

Another Top 10 Digital Photo Secrets Using Your Point 'n' Shoot Camera

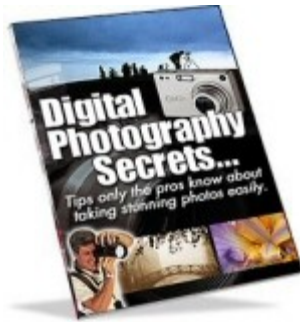
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5. Take fantastic, natural, relaxed shots of people
6. Take traditional portrait photographs.

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Introduction

Here are a few more articles that I've come across in my search for info to improve my understanding of digital photography.

(This was the original reason for my chasing up online articles about digital photography:

The original compilation of articles came about because I was a complete newbie to digital photography.

Back in June 2009 my wife and I decided to do a coach trip through the wilds of central Australia – starting at Ayers Rock and finishing in Darwin.

I bought a Kodak EasyShare C613 digital camera to take a few photos while on the trip. And I now wish that I had had these articles before we left, as I turned out to be a complete nut with digital photography.

How ever, things turned out OK once I found out how the camera worked (by reading and studying the instruction book that came with the camera – and missing some of the sights) and by learning how to manipulate the photos that T had taken.

So, if you are interested in digital photography, whether it be with a point and shoot or a SLR camera, these articles will help you out.)

Best of luck with your photos.

Regards,

Ian Bird

5 Tips to Successful Amateur Photography and Shoot Like A Pro

Author: Tenzin Pemo

Whether you just have a simple point-and-shoot camera or the more expensive digital SLRs, you can definitely take quality pictures like the pros do. It is not the type of camera that takes great shots, it is the photographer. If you do not know how to correctly take a shot, you can take a really bad picture from an SLR camera.

As long as you know how to correctly take pictures and are willing to make some adjustments, taking great photos will be easy for you. Here are some tips to help you shoot like professionals even with your simple digital camera.

1. Would you like your shots to have a warmer feel?

Most shots taken from a digital camera without any adjustments look cool and clammy. This is because the white balance setting is set to auto as default which is fine for snapshots.

If you want a warmer effect, though, with sharp colors, you may want to set the white balance to cloudy setting instead of auto. This is like adding a mild warming filter to the lens of your camera. Cloudy setting increases the yellow and red colors adding a richer and warmer effect to your shots.

2. Polarizing filters can be one of the most important investments you can add to your digital camera.

These filters reduce the glare and unwanted reflections on your shots. This is great when you frequently take landscape and outdoor shots. Pictures taken with a polarizer have richer and more saturated colors.

If your camera will not allow filters, like a simple point-and-shoot camera, do not fret! You can still have a polarizing effect on your shots by placing a good quality pair of sunglasses in front of the lens. It gives an effect similar to a polarizer. Just make sure that you place it to the lens as close as possible and the rims are not seen.

3. For an outdoor shot with shine, use your camera flash on or fill flash feature. This lets you control when you want the flash to go off, instead of it deciding when it wants to. This mode exposes first the background then adding enough flash to illuminate your subject.

For great results, place your subject where the sun illuminates the hair from the side or back.

Alternatively, to let your subject be comfortable and not be annoyed by the sun heat, place your model in the shade then use the flash to illuminate the subject.

However, built-in flashes only have a maximum range of 10 feet. Thus, it would be better not to go too far from your subject.

4. Taking detailed shots of objects like flowers or small insects is easy with your digital camera. Most digital cameras have a feature called close up or macro mode usually indicated by a flower sign. With this mode turned on, you can take shots of objects as close as possible.

However, you only get a shallow field-depth when taking close up pictures so it is better to focus on the most important part of the subject then allow the other parts of the image go soft.

5. Leveling the image may be difficult for amateurs as well as some pros.

One way to get a level or an even shot, especially of a nature shot, is to look for some horizontal lines as guide. If you have a view of the horizon, where the sky meets the ocean, you can use that as your leveling guide.

If it still is difficult for you, you can try to take several shots at different angles so you will know which one would give you the best shot. After some time it will become natural for you to take even shots.

