

Digital Photography for Beginners

Everything you need to
know to get started with
digital photography

Take
your best
photos
today



Shooting skills ✓
Essential editing tips ✓
Step-by-step projects ✓
Master the mode dial ✓

Welcome to Digital Photography for Beginners

Most of us are familiar with the concept and practice of taking photographs – whether on a camera or a smartphone. However, knowing how to take a good photo requires knowledge, patience and skill. Digital Photography for Beginners makes it incredibly simple for you to master your camera and start taking better photos. From guides to get you started in the basic principles to step-by-step tutorials on using your camera's modes and settings, this bookazine is an essential handbook for budding photographers. Once you've grasped the basics, we give you detailed insight into how to take excellent photos in all the major genres, from landscapes to black and white. The second revised edition of this book includes brand new starter projects for you to get your teeth into that will help you get creative with your camera, and on top of all this we show you top image-editing tweaks and the best ways to share your photos with others. Don't forget to check out the free disc, which is packed full of useful resources. This ultimate guide to photography will get you taking great-looking shots in no time.



Digital Photography for Beginners

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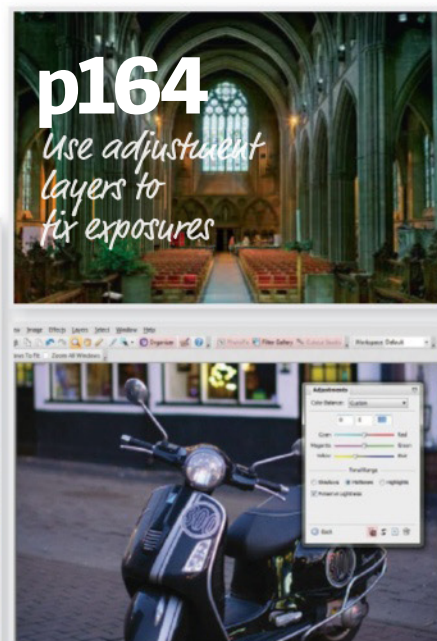
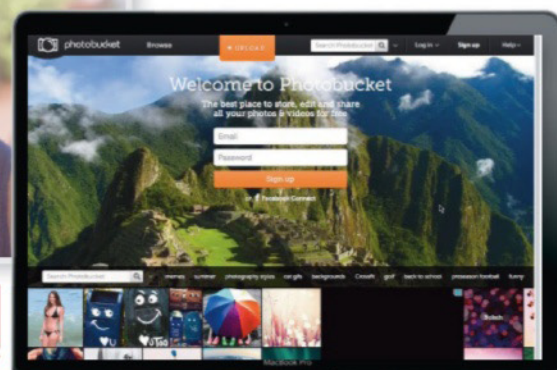
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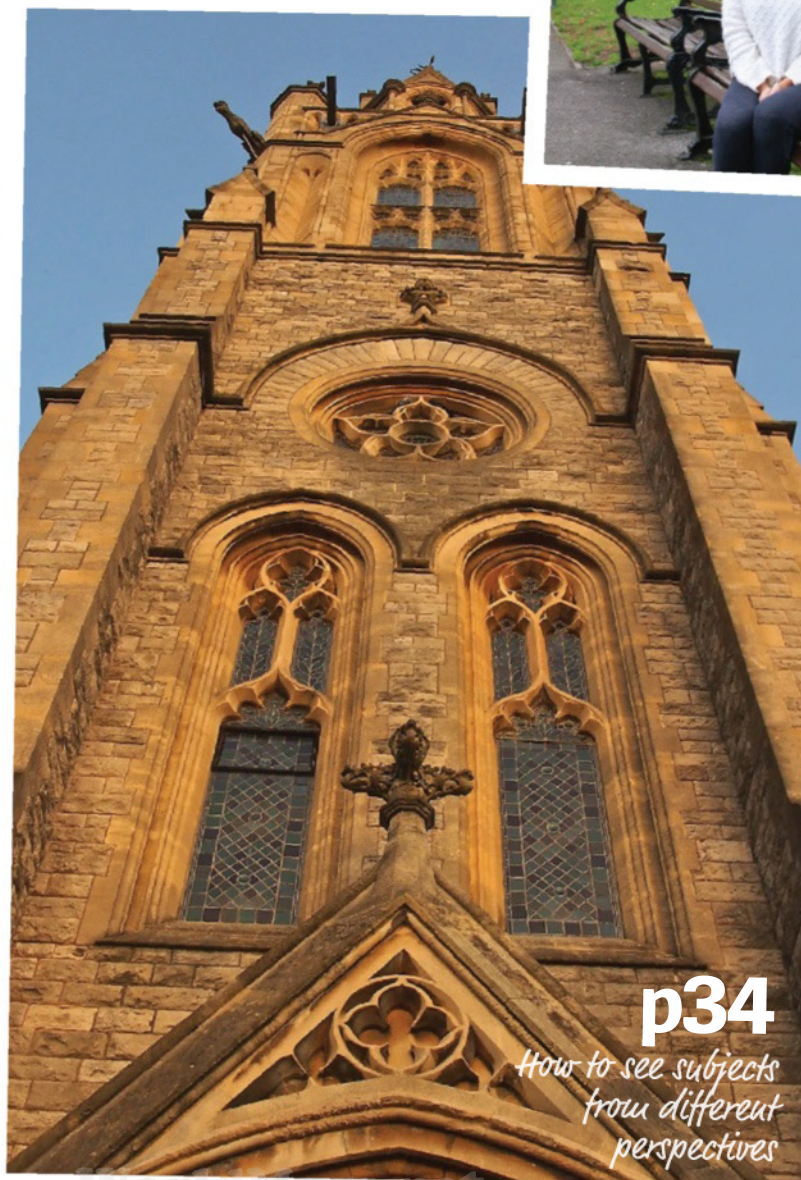
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Learn how different compositions drastically alter the final image



ags.net

"What makes a great photo is how it utilises the objects within it"



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Apply in-camera effects to your images



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Essential skills and techniques you need



Getting started

Correct exposure

✓ This shot shows a vast colour range with all of the details clearly visible, including the highlights and shadows of the scene

Leading line

✓ The leading line going through this photo draws the eyes across the entire scene and to the main feature, which is the different colours in the sky

Getting started with photography

In this ultimate guide, we take you through the essential skills and techniques needed to take the perfect photo

Taking your first steps in photography need not be a daunting venture. By following a simple set of guidelines you can be on your way to taking fantastic shots in no time at all.

Photography is a very broad subject, which can encompass everything the world has to offer. It is therefore difficult to give definitive steps as to what will make a good photo. However, despite this, it is important to consider how you are photographing your subject or scene, and the different aspects of what is being shot that will make it a good photo.

Composition is important in every area of photography, and generally refers to how the subject

is framed in order to make a compelling photo. Along with many aspects of composition, leading lines can draw the eye through a photo, and encourage the viewer to take in the whole scene. Having an interesting focal point is key.

Lighting is a very important part of photography, and exposing the light correctly is a fundamental step to achieving a good photo. Therefore something as simple as shooting at the right time of day can have a huge effect on how the scene looks.

These are the core things to consider when taking your shot and when you get these things right you will create some great imagery. We show you how...

**Lighting**

✓ Using only harsh natural light, this scene has been evenly lit across the entire range

Composition

✓ Simple composition has placed an even amount of sky and foreground in this shot, using a leading line to force the eye across the scene

Focus point

✓ Having a main point of focus is important as it gives the eyes something to focus on when first looking at the image

“Exposing the light correctly is a fundamental step to achieving a good photo”

Natural Light

Natural light is often the most flattering form of light to use, as it gives an even spread across the scene, without over or under exposing any part of it.



Bounce the Light

Bouncing the light is great for directing it where it is needed, and can be done with a dedicated reflector or any light surface, such as white card. Get your model to hold it out of shot or get a friend to help.



Artificial Light

Artificial light is often used when shooting indoors or when there is no natural light available. It can be used effectively to light the subject, although it can be difficult to get even results.



Harsh Lighting – natural Light

Natural light can often have a harsh effect on the photo. This is common when shooting in the middle of the day, as well as when the position of the sun hasn't been considered.



Low Light

Sometimes a lack of light can also make for dramatic images, but they can be hard to master. Try a night-time setting on your camera or use a higher ISO to let more light onto the camera's sensor.



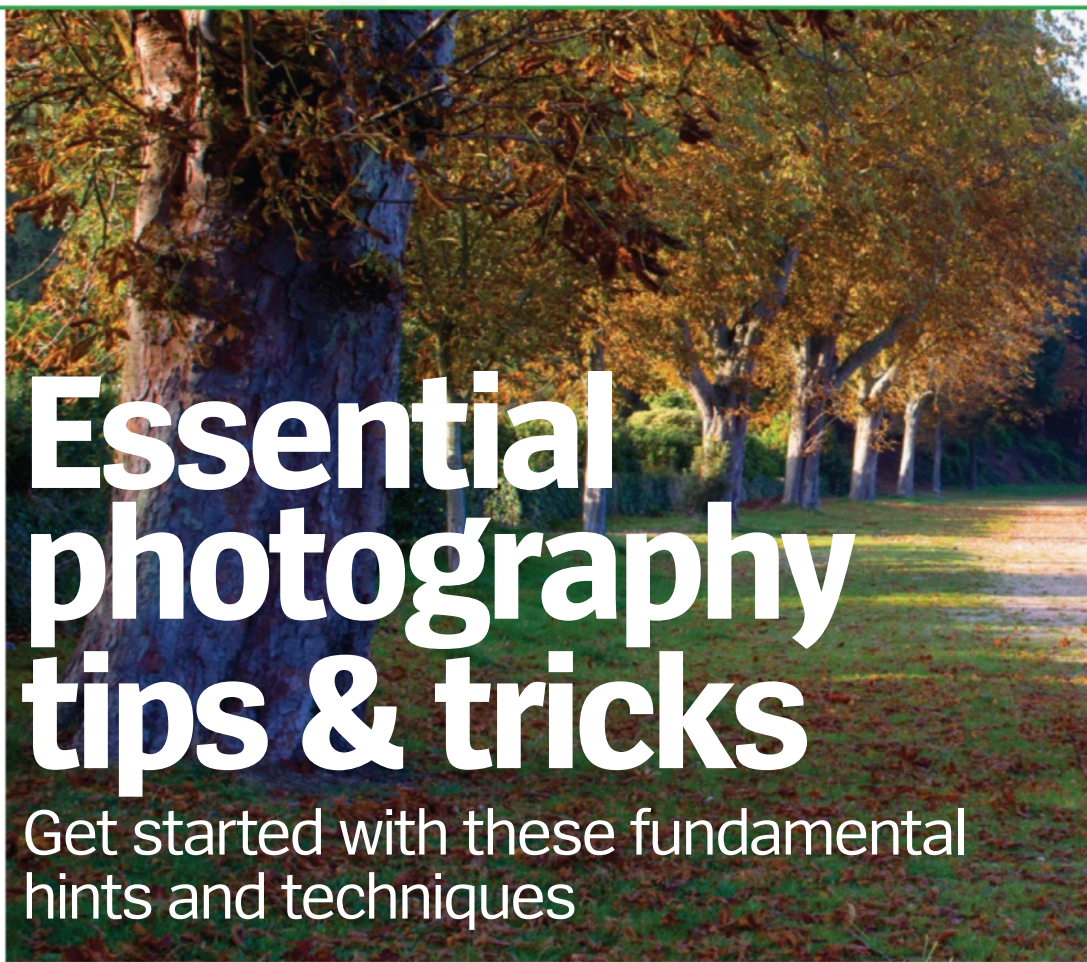
Lighting

Make sure the light is right

Lighting is very important in photography, as you are capturing light in every photo you take. It is therefore important to consider its implications before taking each shot.

There are benefits from different types of lighting, be it artificial or natural, and using the light to your advantage will help you to get the best image possible. Adding artificial light in the form of a camera flash can help to brighten up a scene where natural light is not available.

On the other hand, when using natural light, it is important to consider the ideal times for the best results. Harsh sunlight can make a photo look flat and unattractive, which therefore makes shooting in the middle of the day very undesirable.



Essential photography tips & tricks

Get started with these fundamental hints and techniques

Composition

A good composition is the first step to a great photo

The composition of a photo determines how you photograph the scene. Such things as the angle and lighting of the shot are forms of composition, and parts of the foundation upon which your photo is created.

When taking a photo, it is important to consider the composition, how the photo will look, and what you are trying to show with

the shot. The position of the main subject in the frame is key, and the correct placement can enhance the overall look of the photo. It is important to make the shot visually interesting, while encouraging the viewer to scan the entire image. Using leading lines and the correct lighting will do this, making for a better photo.

Top tips for great shots

Distracting backgrounds

Even the best shots can be ruined with a distracting background. Although it may not seem important, ensure you have a good backdrop to your photo, regardless of the subject.



Correct lighting

The lighting is important regardless of the type of photo. A badly lit, or under exposed, image will not be pleasing to look at, and will not present the subject very well.



Rule of thirds

Use the rule of thirds when composing for a more balanced image. Place your main point of interest a third of the way up and preferably off-centre. This rule can be broken but this composition most often results in the better shot.



Focus point

Make sure you have a main point of interest in your image, ensuring the camera's focus is placed carefully upon this point. This will be something that acts as the main attraction to the photo.



Leading Lines

Consider your subject and how you want to portray it in the photo before firing away. When framing the shot, use leading lines to draw the viewer towards the subject.



White balance

Getting colours accurate

Your camera's white balance can affect the overall tone of your photograph, and is therefore important to consider when choosing your settings.

The white balance is a function that goes about removing the different colour casts created by the lighting in the scene. In simple terms, it is used to ensure the colours in the scene are as accurate as possible. The white balance does this by measuring the colour temperature of the photo and adjusting the colours accordingly.

Colour casts can be very common in harshly lit conditions, especially when shooting in bright sunlight or with artificial light, such as on camera flash. Taking control of the white balance will allow you to improve your photos within a range of lighting conditions.



Cloudy

The Cloudy setting will compensate for the lack of sunlight and harsh cloud coverage, generally enhancing the photo with a warmer tone.



Tungsten

This white balance setting is used when shooting indoors, under harsh and direct fluorescent lighting. It generally cools down the photo and removes unwanted colour casts.



Flash

When using a camera's flash, the shot can be quite washed out and cool. This white balance setting therefore compensates for the flash by warming the photo slightly.



Shade

A scene which is covered by lots of shade has a cooler look, with a flat tonal range. The Shade white balance setting warms up the shot and gives it a more natural look.

Exposure

The exposure of an image dictates light levels

Your camera's exposure essentially tells it how much light to let in when taking the photo. The amount of light that is let in then determines how bright or dark the image will appear once it has been taken.

It's important to realise that exposure is one of the fundamental parts of photography, and that learning how to master it will go a long way to ensure you get the best photograph each time you press that shutter.

There are several settings primarily formed around correctly exposing the photograph, and these settings can be manually or automatically controlled.

Ultimately, an image which comes out too dark is commonly referred to as being underexposed, while an image which is too bright is referred to as being overexposed.

Aperture

The aperture is determined by the lens on the camera. With interchangeable lens cameras, the different lenses will have different maximum apertures available.

