



Digital Photography Workshop

w/ Trevor Geise

Three big tips today:

Be Mindful!

The goal is to internalize all these tricks and techniques, and the best way to do that is to be mindful of it. Before you snap that photo, take a moment to think about what you are doing and you'll be amazed how quickly you start apply everything we talk about.

Take More Photos!

And review your images right away. Digital photography is amazing! You can take a million pictures and it won't cost you another dime, so do it. Don't be camera shy – you can always just delete the photos later. Practice makes perfect – make a point to bring your camera out with you and take more photos!

Have a Workflow!

Well, now you've got a ton of pictures. Have a great workflow or you'll be quickly overwhelmed. Just pick any workflow to begin with. Any workflow is infinitely better than none.

Things to be Mindful of

- ❑ **Light:** Where is your light coming from? How much light is there? How much contrast is there? Is it hard light or soft light? What's the difference in light between foreground and background?
- ❑ **Composition:** Know all the objects in your shot. Watch the moving objects and anticipate. Make conscious decisions on your composition.. Try dramatically different compositions.
 - Balance
 - Framing
 - Rule of Thirds
 - Depth!
- ❑ **Your Position:** Shoot from the ground or get on a chair, just change your position! Don't shoot every shot from your standard height – change your angle!
- ❑ **Focal Length/ Zoom:** Zooming is not the same as getting closer. There is a dramatic and powerful difference between a shot zoomed in and wide. Try taking pictures of the same object, once zoomed in, and once zoomed out but standing closer.

Advanced

- ❑ **ISO:** A high ISO will produce a noisy image. Often cameras in auto-mode will set your ISO higher than you may want. Take control and only go higher when you need.
- ❑ **Shutter Speed (DSLR):** With every photo you take you will internalize the relationship between shutter speed and your image. Take note of your shutter speed, make it a habit, and always check it's result.
- ❑ **Aperture / Depth of Field (DSLR):** Take note of your aperture settings. Your aperture will effect how much of your image will be in focus (depth-wise). Experiment! This is a great way to quickly make dramatic and stunning portraits.

Workflow

With digital photography it is key to develop a workflow that works for you. You will be taking tons and tons of photographs, and you will be quickly overwhelmed without a system to process them.

Workflows are all unique. There is no correct one. The important thing is to find one that works for you and to use it always!

Example Workflow

1. Take Photographs.
2. Review in camera and delete obvious rejects
3. Transfer unedited photographs to folder My Pictures/Unedited/Date Taken
4. Review photographs bring the best into editor
5. Crop, contrast, saturation, touch-up and tag in image editor
6. Save edited images in My Pictures/Date Taken
7. Backup My Pictures folder to external hard drive
8. Clear memory card

Your Workflow

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.

Understanding Exposure

Exposure can be a tricky concept, especially because in photography there is a ton of jargon and terminology that gets in the way. Ignoring all that for a moment, exposure comes down to two things.

1. How much light is getting to your camera?
2. How fast is your camera set to expose?

Let's take the first part of this – How much light is getting to your camera?

This is controlled in three ways.

- How much light is in your scene
- Your aperture setting
- Your shutter speed

Correct exposure is a lot like correctly watering a plant.

You need to give the plant the correct amount of water, and there are three ways to give the plant more or less water.

- Water pressure
- Size of the hose
- Length of time you are watering the plant

Camera exposure works the exact same way. **The light in your scene** is your water pressure. If you are outside in bright sunlight, that is a lot of pressure and that water will be coming out mighty quick. If you are inside and poorly lit room, well that's barely any pressure at all, and that water will be dripping out slowly.

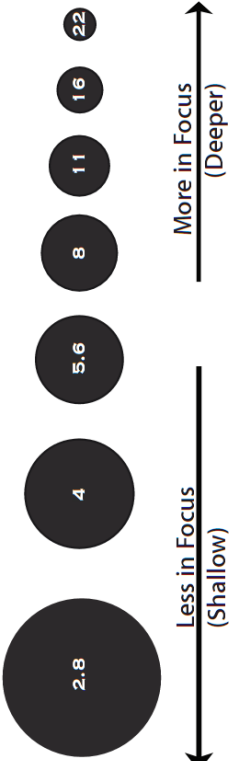
Aperture is the size of the hose. Literally it is the size of the hole that the light will come through. Bigger hole, more light; Smaller hole, less light.

Your **shutter speed** is how long you are going to let that light hit your sensor for – exactly the same as how long you are going to be watering that plant for. Too long and you overexpose your image, making it too white. Too short and your image doesn't get enough light and turns out dim and bland.

The Other Side of the Equation

Film speed, as it used to be called, or ISO, is akin to the kind of plant you are watering. Some plants use water quickly and need a lot, some only need a little bit to be healthy and strong, and too much.

ISO is the kind of plant. Something in the range of 100-200 needs a lot of light, bright sun, wide open aperture, or a long exposure. 400-800 are good for shady days and well lit interiors. For really dark shots you may need to move up above into the 1000s. The downside of moving up is you are introducing more noise and grain into your image,

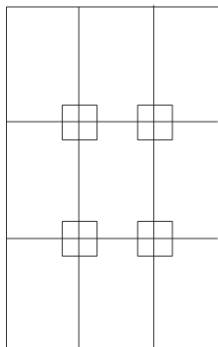


Shutter

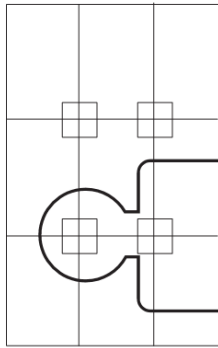


ISO (Film Speed)

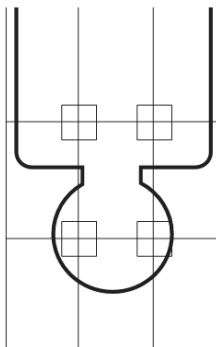
ISO - 100 Sunny Outside	ISO - 200 Some Shade Well Lit Indoors	ISO - 400 Shady OK Indoor light	ISO - 800 Dusk Indoor light
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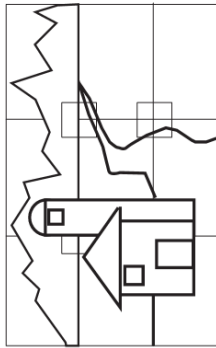
Squares = Power points



Landscape position



Portrait position



Landscape position

Digital Photography Resources

Nikon Digital Learning Center
<http://www.flickr.com/nikon>

BBC Master Classes on Photography
<http://www.bbcwildlifemagazine.com/masterclasses.asp>

Cheat Sheet From
<http://www.thephotoargus.com/resources/helpful-photography-cheat-sheets-to-make-you-life-easier/>