Rules of Composition for Beginners
If you still consider yourself a “beginner” (some say in photography this is a life-long condition) and you are puzzled by the constant reference to “rules of composition” then this article is for you. Highly recommended: https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/rules-of-composition/

Tripods and their Heads
Most photographers hate lugging tripods around and resent the delay in setting a camera upon one before taking the shot, but the fact remains, tripods and their heads are an essential accessory to photography. They are essential for two reasons: first and foremost, they keep the camera still and so photos are free from the camera shake likely in hand-held photos. This is particularly so for landscape photographers where many pros consider a tripod indispensable. Second, using your camera on a tripod greatly helps when posing portraits or group shots. Using a tripod allows you to stand away from the camera and thus reduce the sitter’s self-consciousness and maybe nervousness.

An excellent look at tripods, their heads and how to use them to best advantage was posted by Spencer Cox in Photography Life last May. This can be read at: https://photographylife.com/landscapes/tripods-and-heads-a-landscape-photographers-guide. If you don’t yet own a tripod, before you buy one, miss this article at your peril.
Landscape or Portrait?
Most photos are taken in “landscape” format because that is the way cameras are made to be held. However, there are many occasions when rotating the camera 90° and shooting in “portrait” mode can be beneficial. Sometimes, it can be difficult to decide which way is better. The clue — if at all possible — is to take several photos of the same scene. The same advice also applies when cropping the images later in post-processing — and don’t forget, people who do slides only are not exempt from post-processing, especially cropping because it is not always possible to fill the frame with the desired scene and exclude redundant other stuff. People who prefer prints can often find it is possible to get more than one image from the single file.

Ansel Adams, Snake River, 1942

Author and keen photographer Suzanne D. Williams, in an article headed Back To Basics: Orientation Can Make Or Break Your Image, discusses this issue of orientation. She compares two photos, one in landscape format by the iconic Ansel Adams, the other, in portrait format by the less well-known Rob Kroenert. Both images are of the Snake River with the Tetons in the background. While the Adams photo is extraordinarily famous, both images are beautiful depictions of the same location and each, in its way, tells a somewhat different story.

As an aside, Adams always insisted that landscape format photos should be mounted in landscape, portrait in portrait – just something to think about when mounting your prints for exhibition.

The Etiquette of Event Photography
“Covering” and event (as it is called in the trade) is a valuable if sometimes anxious experience for amateur photographers: imagine you are asked to photograph a friend’s or relative’s wedding, graduation, 21st birthday party — or even some happening at U3A — what do you wear? Should you be early? Should you take photos of people eating or glugging down as much grog as possible? The list of questions you might ask yourself are numerous but 10 of the
Noise Explained in Photography: The Screaming Camera

At a previous meeting of the PhotoGroup I was asked what I meant by noise. Somehow or other we got distracted and I did not fully explain this phenomenon. Fortunately, Spencer Cox, who writes for Photography Life, does a good job of explaining “noise” in an article under the above heading (When he was a beginner, he actually thought the term meant the camera performed louder at higher ISO settings).

https://photographylife.com/what-is-noise-in-photography

How Does your Camera Sensor Work?

It is nice when — just occasionally — someone explains in layman’s terms how something as technologically complicated as the sensors in modern cameras work. John P. Hess does just this in a video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MytCfECfqWc

This 13 minute video explains (to quote Digital Photographic School, which is where I first saw mention of this Filmmaker IQ video):

- How photographic film uses a thin coating of silver halide crystals to capture light.
- The science behind the photodiode that converts light into electrical current for all digital image sensors
- How a Charged Couple Device (or CCD) sensor works, and its pros and cons.
- How a Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor (or CMOS) sensor works, and its pros and cons.