The aperture determines how 'open' the lens is, and thus how much light can be 'seen' by the camera's sensor when a photo is taken.

The aperture is set using 'f-numbers'. The lower the f-number, the wider the aperture, allowing lots of light in to the camera.

The aperture can also be used to create different depths of field. This is how much of the scene is in focus. Using a wide aperture, such as f2.8, the main focus point will be in focus, with the rest of the scene carefully blurred. Using a larger f-number will allow the entire photo to be in focus.

Shutter Speed

Shutter speed determines for how long the shutter is open, and therefore for how long the photo is taken. Many cameras allow shutter speeds from fractions of a second to 30 seconds. Using a fast speed means the photo is taken quickly, so you can freeze motion in its place.

Shutter speed also dictates how much light is let in to the camera. The slower the shutter speed, the more light gets on to the sensor, but leaving a shutter open for a long time will introduce movement blur.

Teaming up the correct shutter with the lens aperture can allow you to correctly expose an image.

ISO

The ISO value determines how sensitive the camera's sensor is to the light being let in. The various other settings available determine how much light is let on to the camera's sensor, and the ISO value dictates what the sensor then does with this light.

A higher ISO value will make the camera more sensitive to the light, allowing for a much brighter image. The camera will therefore be able to use a slower shutter speed, or a larger f-number, when coupled with a higher ISO.

A lower ISO will make the sensor less sensitive to light, however it will also produce a more crisp image. Larger ISO values can commonly introduce an unwanted grain or 'noise' effect, generally ruining the look of a photo.

It is therefore important to utilise the ISO setting to ensure an image is well exposed, but without sacrificing image quality.

Histogram

A histogram is a graph that displays the light levels across the photo, from black on the left to white on the right. The different heights along the graph display how many pixels sit at that light level. So a brighter overall image will move the graph more to the right, and a darker one to the left.

Most digital cameras allow you to view a histogram once an image has been taken, so you can use it to get an even exposure across the range.

Photography FAQ

We answer the most common questions of beginner photographers

01 How can I ensure my horizon is kept straight?

A wonky horizon can really distract from a photo, so ensuring it is straight is very important. Many cameras come with a grid overlay function, or a spirit level that will ensure your photo is perfectly straight.



02 How can I freeze the action at a sport event?

Freezing the action can be very important for moving subjects, as well as combating any camera shake. Set your camera to shutter priority and select a fast shutter speed, or alternatively use the sport scene mode.



03 What is the best time of day to take an outdoor portrait?

Natural light can be very difficult to use effectively, because you are unable to control its effect on your subject. For the most flattering light, you should shoot shortly after sunrise or just before sunset.

04 When taking a portrait, where is best to focus?

Rather than simply leaving it up to the camera to choose focus, take control and set it yourself. Place the focus point over the eyes of the subject, because this is where we naturally look when viewing the photo.



05 Is it best to zoom in or crop the shot afterwards?

Zooming in can allow you to retain the full image resolution of the photo, however it is much harder to capture the shot effectively this way. If you have a lot of megapixels to play with, you may find that shooting further out is slightly more beneficial.



06 Is there a way of using the flash for more even results?

Using a camera's flash can sometimes give harsh results. However, coupling the flash with natural light can actually allow you to fill in the darker shadows, and ultimately achieve an evenly lit photo.

07 How can I isolate my subject from the background?

Isolating your subject from the background can sometimes be extremely beneficial and is, in fact, quite simple to do. Select the aperture priority setting and choose a low f-number. This will consequently throw the background out of focus while keeping the subject nice and sharp.



08 What can I do to avoid blurry images?

Blurry images can be the result of many things. Commonly it is down to camera shake, so try using a faster shutter speed, a lower f-number, or a higher ISO, all of which will speed up the camera, eliminating camera shake.



09 How can I take better indoor shots?

Indoor photography can be very difficult, due to the light available. Try using a tripod or resting the camera on a surface which will hold the camera still, allowing it to soak up the available light for an evenly exposed photo.

10 How do I make the most of my camera and get better all-round photos?

Learning the different functions and features of your camera will help you make the most of what it has to offer. Experiment with the manual modes, as well as the many automatic scene modes that are available.



Lenses

If your camera can change lenses, you will likely use a combination rather than a single lens, such as this Nikon 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6G (www.europe-nikon.com). Ensure you have lenses that cover each focal length so you can photograph any subject.



Memory cards

Memory cards are one of the most important pieces of kit. Ensure you have enough memory cards, such as this one from Samsung (www.samsung.com), so you are never caught short of space.



Editing software

Editing software is becoming more and more popular, and is extremely useful in modern photography. Programs like Photoshop Elements (www.adobe.com) can enable you to apply basic filters, effects and fix problem photos.

Essential kit for beginners

Your accessories are very important, and allow you to work better as a photographer

Tripod

A tripod such as this Manfrotto 055 Carbon Fibre Tripod (www.manfrotto.com) is a useful piece of kit. It reduces risk of blurry images and allows you to easily compose your shots.



Kit bag

A camera bag such as this Lowepro Stealth Reporter (www.lowepro.com) is essential. It offers a convenient way to transport your camera and accessories, as well as a safe environment for them to be stored.

Choose a camera

The essential guide to picking the right equipment

Cameraphones

Mobile phone cameras are a convenient option and are becoming more advanced

Pros & cons

- ✓ Mobile phones are usually to hand, meaning you won't miss a photo opportunity.
- ✓ The device is very small and discreet, meaning you can carry it with you everywhere you go.
- ✓ The new smartphone range offers countless downloadable camera applications to enhance and improve your shots.
- ✗ The smaller sensors mean image quality is not going to be as good as if taken on a dedicated camera.
- ✗ The fixed lenses are quite limiting with what can be captured.
- ✗ Cameraphones have limits in what they can achieve, therefore factors such as low light are not ideal.

Cameraphones are starting to catch up with the competition, such as the Nokia Lumia 1020 here (www.nokia.co.uk) which comes with a 41MP camera. The convenient size with their increased level in performance is making them more and more popular.

Cameraphones commonly have small sensors, which means they have limited pixel quality. However, they are still able to produce excellent photos in the right conditions. Another limitation is that the lens fits within the device's body, meaning there's not much possibility of a decent zoom.

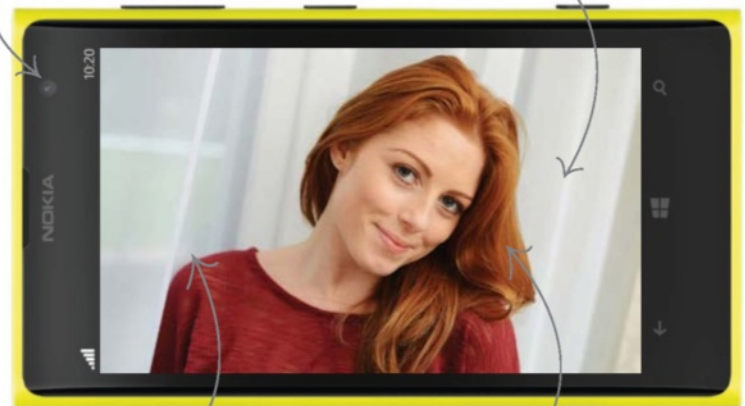
However, the newer smartphones now have apps to improve their performance, and this ability to customise is encouraging more users to adopt them as primary cameras.

Lens

The lens of a cameraphone is fixed in place in order to fit within the device. It therefore will have a fixed optical zoom range making it more suited to capturing close subjects.

LCD screen

Cameraphones utilise the device's large LCD screen, which makes composition and fine tuning of the settings very easy.



Downloadable apps

When using a smartphone you do not need to simply stick to the original camera app. You are able to download and use apps which offer more advanced features and controls.

On-screen controls

The controls for the camera are commonly operated using the device's touch-screen. Touching to focus and zoom are now common features found on the newer smartphone cameras.

Fixed lens cameras

Compact cameras and superzooms are basic all-round cameras for any situation

Compacts and superzooms are often referred to as point-and-shoot cameras, as this is what they are primarily designed for. They are billed as easy-to-use cameras that are suitable for all types of basic photography.

They commonly come with a host of automatic settings, designed to do the work for you when taking a photo. They also usually come equipped with a general-purpose lens that is designed to cover the focal lengths that the average person will need.

Compacts and superzooms generally do not offer a range of manual settings, and do not come equipped to use external accessories. They are simple cameras that are designed with the consumer in mind. However, with the advancement in photography, compacts and superzooms are adopting more and more advanced technology. The Panasonic TZ60 pictured here (www.panasonic.co.uk), for example, comes with image stabilisation, Intelligent Auto mode and HD video.

Pros & cons

- ✓ Compact cameras are, by name, small in size, making them convenient to keep with you.
- ✓ There is an array of automatic and scene modes, making all types of photography quick and simple.
- ✓ Fixed lens cameras are generally cost-effective when compared to higher-spec digital cameras.
- ✗ Due to sensor size, image quality is not as good as CSC or DSLR cameras.
- ✗ Most fixed lens cameras will lack manual control, meaning everything has to be shot in an automatic mode.
- ✗ Due to their simplicity, fixed lens cameras are not built to be used with accessories such as filters.

Controls

Many fixed lens cameras are designed around ease of use, therefore placing all of the necessary settings at easy-to-use places, while leaving more advanced features in the menus.

LCD

Fixed lens cameras do not commonly come with a viewfinder, but rely on the rear LCD for both photo composition and changing any of the camera settings.

Flash

Fixed lens cameras come with a built-in flash located on the front of the body. This is designed as a basic flash to allow you to take photos in darker conditions.



Shutter release

As with almost any digital camera, a compact comes equipped with the basic shutter release. This will allow you to half depress it to focus and fully press it to take the shot.

Lens

The lens on a compact camera is fixed to the body, and therefore cannot be changed. Commonly the lenses will allow for a fairly extensive amount of zoom, offering wide angle to medium telephoto.

Compact system cameras

Compact system cameras are a new, yet popular alternative to larger DSLRs

Compact system cameras (CSCs), such as the Olympus PEN E-PL5 pictured here (www.olympus.co.uk), are built to allow for DSLR quality images, but with the simplistic nature of a compact camera. Commonly they will utilise the available automatic and scene modes, as well as include a

variety of creative filters. However, unlike compact cameras they also include the manual shooting modes found on DSLRs.

Another key feature of the CSC is that it has interchangeable lenses and accessories. The lenses therefore dictate the focal range and apertures available, replicating that of a DSLR.

The image quality of CSCs are also fast becoming as good as DSLR cameras, as they utilise the larger APS-C size image sensor and begin to use more advanced optics, altogether making them a popular choice for both beginners and more advanced photographers alike.

Pros & cons

✓ Compared to a DSLR, compact system cameras (CSCs) have a very compact body.

✓ Being based around more simplistic cameras, CSCs are very easy to use.

✓ Due to having the same sensor as most DSLRs, the image quality is very good.

✗ Even when compared to beginner DSLRs, CSCs can be an expensive system to use.

✗ Due to their relatively recent introduction, there is only a handful of lenses available.

✗ Despite being geared towards a more advanced camera, they still do not offer the same functionality as a DSLR.



Manual controls

Although they are not always located in the same place, the many different controls can often be found on the top of the body, very much in the style of a DSLR camera.

Interchangeable lenses

Compact system cameras have interchangeable lenses, allowing the lens to be swapped for alternatives available. The lens therefore dictates the focal ranges available, and the aperture values.

Larger sensor

The image sensor used in most Compact system cameras is the APS-C sized sensor, the same one you'll find in most DSLRs, providing excellent image quality.

LCD screen

Around the back of the camera will be an LCD screen. Much like a compact camera, this is used for composing the shot as well as adjusting all of the camera's settings.

DSLR cameras

At the forefront of image quality, utilising large sensors and high-quality lenses

DSLRs are well-built, professional-level cameras designed to produce images of the highest quality without compromise.

Although most come with automatic modes that allow you to quickly utilise the camera's abilities, they are primarily designed to be used with full manual settings to capture shots that look exactly how you want them to.

Most people use DSLRs not only for the higher image quality, but also for the level of control that you are able to have over how the image looks. There is also the large benefit of using multiple lenses, as well as a vast range of accessories – all designed to allow you to achieve the photos you want.

DSLRs are not necessarily built to be beginner friendly, although the entry-level models such as the Canon 1200D (www.canon.co.uk) pictured here are attempting to bridge the gap. They can be expensive, and accessories such as lenses can push past the budget of most photographers who are just starting out.

Pros & cons

✓ Due to the large sensors, image quality from DSLRs is generally very good.

✓ DSLRs provide full manual control, allowing you to determine how the photo looks.

✓ There are countless accessories and lenses that can be used to make it more efficient.

✗ DSLRs are an expensive system to use, especially when coupled with lenses and accessories.

✗ They are difficult to use for beginner-level photographers due to their manual controls.

✗ DSLRs are large in size, making them difficult to have to hand at every photo opportunity.



Large body grip

Due to the size of the internals, including sensor and battery, the body of a DSLR is fairly large, allowing it to be firmly gripped in the hand when taking photos.

Accessible controls

DSLRs are designed to be very intuitive, and therefore have the majority of their controls externally placed on the camera body to allow them to be adjusted quickly.

Interchangeable lenses

The lenses used with DSLR cameras can be removed and changed for others which may offer different focal lengths as well as higher-quality glass optics.

Viewfinder

All DSLR cameras come with a viewfinder, allowing you to look through the line of sight of the camera, making framing and composition much more intuitive.

LCD

DSLRs also come equipped with an LCD, designed to allow settings to be changed, images to be played back, and more recently to be used in Live View mode over using the viewfinder.



Your first photo shoot

A step-by-step guide to getting a great shot on your first photo shoot

Taking photographs may seem like a simple process, and one which does not need much thought. Where this is true of simple snapshots, it takes a lot more thought to get great photos each time.

Many great subjects cannot be captured well with simple snapshots, and it requires more control of the camera and subject to get the most out of them. Good photos take

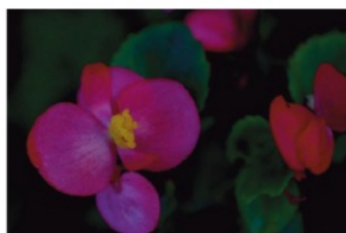
time to capture, and are the work of the photographer as much as the camera.

Before simply taking the photo, consider the composition you wish to use, the lighting of the surroundings and what you want to present with your photo. You will then be able to focus on the camera setup, and go through the process of adjusting the settings to your preference.

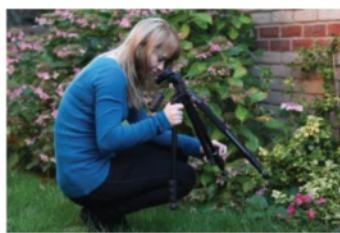
Setting up your very first photo shoot can be a daunting task. However, by laying out the steps one by one, it is an easy process that will let you take control of how your shot comes out.

Follow this basic step-by-step tutorial of how to take great photographs every time, and you should be rather pleased with the final result.

Equipment needed: DIGITAL CAMERA | TRIPOD | SUBJECT | EDITING SOFTWARE



01 Consider the lighting
Look at the lighting before taking a photo. It will determine what settings to use, as well as the outcome of the shot. This shot is badly lit, so we moved to a different flower in better light.