These are just some of the tricks you can do to take wonderful shots on your digital camera, be it a simple point-and shoot kind or the more professional SLR type.

Photography is really an enjoyable and fulfilling hobby, especially when a lot of people also appreciate your shots. And it is not that difficult to have shots that most people will like. Just explore, read different books, and take advice from pros and you will surely be one of them in a matter of time.

About the author:

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A Digital Photography Tip - The Secret Of Clear Digital Images

By Amy Renfrey

Recently I've been getting a lot of questions about clarity. This leads me to the answers about lenses. You know if you do not have a good lens you do not have a good photo- generally.

The reason I say that professional SLR is much better than a prosumer camera or a point and shoot is not because of my desire to look "pro" when I take photos its because of the amount of control you have over the photo. You can control the light so much more; you can control the exposure and the general aspects of the image. And with this freedom comes the choice of getting the clarity via the lens. To gain the ultimate freedom in picture clarity first of all you need to know what lens does what.

Fixed focal length lenses

A fixed focal length lens is a lens that is on most point and shoot and prosumer cameras. They are normally an average wide angle lens. It's kind of like a "mid range quality" lens. If you then take a zoom lens and compare the two, a fixed focal lens is smaller and often has a larger max aperture. This is good, because they work pretty well in low light situations. These lenses appear clearer than zoom lenses. The only problem here is that your person or subject can appear smaller than you would like unless you move in closer.

Zoom Lenses

And what of a zoom lens? Without going into overly technical details, zoom lenses often have more practical focal lengths for digital photography.

They can give you a good angle perspective for filling the frame for example. These lenses are great if you need to take shots closer when it's impossible to get closer to something.

Optical zooms lenses are the best. My advice to you would be to forget digital zoom altogether. Digital zoom is not a real zoom, in other words it's not a true representation of what's there. You'll just get more noise on your image which can't really be edited.

The problem with zooms is that they loose light the closer you get. They have lower apertures and this can be difficult in low light conditions. In some situations it's possible to use the flash and have adequate lighting, but other times you use the zoom because you are far away from the subject and the flash is only effective a few meters away.

There is no general answer to "What lens should I get?" The answer is it depends on what your camera can do and what you want to do yourself. But the more you understand what lenses do what, the better off you are of making an informed decision and get the right lens for the job.

Best wishes, Amy Renfrey

<http://www.digitalphotographysuccess.com/>

Best 5 Tips For Understanding Photography Basics

Author: learndigitalphotography

One of the most popular forms of photography basics is portrait photography. Just about anyone who can point and shoot their camera can be considered portrait photographers.

Obviously, however, there are differences in the quality of the portraits. There are certain tricks that professional portrait photographers use that allow them get the best out of their subjects. Portraits do not necessarily mean only a person's image. Portraits show character and emotion. If it is your goal to become a good portrait photographer I am about to share with you five tips that can give you a step up on the competition of understanding digital photography basics.

1) Rapport: The first thing you need to do is build rapport with your subject. Having an interest in your models is definitely a plus. If you show an interest in your subject a comfort level is reached that allows them to be more natural in front of the camera. When the shutter is clicked your chances of getting amazing photos is increased tenfold.

2) Personality: The best photographs show the viewer a bit of the subject's personality. This occurs best if you have an insight to the person. You want their personality to shine in the look in their eyes or the set of their mouth. A hint is that their personality will usually come out when they are not expecting a shot to be taken, so you have to be ready to take the picture when the opportunity comes.

3) Lighting: Most photographers prefer natural lighting. However since you want to emphasize the person's face and character, you should always consider using artificial lighting. Be sure that light is evenly distributed, or that it satisfies the angle that you want to emphasize. Lighting can have a great effect especially if your they want a serious picture.

4) Background: Most portraits have light backgrounds to emphasize the subject. You can also use the environment to add more character to your subject. Also, be sure that the colors of your background and the dress of your subject compliment each other. Sometimes backgrounds become the flaw of a picture because the photographer took it for granted.

