

Camera club Communiqué

November 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.

“Stops” Explained



It is surprising how many experienced photographers don't know the exact relationship between “stops” or what is actually meant by the term. It is often bandied around but sometimes inaccurately. This brief article by Frank Perez on *Picture Correct* helps clear up the confusion.

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

Blurb on Photo History

In their blog, the photo book company have published a very potted version of the history of photography. Subtitled “10 Moments that Changed How We See” it is very much a bird's eye view but if you don't have time to explore the details of the development of our art then this will at least give you some perspective on where we've come from....

<https://www.blurb.com/blog/the-history-of-photography/?>

Portrait Follow-Up

The last Studio Day produced some interesting images of the members of both the Camera Club and the *PhotoGroup* who participated. As a follow-up, here are two more posts which might inspire more portraits:

<https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/how-to-take-great-portraits/>

<https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/how-to-take-indoor-portrait-photos/>

13 Habits of Highly Effective Photographers

In this very short (and nicely illustrated) article, Ray Salisbury of Nelson lists 13 “habits” cultivated by effective photographers. These habits (all of them good) range from the very obvious such as “store a back-up copy” to the often ignored “Select and present only the very best images” and “publish photographs so they aren’t destined to die on the hard drive”. Worth reminding oneself...

<https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/13-habits-of-highly-effective-photographers/>



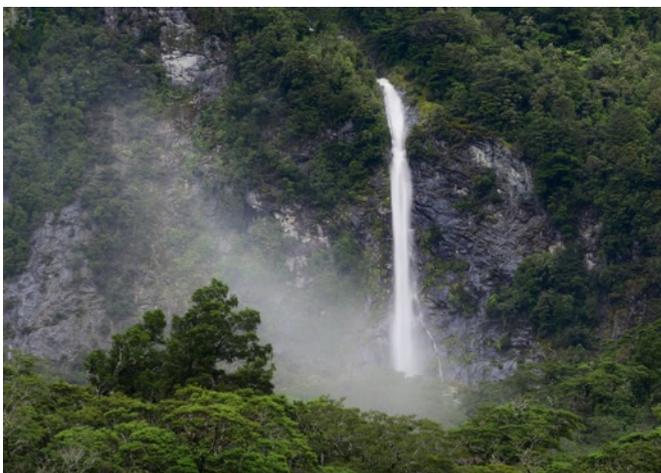
How to Bracket Exposures in Photography

Back in the days when we used film, “bracketing” was not only a way of ensuring a good exposure but also an expensive one. These digital days, however, bracketing costs nothing so it is a helpful technique for getting precise

exposure under sometimes uncertain lighting conditions. Wayne Turner at <https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/how-to-bracket-exposures-in-photography/> makes the argument for learning this technique. If you prefer learning from a video, watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fZaK9cA58Q4>.

The Case for f/16

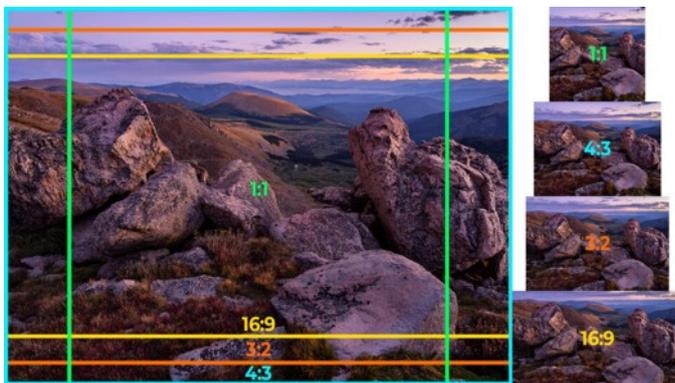
Spencer Cox (<https://photographylife.com/landscapes/f-16>) says that *f/16, the unloved f-stop, is far more useful than we give it credit for*. Most of us, he says, dare not go lower than f11 and are usually happy when shooting at f8 and above. Mostly this is because we know that there can be



problems of what is called *diffraction* at these smaller apertures, that is, that lights bouncing around in the barrel of the lens can spoil the eventual image by reducing sharpness. This inhibition, however, means that often we cannot get the Depth of Field we might want where, of course, smaller apertures provide greater DOF... And that

can be an important consideration, particularly for landscape photographers who want the foreground, middle distance and infinity all in sharp focus. In this article Cox shows that — as he says — *the horrors of f/16 are way overblown* and suggests that what is lost in sharpness is by far compensated by the increase you can get in DOF.