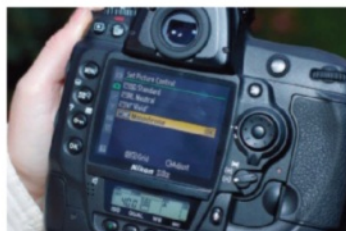
02 Set up a tripod
Using a tripod is often essential. Attempting to hold the camera still while focusing on the subject can cause you to lose the focus or end up with a blurry image.



03 Compose the shot
When composing there are principals that can be followed, like the rule of thirds. Make sure you think about these at this stage as they can help to better frame the subject.



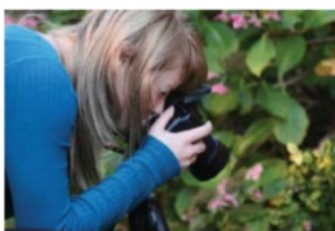
04 Change the settings
Use the correct settings for your subject. Consider what is needed to get the correct amount of light, and how you want to represent the scene.



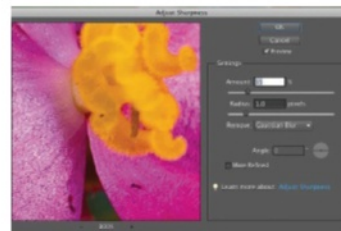
05 Apply in-camera effects
If you want to add effects, do so now. Most compacts come with a range and DSLRs have some options. Choose the effect from your menu screen.



06 Focus the camera
Ensure the subject is in focus. This can be done by allowing your camera to focus automatically by half pressing the shutter or manually adjusting the focus.



07 Take the photo
When taking any shot, be careful not to move the camera too much, but to retain the original composition and focus, ensuring the shot comes out as originally planned.



08 Edit the image
Editing can offer simple but effective improvements. Cropping in to the main subject, straightening a horizon, or sharpening a portrait can have a huge effect to the overall look.

How do you take a good shot?

The key things to consider when taking your first photo

“Before simply taking the photo, consider the composition you wish to use”

Colours

Colour is an important part of your image. With this shot, boosting the colours in editing software has ensured they are punchy and attractive, drawing the eye in to the photograph

Depth of field

Consider if you want your background to be in focus or not. By using a wide aperture (low f-number) here the background has been put out of focus, drawing attention to the main subject

09 Share your shot

Once happy with how your shot has come out, you can then use the many different sharing websites to display your photographs for all to see.

Focus

Ensure the key part of your subject is in focus, such as the eyes in portraits. Here the focus point is in the middle of the flower

Composition

Composition is key – remove distractions from your subject and try to fill all areas of the frame



Lighting is key

Try to make use of natural light, but if you are shooting in harsh conditions, or do not have a capable lens, try using the camera's built-in flash to boost the brightness of the scene.

Improve your Compositions

Discover how a new composition can dramatically alter your photo

Photography isn't just about getting your camera settings correct or being in the right place at the right time. A lot of what makes a photo great is down to how it utilises the objects within it. By taking one subject and shooting it in a variety of ways, you can see what a difference composition can make.

Think about angles. Try shooting a portrait straight-on, and then shooting it at an exaggerated angle – the angled image looks

more modern and dynamic. In a landscape, try shooting lying on the floor to exaggerate the foreground, then shoot standing up and see the difference. Your zoom can help with composition too. Shoot your scene at both the widest angle and the telephoto (full zoom) to pick out little details in a scene.

Whatever you shoot, try to think about different ways you can photograph the same scene and experiment!

Get up close to your subject for a macro shot like this



02



01

Shooting these flowers from above creates a fairly uninspiring image



03

*By lying on the ground
and zooming in on the
underneath, the shot
changes again*



Master your camera's Shutter speeds

Use different shutter speeds to produce creative effects

The shutter speed dictates the amount of time the camera's shutter is open for. Changing your shutter speed produces a range of effects, and certain areas of photography take advantage of this. Sport photographers can use a high shutter speed to freeze the action, or you can

use slow speeds of one second, for example, on a subject such as moving water and its surface can be softened and blurred for a creative effect.

There's no better place to experiment with shutter speed than in nature. This is where you can take your time composing a scene and playing

with exposure for the best image. We try out three different shutter speeds on this waterfall to see how each one looks. You'll notice that as the shutter speed gets quicker, more detail in the water is captured. If you have a tripod handy, set your camera to Shutter Priority or Manual mode and work your way up through the shutter speeds.

01

1sec

Using a shutter speed of one second, with the help of a tripod, exaggerates the movement in the water flow

Using a slow shutter speed results in a milky effect in the water

02

1/10sec

To reduce the blurriness of the water, the camera's shutter speed is set to 1/10sec. Slight detail can be seen in the water

03

1/80sec

Speeding up the shutter even more to 1/80sec captures the water in its tracks. Bubbles are now visible but still some movement is captured

✓ Keep the camera steady

At slower shutter speeds a tripod may be necessary to keep the camera still and stop unwanted blur from occurring in your shots

Alter your Aperture

Take control of your shot's depth of field

Aperture plays an important part in photography as it dictates how far open the lens is and therefore how much light it takes in. This is set in 'f' numbers – the lower the number the wider the aperture, allowing more light to be let in.

The aperture can also be used to create different depths of field. This is

how much of the scene is in focus. Using a wide aperture, the main focus point will be in focus, with the rest of the scene blurred. Using a larger f-number will allow the entire photo to be in focus.

For portraits especially, many photographers will blur the background behind the subject, so as to remove any

distracting elements. But sometimes keeping the background sharp has its advantages too, just in case something interesting may be happening around the subject.

We shoot three different approaches to capturing one portrait so you can see how aperture effects the overall look.



01

f4.5

If you're close to the model, make sure the background isn't a distraction – using f4.5 creates a shallow depth of field

A low aperture creates a blurred background



02

f8

Because the model is closer to the lens, using f8 creates a gradual blur from the subjects in the foreground to the ones in the background



03

f16

With the aperture set at f16, the entire image is kept sharp. This works well when there's an interesting background around the main subject



A high aperture keeps the whole image sharp ↗



Understand White balance

How this setting will drastically change a photo's colour

White balance refers to how the camera reads what type of light is being used for an image. Although this isn't something we usually think of on a day-to-day basis, the correct white balance setting can make all the difference. The idea of white balance is that a certain colour of light is offset with another colour, such as blue or red. Work your way through the various settings, such as Flash, Cloudy, Daylight, Tungsten and Fluorescent, and you'll notice a significant change in the colour of the image.

We look at the same close-up shot of this chessboard, but using the camera's Flash, Auto and Kelvin white balances. Shooting under flash lighting, the obvious choice is the first one of the three, but it's interesting to see how the camera performs on Auto, and also how adjusting the setting manually creates a more artistic effect.

"The correct white balance setting can make all the difference"

Flash white balance is the correct setting for when you are shooting with flash. Results are natural and well balanced, as if shot in daylight



01



02

03

In Auto white balance the camera is left to its own devices, setting white balance depending on the lighting. The results are quite warm here



K (Kelvin) white balance lets you assign a white balance yourself. We set the camera to 4500K, for a slightly colder-looking image

Experiment with Lenses

Discover how a lens can change your photo

Take one subject, one camera and three lenses, and you will create three very different photos. If you've invested in a DSLR or compact system camera, chances are you'll have just one lens – the 18-55mm (or thereabouts) kit lens that came with the body. But what lens do you buy next and what can you achieve with it?

We're here to show you how a prime wide angle, a high zoom telephoto and a creative

fish-eye lens could change or improve your photography by making you think differently about the way you compose. Each lens has its strengths and weaknesses, and knowing how to use yours will make you a better photographer. For instance, with fish-eye lenses you need to use the edges and the angles – high or low – to achieve a creative effect. Experiment with your lenses and you may be surprised at what you can achieve.

“Each lens has its strengths and weaknesses, and knowing how to use yours will make you a better photographer”

01



Zoom in on small details and use the zoom to help play with perspectives

With fisheye lenses you should shoot at high or low angles or tilt the camera to one side



IMAGINE 1

02

03

This image is the standard way to shoot a landscape – with a wide-angle lens



Choose the right Times

Learn to shoot stunning images at any time of day

Landscape photography is all about shooting when the light is just right. Arrive at the right time and the sun can change and shape the land from the ordinary into the spectacular, so it's important to know just when to strike.

Dawn shoots can often be a real struggle, but it is this time of the morning when magical elements like fog and mist can occur. Staying in bed for those few extra minutes can become 'make or break', so set your alarm clock early and get to a viewpoint three quarters of an hour before dawn.

After the peak of colours, the sunrise changes drastically. As the sun rises it loses its golden colour, the saturation fades and the light levels increase sharply. Don't be surprised if the conditions change entirely, just like this scene. Make the most of the changing light and witness the action unfold, instead of imagining what could have been.

If you're creating a sunrise scene, make sure you choose a suitable white balance



01

5:15am

Just before the break of dawn, the sky is lit from underneath. The reflected light turns the mist slightly magenta



✓ Camera settings

We shot at 75mm and f4 using a custom white balance to make sure all the hues were captured

02

5:45am

Just minutes later the saturation begins to fade, with the mist turning white. As the air warms, the fog builds



✓ Shoot in RAW format

Even with a shot like this, you can rescue a lot of detail hidden by shooting RAW and editing later

03

6:30am

Three quarters of an hour later, fog engulfs the landscape. With the sun diffused, the image lacks dimension

Apply in-camera Effects

Breathe new life into images with pre-set art effects

Some cameras come with a variety of fantastic art effects and filters that will totally change the way your photo looks. Even if you're shooting with a cameraphone, there's a host of apps that replicate these effects to download and enjoy.

If you're shooting portraiture, you should think about effects like soft focus, pop art and sepia, while landscape lovers will probably want to use the miniaturise, selective colour and fisheye effects.

To get the best out of these effects you will need to know how to use them. For

instance, fisheye effects work best when you use the edges of the frame, while soft focus needs you to focus on the central areas more. We recommend shooting the same subject with all the effects your camera offers and then look at them to see which ones work and which ones don't. Experiment and have fun and you'll find that in-camera effects will help you create your best-ever photos.

This is the original shot without any added effects



01



This art filter on the Olympus PEN is called 'dramatic tone,' and picks up all the hidden texture in the pencils and paper. You can find similar effects on other cameras, too





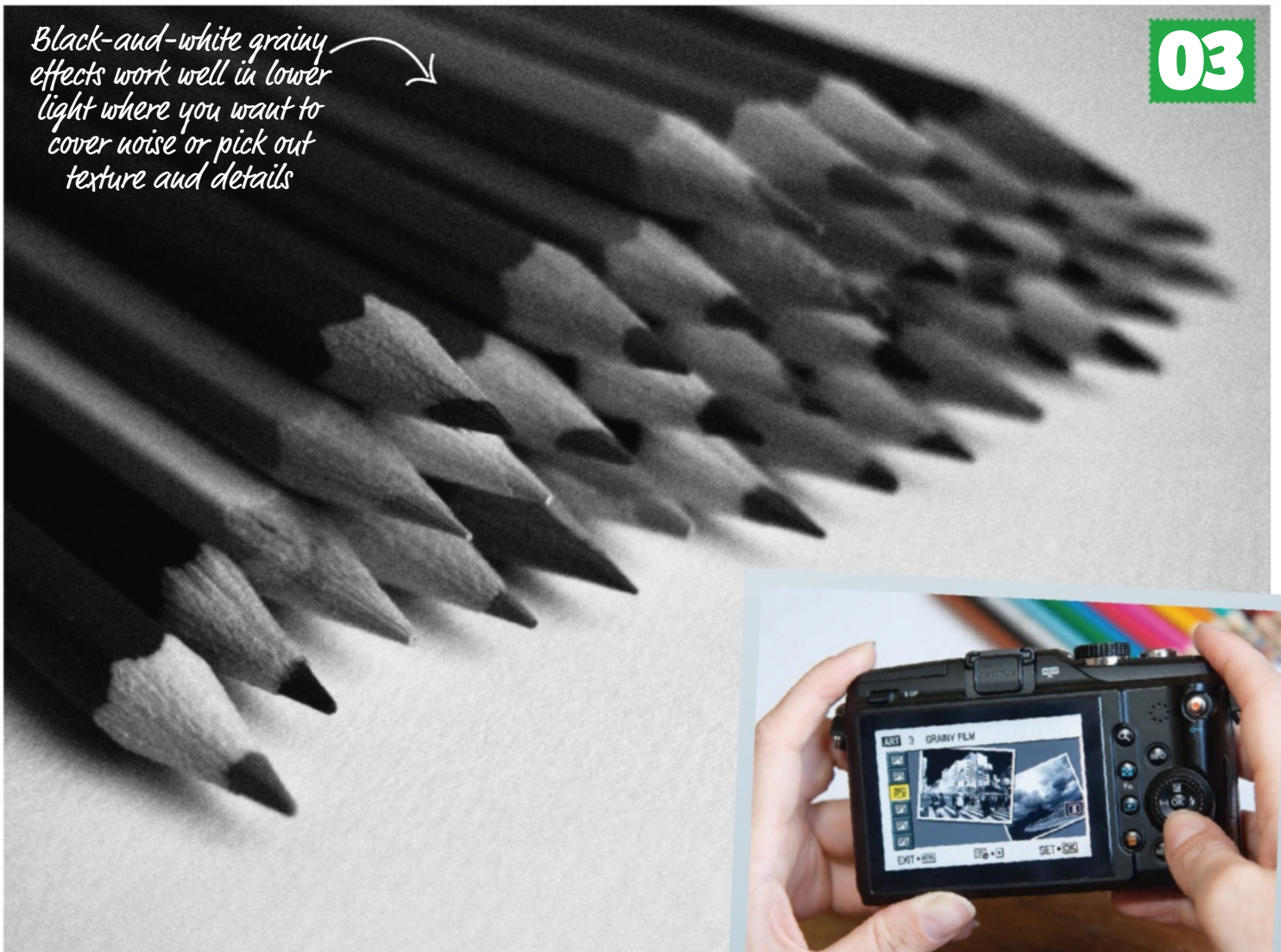
Pop art effects work well to enhance bright tones that are already present in images for a dynamic result



02

Black-and-white grainy effects work well in lower light where you want to cover noise or pick out texture and details

03



Getting started

01



"Even with a wide-angle lens you might struggle to capture the whole of a tall building. Stand close to the base and shoot upwards for a dramatic view"

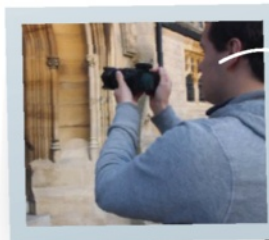
Shoot from different Perspectives

The same scene shot by different people can result in dramatically different photos

We all see the world in different ways, and our unique take is what we try to capture in our images. There's no right or wrong way to view a subject, which is why we challenged three photographers, with three different skill sets, to shoot the same subject and see what each of them came up with.

Try this with members of your camera club or family and friends and then review them and see which work, and which don't. You can learn lots from the mistakes you make and the triumphs of others.

Experiment with angles, try 'zooming with your feet' and changing your perspective, or think about composition alternatives like panoramas.