5) Plan: Make sure your I's are dotted and your T's crossed before going into the shoot. Not only is it imperative that you have all the equipment that you need, but it is vital that you are confident that you can handle the job properly. Prepare all the necessary materials and be sure to bring a good topic for conversation so that your subject can relax while you are shooting.

Portrait photography is one of the most satisfying hobbies that I have found. If you're serious in making it your career, you can be sure that it can be lucrative as long as you perfect your craft. However, remember that you should have the heart for the job because

portrait photography's first requirement is both interest and the understanding of photography basics.

About the author:

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Can You Make Cash from your Camera?

Author: Wayne G Turner

It concerns me as a photographer when I see the numerous articles and ebooks about making cash from your camera. 8 Easy steps or 10 ways to turn those snapshots into cash. And, "Hi hutterbug here's a foolproof way to turn those photos into dollars". Or, earn \$200-\$400 per day from your camera. With all the resource boxes pointing to, you guessed it, books and cds that will help you make money from your camera or rather the authors make money from your purchase.

All of us who are photographers would love to make a regular income from the hobby or profession we love. None of us want to be told that it is difficult, it takes time and not many people make it. These dubious dealers give the impression that anyone can make money from their photos. Rubbish! If you take a look at the stock sites and see the quality of images for sale, you'll realise that unless you are really talented you will never produce the quality that the buyers are looking for. Do yourself a favour. Do a search on the name of the ebook author who makes all of these claims using Google and then go to the major stock sites and do the same. Where are these authors making their money? From you! If it was so easy why don't they have thousands of images on the stock sites? I rest my case.

Take a look at the guidelines for submission on the stock sites. Every last one of them requires a camera that takes a high resolution image. Some even state that they'll only accept images taken on certain mid-range to high-end digital SLRs. Don't even think that you will be able to compete with your compact camera. You stand no chance. Your images are just not big enough.

I have been on seminars given by successful stock photographers from the microstock sites and all them state that it is tough, demands long hours of work and takes a long time to make a reasonable income. Some never make it despite quality, dedication and a lot of effort. It is not a part-time money making machine as claimed by the ebook authors.

If you don't believe me go take a look at the forums dedicated to stock photography and you will see the discouragement and difficulties of would be stock photographers. All of them asking the same questions. Where did I go wrong? They went wrong by believing the promises of the ebook authors of the cash from your camera books.

So what does it really take to make money from your camera, if it is at all possible for the amateur? You have to make a decision to dedicate yourself to your photography even if it is part-time. Carefully consider the following points:

1. Dedication to the art of photography

If you are not a dedicated photographer striving for excellence in your art there is no real money to be made. Sorry that's the bottom line. There are so many talented artists producing high quality images that you do not stand a chance if you cannot compete in this field. You need to up your standards and create images that are very high quality.

2. Dedication to detail Every detail in your image needs to be perfect.

This is what the buyer is looking for. He doesn't come along and say, "now which poor point-and-shooter can I help make money today"? When a buyer is planning to put a photo on a billboard every detail must be perfect. Examine your images and ask yourself, "Would I see this image in a magazine?"

3. Dedication to quality

99.9% of snapshots won't make it past the stock site evaluators. Their standards are very high. Sharpness, great colours and perfect composition are just some of the factors you must take into consideration when planning to sell your images. You have to be a photographer, either a pro or dedicated amateur regularly looking at the quality of your images and pushing the limits. Look at the books and magazines and compare your photos.

Do they compete? If the answer is yes then you are getting close. The ebooks say that there are millions of people looking for photos for the school and class assignments or projects who will buy your images. Get real! If they have the opportunity to buy an ordinary snapshot or a high quality image shot by a top photographer both selling for a dollar, which would they choose?

4. Dedication to discipline

Discipline is key to any hobby or vocation and especially so with photography. You need to be disciplined in your learning and improving your skills constantly. You need to be disciplined in your shooting and editing your images. And, you need to be disciplined in your submission of quality images to the stock libraries and photo sites. It's a numbers game. The more quality content you have out in the market the more chance you have of buyers selecting your images. You cannot do it on a whim or when you feel motivated to do it. It is essential to have a commitment to the task and a disciplined overall process.

