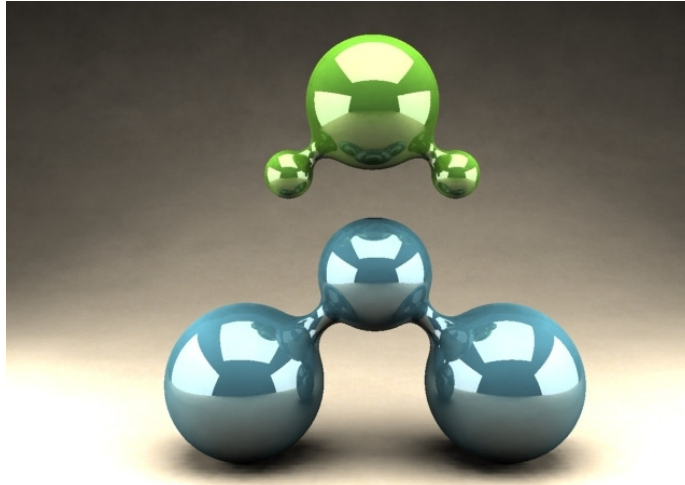
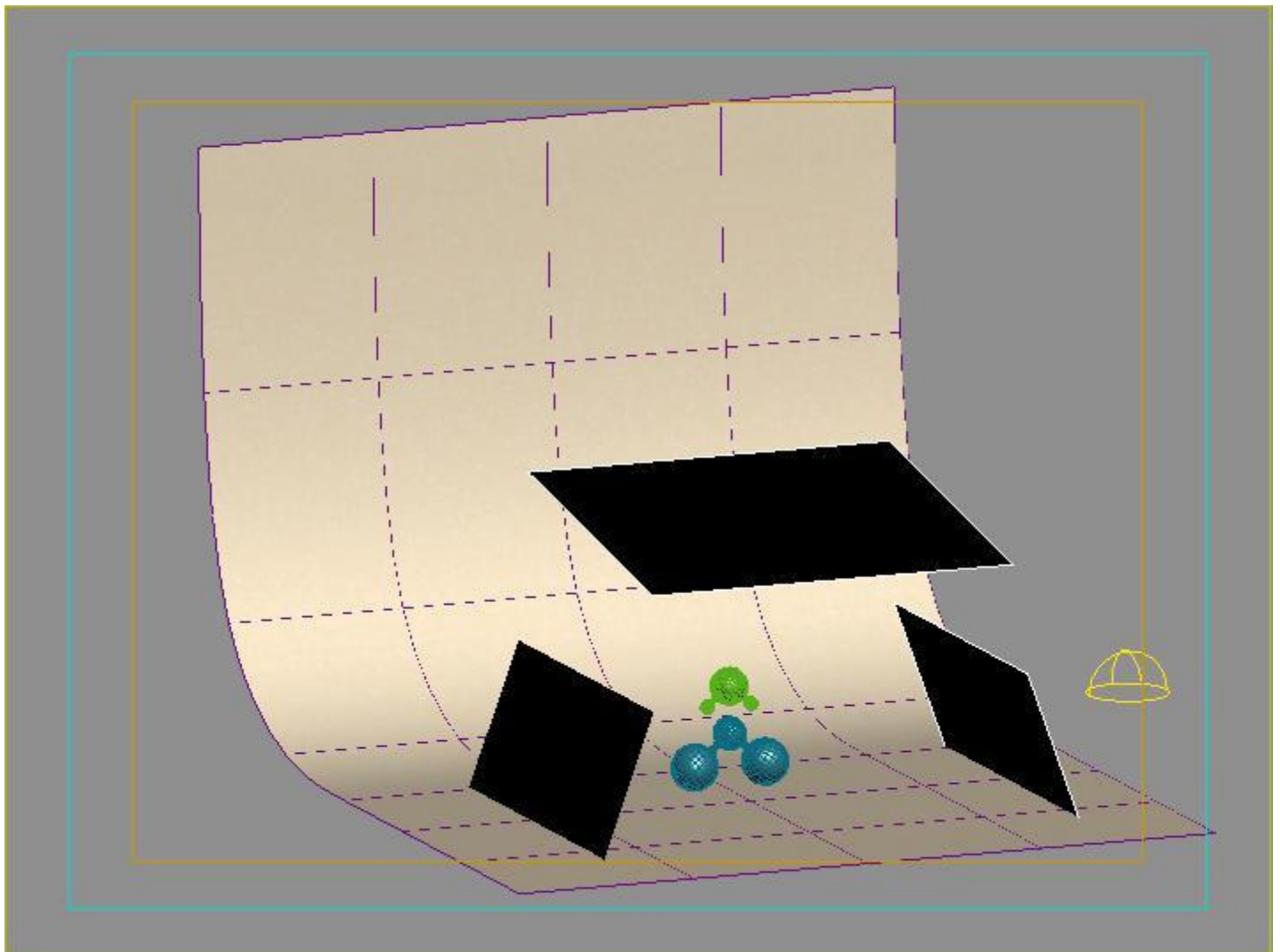