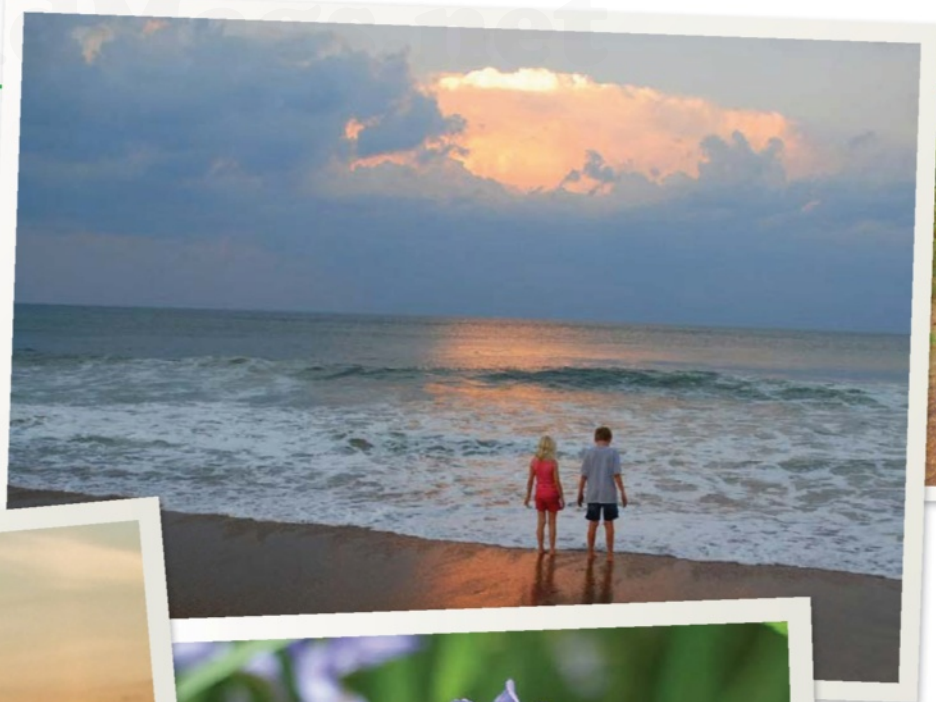
"Look for the details like door handles when shooting older buildings, as the textures of wood and metal work nicely. These can often make for stunning abstracts"

**03**

"Think about the angle you are shooting from. Also, make the most of art filters. Ones like Vignette boost the tone of the mid-section – perfect for architecture shots like this one"



Digital Camera Guide



Get to know your camera and you'll soon be taking your best ever photos

Deciding which camera to buy can be rather tricky. There are different camera types, manufacturers, features and prices to consider, but we believe it's not just about the camera, it's about knowing how to use it.

Each type of camera has its own set of pros and cons, and which one you choose will be dependent on what you're using the camera for and your past experience in photography. If you simply want to catch quick shots on holiday or take videos of a grandchild, then a compact or cameraphone will probably suit your needs. But people looking for large printouts and more advanced shooting options will need to look towards DSLRs.

No matter what type you choose, with this Quick Start guide you'll get to know all the key aspects of your camera and you'll soon be taking amazing shots.

Symbols explained

- | | |
|--|---|
|  Delete – found on all cameras |  Metering icon on pro cameras |
|  Playback – use to review photos |  Exposure compensation |
|  Flash – switch it on or off via this |  Movie mode features |
|  Night time/low-light scenes |  Macro – for close-ups |
|  Zoom in on your photos |  Sports – for fast action |
|  Zoom out of your photos |  Landscapes – for wide angles |
|  Self timer for self portraits etc |  Portrait – perfect for people |
|  Image stabilisation |  M Manual mode – for control |
|  Burst mode button | |

Jargon buster

Aperture

Affects the amount of your image that is in focus – the 'depth of field'

Shutter speed

Fast speeds freeze action while longer ones blur motion

ISO

Refers to how sensitive the sensor is to light and makes low-light photos clearer

White Balance

Affected by the ambient light around you, your camera can alter this setting to ensure a natural colour result

Exposure

A balanced exposure has detail in light and dark areas

Metering

Refers to the way the camera reads the light in the scene

Focal lengths

Wide-angle – a wider angle of view than normal, eg 28mm; Telephoto – a magnified view of distant subjects, eg 200mm

LCD

The screen on the rear of the camera

Megapixels

Number of pixels on the sensor, in millions

Viewfinder

Optical – shows you the view through the camera lens and is good for accurate framing; Electronic – shows the view on an LCD in the viewfinder

DSLR

This stands for digital single lens reflex camera

CSC

Compact system camera

“We believe that it's not just about the camera, it's about knowing how to use it”



Camera types

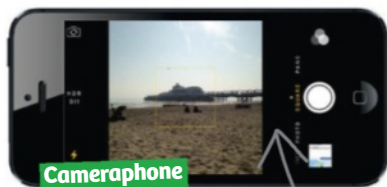
Cameraphones

Pros...

- ✓ Light and compact
- ✓ Cool app add-ons
- ✓ Instantly share

Cons...

- ✗ Small lens and sensor
- ✗ Flattens perspective
- ✗ Less features



Cameraphone

Your cameraphone can shoot, edit and share images instantly

Fixed lens

Pros...

- ✓ Easy to use
- ✓ Light and versatile
- ✓ Lots of features

Cons...

- ✗ Fewer manual options
- ✗ Can be slow
- ✗ Less adaptable

Fixed lens camera are easier to use and cheaper



Compact



Superzoom

Interchangeable lens

Pros...

- ✓ Great image quality
- ✓ Fast shooting speed
- ✓ Manual and Auto

Cons...

- ✗ Can be expensive
- ✗ Can be complex
- ✗ Can be heavy

DSLRs and CSCs are more expensive but have better image quality



DSLR



Compact system camera

Interchangeable lenses do offer more creativity, but at a cost

Accessories

01



02



03



04



05



06



07



08



01 Card reader

You can pick these up cheaply for one card, but you'll pay more for multiple slots

editing program on a disc in the box

02 Memory card

Check what type your camera accepts before you buy

05 Lens cloth

Keep your camera clean. You could try an old glasses cloth

03 Bag

Protect your camera, card and any accessories with a camera bag

06 Support

A beanbag will keep shots steady while you decide on a tripod

04 Editing software

Your camera usually comes with its own free

07 Batteries

Spare batteries are a must have

08 Connection

Check you have all the leads you need to connect your camera

Modes

01



02



03



04



05



06



06



01 Auto

Your camera makes all the decisions for you in this mode

05 Shutter Priority

You control the Shutter speed, but your camera controls the other settings

02 Scene

You select the type of scene, the camera does the rest

06 Manual

You decide on all of the camera settings; the camera doesn't choose any

03 Program

You have control over aspects like white balance, flash or ISO

04 Aperture Priority

You control the aperture, but your camera controls all of the other settings for you

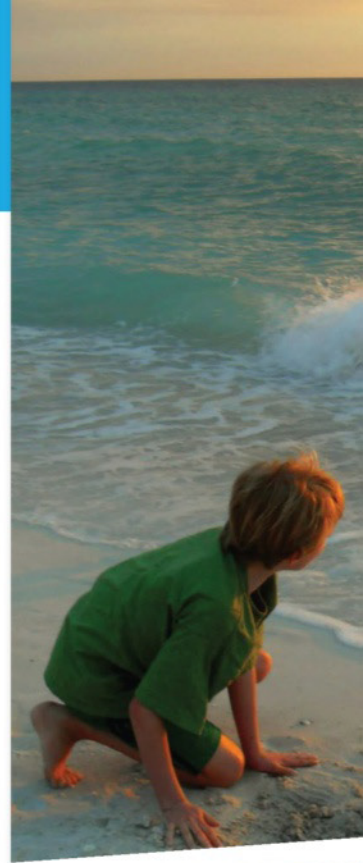
Top Tip

If you're shooting with a compact camera that doesn't have a mode dial on it, you should be able to locate your modes in the Menu system

Modes & settings

Take more creative control of your camera by getting to know how it works

- 40 Your settings**
Learn all about your camera
- 44 Scene modes**
Tips on the various scene modes
- 48 Program**
Take more control over settings
- 52 Aperture**
Aperture Priority mode explained
- 56 Shutter speed**
Use Shutter Priority for great effects
- 60 White balance**
We break these settings down



p40

Find out about the different settings on your camera

p60

Understand how white balance settings affect shots





p48

*Understand how
Program mode
can benefit you*



p56

*Use slow shutter
speeds for
creative effects*



p52

*Learn how to
take control of
your aperture*



Settings explained

We take you through what your camera's settings can do, and how you can tweak Auto mode for better results

All digital cameras come equipped with an automatic shooting mode that's designed to do all of the work for you, so you can simply concentrate on what is being shot. Auto often utilises the camera's best settings in all situations, but these don't always yield the best results.

We will be showing you each of the functions Auto mode carries out behind the scenes, how these functions change the outcome of your photos and how slight manual adjustments can help you get the most out of your camera.

ISO settings

The ISO is the camera's sensitivity to light. The larger the ISO, the more sensitive the camera's sensor is. If the ISO is low, the shots will be clear but darker. Images will be brighter with a high ISO, but will appear grainy.

Technical tip

ISO changes how sensitive a sensor is to light. Higher ISOs gather more light and are better for low-light scenes.

What the camera chose

This shot, taken on an ISO setting of 400, is a little grainy, but has retained the low-light colours of sunset – making it a warm shot. The camera chose a relatively high ISO as there was little ambient light

The settings we chose

We decided to drop the ISO setting to 80 in order to get rid of some of the grain and noise. Although the image is still nice, it is a little darker and the warm colours of sunset have been lost



“Getting the exposure right for the end photo can often require one or two attempts”

The settings we chose

While the camera chose to meter one point only, we chose to use multi-point metering to meter the sky and church and achieve better exposure

Metering

The camera automatically measures light intensity using different parts of the scene, and then finds the best settings for the image exposure. Getting the exposure right for the end photo can often require one or two attempts.



What the camera chose

Due to the focus being set on the sky, the camera has metered for the bright sunlight. This means the detail of the foreground has been lost



Aperture

The aperture controls how wide the lens is open, and ultimately the depth of field. A large aperture (a low f-number, eg f2.8) will let in more light and give a main point of focus with a blurred background.

The settings we chose

By using a low f-number, the main subject is in focus and the rest of the photo is blurred, putting emphasis on the flower



What the camera chose

Leaving the camera on Automatic mode has given us a large depth of field. This means that most of the photo is in focus



Flash

If there's not enough light, the camera will fire its built-in flash to illuminate the subject at the time of taking the photo. The flash symbol may appear to inform the user that it's going to be used.

The settings we chose

By turning the camera's in-built flash on we have filled in the shadows on the faces, caused by the sun being behind them



What the camera chose

Because this was a bright day the camera's flash has not gone off. However, the sun was behind our subjects so their faces are in shadow.





The settings we chose

By using a different white balance setting, such as 'cloudy' or 'daylight', the detail in the sky can be clearly seen



What the camera chose

This automatic white balance has made the sky appear too bright, losing the detail in the clouds

White balance

White balance is designed to ensure white objects appear white in the photo, and other objects are free of colour casting. Most digital cameras come with a variety of white balance settings, each tailored to shooting conditions.

The settings we chose

Using a faster shutter speed means the subject appears completely still in the photo



What the camera chose

Using Auto, the camera isn't aware the subject is moving, and therefore uses a normal shutter speed, making the subject blurred

Shutter speed

The shutter speed determines how long the lens is open for, and therefore how long the picture is taken for. A faster shutter speed is useful for shooting fast-moving subjects (cars, people playing sport) while a slower shutter speed is best for being creative with long exposures.

Blurred/Out of focus

Because we have focused on the person and used a shallow depth of field, the background is blurred

3 common...**Focusing problems solved****Wrong focus point**

To select the right focus point, aim at your subject, half-press the shutter button, recompose your shot, and release.

Moving subject

Active subjects can be hard to focus on. Go into your menu system and select AF Tracking or Subject Tracking Focus.

Low-light focusing

In low light, you might find your focus hunts and can't find a subject. You can switch to Manual focus in these situations.

Focus

Digital cameras have the ability to automatically focus on the subject, and many now come with different focusing abilities that are suited to different subjects or situations.

Technical tip

Every manufacturer calls its focus modes by slightly different names, but the icons will usually be similar.

Sharp/In focus

Make sure you focus on the right subject to ensure crisp details where it is most important to the photo

Types of focus Commonly used focus settings on your camera**01 Face priority autofocus**

If you're shooting people then opt for face priority or face recognition, which most new cameras offer. You'll usually see a little square appear around the faces that the camera is focusing on – some cameras recognise multiple faces at any one time.

**02 Tracking or continuous**

If you have a moving subject then opt for tracking or continuous mode. It will lock onto the subject and move with it. Keep the active subject in focus. This will be easier than trying to learn how to pan to keep focus on a moving subject.

**03 Single, spot and multi**

Single or spot modes ensure that the centre of the image is in focus, while multi-area will focus on a number of points. Spot is generally more accurate. If you don't want the subject in the centre of your shot, half-press the shutter to focus, then reframe.

Scene modes

We take you through each of the scene modes you're likely to find on your camera and give tips on how best to use them

Modern digital cameras, from compacts right up to DSLRs, are very user-friendly. With many cameras, there is a focus on preset camera settings which help users of all levels get the most out of their camera in any given situation. These presets are called the camera's scene modes, and they are becoming more diverse with new cameras.

Setting your camera to a new mode when out and about can be cumbersome, and often cause you to lose the shot. However, we will be showing you the advantages of taking the extra time to set up your camera to the correct scene mode.

Landscape

Landscape mode will set the camera up for capturing large and detailed scenes. Using a small aperture (large f-number) ensures as much of the scene is in focus as possible. To compensate for this, a slower shutter speed will be used, meaning a tripod may be required to keep the camera steady.

Automatic mode

 In Auto the sky and the land are exposed for, but they're a little bland



Technical tip

Want to get a similar effect with filters? Try using a polarising filter, which will darken the blues and greens.

Landscape scene mode

 Landscape scene modes enhance the blues and greens





Automatic mode

✗ Here the minimum focus distance is too far away to capture the detail in the flower

Macro



Macro shooting modes will usually change the minimum focusing distance of your camera, allowing you to get up close and personal with your chosen subject. This mode will also widen the aperture (lower f-number), putting the main subject in focus while blurring the background.

Macro scene mode

✓ With a closer focusing distance we were able to get some great detail from the individual flower



“Macro shooting modes allow you to get up close and personal with your chosen subject”

Portrait



Portrait mode is great for shots of a single person. Much like macro mode, it selects a large aperture (low f-number) to put the person in focus with the background blurred. This draws all attention to the person.



Portrait scene mode

✓ This mode selected a longer exposure instead of using flash and created a more flattering shot

Automatic mode

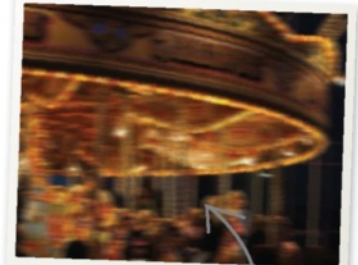
✗ The Automatic mode has prompted the flash to fire, resulting in an overexposed shot with flat skin tones



Sport/Action



Sport/Action mode is for taking photos of moving subjects. It increases the shutter speed, attempting to freeze the subject in place when you take the photo. This mode works great in bright light.