5. Dedicated to achieving results

If at first you don't succeed try and try again. If at first you don't get the results you desire don't give up or try something else. Keep at it until you see results. It's like the little green shoot popping its head above the soil or the tip of the iceberg. You are building the roots that will support the later growth of your business. If you don't have a results driven motivation to see it to the end you will not achieve the success you set out to attain.

The formula the top stock photographers who are working at this full-time say they earn between \$1 and \$2 per image in their total portfolio per annum, i.e. if they have 10 000 images with a site they'll earn on average \$10 000 to \$20 000 per year. Not the \$6000 to \$10000 per month the cash from your camera ebooks claim.

It's a hard uphill road to success with photography. The photo world is competitive and saturated with good quality images. If you are to succeed you must break through the barrier from great to outstanding. You must stand head and shoulders above the rest in your quality and excellence. Your images must shout out to the buyer and catch his attention. If they don't you will be relegated to page 700 and something on the stock website and there you will remain with all the other ordinary images never to be seen again. It is achievable, not as the cheap cash from your camera authors say it is, but as a result of hard work and excellence in your photography.

Do you want to learn more about photography in a digital world? I've just completed a brand new e-course delivered by e-mail. Download it here for free:

<http://www.21steps2perfectphotos.com/> CLICK HERE.

You can also learn to take perfect photos in 21 steps by taking a look at my new ebook

<http://www.21steps2perfectphotos.com/21steps.htm> 21 Steps 2 Perfect Photos

About the author:

Wayne has been an avid photographer for 40 years. He studied with the New York Institute of Photography and has taught photography and communication privately and institutions for several years. He has completed two books, 21 Steps to Perfect Photos and 30 Keys to Photography Success.

Digital Camera Tips To Improve Your Pictures

Author: James Wannaop

So you want to improve your photography? Well in this article I will set some some key tips to help improve your shooting results. One of the great appeals of photography and the thing that makes it an art form is that there is no right or wrong way to take a picture. There is no such thing as a perfect picture allowing us as photographers to always seek ways to improve our images.

Concentrate on the light

Getting the lighting correct is one of the most important aspects of photography. Good lighting can make or break a photograph. As a general rule if you are shooting outside then try to shoot either early in the morning or in the late afternoon or evening. At these times the sun is lower in the sky providing a warmer shade of light on things. In addition the lower angle of light tends to cast more shadows on potential subjects making them more interesting to the viewer.

Open Your Eyes

Do a little experiment. Next time you are walking down the street imagine you have your camera with and tell yourself to quickly identify a subject or scene worthy of putting in your portfolio. Faced with making a quick decision you might opt for anything from a close up of a flower to a wide angle of a traffic jam. The point is that everywhere we photographers go there are interesting subjects, sometimes we just need to concentrate on seeing them.

Get It Right First Time

Post processing and image software continues to get even more powerful. As it does it can make us photographers lazy when shooting causing us to accept faults in images safe in the knowledge that we can remove/change the mistakes during post processing. To truly improve as a photographer push yourself to get the image right on the camera.

To learn more

<http://www.digitalslrguru.com/digital-camera-shooting-tips> digital camera shooting tips take a look on my site that is packed full of kit reviews and tutorials:
<http://www.digitalslrguru.com/>

About the author:

James Wannop runs DigitalSLRGuru, a website offering free advice and tips to help you improve your photography.

Digital Photography Tips - How To Focus A Point And Shoot Digital Camera

By Marie Walker

Point and shoot cameras can provide really sharp images if you use them correctly. But for many digital images taken with a point and shoot, main subject sharpness -- or lack thereof -- is a real issue.

Most all point and shoot cameras have an auto-focus feature, which is really awesome... most of the time. The lack of sharpness problems arise during certain conditions, one of which is when trying to shoot your subject a little bit off-center. Shooting off-center is a widely-used practice that can add style, interest, and professionalism to an otherwise ordinary image. In blunt terms, shooting off-center can be A Very Good Thing.

