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Product Photography, Sometimes It's All Done with Smoke and Mirrors

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Product Photography: Learn how you can make a bottle look bright when taking a picture on a dark background.

Sometimes we need to put light where there is none. Here is how I used cardboard and aluminum foil to make this bottle of Valley Green Naturals look bright.
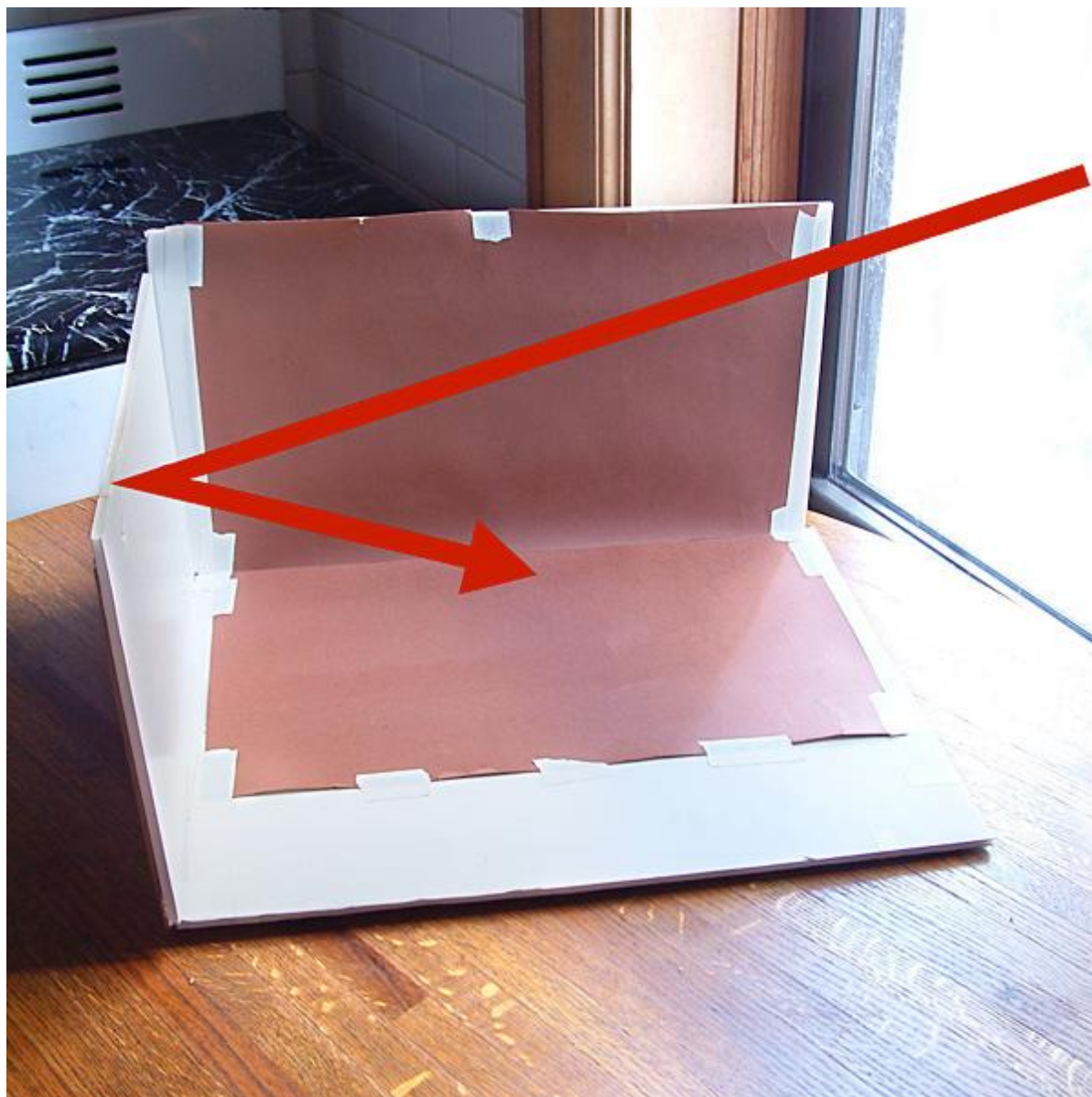
First we'll need to make a small stage where to put the bottle. Find a cardboard box that it's taller than the bottle you want to photograph and remove the top flaps and two of the sides.