Creating Lighting Cards in 3DS Max 7



1. Create a ground plane underneath your object/s.
2. Create 3 other plane objects, one either-side, and one above the object (these will act as lighting cards like you get in studio setups) (see image below for rough positioning).

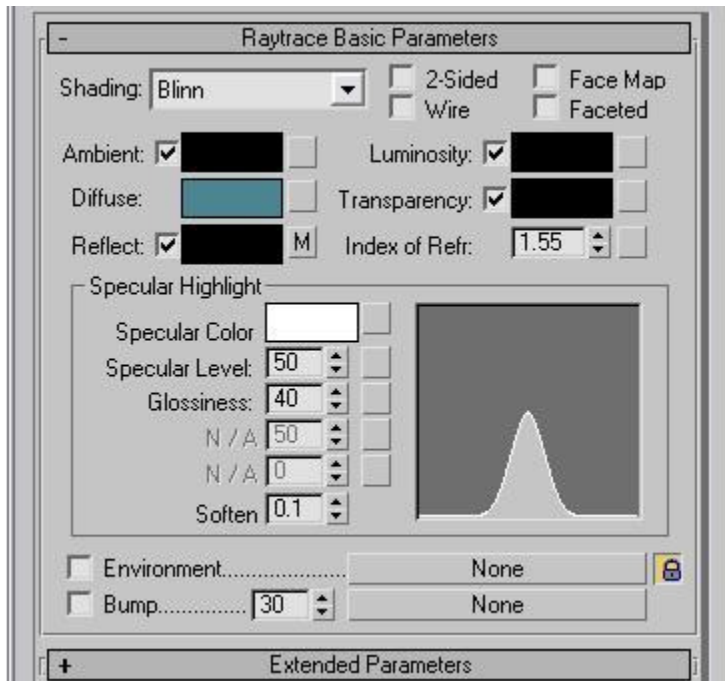


3. To produce the materials I have used do the following:

Open the 'Material Editor' ('M' key), choose the first material and rename it 'object_material'