A loose example of this is when your subject, your best friend for instance, is standing off to either side in front of a waterfall, or an old covered wagon. You'd like to capture both your friend and the background but when your photo is finished, your friend is out of focus.

That happened because the point and shoot camera's viewfinder was not placed on the most important part of your composition, which in this case was your best friend, but was instead placed on the background where it automatically focused.

Fortunately, there's a really simple work around to this problem that anyone who can hold a camera can pull off. Point and shoot cameras feature the ability to lock, or pre-lock, the focus at any point during the process of composing a photograph.

Basically, pre-locking focus means that you force your camera to focus on a specific object in the composition and remain locked on that distance until you actually snap the picture.

To pre-lock, simply place the viewfinder focus point on the desired object -- in the example above it would be your best friend -- and press the shutter halfway down. At that point you should see a green glow in the viewfinder eyepiece that signals your focus is locked (if it glows steadily, that means your focus is locked; if it winks off and on or doesn't light at all, you need to try again).

Now, keeping the shutter pressed halfway, move your camera until the exact composition you want appears in your viewfinder -- in the example above it would be when your best friend is positioned on one side or the other of the image and the waterfall or covered wagon is roughly in the center.

Next, hold your camera very steady and press the shutter the rest of the way to actually capture the shot.

No matter what composition you're going for, it's always important to be mindful of where your focus point is. Taking a moment to do so can save a good many of your photographs.

Final tip: Once your focus is locked and you're keeping the shutter pressed halfway, the focus won't change at all. If your subject moves or if you take a step forwards or backwards, your subject will not be in focus any longer and you'll need to do the whole process again.

Marie Walker runs a blog called Pictures, Words, and Ordinary Life about simple digital photography for ordinary people (read: amateurs). She often features tips and tricks for composition as well as tutorials for Adobe Photoshop that make the most of point and shoot digital photography. See examples photos about locking focus here: Pre-focus and auto-focus

<http://pictureswordsandordinarylife.blogspot.com>

<http://pictureswordsandordinarylife.blogspot.com/2008/05/how-to-pre-focus-point-and-shoot-camera.html>

Landscape Photography - Ten Tips to Help Improve Your Pictures

Author: Charles Binns

There are many items that are needed when setting out to explore the countryside and indulge in some <http://www.charlesbinns.com/pages/landscapephotography.html> landscape photography. One obviously needs to dress comfortably and with the time of year in mind – comfortable footwear that is capable of standing up to whatever terrain needs crossing, is a must but also bring warmer clothes/waterproofs if need be.

You'll certainly need a map and compass, and have the ability to use them - a map case can come in handy if it rains. Use a topographical map so that you can plan possible routes and locations before setting out. Also think about small items such as a whistle, survival bag etc., etc. if you are going to the mountains or moors.

In effect go prepared for the wiles of the British weather, you'll look a fool being winched off a mountain by the RAF because you weren't prepared and your camera equipment will certainly be left behind to face the elements.

So having sorted yourself out, what else should you consider when heading out for a day's landscape photography? (We'll assume you have your camera and at least one lens with you)

1. First and foremost use a tripod - heavy duty, sturdy and stable and with a spirit level on the head - the last point is vital to ensure that your horizons are level. Bearing in mind that the best pictures are taken early in the morning or towards the end of the day, so requiring longer exposures, a tripod will ensure a crisp, sharp image.
2. A small step ladder is also an essential part of your kit. Height gives depth and the higher a position you can take your photograph from, the better your final image will be.
3. Take the right lenses. Too be honest, the lenses that you take will depend on the format camera that you use - I use a 18-200mm with my Nikon DSLR which would be the only lens I'd need were I taking digital images. However, when taking my medium format cameras out a different approach is needed. Either way you need the ability to take wide angle shots and you'll also need a longer lens to capture details clearly. If using prime lenses - then take three: wide for dramatic skies and foregrounds, normal and a longer lens for detail.
4. Take some filters. You'll need yellow, orange and red/Infrared for black & white. A set of Graduated neutral density filters and possibly a polarising filter for colour shots.
5. And a cable release. Always useful for those long exposures in the morning or the evening. A cable release will allow you to take long exposures without touching the camera, thereby avoiding camera shake.