Sport scene mode

✓ On the sports scene mode, the camera uses a higher ISO and shutter speed to freeze the motion

Automatic mode

✗ On Automatic, our camera hasn't recognised the fast-moving subject so hasn't upped the shutter speed





Night Portrait scene mode

✓ This shot, taken using the night portrait mode, shows how the dynamic range can be increased for a better photo result



Automatic mode

✗ This photo shows how your flash on Auto can light the subject, but you miss the background detail

Night portrait

Night portrait mode's designed for taking shots of people in dark situations. It will slow down the shutter speed and allow more light to get into the camera, as well as fire the flash. This can give some great shots, but may require a tripod.



Beach scene mode

✓ Beach and snow scene modes are often combined as the camera is dealing with a lot of bright/light colours, which it exposes for



Automatic mode

✗ Although the Auto mode has captured the sky well, the foreground and sand are a little on the dark side

Beach/Snow

When shooting bright scenes such as sandy beaches or snow, the camera will automatically underexpose, darkening the image and losing the detail of the bright areas. Placing your camera on beach/snow scene mode will brighten up the shot and expose the colours correctly.

High dynamic range

High dynamic range photography is a technique of taking a number of exposures which cover the dynamic range of the scene. This means you are able to capture both the highlights and lowlights of a scene, giving the photo a better tonal range. When processed, HDR photos can look very striking and bring out detail which may not normally be visible.



Technical tip

You can shoot three or more images and combine them to create an HDR, or simply use an in-camera filter.

3 alternative... Scene modes

Sunset

Sunsets are notoriously tricky to capture, but by using the dedicated scene modes your colours will be enhanced.

Museum

This mode enables you to capture images in low-light settings without a flash and turns off all incidental beeps and noises.

Panorama

Depending on your camera this will either help you line up a number of shots or let you sweep the camera across the scene.

Automatic mode

✓ By merging the photos together, either in camera or using editing software, the final image should turn out like this

HDR mode

Shooting using an HDR mode usually takes three exposures, one normal, one under, and one overexposed



Normal exposure

Trying to expose for both the sky and the foreground has left this image with no detail in the sky



Underexposed

In this shot the foreground is too dark, but the sky is a nice representation of real life



Overexposed

There's still some great detail in the brickwork, but the sky is completely blown out

Program

Program mode can be found on compacts, CSCs and DSLRs – so it's one feature everyone should get to grips with

Program mode can be found on almost all modern cameras. It's signified by a small P in either the shooting mode menu or on the mode dial. In this mode, your camera still chooses the shutter speed and aperture for the scene in front of it, but it enables you to take control of aspects like white balance, focus modes, ISO settings and flash modes. By controlling these features you can get more creative with your images and ensure that you produce better-looking photos than ever before.

Chosen mode

✓ We wanted to create a blurred water effect, so upped the ISO (thus slowing the shutter speed), which caused a small amount of grain

Technical tip

If you have to up the ISO, try converting it post-shoot to black and white, as grain looks retro-cool in mono.

“The higher the ISO number, the more light the camera can gather, which is great for low-light scenes”

ISO

The ISO setting refers to how sensitive the camera sensor is to light. The higher the number (eg ISO 800 and above), the more light the camera can gather, which is great for low-light scenes where you're unable to use a flash. Your camera will try to opt for low numbers to keep the photo noise free (higher ISOs do suffer from noise or grain), but sometimes upping the ISO is the only answer.

White balance

When left on Auto, your camera's white balance will choose the setting it feels is most appropriate, like cloudy, incandescent or tungsten. However, the camera can't always choose for mixed lighting or for situations like sunsets and sunrises, which will cause washed-out colours that don't represent real life. By setting the right white balance you can also add 'creative' colour casts, which could add a new dimension to your shot.

Automatic mode

X The camera has selected a warm white balance, probably due to it being quite cloudy

Chosen mode

✓ We chose 'Daylight' instead, which produced more neutral tones that were closer to real life



Focus

On most system cameras, you can select the Focus mode while shooting on Program. This can benefit you in a number of ways. Manual focus can be a great option for macro shots and those with poor light. Continuous autofocus or tracking focus can be great if you know your subject will be moving. Your camera will not be able to anticipate these aspects so may choose the wrong focus and cause you to miss the shot.

Automatic mode

X Set your focus on the most important part – the foreground, the subject or the background

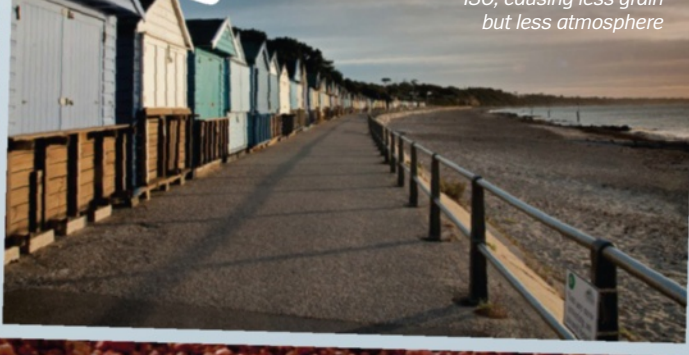
Chosen mode

✓ You can half-press the shutter release to focus and then recompose your image



Automatic mode

X By letting the camera choose the ISO it has quickened the shutter speed and lessened the ISO, causing less grain but less atmosphere





Automatic mode

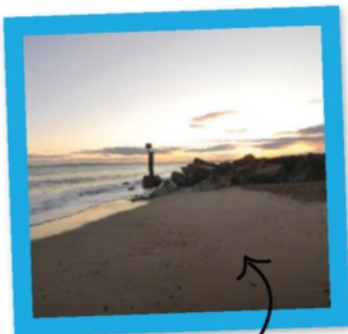
X When shooting in bright conditions, your camera's Auto mode can easily over or underexpose a scene

Exposure Compensation

Exposure Compensation is represented by a plus and minus symbol, and often has a button for access. By pressing this button you can rotate the control wheel or use the d-pad to move up or down a scale. To correct for overexposure (image too bright) use a negative number; to correct for underexposure (image too dark) use a positive one.

Chosen mode

✓ Most cameras offer EV mode, where you can add or take away exposure 'stops' to get the correct balance of light



Automatic mode

X Your camera will automatically shoot single frames which can mean you miss the action

Drive mode

Some cameras enable photographers to alter the Drive mode when in Program mode – this is great for action lovers in particular. In Single Shot mode the camera will fire just one shot, which is typical when on Automatic. If you select Continuous Drive mode instead, the camera will fire a rapid succession of shots. Self-timer is usually available here too.



Chosen mode

✓ By switching to Burst mode you can take a series of photos and stitch them together afterwards for creative effect

Technical tip

Portraits can benefit greatly from fill flash, especially on days with harsh, bright or direct sunlight.



Automatic mode

✗ Although it's a bright day, as we're shooting inside there are a lot of shadows caused by harsh side lighting

Chosen mode

✓ By using a flash to 'fill in' the light – a fill flash – the end result is much more pleasing



Technical tip

You can alter the flash's strength, or you can bounce it or diffuse it by putting some masking tape over it.

Flash

Flash can be very useful and yet very underused. Depending on the situation you may want to turn it off completely, use red-eye reduction mode or opt for something more creative like rear curtain or slow sync. All of these terms can be very confusing, though, so most of us just leave the flash to the camera to manage. However, photos can be vastly improved by taking control of the flash settings. Here we're talking about in-camera flash and not a flash that is connected to the camera via the hotshoe, for instance.

“Your photos could be vastly improved by taking control of the flash settings”

3 alternative... Flash modes



Slow sync

When using Slow Sync, your camera will use both a flash and a longer shutter speed, which can be great for creative movement effects, like capturing a sharp photo of your subject and blurred background.



Rear curtain

Rear and front curtain refer to when your camera will fire the flash during the shot. With rear curtain it fires at the end of the exposure, but with front curtain it fires at the start of the capture.



Fill in

Great for backlit subjects, fill in flash refers to the 'filling in' of dark areas. For instance, if you're shooting inside a church against a window, the background will be light but faces may be in the dark.

Aperture

Take control of your aperture and start creating some stunning artistic shots in camera

The idea of apertures and f-numbers are enough to leave many confused, but the general outline is that smaller f-numbers create a wide aperture and larger f-numbers result in a small aperture. But what does all this really mean?

In brief, your aperture works like the iris of an eye: the wider the aperture the more light can pass through the lens, and vice versa when referring to a small aperture. F-numbers simply break this down and represent different opening stages as stops. Depending on the lens you're using you can work with apertures as wide as f1.8 or as small as f32.

It's aperture that creates the artistic blurry background you see in many professional shots, otherwise known as depth of field. A wide aperture, generally anything below f8, will create a shallow depth of field effect, making the subject you are focused on the main point in the frame by softly blurring out any background distractions. A smaller aperture (above f8), however, creates a larger depth of field, enabling you to bring more objects into focus from both the foreground and background.

Follow along as we're going to show you the benefits of using your camera's Aperture Priority mode in order to creatively control this professional-looking effect. Take a look at our aperture suggestions for specific photographic genres and then simply set the f-number that you want to work with. Your camera will then select the right shutter speed for you, ensuring professional, even exposures every time.

“A wide aperture will create a shallow depth of field effect, making the subject you're focused on the main point in the frame”



A low f-number such as this can also be referred to as a wide aperture, and will create a soft background





Bring more of the shot into focus by using a larger f-number

Technical tip

When using a wide aperture you'll have less focus area, so ensure you've focused your camera on the right subject.



Aperture is affected by how much light is let into the lens. It can be made bigger or smaller by changing the settings on your camera



F11

X Not suitable; however, the small aperture makes the image appear more 'snapshot' than professional

Portraits

Create picture-perfect and professional-looking portraits by using a wide aperture setting. The artistic shallow depth of field effect will draw you into the frame and bring focus to the model's eyes and features. A smaller aperture, however, is great for shooting group shot portraits, as it will help to ensure everyone remains in focus.



F2

✓ Keep the focus on your subject using a wide aperture and get an artistic shallow depth of field effect



F5.6

X The blur effect is distracting and restricts the view, making wide apertures unsuitable for landscapes

Landscapes

Landscape photographs are best when they're sharp and perfectly in focus. A small aperture setting is ideal for this genre, as it will ensure most of the frame is in focus from the foreground to the background. Remember to use a tripod where possible, as the slower shutter speeds when working with a smaller aperture will result in motion capture.



F10

✓ This sharp landscape shot is well focused and enables you to explore the frame from corner to corner



F22

X Not ideal for fast-moving subjects like wildlife and pets – a smaller aperture will require a longer shutter speed

Wildlife and pets

A wide aperture works well when photographing pet portraits or wildlife. The Aperture Priority mode will prevent your image from becoming overexposed by extending the shutter speed, which is also great for freezing fast-moving or fidgety subjects. Like a human portrait you should always ensure your subject's eyes are in focus.



F2.5

✓ The shutter speed increase has ensured a sharp shot, and the out-of-focus background brings the image focus to the pet



F25

X The in-focus background creates an unwanted distraction from our macro subject

Macro

You can capture beautiful macro shots with wide apertures. They're ideal for location lighting, and will result in well-exposed images. The faster shutter speed will also freeze any motion from the breeze or camera shake when shooting up close. The out-of-focus background also adds depth and makes your subject the focus of the frame.

**F3.5**

✓ Softly blur your background with a wide aperture setting, making your macro subject the focus

**F11**

X A smaller aperture will bring all of your subject(s) sharply into focus, but the results may not be as interesting

Still life

Still-life objects can be found around the home and are great for practising your photography techniques on. Why not try photographing more than one object to best see how aperture control works. For the most artistic results you should use a wide aperture and focus your camera on just one of the objects within the composition.

**F2.5**

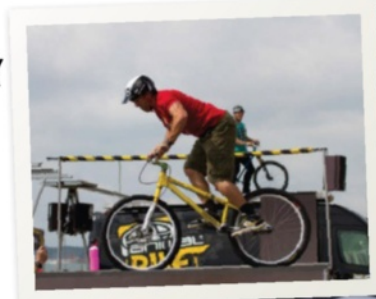
✓ Using a wide aperture you can create a great, artistic still-life shot like this one

**F8**

X A smaller aperture adds drama but can make an action-themed image look a little static and uneventful

Sports

Fast-paced sports don't always require quick shutter speeds to get more artistic action-packed shots – just practise your panning technique. Use a large f-number for a small aperture in Aperture Priority mode; the camera will compensate for the exposure by slowing down the shutter speed, enabling you to capture motion blur and speed.

**F3.5**

✓ A smaller f-number and longer shutter speeds are required for panning shots like this



Technical tip

A small aperture setting will require longer shutter speeds so you may need a tripod to ensure your shots are sharp.

Shutter speed

Select the Shutter Priority mode on your camera and take control of your creativity

Shutter speed controls how much light is let through the lens. The speed is measured in seconds and fractions of a second, with most cameras enabling you to shoot as slow as 30sec and as fast as 1/4000sec. Depending on how fast or slow the setting, you can then control how under-, over- or well-exposed your image is.

As a rule you should avoid shooting at speeds slower than 1/60sec unless using a tripod, as the shutter is also responsible for capturing movement. Camera shake and motion blur have ruined many a good photo; however, you shouldn't always overlook capturing movement in a still image. Depending on the genre you're shooting, movement can add an element of energy into an otherwise static shot. By using the right shooting techniques (such as panning

and light painting) and manipulating your shutter speed, you can get some great, creative results in camera.

Freezing motion is another matter, and it's not always as easy as setting a faster speed – the lens you shoot with can also play a big part. When setting your shutter speed, pay attention to the focal length of your lens. Your shutter speed should always be faster than the focal length. If, for example, you're shooting with a 55-80mm lens then set your shutter speed upwards of 1/125sec to prevent any motion from being captured.

Take a look at our examples over the next few pages and switch your mode dial to the Shutter Priority setting. Your camera will determine the correct aperture for the exposure, so you're free to experiment and explore how your shutter works.



Shots like this are captured using slow shutter speeds

Technical tip

The higher the shutter speed, the wider the aperture; the slower the shutter speed, the smaller the aperture.

“By using the right shooting techniques and manipulating your shutter speed you can get some great, creative results in camera”

Capturing a carousel

See what a change in shutter speed can do



One third of a second

X This image is overexposed because the shutter's open for an extended amount of time. Hardly any details are visible on the carousel due to the speed of the movement and slow shutter.



One tenth of a second

X Stationary details are beginning to show through with only the moving horses remaining blurred. A tripod is necessary when using a shutter speed as slow as this.

