

U3A(CANBERRA) CAMERA CLUB

Communiqué

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A Quick Look at *Lightroom*

Although advertised as a “crash course for complete beginners”, this article only gives a simple outline of the various modules (e.g. Map, Book, Print as well as Library and Develop). Even so, if you have not seen the program before and wonder what all the talk is about, here is a good introduction.

<http://www.digitalcameraworld.com/tutorials/crash-course-adobe-lightroom-for-complete-beginners?>

How to use *Lightroom's* Spot Removal tool

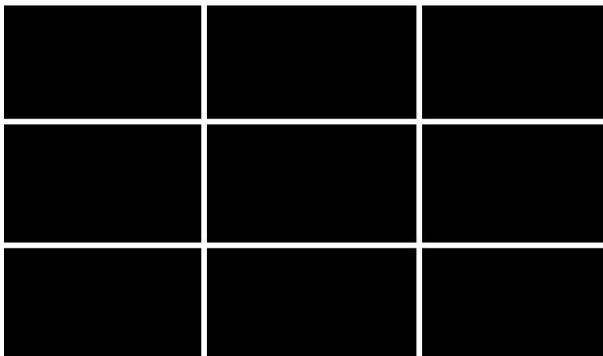
Those of us who, in pre-digital days spent hours removing those pesky little white spots from our prints, these days give daily thanks to the Adobe gods who invented the Spot Removal Tool. Available in both *Photoshop* and *Lightroom*, it has not only saved us hours of painstaking work but probably our eyesight as well. For those unfamiliar with this useful too, there is an excellent article and a video tutorial on it and how to use it at:

<http://www.digitalcameraworld.com/tutorials/how-to-use-lightrooms-spot-removal-tool>

The Best Full-frame DSLRs in 2017

Thinking of upgrading to a bigger, better camera? Although the lighter 4/3 CMC cameras are rapidly gaining on dSLRs these days, there is still no doubt that a full-frame camera will give you the best quality image, the larger sensor allowing for higher resolution. An article quoting the pros and cons (and prices) of what *Digital Camera World* considered the best full-frame cameras in 2017 can be found at

<http://www.digitalcameraworld.com/buying-guides/the-best-full-frame-dslr-in-2017>



Other than the “Thirds Rule”

The so-called *Rule of Thirds*, unlike the criminal law, is sometimes best observed in the breach. For those who haven’t heard of it, it divides the viewfinder frame of your

camera or the printed image up into “thirds” as in this illustration. It states that the best place to position the main focus of your picture is on one of those points of intersection of two of the white lines.

Sometimes, however, this does not seem to be the best or more comfortable position. There are alternatives, one of the most ancient being what is variously called the Golden Mean, Phi, or Divine Proportion, and was made famous by Leonardo Fibonacci around 1200 A.D.

Since the Renaissance, artists and architects have designed their work to approximate this ratio of 1:1.618. It's found all over the Parthenon, in famous works of art like the Mona Lisa and the Last Supper, and it's still used today. The divine proportion has been used by companies like Apple to design products, it's said to have been used by Twitter to create their new profile page, and has been used by major companies all over the world to design logos.

The above quote is from an article which shows how to apply the Fibonacci Sequence to photos and is available at

<https://digital-photography-school.com/divine-composition-with-fibonaccis-ratio-the-rule-of-thirds-on-steroids/>

For a quick introduction to the Fibonacci Sequence of numbers, try:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKzcDZswj5A&feature=related>

Charles Davis Photography

Heading for the snow this season? Check out the work by Charles Davis whose prints are displayed and available for sale at JK Gallery in Thredbo and The Nimmitabel Bakery. Closer to home, you can see some of Davis' photos at the Beess and Co Cafe in Yarralumla.

Learning to See in Monochrome

At last month's workshop, I completed the second of my two-part series on B&W with a brief outline of the (now free) Google software *Silver Efex Pro 2* which allows optimization of B&W photos. To some extent, successful B&W photography requires learning to see in monochrome — that is, training yourself to ignore the contribution colour makes to an image. A useful article on just this topic can be found at

<https://digital-photography-school.com/9-tips-learning-see-monochrome/>

Written by Stacey Hill for the Digital Photography School this is a well-illustrated guide to discovering the dramatic world of monochrome photography.

How to Use Depth of Field (DOF)

DOF is a hard idea to explain to those of us who are relatively new to photography. Essentially, it refers to that part of a photo which is in sharp focus or, equally important, is *apparently* sharp enough when the picture is viewed from an appropriate distance. Areas closer to the camera and those further beyond are out of focus. The advantage of knowing which part of your image will be acceptably sharp (or conversely, blurred so it is not distracting) is that you can be sure any viewer will see what you intend them to see and concentrate on. An example might be a portrait with other people in the background — you don't want your audience to be distracted looking at those irrelevant people. There is a good introductory article from the on-line resource *Picture Correct* by photographer Mike Pepper at <https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/how-to-use-depth-of-field/>

As an old hand at this game I have just realized that many modern lenses no longer have DOF scales engraved into the lens barrel. Since DOF is dependent on both aperture and focal length, those of us who are tech junkies in the habit of acquiring new lenses, this means we will have to test out our new babies — as the article suggests — before we can be sure of our *bokeh!*

Aperture in Photography

Related to the above, an article by this name by Alan Clark has a useful exercise and some good illustrations to help beginners understand the role of aperture (that is, your f-stop) in photography:

<https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/aperture-in-photography/>

Predictions for the Future of Photography

Although ScFi writers like Isaac Asimov have been uncannily accurate in foretelling the future, most technological experts are not so reliable. Nonetheless, with the recent release of the new Apple iPhones and their Dick Tracey- like watches, some expectations of what the future might hold are of interest. Grasping the future by the crystal ball, Darlene Hildebrandt bravely makes 10 predictions at

<https://digital-photography-school.com/predictions-future-of-photography>

Hearing loss resources

At the last meeting Rosina screened her short film on hearing loss. The hearing resources listed then are as follows:

Better Hearing ACT <http://www.betterhearingaustralia.org.au/act-canberra/> (lip reading and emotional support)

ACT Deafness Resource Centre <https://www.actdrc.org.au/> (deafness and hearing loss equipment and advice)

Films on hearing loss including Rosina's <https://www.actdrc.org.au/sounds-of-silence-film-project/>



Photographer of the Year Competition

The *Australian Photography Magazine* has announced its 2017 Photographer of the Year competition with the comment:

Whilst winning a prize is great, it's just as important as the challenge of sorting images, using your images and pushing yourself outside your comfort zone. If you never have a go, you will never, never, know!

Standard entries close 8 November (cost per entry \$25). Late entry closes 15th November (\$30). For more information, go to:

<http://www.australianphotography.com/poty>



Nature Conservancy Photo Competition

Entries in the 2017 Nature Conservancy Australia competition opened on 18th September last and close on 27th October. The green "Enter Now" button did not work for me: if you are interested in entering, try the main link and navigate from there.

<http://www.natureaustralia.org.au/contact/>

This notice was referred by Ted's Camera Stores so it might also be worthwhile enquiring there.

The Loves of Yesteryear

Every so often the *Canberra Photographic Collectors' Society* holds a "Fiesta" at which antique and collectable cameras, photographic accessories and rare photo books are on sale. They also sell useable film for photographers who still enjoy the analog form of our art and some older digital cameras. The next "Fiesta" will be held at the Canberra Irish Club, 6 Parkinson Street, Weston 10.30am – 1.30pm on Sunday 5th November.

See also <http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/CanberraPhotographicCollectors/>

Bob Hay
Course Leader