6. The light is best early in the morning and late in the evening. Noon is best for infra red photography, but the higher the sun the visible colours are more bleached out. When the sun is low the light is warmest and colours are at their brightest. When picking a location think about when the light will be best for the picture you plan to take - is it better to go in the morning or the afternoon? ~This is when a map will also help you - it's always handy to know where east and west lie because that's where the sun shines from. Also think about the effects of shadow - a steep sided valley may lie in shadow until quite late in the morning (or early in the afternoon) so plan accordingly.

7. The golden rule of <http://www.charlesbinns.com/pages/landscapephotography2.html> landscape photography is that there are no rules - but if that is too anarchic for you, remember the rule of thirds and other compositional tricks, such as lead in etc. Sometimes an object in the foreground such as a tree or rock can help give depth and interest to a photograph's composition. Also look for geometric patterns, forms and curves in the landscape and try to build these into your composition.

8. Have patience and spend some time in the area you plan to shoot to get to know when the light is best which are the best shots etc. You'll be very lucky to get anything decent if you turn up for half an hour, walk 100 yards from the car park and press the shutter. Also you won't have as much enjoyment than if you spend a few days taking in the scenery and light and trying to understand the environment you're shooting. When you do find the right location wait for the right light conditions to make sure you get just the image you want. Married photographers will prefer to leave their spouses at home at this point – it's usually best for everybody if you go on your own!

9. Go on, waste film and bracket your shots! Not such an issue with digital cameras or with cameras with inbuilt light meters, bracketing is an effective way of hedging your bets and making sure you've got the right balance of exposure if you are like me and you like your cameras without too many moving parts. A graduated ND filter will help for colour shots to balance the sky and ground but use bracketing where you are in any doubt as to what the right exposure time is.

10. Keep an eye out for the weather. No point turning up on a grey drizzly day if you want a lovely golden sunset! Also remember that dramatic skies are very photogenic - a good time to shoot is when storms end particularly if the sun comes out after a rain storm.

Please feel free to publish this article on the web, but only if you maintain the links to my <http://www.charlesbinns.com> website and give me full credit for authorship.

About the author:

Based in Hertfordshire in England, Charles Binns has a keen interest in Landscape Photography and Travel Photography. He is rarely without his Holga cameras these days and is even threatening to dabble in infra red photography soon.

Learn Digital Photography - Creativity Can Be Learned

Author: Wayne G Turner

Those of us who admire the work of great artists and the award winning images of outstanding photographers, marvel at the creativity of these artists. A little envious of their amazing abilities and natural talent. We look at our own photographs and wonder how we'll ever get anywhere near the masters. All is not lost or as bleak as it appears.

I know that in my photography experience I would look at these photographers, look at my work, try to copy theirs, fail and then give up. It became a cycle of failure and discouragement until I realised that I could actually take good photos. It wasn't an instant change but a process. What I realised was that the masters never painted a perfect picture the first time they held a brush nor the great photographers the first time they held a camera. They began their creative journey somewhere. The important part of the process was on the journey and how they developed along this road of learning. So, equating this to you and me we have to start somewhere. You need to make a conscious choice that you are starting a creative journey. You need a starting point, a point of departure. It's back to this point that you'll look and use it as a comparison to your future work.

With all this said and done, how do we start our creative journey? Let's take a look at a few points that will get you going:

1. Discover your area of passion

It's sometimes necessary to discover your passion as we often keep these areas of our lives hidden for various reasons. Society says that a man shouldn't like flowers or a woman can't get excited by motorcycles. So it's essential to rediscover what excites us and what makes our creativity tick. This in it itself is a small journey within our creative journey. Once you have uncovered this you have a foundation for fresh ideas and a platform for experimentation that will keep you motivated and not give up or become discouraged. Find a quiet place now and relax as you think about what are your passions.

