5	**I have mirror in my pieces as well as shine, what do you suggest?**
	I used to have to use Photoshop to painstakingly remove reflections however I found these cones to be ideal for defussing the light https://youtube.com/shorts/B6ZM6H0dqKI?si=YbLTsyLu3bQSHUCA

6	**How do you optimise camera quality - my phone has one camera and is very old**	
	Even if your phone is very old try changing some of the settings as outlined above.	
7	**how do u photo large items eg textile piece 1.5m x 1m?**	
	It is important to remember that on the product page, you will be using multiple shots to communicate your large scale textile piece. These will be a combination of close-up shots - to show detail and texture; and full-scale shots to show the whole piece. Think about how you expect this large textile piece to be used - would your customer hang it on the wall; is it a floor-based piece or rug; is it fabric which will be used for further textiles projects and use these 'end use' expectations to guide how you photograph the item. Ie. hang it on the wall if that's what you expect; display on a nice flooring surface; or on a sewing table, with scissors & a tape measure if it's for further use etc. In each instance, where possible choose a location which benefits from soft natural light & make sure there isn't anything visually distracting in shot. Other things to be aware of with textile work, as well as 'full piece' shots and close-ups; fabrics can look good draped over an edge or loosely folded. This is particularly true of fabric with some kind of repeating pattern, but isn't neessarily right for all textile items.	
8	**Can you use a photo taken on iphone for an A3, A2 and A1 poster without it pixelating?**	

		Yes! Even a billboard is only around 2 to 4 million mega pixels and your phone typically will take over 8 million so there's enough pixels to make the image look great. The real secret to success is by ensuring you have taken the photo using the optimial settings as described in the first questions answered.
9		**Very specfic question - any tips on photgraphy for tote bags when they are flat - always find there's creases and shadows on the edges/handles**
		Yes this can be fiddly. Our first stop is to try and get as many of those shadows eliminated as while shooting. Tricks for doing this include: - steam, steam, steam - do as much as you can to get rid of these in the first place - even though you are doing flat photography, use a thin layer of light padding, eg bubble wrap to support fabric and lose hard edges - use sticky pads underneath your totebags to hold them in place, so you can lightly stretch the fabric to eliminate creases, particularly useful for handles - think about where your light source is - is this contributing to harsh shadows? can you relocate or soften or bounce light - examples shown in webinar of using white paper to bounce light, or some fabric/paper to diffuse light - failing all of this your option is to digitally remove from images afterwards using a programme such as Fotor or Canva
10		**I need to prepare fashion photoshoots for garments at the beach/marina. I will use smatphone. Any tips?**
		Take photos during the "Golden Hour" towards the end of the day, take more than you think you need, mix it up with practical images of the garments as well as aspirational shots in situ. Don't forget things like details are important so get in close.

11	**I would love it if you could please do a canva or fotor for dummies webinar. I have found it really hard to even just put film laurels on a poster**
	We've got something in the works, watch this space!
12	**Would you recomend to get spotlights, and if yes what type?**
	Yes, LED lights have become much more affordable like these: https://amzn.to/4j5e4Ve
13	**Concerned that I might enhance a photo of product and it looks better than it really is**
	In my experience this isn't a real risk unless you are choosing to deliberately hide some element of your product. For example not showing a scratch, or crack, or loose threads or other physical flaw. In which case the obvious question to ask yourself, is do I want to be selling poorer quality items - how does that sit with my reputation and is it what I want for my future business. Good product photography should communicate what the product is, it's nature and benefits and you as the seller choose to photograph the product in a setting that communicates it's visual appeal. If you have a good quality product and your doing a good job on your photography, that's a good thing and not something to worry about!
14	**Should we change the camera settings on our phone to improve image quality?**
	Yes, take a look at answer 3 to set your phone up for the best quality.

15	**Any suggestions of a decent camera or smartphone that isn't to expensive that we can buy for our different libraries? At the moment they only have really old iPads which aren't really suitable (these are for social media posts). Thank you! :)**
	Google Pixel cameras have great cameras and software as does Samsung. Typically a refurb device is a good blend of latest tech innovation and price point. My Samsung S9 from 2018 still takes fantastic photos and can be bought for as little as £110 on amazon: https://amzn.to/4j5e4Ve
16	**Do you stand on a ladder to look at the image through the camera**
	A small set of steps is perfect for gaining an advantage and saving your back.
17	**This has been very interesting but not what I was expecting - do you have any webinars explaining the settings on the actual phone please?**
	We've got something in the works, watch this space!
18	**Are there any interesting ways to make flat drawings and sketches more interesting**

	Place physical items related to the drawing (e.g., pencils, leaves, props) around or on top of it for a mixed-media look. Background Texture like shown in the webinar can help lift the image Swap plain white for a textured or colored background—try wood grain, canvas, fabric, or paper with torn edges.
19	**This has been great - Would it be possible to have something similar regarding taking phone photos for websites / socials - in terms of promoting / covering events / performances etc ie not close-ups**
	We would love to, watch this space!