

Camera club Communiqué

April 2019 U3A ACT Australia

The *Camera Club Communiqué* is part of a newsletter sent to members of the “Camera Club” and “PhotoGroup” which are year-long courses run by the University of the Third Age here in Canberra. For privacy reasons, class notices have been omitted from this public version. To contact either class, please email u3acanberracameraclub@gmail.com or u3acanberraphotogroup@gmail.com respectively.



More on Flowers

Soon the flowers which bloom in the colder months will be calling out to be photographed. Always a popular subject for Canberra photographers, there are some helpful hints on *Picture Correct* by Mark Laurie at

<https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/tips-for-flower-photography/>

Nik Collection by DxO



used as stand-alone programs.

The British camera magazine *Digital Camera World* reviewed the latest update to DxO's *Nik Collection* and gave it a healthy thumbs up: their final verdict — *Nik Collection is a powerful suite of plug-ins that work especially well with Photoshop and offer terrific value for money – even if you only use Silver Efex Pro 2*. Of course, the Nik Collection also plug-in to *Lightroom* and can be

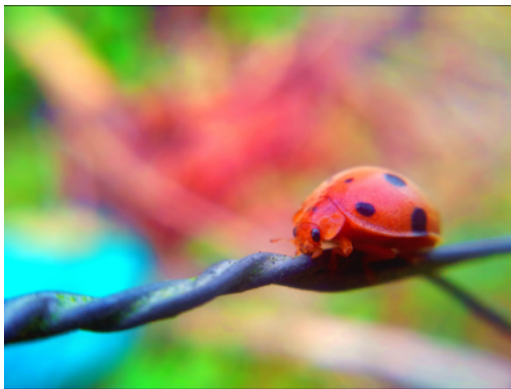
Developed by Nik, the Collection was bought by Google in 2012 because they wanted to get hold of *Snapseed* mobile app which was bundled with it. In 2016 Google then made the Collection available free of charge — for

most of us, this was welcome news but Google did not update the Collection after 2017 and it became increasingly buggy. DxO bought the Collection in October 2017, ironed out the bugs, made it once again completely compatible with the Adobe products and put it back on the market — for US\$69.

The big French firm, DxO, was in financial difficulties but seems now to have ironed out their difficulties. This is good news, not only for those of us who use and value the Nik Collection, but also because DxO is responsible for all those lens corrections (Nikon and Canon included) used when processing files in *Lightroom*.

Not all of the 7 programs in the Nik Collection are equally useful. Check what they do at the home page at <https://nikcollection.dxo.com/>. By far the most popular is *Silver Efex Pro*, a “must have” for serious B&W photographers but *DFine* and *Sharpener Pro* are arguably the best programs available for reducing noise and increasing apparent sharpness respectively. The review is available at: <https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/reviews/nik-collection-by-dxo-review>

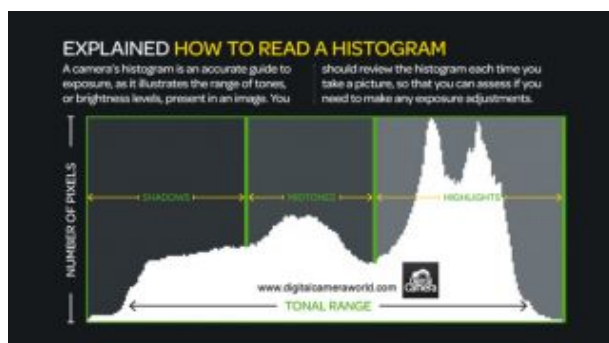
Tips for Sharper Photos with Smartphones



With more than 8 out of 10 smartphone owners using their phones to take photos, it is time we started taking an interest in how to use these devices to better advantage. In his article on *Picture Correct*, Kyle Albert lists several useful techniques for ensuring better sharpness in our smartphone “snaps”. If you are an “iPhonographer” as one Apple enthusiast prefers to call all smartphone users, then

check out the hints and tips at

<https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/tips-for-sharper-photos-with-smartphones/>



How to Read a Histogram

Most of us have cameras which show a histogram of the shot you are about to take while most post-processing software also shows a histogram — in *Lightroom*, for example, it is in the top right-hand

corner of the *Develop* screen. This is a most useful tool to consider when both taking the photo and later, when processing it. Matt Golowczynski explains a histogram as *a graphical representation of the tonal range in your image. In other words, it shows you how much of your scene will record as a shadow, how much as a highlight and how much in between.* In his article in *Digital Camera World*, he explains how to use this tool to your advantage. At the end of the article there is also a very useful “cheat sheet”.