2. Begin with the end in mind

You need to have some ideas about what you want to achieve through you creativity. Have an understanding of what you want to create in your images. If you can't see something in your mind's eye and have no idea of what you want to achieve, you are lost before you begin. This is where the help of the masters comes in. Get inspiration but don't copy. There is a difference between copying someone else's work and being inspired by it.

Allow it to get you excited and driven to take images of similar quality and beauty. Let them give you ideas and understanding of their techniques and methods of composition. They should motivate you to go out and shoot.

3. Take time out and take your time

So often we want to do something and do it now and have the results now. Instant gratification is one of the great warts of life in this modern age. We want to be creative and we want it now. Creativity takes time and conscious effort to develop. It doesn't just happen over night. Think about the possibilities for a good composition and imagine the various possibilities, angles, colours and perspectives. Get away from the hustle and bustle and find a place that makes you feel good about yourself and where you can enjoy the moment. Many artists have a place where they go to for inspiration.

4. Choose an inspirational location or setting

To help your creativity, find a place that inspires you. If you love old buildings then find a location that has many of them. If you love flowers and insects go to a botanical garden. Whatever it is, find it and go there. And, leave your camera at home. Yes, don't take it with you. You need to experience the environment, imbibe the atmosphere and just observe. We are so tempted to start taking pictures and by doing this we miss the moment and get to involved with technical issues before we are inspired.

5. Think, observe and let your creativity run wild

Walk around, sit down or lie down in you chosen location. Observe your surroundings carefully and look for opportunities. Look at the different angles. Carefully examine colours and shapes. Look for lines and repeated patterns. Observe how the light falls on an object and the direction of the shadows. Look for details you haven't seen before. All these factors play a part in your journey of creativity.

Once you have been through these five steps you are starting to get to a point from which your creative ideas can start to flow. Creativity cannot be rushed. It's like the flow of honey from a jar, slow and sweet and once you've tasted it you'll never forget it. You have to create an environment for it to begin. This is a learned process and cannot be crowded by the everyday hustle and bustle and concerns of life. We all have creativity within us but we need to create the setting that will coax it out. Once you discover this, there will be no end to the exciting images you will be able to create.

About the author:

Do you want to learn more about photography in a digital world?

I've just completed a brand new e-course delivered by e-mail. Download it here for free:

<http://www.21steps2perfectphotos.com/> CLICK HERE

You can also learn to take perfect photos in 21 steps by taking a look at my new ebook

<http://www.21steps2perfectphotos.com/21steps.htm> 21 Steps 2 Perfect Photos.

When Your Point And Shoot Camera Lets You Down

By Sally Stoneking

Picture yourself out walking in the park with your new point and shoot camera. You are happily taking picture after picture of all of the beautiful flowers you find along the way. You can't wait to get home to enjoy all those excellent nature and flower pictures now on your camera.

You rush home and excitedly load the pictures onto your computer. Only the pictures just are not quite what you had pictured in your mind.

These wonderful new point and shoot digital cameras take care of everything for you. But sometimes the camera just can't seem to get it right.

This is when it is time to take control. Who knows you may find you like your own settings better.

Almost every new point and shoot camera has a setting where you can control the shutter speed and aperture (this is the F-stop). Some will give you a larger range of control than others. But with a little practice you will be shooting pictures like the Pros.

I can here you now. "I don't understand all that F-Stop talk." Believe me I know how you feel. I have asked my boyfriend about these same terms and his answers are always textbook photography class mumbo jumbo. The minute his lips start moving I start to feel my eyes glaze over. There seems to be some kind of block to receiving the information this way.

When I see that same information in print, it seems to finally click in. So here is a quick explanation to clear up some of the fog.

F-Stop is simply the range of light that your digital camera can record. You can adjust your F-Stop with your camera set on M for manual.

Every camera is different. Refer to your camera's instruction manual to see how yours operates. Just look for F-Stop to find the instructions quickly.

Go ahead. Play with your camera a little. Take a picture at the lowest F-stop setting. Then take the same picture at the highest setting. These settings will depend on your camera. For instance, my point and shoot camera is capable of settings from F2.7 to F8.