I used pieces of maroon paper to cover the inside of the box. You can use any material you like. Fabric is great idea because there is so much to choose from. Using something that is different helps to make your picture look special.
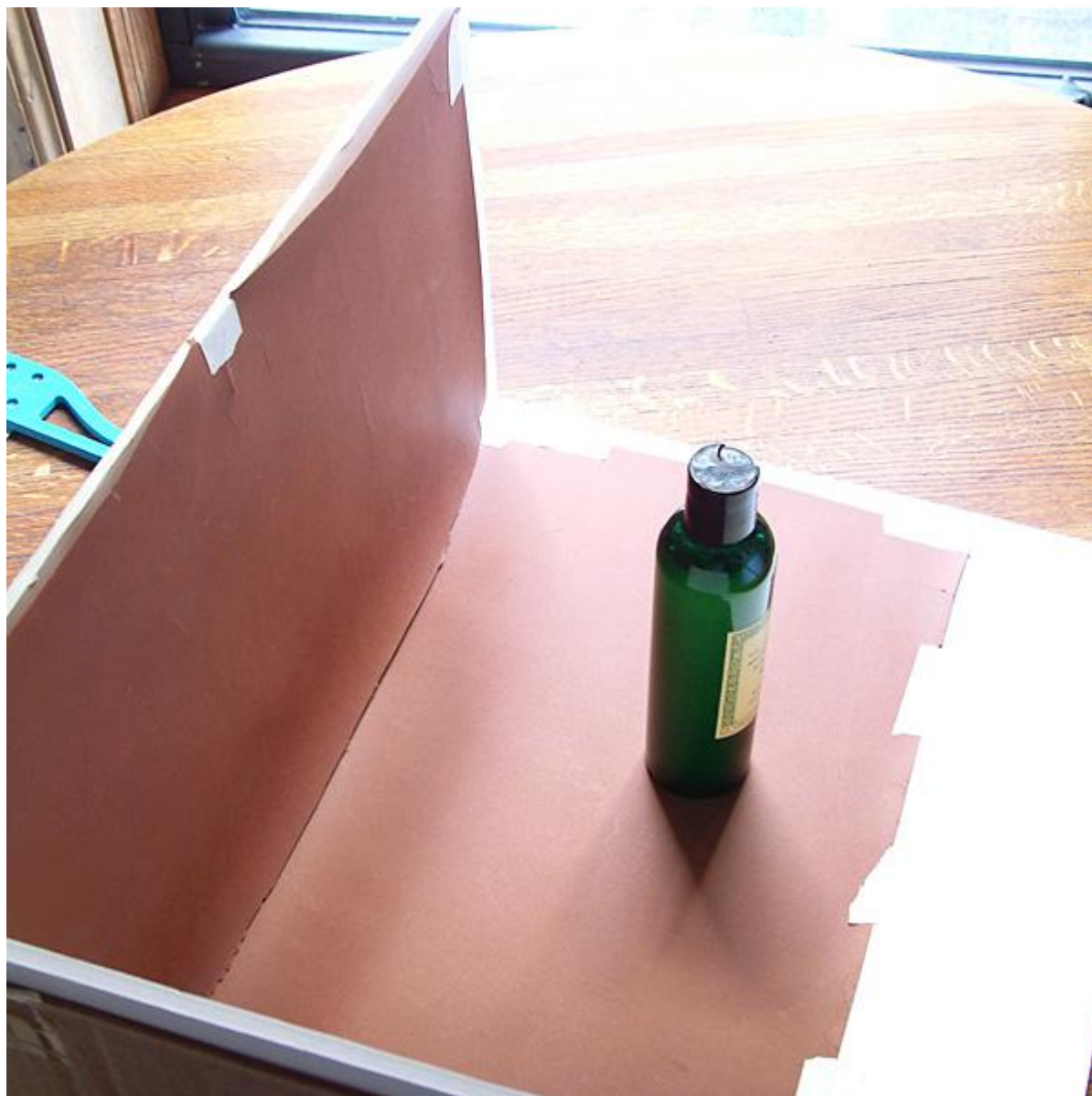
I lined the inside of the box with white foam core to make it more rigid. Then, to let the light reflect back, I covered only two sides with a color paper. If your box is not white you can tape a piece of white paper to make the light bounce back.

