GET WET: MELTING ICE

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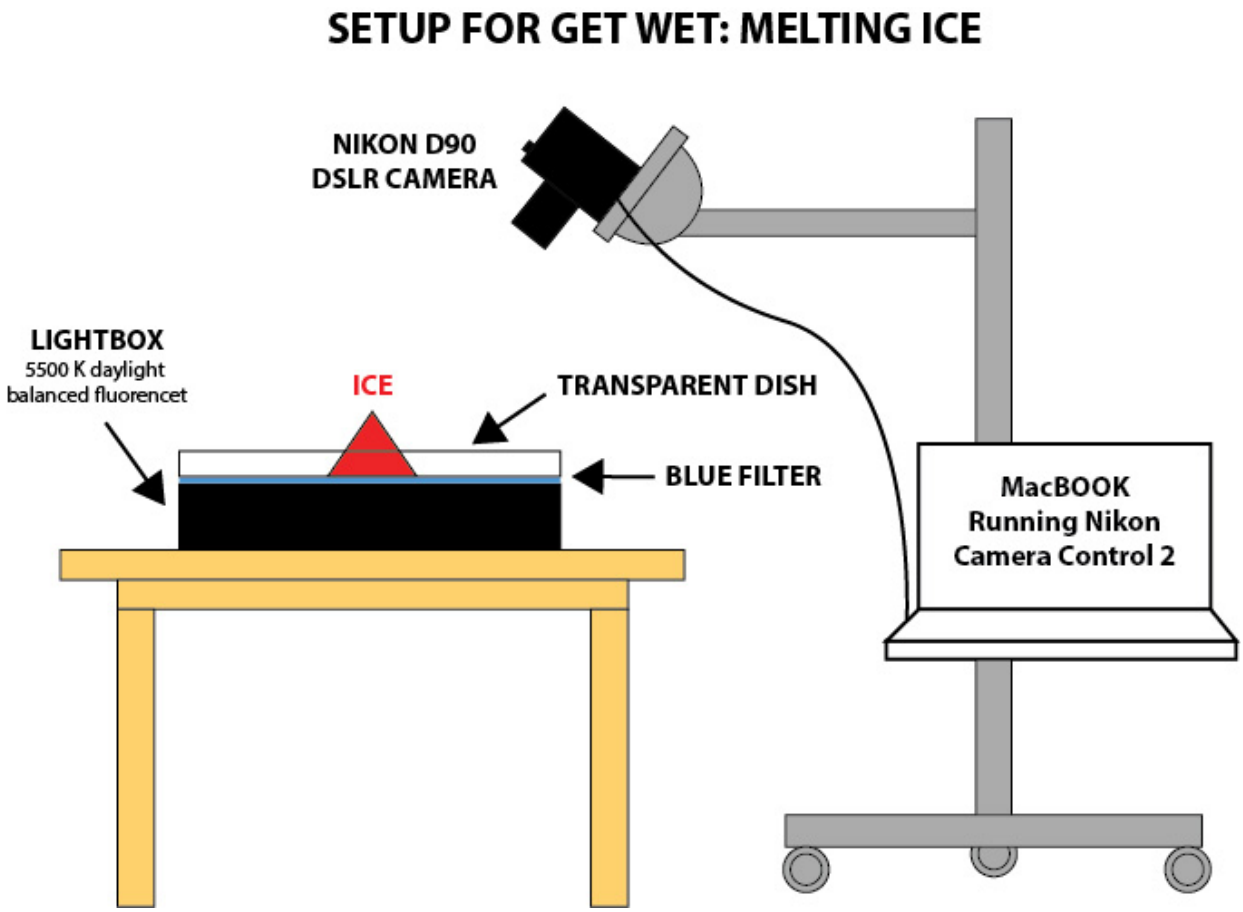
Description

Time-lapse showing two backlit with color filter blocks of ice interacting in a subtle dance while melting in room.

Materials

- Ice
- Ziplock bag
- Lightbox (daylight balanced fluorescent)
- Color gel filters (different colors)
- Tripod
- Nikon D90 DSLR camera
- Apple MacBook Pro laptop running Nikon Camera Control Pro 2 software
- USB cable



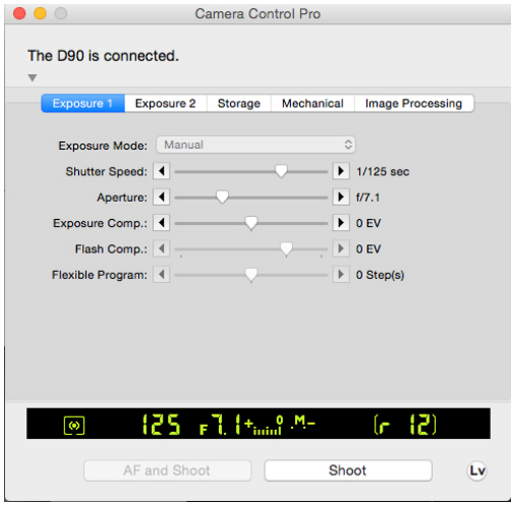
Process

I used ice from the soft-drink machine, first time using just a little ice to gauge the aesthetic and possibility of my set up as well as to figure out the time laps controls and frequency for the camera. I tried using Dragonfly stop-motion software but eventfully switched to Nikon Camera Control Pro 2.