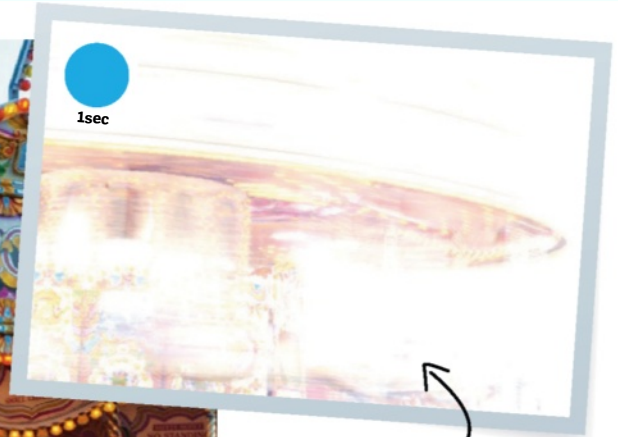


One fifteenth of a second

X There is not a huge amount of difference in this shot to the last; however, the shapes of the horses are becoming more defined and the slow shutter speed does give the image a more creative edge.



1/200th



1sec

One second

X An extremely slow shutter speed to use on a bright day, a 1sec shutter speed will overexpose an image and create a largely blank white space. Motion will also be recorded as just light strips of colour.

At 1/200sec the carousel is frozen and all of the detail can be seen



1/25

One twenty-fifth of a second

X The horses and details of colour are becoming more apparent at this shutter speed. The horses at the front of the carousel are beginning to get more shape than before.



1/40

One fortieth of a second

X This image appears much better in terms of the overall exposure as the whites aren't completely blown out as before. It still requires a tripod to shoot successfully, but motion blur has eased considerably.



1/60

One sixtieth of a second

X 1/60sec is ideal for shooting most subjects handheld, but even faster shutter speeds are required to avoid the inevitable motion blur when photographing fast-moving subjects like the carousel.



1/80

One eightieth of a second

X This image is a lot sharper than previous shots, but motion blur is still present up close. We will need to increase the shutter speed further to freeze the movement successfully.



1/125

1/125 second

X A great shutter speed to use on bright days. The exposure in this image is well balanced. The horses and sign appear clear, although slight motion blur can still be detected around the edges.



1/160

1/160 second

✓ 1/160sec will enable you to freeze all the action, even when shooting handheld. If you're working in Shutter Priority mode, the camera will set the correct aperture to ensure you get an evenly exposed image.

1/5sec

X Slower speeds will record camera shake. The slightest movement will blur what could have been a great shot

Portraits

You will ensure that your portraits are sharp and picture-perfect by avoiding camera shake and motion blur. Work in Shutter Priority and increase your shutter speed setting – your camera will compensate for the exposure by opening up the aperture, creating a beautiful shallow depth of field effect that is perfect for portraiture.



1/400sec

✓ Increasing your shutter speed will open up your aperture, resulting in a professional, softly focused background



1/250sec

X Faster shutter speeds can create snapshot-style images that are a lot less interesting and engaging

Landscapes

Slower speeds are ideal for landscapes, as they enable you to close down the aperture and get an evenly focused, much sharper shot. The longer the shutter is open, the more dramatic the results – perfect for capturing moody sunsets in low light. Try shooting a seascape with an extended shutter speed and see how you can capture water as mist.



1/20sec

✓ Slow shutter speeds are perfect for landscapes; the shot will be sharp and in focus from corner to corner



1/20sec

X When shooting with a large focal length lens, increase your camera's shutter speed to avoid getting camera shake

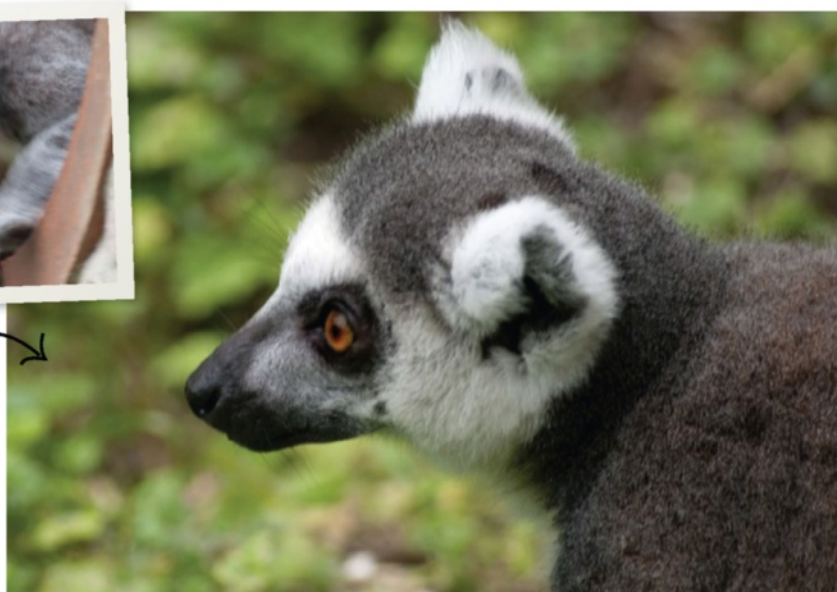
Wildlife and pets

Fast-moving pets and wildlife can be tricky to capture without motion blur, but faster shutter speeds are ideal for getting great shots. Be sure to increase your shutter speed to freeze your subjects while they are on the go, but always remember that the faster the shutter speed the wider the aperture, so there will be less available focus area.



1/125sec

✓ An increased shutter speed will freeze fast-moving subjects and ensure all your shots are sharp



1/10sec

X Slower shutter speeds record movement and aren't ideal when shooting macro images outside in a breeze

Macro

When taking macro photographs in Shutter Priority mode, you should avoid using shutter speeds slower than 1/60sec handheld. The longer the shutter stays open the more likely it is that you will record movement and camera shake, which will prevent your macro shot from looking professional, sharp and in focus.



1/800sec

✓ Faster shutter speeds will allow you to take sharper shots that have an artistic shallow depth of field effect due to a wider aperture setting



1/125sec

X This image is not unsuitable, but when working in Shutter Priority mode you can experiment and avoid playing it safe

Still life

Experiment with your camera's shutter speed settings when shooting still life in a controlled lighting environment like a studio. Faster shutter speeds are great for getting a professional, shallow depth of field effect, but you can try slowing down your shutter speed and experimenting with the light source for some really creative results.



25sec

✓ A much slower shutter speed like this enables you to paint with light and get creative results in camera



1/1250sec

X A faster shutter speed will freeze movement and result in detailed but static shots like this one

Sports

Avoid making energy-packed shots look static by extending your shutter speed to record motion. Panning's a great technique for sport, as it enables you to keep subjects sharp while the background blurs out. It's important to remember that, when using this technique, your camera's autofocus is set to continuous so it can keep up!



1/60sec

✓ Extended shutter speeds enable you to pan with your subject, creating exciting and energetic shots like this



Technical tip

Avoid recording movement when shooting handheld by setting your shutter speed to 1/60sec or quicker.

White balance

Understand how white balance settings can affect your captures

Before you make white balance alterations in camera it's important to know how white balance can be affected by the light source you're shooting within.

All light has a colour temperature, which can range from warm orange and red tones (tungsten bulbs) to cool blue and green tones (fluorescent bulbs). Without the right white balance setting these lights will create a colour cast in the photo. The white areas will have a noticeable blue or orange tone.

To overcome this, most cameras have an auto white balance setting to compensate for the casts and neutralise the image so it's

a more accurate representation of the scene. However, it isn't perfect and sometimes the camera will struggle to remove all traces of a cast. This is where your manual white balance settings become useful. Simply match the white balance settings to suit your light source.

You can also get creative and apply the opposite white balance setting to the light source. This will create a controlled colour cast that adds an edge to your image. Most photographers use this to warm up an otherwise cold scene or to enhance a mood or feeling that the photograph portrays.

“Auto white balance isn't perfect – the camera can struggle to remove all of a cast”

Bad example

✗ The incandescent/tungsten white balance setting has failed to compensate for the natural light indoors and has created a cool blue colour cast over the image

Good example

✓ We selected the cloudy white balance setting as the subject was shot indoors using natural window light. This setting preserves the warmth of the natural light



Does my camera do it?



DSLR

What's good about it...

✓ Offers custom white balance settings for more advanced users and most have in-built colour correction

What could be better...

✗ With so many other settings to adjust, a DSLR can be overwhelming



Compact system camera

What's good about it...

✓ Most have a button on the body for quick access to white balance setting

What could be better...

✗ The auto white balance setting won't be as accurate as a pro DSLR's



Compact camera

What's good about it...

✓ Compacts have pretty accurate auto white balance modes

What could be better...

✗ White balance often has to be changed within the Settings menu interface



Cameraphone

What's good about it...

✓ Smartphones have plenty of editing app options to choose from and download

What could be better...

✗ Most don't come with optional settings so you have to rely on Auto

White balance modes

Learn what the different white balance settings do



Auto

Auto white balance allows the camera to determine the best setting for the shot based on the lighting conditions. Most cameras will have a reliable and accurate automatic white balance setting that is suitable for changing light conditions.



Tungsten/Incandescent

Tungsten or incandescent light produced by a warm light bulb can create an orange cast like this. By selecting the tungsten/incandescent white balance setting the camera will cool down the effect.



Fluorescent

Fluorescent lights that are often used in public places create a cooler blue-toned colour cast. To counteract the effect you should use the Fluorescent white balance setting so that your camera can compensate by warming up the scene.



Daylight/Sunshine

The Daylight/Sunshine white balance setting is, rather unsurprisingly, perfect for shooting on bright and sunny days. This setting is relatively neutral and ensures your daytime scene is recorded without any unwanted colour casts.



Cloudy/Shade

Overcast cloudy days often appear dull and cool in photographs, but the Cloudy setting helps to warm up the scene. This also makes it ideal for shooting low-light scenes like sunrise and sunset as it brings out the warmth in the sky.



Flash

When you're shooting with your studio or on-camera flash, you can create a cool cast on your images. However, by switching your white balance setting over to Flash, the camera will compensate and warm up the shots.



Custom

Although it's a more advanced white balance setting, most cameras will offer a custom mode that enables you to make specific adjustments to your white balance settings, whether you want to cancel out casts or add them in creatively.

What the icons mean



Auto

Auto is a default setting that enables the camera to determine the best white balance setting for the scene.



Tungsten/Incandescent –

Represented by a light bulb, the tungsten/incandescent setting is ideal for shooting indoors under warm bulb lighting.



Fluorescent

This setting is perfect for shooting public places where Fluorescent lights are used, like cafes, gyms and subways.



Daylight/Sunshine

The sun symbol represents an ideal setting for shooting on a summer's day as it ensures you won't capture any colour casts.



Cloudy/Shade

Perfect for shooting on a cloudy day. This setting is also great in low light, like when shooting sunrise or sunset.



Flash

If you are using flash in the studio or working with your on-camera flash, use this to keep shot results warm.



Custom

Ideal for removing more complex colour casts, you can also experiment with custom settings to add creative casts.

Jargon buster

Colour temperature of light

The colour temperature refers to how warm or cool an image appears. Lights that produce colour temperatures over 5,000 Kelvin create a cool blue cast; lower colour temperature lights create warmer orange casts.

Modes & settings



X Taken using the Automatic white balance mode, the early morning light creates a slight blue tone that has an uninviting feel

Warming casts

The image above was shot in natural daylight using the Automatic white balance mode. Due to the time of day the natural light appears cooler and makes the cupcakes less appealing. You can switch your white balance to Shade to warm up the image and give the cakes an inviting feel.

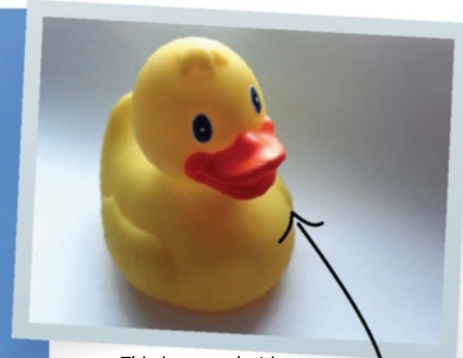
✓ This image was taken using the Shade white balance setting, which has helped to warm up the tones in the natural light

✓ The blue colour cast adds drama to an otherwise simple shot and is also in keeping with the subject matter



Technical tip

Remember to preview your settings on the back LCD before you shoot to ensure colour casts are corrected.



X This image, shot in natural light with the Daylight white balance setting, is technically sound but uninspired

Cooling casts

You can apply the same technique to create a cooler colour cast. In this image the blue cast adds a creative edge to the photograph and also works with the subject matter. Shot in natural daylight, the white balance setting was switched to incandescent, which cancelled out the warming effect of the daylight and added a blue colour cast.

Custom adjustments

To revive colours in this shot we switched the white balance settings to daylight, which added an orange glow. This was overpowering and didn't reflect the flower. Using a Fluorescent white balance we added a magenta cast that highlighted the delicacy. You can also use a custom setting to create a more specific colour cast by selecting a high or low Kelvin number.

✓ The Fluorescent white balance setting adds a magenta cast that creates a more aesthetically pleasing image



✗ This image isn't technically incorrect; however, the warm hues can be overwhelming so we selected a different white balance setting

Editing fix: Correcting a colour cast in Photoshop



Correcting the cast

Open the image you want to correct in Photoshop. Go to Levels (Image > Adjustments > Levels). Zoom into your photograph and locate the brightest highlight area within the image. Use the Set White Point eyedropper tool to select what should be the brightest part of the photo.



Bringing back the detail

You will now need to select the 'set black point' eyedropper tool and click on the darkest area of the image. Zoom in to ensure you select the right area and use the Preview button to check that the adjustments are correct.



Finishing touches

You can now use the Set Gray Point eyedropper and select the grey areas of the image. Alternatively you can use the midtone slider along the bottom of the histogram to tweak the midtones and ensure your image is true to life. Finally, save your corrected photograph.

Common problems solved...

When to use custom white balance

After mastering shutter speed and aperture settings you will want to start exploring ISO and white balance. If you already change the white balance according to where you're shooting, you may now want to understand the custom white balance setting a little better.

White balance moves from cool to warm and is displayed in Kelvin (K), but you need to know how and when to use it. Your camera's custom white balance setting is ideal for correcting colour casts in tricky

lighting situations or when the camera's other white balance settings are not quite right. The Kelvin values represent the colour temperature of the light, with higher numbers reflecting cooler light sources and lower numbers representing warmer lights. Select the right number to cancel out or create a colour cast, depending on where you are shooting.

Check out our quick reference guide below to see what value Kelvin you would need for certain lighting situations.

Colour Temperature/Kelvin	Light Source
1000-2000K	Candlelight/Flames
2500-4000K	Tungsten/Ambient
4000-5000K	Fluorescent
5000-5500K	Flash
5000-6500K	Sunshine/Daylight
6500-8000K	Slight overcast skies
9000-10000K	Cloudy/Shade/Sunrise/Sunset

Shooting skills

Tips and hints on taking perfect photos of any subject matter

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Learn how to compose stunning shots



"Lighting is responsible for almost all of your good and bad shots"



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Learn to freeze motion in sports photography



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Find out how to view the world through black-and-white eyes



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Make everyday buildings look extraordinary



Composition

Learn how to compose stunning images in camera with our examples

A good composition is key to any great photograph. Your composition should draw in the viewer's gaze – it should be engaging yet easy on the eye.

Composing what is essentially a restricted view on a real-life scene is not always easy, but knowing some of the rules can simplify shooting. Understanding how to balance a composition is important, and knowing where to place your point of interest is essential to a successful outcome.