Use the object you want to photograph as a template to cut a piece of cardboard of the same shape. Wrap the cut-out in aluminum foil.
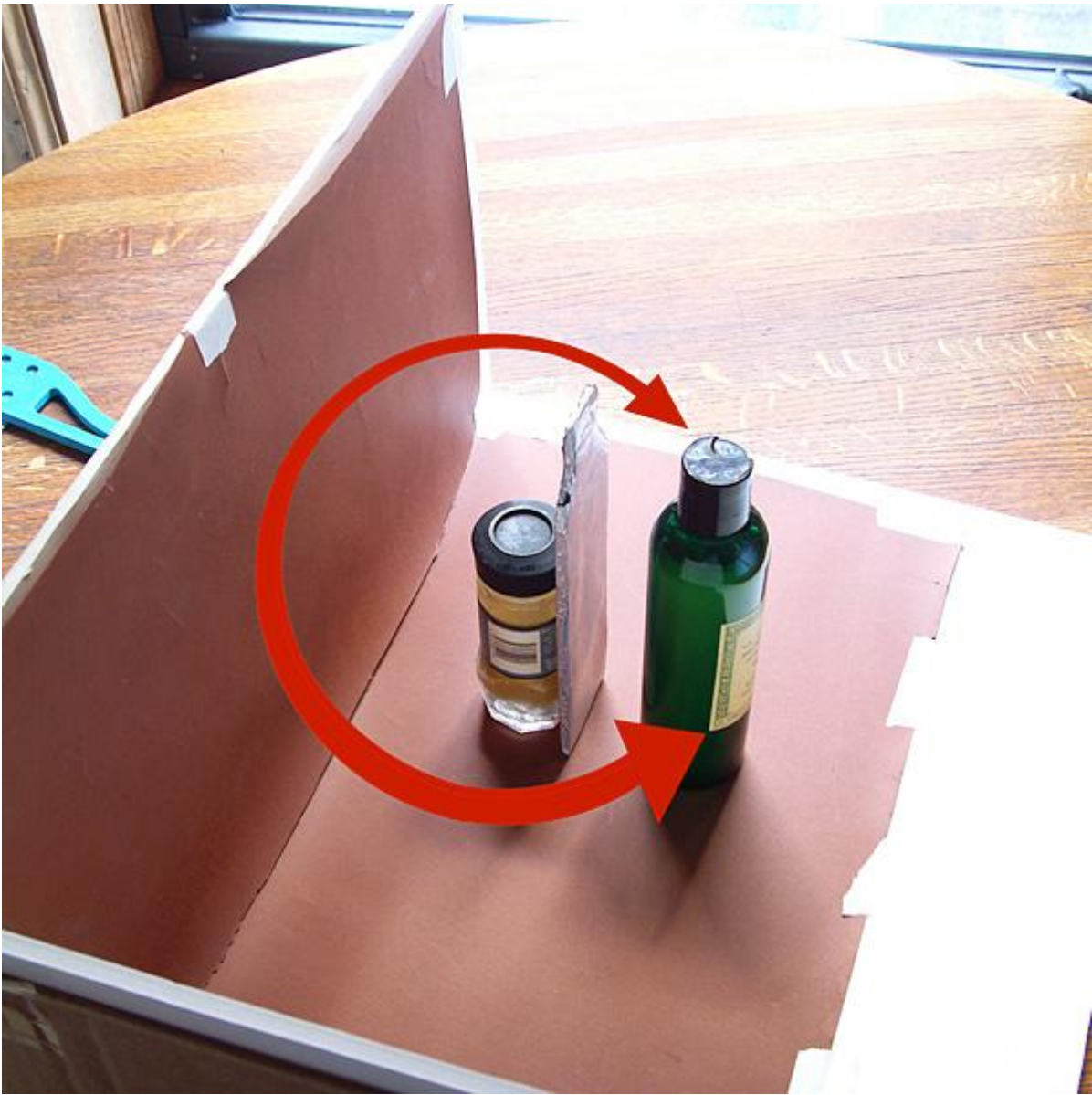
Put the bottle in the set leaving a few inches of space between the bottle and the back wall.

Make two rings of tape and use them to stick the cut-out to something that can hold it standing up.

Put the cut-out behind the bottle and turn it to make the light coming from the window reflect and go through the bottle.

Looking from the position where you will put the camera find the angle that makes the most light go through.

With and without the card in the back!

I like them both.

Same shirt, two different looks. Which one is better to to use and when?