4. Click on 'Standard' and choose 'Raytrace' from the list.

5. Change the diffuse colour to a suitable one. (see image below)

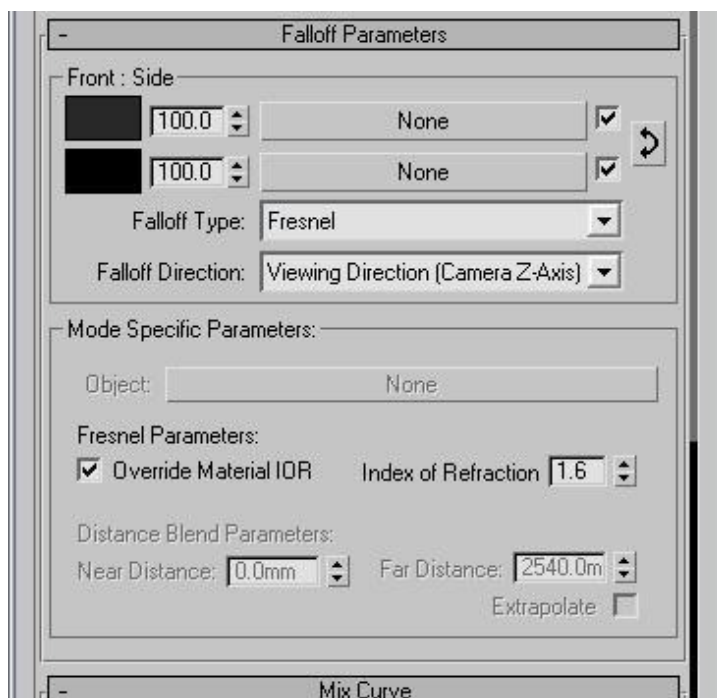


7. Click the small grey square next to 'Reflect' and choose 'Falloff'

8. Change the top colour to pure black (red=0, green=0, blue=0)

9. Change the bottom colour to very dark grey (red=50, green=50, blue=50)

10. Change the 'Falloff Type' to 'Fresnel' (see image below)



11. Apply the material to the ball mesh (if applicable)

12. To make the light card material do the following:

Choose another empty material sphere and click on the small grey square next to the 'Self-Illum' section and choose 'Output'.

13. Apply this material to the 3 plane objects around your object (not the ground plane, just apply a standard material with a light neutral colour to that)

14. Set up your camera in front of the object.

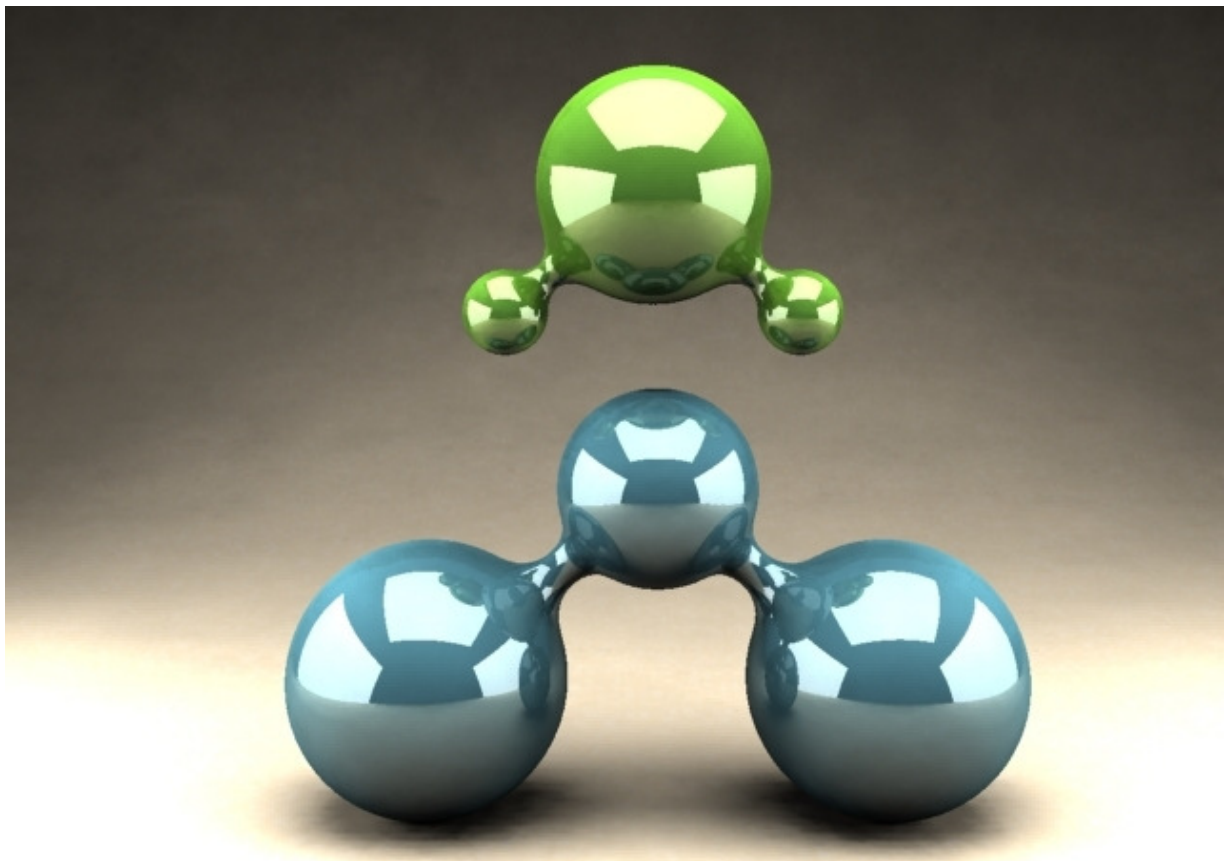
15. Hit the 'F10' key to bring up the rendering window. In the 'Common' tab, scroll down to 'Assign Renderer', click the button next to 'Production' and choose 'Mental Ray'