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/tutorials/cheat-sheet-how-to-read-a-histogram>

But a word of warning: unless it has been changed in the most modern cameras, when shooting RAW, the histogram which shows up on your camera screen is that for the .jpg, not the RAW file.

A Clarification of the Facts about the Histogram



While the above article was written for magazine consumers, there is more to understanding the histogram which serious amateur photographers need to know. There are also many simplistic interpretations which are passed around as what Herb Paynter calls “rumors”. His article on *Digital Photography School* “Shedding

Light on the Histogram - 8 Rumors and the Real Facts about this Graph” goes into considerable detail explaining how these “rumors” are misleading and what is actually involved.

<https://digital-photography-school.com/shedding-light-histogram-8-rumors-real-facts>

What Makes a Good ICC Color Profile?



For those of us who do our own printing, a good ICC Color Profile is essential — just look what catastrophe happens if you accidentally use the wrong one! But what makes a good profile? In a post on the newsletter from *Red River* (a major US photo paper manufacturer), Pat Harold from *Chromix* examines the various considerations which have to be taken into account in deciding the answer to that question. Apart from anything else, he gives some good advice about the use of *Perceptual Rendering*: the earlier version 2 of

the ICC specs was rather vague so, if using *Perceptual*, best find a later, better defined version 4 Profile for a better print.

<http://www.redrivercatalog.com/infocenter/tips/what-makes-a-good-ICC-color-profile.html?>

How to Clean & Maintain Your Inkjet Printer

Although most of us would probably prefer to send our ink-jet printers to be cleaned professionally (just ask the Manufacturer for how to contact a qualified professional in your area), it helps to know what to look out for when things are going wrong. Another good article on the *Red River* newsletter <https://www.redrivercatalog.com/infocenter/tips/how-to-clean-and-maintain-your-inkjet-printer.html> lists signs and symptoms as well as showing how to do your own cleaning if you are game enough.



Solid lines indicate nozzles firing properly



Broken lines or blank areas mean you have a clog and need to clean



Video: The Making of Lange's "Migrant Mother" Photo.

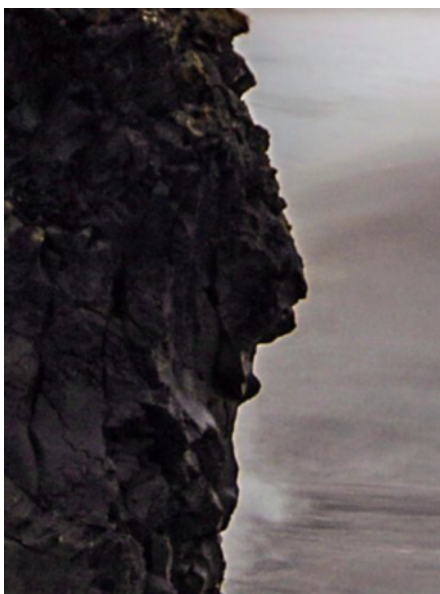
The whole world knows the iconic photo taken by Dorothea Lange called *Migrant Mother*. This shows a mother and children during the Great Depression/Dustbowl Era in the US. Now a 7-minute video has been put together showing how Lange worked her way up to taking such a powerful photo.

By showing the test photos leading up to this now-world-famous image, the video reveals how one of the greatest of 20th Century photographers worked.

<https://www.dpreview.com/news/0559851416/video-the-making-of-the-iconic-migrant-mother-photograph-captured-by-dorothea-lange>

Getting Rid of Unwanted Halos

Sometimes, especially if you use a lot of Contrast or Clarity in *Lightroom* but it can happen in other processors, you get a thin halo or glow



around a dark object. This is not to be confused with the magenta or green fringe you can get from lens chromatic aberration for which there is also a correction in LR. The halo in question is probably an artefact created by the juxtaposition of two areas where there is a significant difference in tonal value. If that is so, then the darker area tends to create a mask or shadow along its boundary which shows up as a bright glow.

Scott Kelby, that guru of everything LR, shows how this annoying halo may be removed using *Photoshop*.

<https://lightroomkillertips.com/getting-rid-of-those-nasty-glows-hint-ya-gotta-use-photoshop>

It might be possible to employ the same technique using *Adobe Photoshop Elements* or any other software which allows you to select an area very precisely and then employ the equivalent of the Clone Stamp found in *Photoshop*.