Colour Spaces

Delhi-based photographer, Kunal Malhotra, in a post on Digital Photography School, asks the question: Adobe RGB Versus sRGB – Which Color Space Should You Be Using and Why?
He goes on to add, *A color space is a part of the color gamut, which is basically the universe of color tones. So you can assume different color spaces to be planets of different sizes. Out of many planets, Adobe RGB and sRGB are two most commonly used color spaces in photography. Depending on your preferences, you can choose the desired color space and get the best possible result out of it.*


Understanding colour space (*color* in American English) is important when using both your camera and your printer. While the author discusses only the two most common colour spaces used with digital photography, a third which encompasses a much greater gamut than these two, *ProPhoto RGB*, is desirable but so far, monitors cannot display the wider range of hues. Some experts recommend that you set your camera to this standard. You might not be able to see the extra colours it provides on contemporary screens, but maybe in the future you will. It is also possible that some printers can actually use this standard now even though the computer cannot display it.

The Internet’s Influence on Photography

In an article first published in 2012 and updated recently, Bob Vishneski, a Pittsburg-based photographer, canvasses the changes that the Internet has brought to photography.

Information available to photographers post- and pre-internet.

This is a fairly wide-ranging examination of the changes to everything from how you share family photos with admiring friends to the bankruptcy of Kodak and the disappearance of the suburban camera shop. Remember when we carried small snapshots of loved ones in our wallet or purse? Now our smart phones can display a whole library of digital images of the people...
and places we love. How often can you get quality information about a new camera or lens from the average sales assistant these days whereas once-upon-a-time they knew everything about the few new models to come onto the market.

There is not room here to cover all the points Vishneski raises but what he says is illuminating: not only does he describe how things were for us photographers back in pre-digital/pre-internet days but he looks also to the future. For example, he questions if the move to taxing on-line purchases will result in its intended consequence (viz., fairness for all retailers, especially the big brick-and-mortar stores). He also suggests the tax will fail, but inevitably remain even when the stores have gone out of business. Read this long article at: https://photographylife.com/the-internets-influence-on-photography

The Exquisite Eye of Kiyoshi Togashi

If you browse the web looking for photos to inspire you – and certainly if you enjoy taking photos of flowers - then the photographs of Japanese-born/New York resident photographer, Kiyoshi Togashi will do just that: he successfully combines the Japanese aesthetic with American commercial in his subtly zen photos of plants, food and many more.

An article by Arthur H. Bleich for the Red River blog, outlines this artist’s history and shares many of his photos but even more telling is a visit to the photographer’s own web site at https://www.togashistudio.com/botanicals or for the article, http://blog.redrivercatalog.com/2018/03/the-exquisite-eye-of-kiyoshi-togashi.html
Panorama Tips

In a short article on *Picture Correct*, Gary Ramey sets out these tips for taking panoramas.

- Select a focal length between 18mm and 55mm.
- Use the same exposure, white balance, and focus for all the shots.
- Expose and focus on the focal point of your composition. Whatever is most important in the composition needs to be exposed properly. Everything else will have to use the same settings. Don’t vary the settings or you will be able to easily see separate photos. Some point-and-shoot cameras have a panoramic mode built-in. For these cameras, you may need to take a photo of the focal point then start the panoramic sequence.
- Always shoot from left to right. The software that you will use to stitch the images together will expect the first image in the sequence to be on the far left.
- Imitate the field of view that we see with our eyes. The normal field of view for human sight is nearly 180 degrees.

For more (including his warning to use a tripod) go to:
https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/panorama-photography-tips/

Beware of ‘Tech Support’ Scams

Have you ever had someone purporting to be from “Microsoft Tech Support” and calling to warn you that you have a problem with your computer or internet? This is a “scam” in which the perpetrators intend to get money from you by “selling” you a program to remove bugs or whatever (they just want to money). Or, worse still, they will install malware of some kind on your computer if you do as they say, all the while insisting they are being helpful. Microsoft will never call you, but scammers do. The following article explains the problem fully —
https://www.intego.com/mac-security-blog/social-engineering-beware-of-tech-support-scams
It is written for Mac users but the facts are the same for Windows. The scammers are very convincing — best be forewarned before they contact you. If you’re game, tell them you are busy but “give me your number and I’ll call you back”… Somehow they never do!