In his article, Cox does not remind us that back in the '20s and '30s of the last century, a group of photographers including Ansel Adams, Imogen Cunningham and Edward Weston banded together to form the *f.64 Group*. This was part of the movement among photographers rebelling against the older Pictorialism school which had dominated photography from late Victorian times. Using their large format cameras, they stopped way down (even as far as f64) to get great detail with as much DOF as possible.



Understanding Aspect Ratios in Photography

Aspect ratio expresses the relationship between the width and height of a photo. For example, on most smartphones and mirrorless cameras, the default aspect ratio is 4:3 but on full-frame cameras, 3:2. On most cameras these days you can

choose which aspect ratio you prefer to set your camera to use. For a detailed explanation not only of the meaning of *aspect ratios* but also the part they can play in your photography, see Nasim Mansurov's article at <https://photographylife.com/aspect-ratio?>



5 Basics of Good Bird Photography

Pat Leonard talked with four professionals to get their ideas on this *genre*, popular among many photographers. The ideas included wearing muted clothing to knowing as much as you can about the birds you wish to photograph. This last is important, says one of the people interviewed, because it can help you develop an intuitive sense of when a bird is about to fly.

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/5-basics-of-good-bird-photography/>

Another article, this time by Andrew Darlow on *Picture Correct* who acknowledges that bird photography is one of the most popular *genres* and, as he says *For good reason!* <https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/bird-photography-tips-techniques/>

Yet another article for enthusiasts is one by Clive Anderson “How to Photograph Birds in Flight” which can be found at <https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/how-to-photograph-birds-in-flight/>

15 Printer Terms Every Pro Should Know

This article is for everyone interested in printing their photos, not only those who are professional photographers, as the title implies, or who own a Canon printer — the article is published by Canon so there is an obvious



bias in favour of their own brand.

However, as it stresses at the beginning: *The world of professional photo printing is a vast place with plenty of technical jargon and terminology. Whether you want to print at home or at a lab, there are many options to consider and decisions to make concerning hardware, software, media types and inks.*

Incidentally, the image is of the Canon *imagePROGRAF PRO-2000*. (Thanks to Al K. for the link).

<https://www.canon-europe.com/pro/stories/pro-printing-terms>

Free On-line photography courses

Many institutions, including American Ivy-League universities, offer free on-line photography courses. Worth looking at what is on offer but as this site warns, don't be surprised if, after you register and supply an email address, that you are deluged with adds from camera manufacturers and sales people. The suggestion is that you use a “throw-away” email address for the purpose.

<https://askbobrankin.com/try-these-free-online-photography-classes.html>

Stray Light and Lens Flares in Photography

Lenses contain lots of glass surfaces which can bounce light around sometimes in ways which produce strange octagonal shapes or wash out the colour overall in the image. Sometimes too, this *lens flare* produces star-like rays surrounding bright lights, including the sun as in the accompanying picture.



Modern lenses have anti-flare coatings which reduce the effect and it is usually recommended that photographers use a lens hood. However, you must ensure that the lens hood is designed for the lens you are using — particularly with wide angle zooms it can actually intrude into the picture!

<https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/stray-light-and-lens-flares-in-photography/>

5 Easy Tips for Better Natural Light Portrait Photography

Adam Gibbard is a UK-based wedding photographer who wrote these five tips for *Picture Correct*. Among his tips is “Relax your model” — he suggests have a cup of tea and chat, as well as use window light, often the best kind of portrait lighting available.



<https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/5-easy-tips-for-better-natural-light-portrait-photography/>

How to Use Lightroom’s Graduated Filter to Improve Landscapes

In his article on *Picture Correct*, Marc Andre describes how to use this very useful and powerful tool in *Lightroom*. While graduated neutral density filters can be used at the time of capturing a photograph, it is also often much more convenient to use the software NGF tool during post-processing. NGFs can be used, for example, to darken foregrounds, lighten skies, even blur selected areas.

<https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/how-to-use-lightrooms-graduated-filter-to-improve-landscapes/>

12 Tips for Advanced Landscape Photography Compositions

One of the big advantages of landscape, with the exception of scudding clouds or unwanted intruders, is it stays fairly still and gives you time to consider your options. So, according the Kevin D. Jordan you can, for



example, survey possible compositions before you set up your tripod. As well as other good tips, he also introduces the compositional tool called *Golden Triangles*. Although so-called “rules of composition” such as the Rule of Thirds, the Fibonacci spiral and others are fairly well known, the concept of the Golden

Triangles is not discussed very often yet it is another way in which many images can be best composed.