Inspiring Video on GEMS Newsletter

Meet the photographer seeing life through a new lens.... There is usually some — and often several — items of interest on GEMS, the on-line service provided for U3A members nation-wide, and this video is of special interest to those of us taking up photography in our senior years.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RCT46iq9skg&feature=youtu.be&utm_source=GEMs+for+Enquiring+Minds&utm_campaign=cca49bc107-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_01_31_06_14&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e4a1948877-cca49bc107-80190477

GEMS can be contacted through enquiries@u3aonline.org.au or at <https://www.u3aonline.org.au/content/gems>

Attachments for Smart Phone Cameras

The smart phone is outselling and rapidly replacing “normal” cameras, particularly the point-and-shoot compacts which were so popular a decade ago. The fact you always have a camera with you when you carry your phone these days makes the smart phone, in the words of the old



dictum “the best camera”. To make these ultra-portable, always with us cameras even more versatile, numerous attachments are coming onto the market, including supplementary lenses.

A member has drawn attention to one of the most recent of these supplementary lenses, the *Moment Wide Lens* for iPhone, Pixel, and Samsung Galaxy Camera Phones. You can see this at https://www.amazon.com/Moment-iPhone-Samsung-Galaxy-Camera/dp/B07DYTEWW54/ref=as_li_ss_tl. In addition to this particular lens, Amazon also many supplementary lenses and other attachments suitable for smart phones. Surprisingly, these seems to be a disproportionate number of fish-eye lenses on the market. Could make for some interesting snaps of your nearest and dearest or your latest travel pix!

A Beginner’s Guide to Photography



If you are relatively new to digital photography, then Jason Row’s post under this heading will be of help in getting you out of “auto everything” and making best use of the camera in your hands.

<https://www.lightstalking.com/beginners-guide-photography>

Written in a rather chatty, informal style, Row explains the fundamentals of aperture, shutter speed, and ISO and provides some useful practical exercises for beginners to try for themselves which help not only in managing your camera but also allowing you to make better, more attractive pictures.

iPhone XS and iPhone XS Max camera tips

If you up-graded recently to the newest iPhones, here at <https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/tutorials/iphone-xs-and-iphone-xs->



[max-camera-tips-and-tricks](#) there are 10 “tips and tricks” to help you take advantage of the features of this camera-phone. One feature of this device, not mentioned, however, is its proclivity to send your images or videos off to the iCloud. It seems that if memory is running low, all you get on your phone is thumbnails and you have

to access your iCloud account (you get 5G for free automatically) using your browser to download the full-sized files. Unless you are a fan of the Cloud, it is probably best to turn this facility off from the start and activate it only when you have the need.

Try Entering a Photo Competition or Exhibition

Competitions and exhibitions are out there for people like us. They cater to folk at all levels of photographic experience and skill so there is no need to be shy. Perhaps it would be nice to win a prize, but in most cases, the most pleasure and best reward comes from simply having your entry accepted and, in the case of exhibitions, hung. Some competitions are tied to particular brands of camera or materials, others are “open”, subject only to the restrictions of *genre* - that is the special category such as landscape, portrait, wild life and so on. These can be interpreted fairly strictly so make sure you read the definitions given by the sponsoring company or organisation and adhere to them correctly. The same warning applies to format (landscape or portrait mode), print or image for projection, image size and in the case of prints, mount size if any. Failure to comply with the rules of an exhibition or competition will automatically have your photo refused.

So, what’s in it for you? Apart from the glory of an acceptance and the remote possibility of a prize, there are several things to be gained which make entering competitions and exhibitions worth your while. Simon Bond writing for *Digital Photography School*, lists several such reasons as well as warning readers to be wary of such events which charge very large entry fees and certainly, those in which the exhibitor loses his or her property rights in their image.

<https://digital-photography-school.com/reasons-to-enter-photo-contest>

What is “Gloss Differential”?

Sometimes when you print a photo using pigment inks on gloss or semi-gloss papers, an area which has very little or no ink deposited on it by the printer (i.e. highlight areas) shows up as a bare patch when the photo is viewed at an angle. Generally speaking, the picture must be viewed at a fairly extreme angle for this to be a problem. One way to avoid this is to make certain that whites in a print actually receive a small over-lay of ink. Another is to spray the print with one of those high quality coatings available from art shops and printing supplies for preserving the surface of such things as charcoal drawings and other media which are all too easily damaged. But beware: the Post Office cannot accept these pressure packs because the propellant is usually inflammable. And test them on a reject print first – some products actually leave a slightly translucent, not totally transparent, film over the art work beneath.

<https://www.redrivercatalog.com/infocenter/articles/what-is-inkjet-gloss-differential.html>

Preserving & Repairing Photographs

This PBS presentation concerns an exhibition at the Chicago Art Institute which holds one of the world’s largest collections of photographs. The exhibition showcases the work done by conservators repairing and conserving images from the past.

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/the-artistry-behind-protecting-and-repairing-photographs>

Bob Hay
Course Leader