In the final video I used the time lapse from the second try. **The duration of the time was 4 hours and 31 minutes with images taken every 5 seconds. Total number of images taken in that sequence was 3250**.

Below are camera settings I used for the image sequence that used in the final video.

CAMERA SETTINGS



Camera: Nikon D90 DSLR camera 12 MP

Lens: Nikkor 18-105mm 1:3.5-5.6

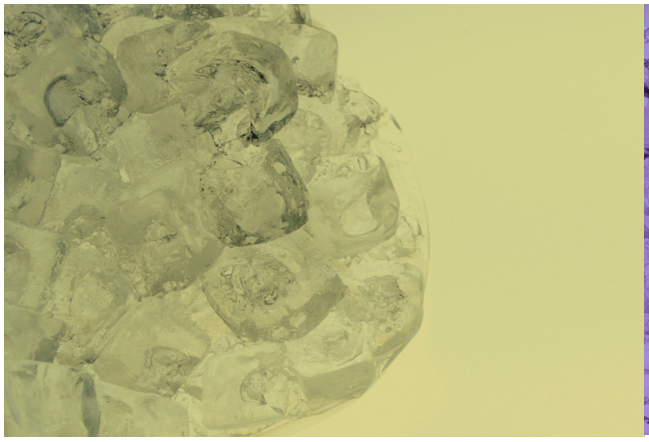
Aperture: 7.1 f-stop

Shutter speed: 125

Focus was set manually

I repeated this process four times. I tried adjusting the room temperature using space heater from 71°F to 82°F and increased the frequency of the time laps from 5 seconds to 1 second to try to capture the process in a shorter duration. Each time I also tried different consistency of ice and changed the color filter to a different color including yellow and pink.

Third try



Fourth try

Postproduction

All post production was done in Adobe Premiere CC and was limited to the following steps:

1. The image sequence was converted to video footage in Adobe Premiere. Each of the 3080 image was used for only one frame creating a video that's at 24 fps is 1 minute 52 seconds long.
2. Next the photos were cropped to fit a video frame by adjusting their size using Motion > Scale effect in effects panel in Premiere
3. Color and contrast were adjusted using Contrast and Brightness effect (Brightness at -45 and Contrast at 30)
4. Finally the viewed area of the image in the frame was also adjusted to follow the movement of the ice across a frame using Position keyframes in effects controls in Premiere
5. In the last step titles and fades were added before rendering the video.

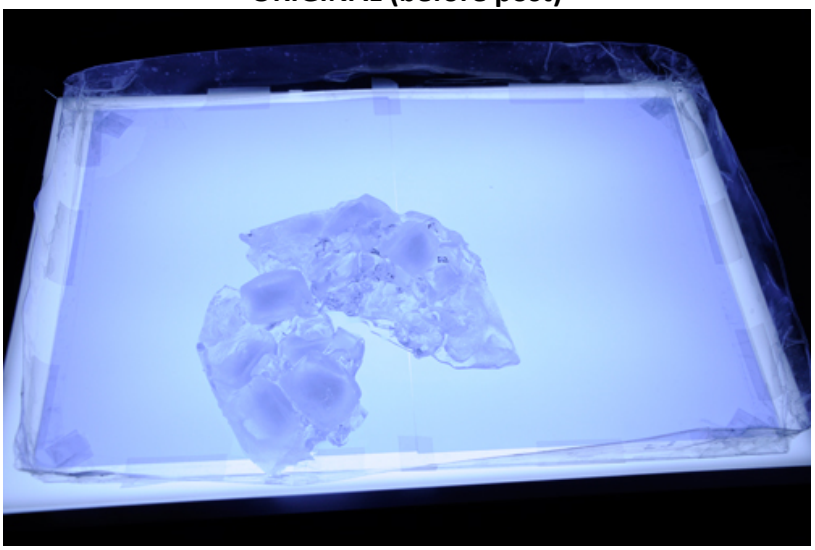
To see the visual changes in the image through the post production process see next page.

I posted edited video on my Vimeo.com page.

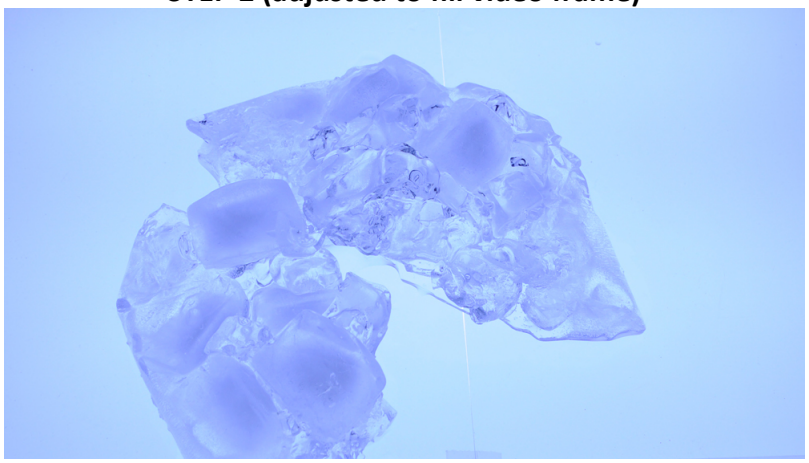
https://vimeo.com/139283655

CHANGES TO THE IMAGE THROUGH POSTPRODUCTION

ORIGINAL (before post)



STEP 2 (adjusted to fill video frame)



STEP 3 (Contrast and brightness)