Notice that taking the picture at the lowest F-stop your picture is very light. Please note, the light in your room will affect your picture. If you have a dark room this can produce a decent picture. If your room is light the picture will be too bright.

Now try the opposite end of the spectrum. In my case I can take pictures with an f-stop setting as high as F8. Your camera may be different. Take the same picture so you can compare notes.

Notice how dark your second picture is compared to your first? Now if you combine your F-stop with an adjustment in the shutter speed you have a better chance at the perfect photograph.

Shutter speed is just what it sounds like. It tells you how long the shutter will be open when you take a shot. And the range is much greater than with the F-stop settings.

The Canon PowerShot IS6 for example ranges from 15" (longest time open) to 1/1600 (shortest time open). Translated that means the camera's shutter is open from 15 seconds (longest) to as little as 1/1600 of a second.

As you may guess the longer you have your shutter open the more light is able to come in. This means a higher exposure of the picture. Thus you have the term over exposed photograph.

Watch your LCD monitor while you are making the shutter speed adjustments. You can actually see the screen as it becomes lighter and darker. When the light looks good, this is the picture you want to take.

These two simple steps will give you a greater control over the outcome of your picture. You can be shooting like the professionals in no time at all!

Sally Stoneking is a digital photography enthusiast and digital artist. She is web designer and owner of <http://www.natureandflowerpictures.com/> Be sure and visit for more articles and beautiful nature and flower pictures to download and share.

Where Are You Looking For Top Rated Point and Shoot Digital Cameras?

By Chris Campbell

If you're looking for top rated point and shoot digital cameras, there are a few things you need to consider. First of all, you need to give some consideration to where you'll be getting your rating information. Since I'm going to assume your reading this online, your already aware of one of the biggest sources for camera ratings guides.

Bear in mind though, this is the internet, and you can't believe everything you read. Except of course for this article. I read an online article a few days ago, that suggested that 86% of online web readers believed that less than half of what they read online was reliable. A healthy dose of skepticism is a good thing, but this seems a little extreme.

Let's not forget about other sources of camera ratings. There are trade publications, photography magazines, and the tech section of major newspapers. While they may not be as specialized as some websites, they are a valuable source for research as well. Consumer reports magazine is one that comes to mind first.

Since we're looking for point and shoot cameras, there are a few shortcomings that go with this market niche that you should be aware of.

Zoom lenses on point and shoots are typically not very powerful. If you plan on getting a close up of the bride and groom kissing from the back pew of the church, you're going to be disappointed. Your zoom lens likely won't reach that far. If this is a big concern for you, that it's time to check out a few SLR cameras.

Shutter speed is notoriously slow on point and shoots. Slow shutter speed is the main culprit for missed photo opportunities. With a point and shoot, you need to plan a bit ahead. Holding the shutter down halfway, allows the battery to charge the flash, and prepare the camera to take the perfect picture. When your subject is ready, you just have to press the shutter the remaining way down.

Batteries, while often the bane of gadgets in general, can be a real nuisance for digital cameras. Because point and shoots are small, the space for battery storage is limited. Resulting in smaller batteries.

Consumer demands for large LCD screens, further exacerbates the problem, as this is where most of your battery juice goes. Rechargeables are the best solution here.

I mention these flaws not to talk you out of choosing a point and shoot camera, but to make you aware of their basic shortcomings. Some will be better than others, but their primary design has some common flaws. If you can live with these shortcomings, then your ultimate buying decision will be easier.

If you're looking for top-rated point & shoot digital cameras, or simply want to browse through a listing of the top rated-point & shoot digital cameras in your inbox be sure to visit.

<http://www.foolishmumbles.com/2008/05/30/looking-for-top-rated-point-and-shoot-digital-cameras/>

Conclusion

Thank you for having the patience to sift through all this info.

Now, here is where you need to go next, in your (almost) never ending quest for more info on digital photography.

<http://www.birdiesweb.com/dp-success.htm>

Best of luck with your digital photos.

Regards

Ian Bird

www.birdiesweb.com