Over the next few pages we're going to take you through some of the oldest composition rules that were developed by

master painters of the past. You can apply the same techniques to your photographs while shooting in any genre. Learn how to shoot using some of the essentials as a guide, including the rule of thirds, lead-in lines and the golden spiral. We'll also show you three of the best ways to improve incorrect compositions in Photoshop.

The following rules can be applied to all shooting scenarios and work with any camera type. Take a look at our inspiring image examples, follow the rules and start composing some great captures in camera for yourself.

“The following rules can be applied to all scenarios and work with any camera type”

Bad example

X This composition doesn't work because there is a distraction in the foreground. The bad crop prevents you from seeing more of the scene and makes it less interesting

Good example

✓ This image shows good use of space in the frame. By obeying the rule of thirds there is a balance throughout the composition and the lead-in line helps draw the eye into the image



Technical tip

Ensure the horizon line in your shot is straight before you shoot to avoid making extra adjustments in Photoshop.

Does my camera do it?



DSLR

What's good about it...

✓ Option to use both a viewfinder and LCD screen to compose, with an added grid feature for the rule of thirds

What could be better...

X Expensive, and you may not always have it on hand for impromptu shooting



Compact system camera

What's good about it...

✓ Great-quality LCDs with some able to tilt/rotate for shooting at awkward angles

What could be better...

X With a smaller sensor than a DSLR model, images won't be as high in quality



Compact camera

What's good about it...

✓ You can crop your compositions in camera using basic editing features

What could be better...

X No viewfinder and a relatively small LCD screen make it harder to compose



Cameraphone

What's good about it...

✓ Offers downloadable image-editing apps for compositional corrections

What could be better...

X Produces low-quality images that won't look as sharp when printed



Rule of thirds

Use the rule of thirds to correctly line up your landscape scene and ensure you have a balanced composition. Try to place your main point of interest a third of the way up and preferably off-centre. Always remember to avoid shooting too much sky or foreground in a landscape.

Jargon buster

Rule of thirds

The rule of thirds is a compositional rule that states an image should be divided into nine equal parts with vertical and horizontal lines. If you position your subject along the third lines you will create a balanced composition.

3 of the best...

Tips for great in-camera composition



Compose first

Create a paper viewfinder or use your hands to form a rectangle. Look through and pan around yourself for compositions.



Grid guidance

Activate the available grid in your camera's viewfinder or back LCD screen. Use the lines as a guide to follow the rule of thirds.



Correction

Press Playback and zoom into your composition. This will enable you to determine if you have the best possible composition.

How to use the rule of thirds

Other ways to apply this compositional law



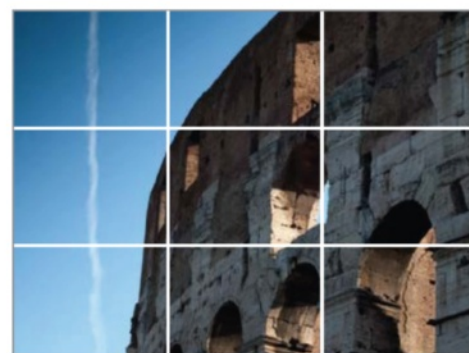
01 Top third

You can apply the rule of thirds in a multitude of ways. In this image the point of interest rests on the top third of the frame in the composition. It works particularly well because the columns help draw your eye up to the point of interest.



02 Portraits

The rule of thirds works just as well when applied in portraiture. Position your model off-centre in either the left or right third of the frame. Use the background to lead your eye up to your subject and create a more interesting composition.



03 Balancing thirds

The rule of thirds still applies to this image, which works because the subject fills the entire right third of the frame before falling onto the left third line. The aeroplane trail creates an added point of interest in the space and balances the shot.

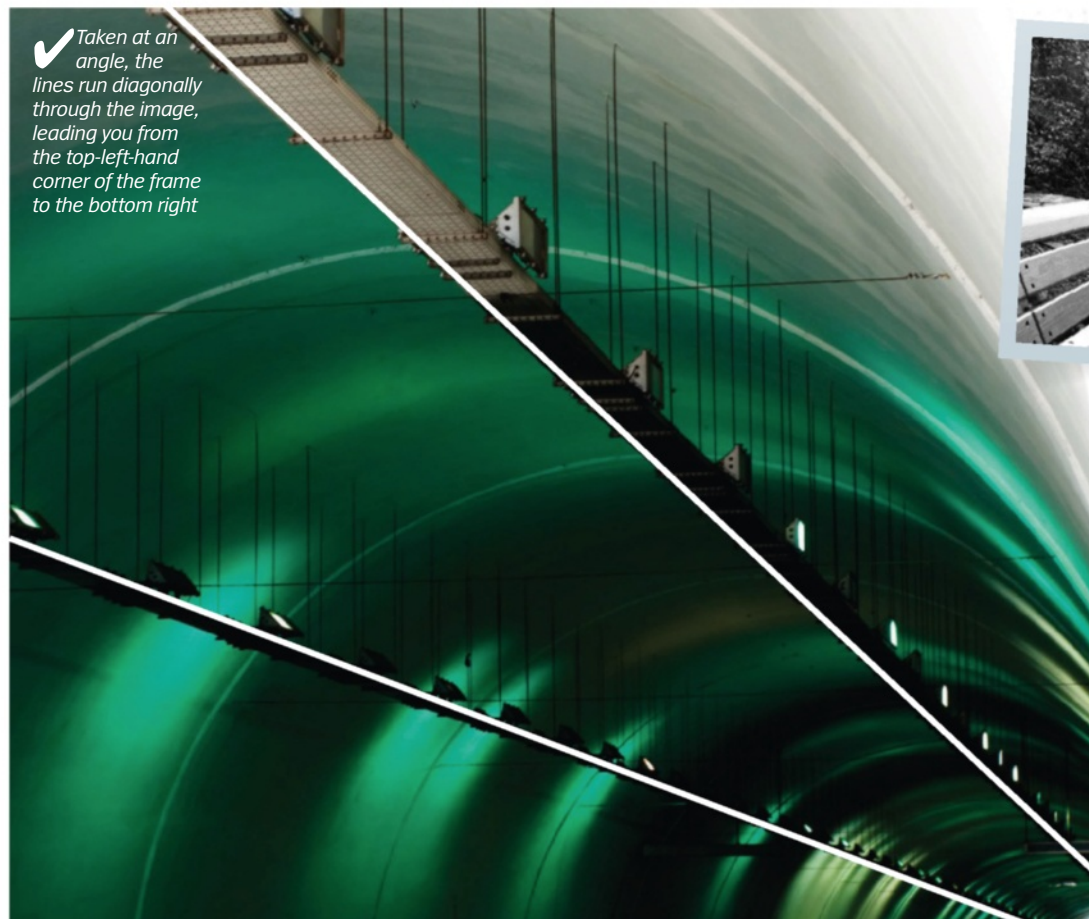
✓ The softly out-of-focus petals lead you towards the centre of the flower, which remains sharply in focus

Golden spiral

The golden spiral composition is great when shooting macro images. Place the point of interest in either the top or bottom corners of the frame and use the shape of the petals or background to gradually draw your eye around the frame. This image works as there's more visual space.



✓ Taken at an angle, the lines run diagonally through the image, leading you from the top-left-hand corner of the frame to the bottom right



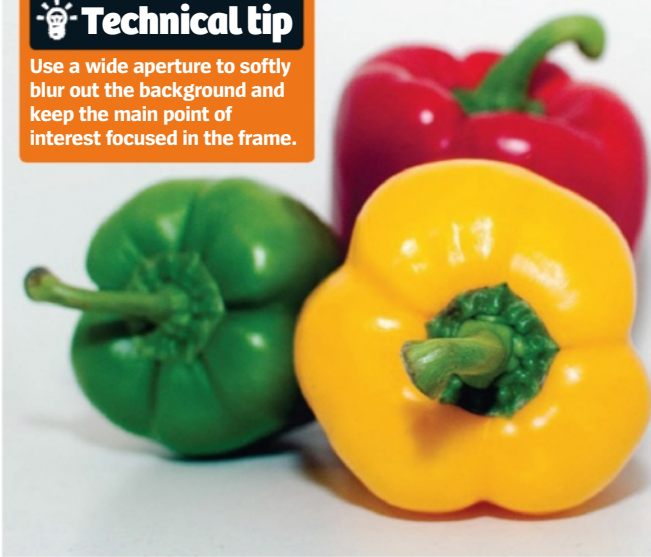
✓ Lead-in lines work equally well in monochrome images. This shot features several lead-in lines to great effect

Lead-in lines

Lead-in lines are great for navigating your eyes through a composition. You can use them to add depth to an image, lead up to a focus point in any photograph or wander through a landscape scene. The photograph to the left has been taken with an abstract approach, using lead-in lines to create a more artistic image.

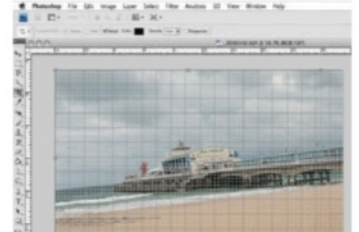
Technical tip

Use a wide aperture to softly blur out the background and keep the main point of interest focused in the frame.

**Rule of odds**

In photography, odd numbers such as threes or fives work better than evens when composing an image. Odd numbers look more natural to the eye, creating a balance within the frame.

3 of the best... Ways to fix a composition in Photoshop

**Grid**

Open the image you want to correct in Photoshop. Now select the grid via View > Show > Grid. Use the vertical and horizontal lines to make a more considered composition with the rule of thirds as a guide.

**Crop in**

Select the Crop tool from the Tools menu and begin by selecting the entire image. Hold down the Shift key to maintain the correct proportions and slowly drag up on the corners of the frame. Move the selection area until you're happy.

**Rotate**

Before confirming your crop, hold the cursor in the top corner of the frame until the rotate icon appears. Click and slowly rotate the selection until the horizon's straight, then click OK.

**Colour**

Consider carefully the colours you frame in your composition. Too many conflicting colours can often create a distraction from your focus area. Complementary or repetitive tones create great shots.

Cropping your images

Think about the angle and consider your crop

Getting the perfect composition is often a case of trial and error. Make sure you consider what the best angle on your subject is and think about what you want your final result to be. For instance, you can make buildings look large and imposing by shooting from a low angle, or create a dynamic portrait by shooting at an angle rather than straight on. The way you crop your image can also make all the difference to the success of a photograph. Don't be afraid to extend your lens and zoom in closer. The well-known pattern of the zebra here means you needn't take such a literal shot of it; often a tighter crop can create a more interesting image. Play around and experiment to get the best image possible.



Shooting skills



Try using a prop like this umbrella to add interest and colour to your portraits



Perfect your portraits

Learn how to improve your portraits by following our five essential lessons

Whether you consider yourself a photographer or not, you will most likely have taken a portrait photograph at some point in your life. Often it would just be a snapshot of friends or family members to mark special occasions or milestones. But for some these photographs just don't do the moment justice or bring out the personality of the people they're shooting, and they're often in need of timely retouches in Photoshop to crop in or remove red-eye.

Over the next few pages we're taking you right back to the beginning and sharing some of our insider tips and techniques to getting perfect portrait results.

After highlighting some of the most common portrait mistakes, we will then show you how to change your bad shooting habits for the better with some inspirational images and advice on shooting modes and techniques along the way.

It's important to remember that a portrait needn't be as staged as reciting the word 'cheese!' before the flash – it should be about getting some relaxed and happy portrait smiles. If the weather is warm, why not try taking your portraits outside? If you get a little more creative with your camera you'll find new ways to photograph your loved ones.

Over the next few pages: Portrait shooting advice for every photographer and every type of camera



Taken on a... DSLR

What's good about it...
✓ It has a larger sensor so you get bigger and better quality images

What could be better...
✗ It's harder to use if you're a beginner who's unfamiliar with DSLR settings



Taken on a... Cameraphone

What's good about it...
✓ It's always on hand so it's perfect for impromptu portrait moments

What could be better...
✗ No adjustable exposure settings and the image size and quality is poor



Taken on a... Compact camera

What's good about it...
✓ Lightweight and easy to use with Auto settings and portrait modes

What could be better...
✗ Has a fixed lens that is usually wide angle, unflattering for portraits



Taken on a... Compact system camera

What's good about it...
✓ Interchangeable lens options and flexible shooting modes

What could be better...
✗ Sensor is not as large as a DSLR's so image quality is not quite as good

Shooting skills

Five ways to... Perfect portraits

Follow our five top tips to portrait perfection



X Go from this snapshot...

When composing your portraits, make sure that your model's hair isn't in her eyes. Place her off-centre in the frame and try using a large aperture (eg f2) to blur out the background

✓ To this perfect portrait!

This photo, taken just a few minutes after the one shown above, takes in all of our simple rules and produces a much better overall result

Jargon buster

Aperture

An important setting for portraits is Aperture. Turn your camera to Aperture Priority (A) if it has it, and try taking the same photo at different apertures. Low numbers (like f2) create background blur while higher numbers (like f22) keep the whole photo sharp.

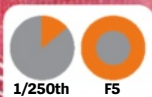
01 Don't go low
Avoid shooting up from a low angle as this can cause unflattering results. Angle yourself slightly above the model and shoot looking down.

02 Background
Place your model in front of attractive surroundings. Avoid places where there is too much going on in the background as this will be too distracting.

03 Be aware of hair
Make sure you pull back any unwanted hair from the model's face and eyes so you can clearly see their features.

04 Careful cropping
Try to avoid cropping your photographs above the shoulders as this can make an otherwise great portrait look unbalanced.

05 Focus on the eyes
Ensure you focus correctly on the eyes and avoid getting in too close to your subject. You may cause an unflattering lens distortion.



Use advanced Automatic settings

Portrait scene modes can help you achieve great results

1. Setting up

Most compact cameras and newer compact system cameras offer advanced Automatic portrait settings. From face detection focusing to smile detection shutter releases, it has never been easier to rely on your Auto mode. Beginners can even shoot using Beauty modes that are designed to enhance skin tones and disguise blemishes.

Some cameras even offer a background blur adjustment, which enables you to achieve professional-looking portraits without messing with aperture controls. Another benefit of shooting in Auto is that you don't have to worry about exposure settings, so you can focus solely on correctly positioning your model and shooting.



1. Portrait scene mode

Portrait scene mode settings enable you to get the best results by balancing the exposure to suit the subject. They'll also gently soften the background.

Does your camera do it?

- ✓ DSLR
- ✓ Compact system camera
- ✓ Compact camera
- ✗ Cameraphone

2. Beauty mode

Beauty modes soften skin tones and help disguise blemishes. More advanced beauty modes will let you adjust the intensity of the effect as you shoot.

Does your camera do it?

- ✓ DSLR
- ✓ Compact system camera
- ✓ Compact camera
- ✗ Cameraphone

3. Black & White mode

In-built filters such as black and white allow you to achieve more artistic portrait results without having to make adjustments later using editing software.

Does your camera do it?

- ✓ DSLR
- ✓ Compact system camera
- ✓ Compact camera
- ✗ Cameraphone

4. Autofocus (AF) settings

These enable the camera to search and select one area of the frame to focus on without you having to manually search for it via the focus ring on the lens.

Does your camera do it?