16. In the 'Indirect Illumination' tab check 'Global Illumination'

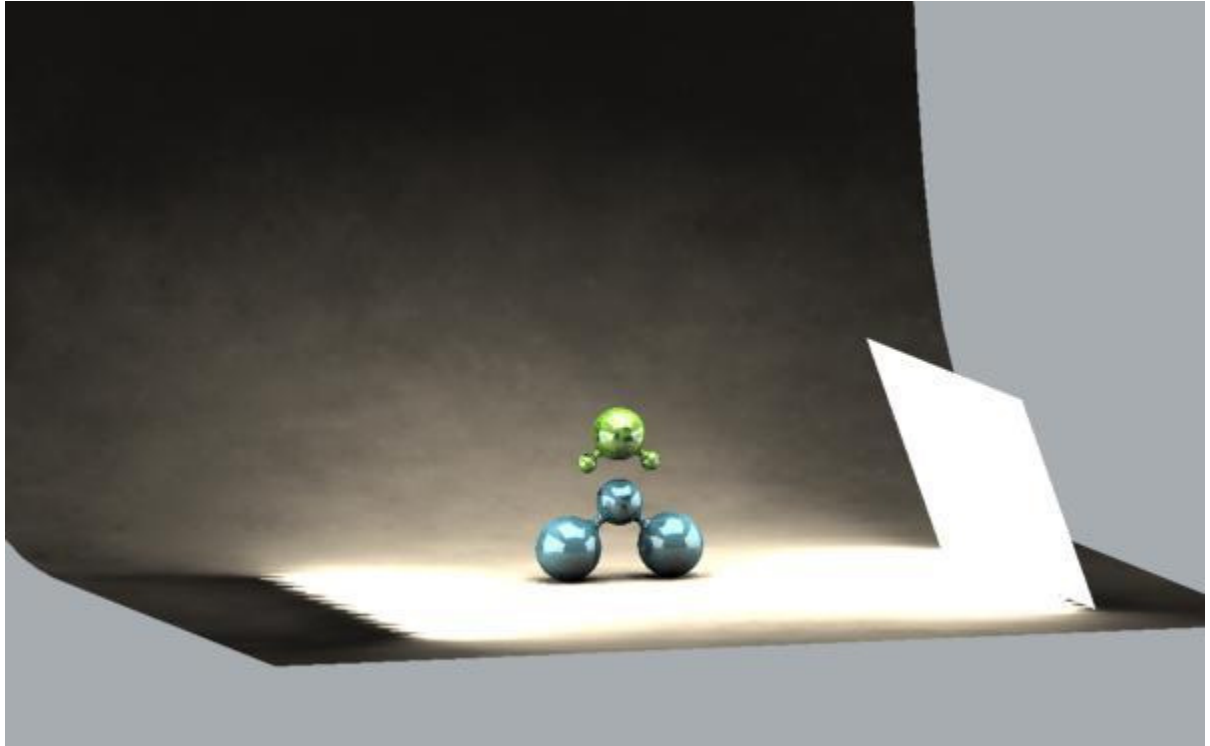
17. Scroll down and check also 'final gather' (1000 samples may be a little high for a test render so kick it down to 500 for now until you're happy with the results)

18. Add a skylight to the scene and put its intensity right down to approx 0.1.

19. Hit Render and you should come out with something close to the image below (although I upped the settings a bit more than I've shown here to get a slightly cleaner image)



As you can see the output material turns the planes into light emitting cards.
(The image below only seems to show one plane as the material is not double sided)



If the scene is a little dark or too light, adjust the 'RGB Level' value in the output material settings

I hope this tutorial was useful for you.

Michael