A Word from the Wise
Galen Rowell is one of America’s most respected landscape photographers and teachers. In his book *Mountain Light: In Search of the Dynamic Landscape*, he writes:

> When we are deeply moved by a photograph of a landscape, we are usually reacting to what I call the ‘selective vision’ of the photographer rather than to the fidelity of the scene itself... Photography succeeds not when the original vision is created photographically, but when the photo is able to evoke or re-create a similar vision in the mind of each viewer. If the re-creation is not understood or not relevant or not powerful enough, the image fails. But if the special unity of composition found by the photographer triggers strong emotions, the image has a chance of success.

How to Re-size in Lightroom
For those who missed the Workshop on re-sizing images, a useful exposition by Nasim Mansurov on how to resize using *Lightroom* can be found at: [https://photographylife.com/how-to-properly-resize-images-in-lightroom](https://photographylife.com/how-to-properly-resize-images-in-lightroom)

DPI vs PPI
Elizabeth Gray, in a well-written and illustrated post on *Photography Life*, explains the difference between DPI and PPI, acronyms often confused by photographers, but a correct understanding is important for those of us producing not only prints but also projected images.
[https://photographylife.com/dpi-vs-ppi](https://photographylife.com/dpi-vs-ppi)

Are Smartphones Threatening the Camera Industry?
There is no doubt that smart phones are causing the sale (and now production) of low-end point-and-shoot cameras to decline sharply. The question remains, however: will they also be the death of more sophisticated cameras? In a long but well-argued and beautifully illustrated article, Nasim Mansurov of *Photography Life* argues that cameras with larger sensors and speciality lenses won’t go the way of the small digital cameras which have been the Box Brownies of our day but he points out that smart phone cameras are already very competent cameras and are sure to become even more capable. If you doubt
what he says, take a look at his sample of images taken with a variety of smartphones.
https://photographylife.com/are-smartphones-threatening-the-camera-industry

Beginner Tips for Better Backgrounds
Backgrounds can be very distracting. Kevin Landwer-Johan in a recent issue of Digital Photography School outlined 8 tips for getting better backgrounds in one’s photographs.
https://digital-photography-school.com/8-beginner-tips-images-better-backgrounds

Want Something Different?
In his post, In-Camera Photography Tricks & Techniques (https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/in-camera-photography-tricks-techniques/), Steve Igbokwe suggests some interesting ways to get unusual images. Examples include double exposure, panning while shooting, even putting your camera on the ground...

Senior Perspectives on Photography
Thomas Stirr was about to turn 65, so he turned his thoughts to how his and other seniors’ perspectives on photography change with getting older. His article in Photography Life is illustrated with his own photos taken on a tour of New Zealand: obviously getting his Seniors Card had not dimmed his ability to take a good photo!
https://photographylife.com/senior-perspectives-on-photography

Kinky for Fashion?
Some people are kinky for leather, some for fur, and some for denim. If your fetish is that durable indigo fabric loved by bikers and antiquated hippies, then maybe the new Olympus Pen is for you? As announced in
To celebrate the ongoing love affair with this perennial material, Olympus is introducing a special blue edition of their recently launched PEN E-PL9 camera...This special edition of the compact and lightweight PEN E-PL9 not only takes great pictures and movies but is also an easy and stylish addition to any denim outfit. (I'll wait until they bring out a faded, flairs version).


Free photo book for world photo adventurers

Every month I receive an email advertising new world adventures for photographers (I can dream, can’t I?). This month they sent the offer of a free eBook which members might care to download. Although it contains some awe-inspiring photos, this is not a catalogue of World Photo Adventure safaris but an excellent short course in photography. While everyone would enjoy the photos, this eBook is especially useful for beginners.


New Nik Software from DxO

The French firm which bought the Nik Software Collection from Google have announced the release of their fully updated version of all the programs in the Collection. This can be downloaded from https://mailchi.mp/dff7f7bda8e5/la-nik-collection-est-de-retour-2776769?e=3d3779f074

The announcement said that a discounted price of US$49.99 would apply until July 1 and thereafter, $69. I tried to get the discounted price but was unable to do so: for my sins, I have bought the Collection and complained that their link must be broken. So far I have tried only Silver Efex Pro 2, but it looks good, is faster, cleaner and worth the money (but a discount would have been nice!).

Bob Hay
For U3A Camera Club & U3A PhotoGroup