<https://improvephotography.com/45204/12-tips-advanced-landscape-photography-compositions/>

More on Composition



While on the subject of composition, there are other recent articles worth consulting. One, by Rob Wood on *Lightstalking* suggests three advanced compositional techniques which he says “you probably don’t know about”. These are *Juxtaposition*, *Layering* and *Spot Colour*.

<https://www.lightstalking.com/3-advanced-photographic-composition-techniques-that-you-probably-dont-know/>

Diana Bird, on *Cities at Dawn* also offers some less-talked-about tips on composition. Like Jordan above, she also mentions what she calls *Golden Triangles* and another similar one, *Dynamic Triangles*.

<https://www.citiesatdawn.com/5-advanced-composition-techniques/>

Barry J. Brady, a Canadian photographer, writes about the *Golden Ratio* a.k.a. *Fibonacci Spiral* along with several other ideas and considerations for composition. These include *Unity*, *Coherence*, *Balance* and *Rhythm* as well as another important notion in composition, that of *Negative Space*.

<https://digital-photography-school.com/6-advanced-composition-techniques-to-improve-your-photos/>

And finally, Dubliner, Barry O Carroll on *Petapixel* offers “20 Composition Techniques that will Improve your Photos” at <https://petapixel.com/2016/09/14/20-composition-techniques-will-improve-photos/>. This is a true compendium of compositional “rules” and ideas. Highly recommended.

8 Things You Should Always Keep in your Camera Bag

James Cottis at [https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/8-things-you-](https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/8-things-you-should-always-keep-in-your-camera-bag/)



[should-always-keep-in-your-camera-bag/](https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/8-things-you-should-always-keep-in-your-camera-bag/) sensibly suggests there are 8 things you should always keep in your camera bag. These include: a spare memory card; a microfibre cloth; a plastic bag; a mini tripod; flash; spare battery; at least one extra lens and last, but certainly not

least, your camera manual.

When to Photograph in Portrait or Landscape Orientation



Megan Kennedy is a local Canberra professional photographer with a passion for shooting aeroplanes but she also posts many useful and readable articles on the *Digital Photography School* web site. In this post, she discusses the pros and cons of the two formats, landscape or portrait and when you should choose the hold your camera one way or the other...

<https://digital-photography-school.com/portrait-or-landscape-orientation/>

Another good post on the same subject, this time by Teresa Milner, can be found on *Coles Classroom* (no, not the Aussie grocery store). It is called *Landscape vs. Portrait: Which Way is Up?* And, just in case you are using a smartphone, Teresa warns to make sure your phone is not locked on vertical....

<https://www.colesclassroom.com/landscape-vs-portrait-which-way-is-up/>

How to Use a Teleconverter



Teleconverters are used to extend the scope of a lens, sometimes to save the photographer moving closer to get a larger image, sometimes to aid in composing the picture by cutting out distracting peripheral clutter. Whatever the reason, Nasim Mansurov's article on his web site *Photography Life* is a comprehensive review of what photographers need to know about these "extenders" as they are sometimes called.

<https://photographylife.com/what-is-a-teleconverter>

Night Time Photography Tips

If you didn't already know them, here are a number of helpful tips for taking night time photos]. Raymond Winters sets out the tips and reminders at <https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/night-time-photography-tips/>

Signing Ink-jet Prints

Jeremy Daalder, the CEO of *Image Science* in Melbourne warns, after 17 years of working in the industry, that you can never be sure that a particular combination of materials will be archivally safe. For that reason, he is very cautious about photographers signing ink-jet prints. He summarises the best advice thus:

- *Do not sign your prints unless you have to (consider authenticity certificates or embossed 'chop' marks as safer alternatives)*
- *Especially don't sign double sided prints - avoid marking these if at all possible*
- *If you have to sign, sign the print outside the image area if possible (usually at the bottom left or bottom right of the print)*
- *If you have to sign, practise on test materials first*
- *If you have to sign, always use graphite pencil if you can*
- *If you can't use pencil, sign with an archival pigment pen and one that has been reported as inkjet print safe (after years of use).*

This advice is proffered based on the experience that *art materials are notorious for odd reactions over time – the only sensible approach is a highly conservative one.* And, as Jeremy says, *there's simply no question that people value signed prints more than unsigned prints.*

<https://imagescience.com.au/knowledge/signing-inkjet-prints?>

Bob Hay
Presenter