- ✓ DSLR
- ✓ Compact system camera
- ✓ Compact camera
- ✓ Cameraphone

Shooting skills

Shooting group portraits

There are plenty of fun ways to photograph more than one person

2. Group shots

Family gatherings and weekends away with friends can be great opportunities to all get together in front of the camera. These images are fantastic for Christmas cards or the family album, so make the most of your time together and get some great fun-filled shots.

Remember that not all family portraits need to be formal – try to think outside the box and look for creative new ways to capture your loved ones. Jumping shots are a great way to add energy to an image and are always popular, especially with the kids. You could also look at shooting from more extreme angles, whether that's getting down low in the grass or standing up high to look down for a new perspective. Above all, just keep it relaxed and try to bring out each individual's personality.

X Synchronise your models

Try to get your models to synchronise poses and get them looking in the same direction. For a shot like this you will probably need several attempts before getting it right.

✓ Get down to their level

When shooting children it is ideal to get down low and shoot at their level, but it can sometimes work out better to shoot high up from an angle to capture their small size and innocence.



Jargon buster

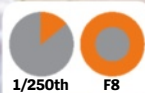
Tagging photos

Many image editors and photo-sharing websites will now allow you to tag photos with names, locations and other information so that you can search for specific images later on with ease. Try Facebook's tagging feature next time you upload your images.



✓ Use colourful props to add interest

Try adding a prop to your portraits to add interest and colour. Balloons, beach balls and flowers all work well



Pick out common errors

Improve your portraits by identifying any oversights

3. Avoiding mistakes

Anything from a wonky horizon line to red-eye can ruin your perfect portrait shots, so knowing what to look out for when shooting can help to prevent the same problem pictures in the future.

One of the most common but easy-to-correct photo mistakes is working in the wrong settings; whether you're using Manual or Automatic modes, you must ensure your camera settings are correct for the best exposure results.

You will also need to think carefully about your composition. A portrait needn't be full body or just a tight head and shoulders crop, so move around with the camera and see how else you can frame up. Most importantly, don't be afraid to take more than one photograph as this will give you a greater chance of getting the right shot.

3 of the best...

Ways to tag your photos



Facebook

Facebook lets you tag friends and family simply by clicking on the Tag This Photo icon once your image has uploaded.



Flickr

Add tags to your Flickr uploads and make them easier to search for. You can include each person's name and a description.



iPhoto

Tag your images in iPhoto using keywording to help organise your photos within categories. This makes them easier to search for.

Shooting skills

✓ Filling in the light

Flash is not always needed when shooting inside, particularly if it is a bright day and you're near a large window. Use a reflector or a large piece of white card to bounce light back into the image and fill in some of the stronger shadows. You could even increase your ISO slightly to compensate for lower lighting conditions.



Try using a reflector or a piece of white card to reflect light onto your subject



Master your Manual modes

Move away from Auto for more professional portraits

4. Manual settings

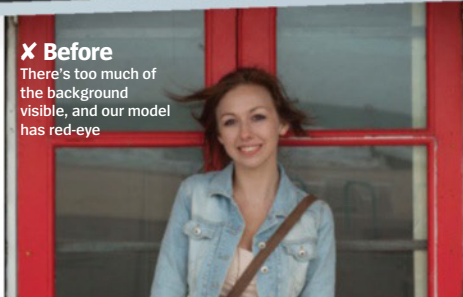
More advanced camera users who like to venture into Manual mode settings are offered a lot more exposure flexibility and creative freedom. Understanding aperture is key to getting great portrait results, and a camera that offers a wide aperture setting is essential for adding depth to an image by blurring out the background.

Being able to adjust your camera's ISO and white balance settings can also be handy when shooting portraits in low light or under difficult lighting conditions. Don't be afraid to experiment even if you're not an accomplished manual user – this is a great way to pick up on using the exposure settings and work out hands-on what each setting can do.

✓ **After**
We've cropped in, got rid of the red-eye and any blemishes, and finished with a black and white conversion



✗ **Before**
There's too much of the background visible, and our model has red-eye

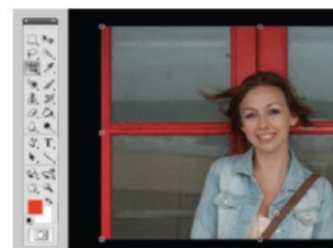


Essential editing steps

Use image-editing software to do the touch-ups on your picture-perfect portraits

5. Editing

Editing images is part and parcel of photography these days, whether you want to make a minor correction or a complete clone-out of unwanted dust, marks or people. Software such as Photoshop is great for tweaking images and correcting any distortions, as it helps you improve the quality of your captures. Technophobes are often put off by the endless menus, but getting to grips with just the essentials can see your portraits perked up in no time. Follow along with these simple steps and you'll soon see just how easy it is to bring out the best in your portraits.



01 Crop the photo

Select the Crop tool from the Tools menu. Click in one top corner of the frame and drag the cursor diagonally to the opposite bottom corner. Hold Shift on your keyboard to retain the image proportions and select one of the corner anchor points, slowly dragging it up until you're happy.

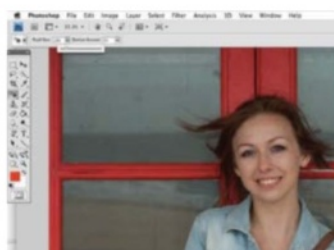


✓ Focus on the eyes

Always focus on the eyes. The viewer will be drawn to them first, so they should be nice and sharp. Try using your camera's built-in autofocus modes as these can be quicker and more precise than manual adjustments.

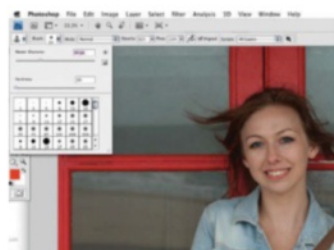
✓ Depth of field

Using a wide aperture can create artistic results. A shallow depth of field will blur out the background and bring the focus onto the subject. Remember that you will need a faster shutter speed with a wider aperture.



02 Red-eye removal

Use the Red-eye Removal tool from the left menu. Adjust the pupil size percentage to suit the area you want to correct and increase amount to darken. Click above the pupil and drag the box diagonally, filling the space with the entire pupil. Click OK to see the transformation.



03 Clone Stamp

Ideal for removing blemishes. Select Clone Stamp from Tools and zoom in to the affected area. Adjust brush size to match the mark and select a soft edge with the opacity set between 85-100%. Hold down Alt and select a clear area next to the mark you wish to clone out. Now brush it away.



04 Black and white

Convert to black and white by going to Image> Adjustments>Black and white to desaturate your image. Now adjust the sliders to bring out more tonal contrast. Ensure you've selected the Preview button so you can see how each adjustment will affect your monochromatic masterpiece.

Shoot, edit and share portraits on an Android

3 of the best... Shooting apps



Camera Fun Pro

This fantastic Android shooting app enables you to see live photo effects on your screen before you shoot.



Fast Burst Camera

Great for capturing fast-paced action portraits with the kids. It can take between 5-10 shots per second.



Uva Silent Widget Camera Free

This app allows you to take snaps with a silent shutter and focus.



3 of the best... Editing apps



Colour Touch Effects

A cool colour editing app, Colour Touch Effects enables you to selectively recolour black-and-white or sepia images.



TouchRetouch

A fantastic editing Android app that's great for removing unwanted items and marks from your cameraphone photos.



Little Photo

An Android editing app that enables you to add cool retro filter effects to your cameraphone photos.

3 of the best... Sharing apps



Photobucket Mobile

A free Android app that lets you upload and share your mobile pictures and videos with everyone in your network.



Plixi for Android

Plixi lets you share your photos on Twitter and Facebook. You can upload images from your gallery or straight from the camera.



PhotoBeam Free

This app helps you to upload your images to Facebook, Flickr, Photobucket and Shutterfly in just one click!

Picture-perfect landscapes

Capture inspiring scenes with our lessons in landscape photography

Landscapes are constantly changing throughout the day, month and year, and they give everyone an opportunity to capture some great, scenic shots. Although landscapes are among photography's most popular genres, they can often be a lot more challenging to shoot than they first appear, as various essential elements have to be considered beforehand to ensure you get great shot results.

Simply changing the way you shoot and compose your captures will dramatically alter the appearance of your landscape photographs, helping you go from shooting basic snapshots to impressive vistas.

Landscapes are also very unpredictable and can change within mere minutes, so you should learn how best to be prepared and know what you and your camera are capable of.

Over these pages we're going to show you how you can improve your shot success rate with some fantastic tips and advice on correctly composing your captures, selecting the right settings, shooting and editing your final shots.

Regardless of what type of camera you have to hand, you can apply the same tips and techniques to any scene and still get impressive landscape results.

Over the next few pages: Landscape shooting advice for every photographer and every type of camera



Taken on a...
Cameraphone

What's good about it...

✓ Most offer great shoot settings such as HDR and photo-specific apps

What could be better...

✗ With a fixed lens and a low resolution, image quality is not always great



Taken on a...
Compact camera

What's good about it...

✓ Fantastic in-camera creative settings; most offer good image quality

What could be better...

✗ No flexible lens options or use of manual settings



Taken on a...
Compact system camera

What's good about it...

✓ Great image quality with a high resolution, fantastic for large prints

What could be better...

✗ Can be more complicated to use for some novices



Taken on a...
DSLR

What's good about it...

✓ Great image quality, choice of lenses, manual options for greater control and for creativity

What could be better...

✗ Usually high cost for body and lens combos, heavy to carry and can be complicated to use



Shooting skills

Take a minute to frame your photo

Learn how to compose your scene correctly in the frame and get some stunning shots

1. Composition

Composition is a key element to getting some great shot results, and framing your captures correctly can make all the difference. Start to think more creatively about how you engage with the scene and find new angles to shoot from to get a range of perspectives. Look for lead-in lines or points of interest to fill the frame, such as rock formations, buildings or trees. You can even follow some compositional guidelines like the rule of thirds, which ensures the horizon sits a third of the way up the frame and creates a more balanced landscape shot.

✓ Shoot kneeling down for a more interesting foreground

Our second shot of the same scene was taken crouching down and brings in some foreground elements for interest and adds a sense of depth through to the back of the image. This makes the shot instantly more dynamic.

X Point-and-shoot gives you a dull, flat shot

The shot above was taken standing up and lacks any real point of interest or foreground to draw the viewer into the image. Most new photographers will shoot like this.



We've taken the same scene standing up, crouching down and lying on the ground for three different results

Try to pick out some interesting foreground elements like flowers or rock formations

Make the most of camera modes

Get creative in camera and experiment using a range of different settings

2. Settings

Newer cameras – including compact system cameras, compacts and cameraphones – now offer a range of smart settings, from intelligent Auto to experimental and advanced manual modes. Easy-to-use Auto and scene modes are great for those still mastering the art of composition as the camera makes all of the technical exposure decisions for you. But with a fantastic range of in-camera effects now available you

can also get more impressive and expressive landscape shots with features such as HDR modes and Vivid filters.

Manual modes, on the other hand, are better suited to more advanced users, as they give you complete creative control over the camera's settings. Don't be afraid to experiment with your camera settings to fine out what suits the scene and your own style best.



✓ Get really low down for a creative and unique angle

Our final shot was taken lying down and gives a lot more foreground, almost blurring the background out of focus. Try shooting in portrait orientation to get another result in your landscape portfolio.

3 of the most common... Landscape errors

✗ Too little or too much sky/foreground

This sky is dull with no cloud interest, so why include so much? Compose to include more land instead of sky



✗ Wonky horizon

Always make sure that your horizon is straight – shoot using a tripod if you need to. There is nothing more distracting than a wonky horizon

✗ Lens flare

The camera is tilted towards the sun, which has created a rather ugly lens flare. Tilt the camera down to avoid this happening again



HDR and creative filters

HDR and creative filters are available in most cameras and cameraphones. Filters such as Vivid are great for more creative images, while HDR modes capture shots that look true to life.

Does your camera do it?

- ✗ DSLR
- ✓ Compact system camera
- ✓ Compact camera
- ✓ Cameraphone

Auto and scene modes

Great for those still mastering the art of composition, Auto mode enables you to point, frame and shoot while the camera automatically selects the right settings to suit the scene.

Does your camera do it?

- ✓ DSLR
- ✓ Compact system camera
- ✓ Compact camera
- ✗ Cameraphone

Manual settings

Manual P, A, S, M modes are more complicated to use and are popular with more advanced users. They give you control over your camera's settings, like shutter speed and aperture.

Does your camera do it?

- ✓ DSLR
- ✓ Compact system camera
- ✗ Compact camera
- ✗ Cameraphone

Shooting skills

Time, season and weather changes

Knowing when to shoot can transform your images

3. Timing

Your landscapes can change dramatically depending on the weather, season and time of day that you shoot. Unpredictable conditions can make shooting landscapes a challenge, but revisiting a scene throughout the day can be a great way to ensure you get the right shot. Shooting your scene after waiting for that dramatic cloud formation to

move into the frame can turn your photograph from mundane to inspirational. Shoot in the early hours to get the mystical soft light effect or wait until late afternoon and sunset for the warmer, richer colours and contrast. Ensure you plan ahead and have done your research before setting off – you should be prepared and know when the sun is due to rise or set.

✓ Shooting on a winter's evening

The cold blue sky can be visually appealing when the sun is just starting to set on a winter's evening. The pink clouds are a nice contrast against the crisp sky here. Most cameras now come with a Snow scene mode, so experiment in really wintery conditions too.



✓ Finished image!

In this photo the sky is bluer and any distractions and blemishes have been corrected



✗ Start image

There's a distracting house on the right, plus some marks in the sky we need to get rid of



Make it a masterpiece

Use photo software to correct and enhance the quality of your landscape shots

4. Editing

Processing your shots in photo-editing software such as Adobe Photoshop is a great way to make corrections and enhance the quality of your landscapes. You can use it to straighten your horizons or improve the colour and contrast in your captures – it gives you complete creative control over the final image aesthetic. Simply upload your images onto your computer and begin getting to grips with the essential Photoshop tools. Your photos will go from drab to fab, and you'll soon be creating finished landscapes that could pass as a pro's.



01 Crop the photo

This could be improved by cropping further into the frame. Select the Crop tool from the tools palette on the left and click on the top-left-hand corner of the frame. Drag the cursor down diagonally to the bottom-right of the frame to make a whole selection. While holding the Shift key, slowly bring up one of the edges until you're happy.

Five ways to...

Improve your landscapes

Instantly take better pictures with our top five things to consider

01 Inspiration

Take a shot whenever you see something that excites you. Try taking the same shot standing up and lying down to see how perspective changes the end result. Experiment and have fun!

02 Composition

Consider what you are leaving in the photograph and what you want to leave out. Compose your scene so the most interesting point is around a third into the scene (ie a third down and a third from one edge) and crop out any distracting elements.

03 Settings

Your camera will do a fine job if left on Automatic, but if you'd like to take a little more control you should switch to your Landscape mode. This will bring out the blues and greens in your image.

04 Timing

Although a well-composed shot will be good, the same scene at sunset may be better. If you're spending the day in one location, revisit your scene a few times to see which time works best.

05 Editing

A little editing can go a long way. While the step-by-step on this page will help get you started, check out this book's Editing section starting on page 156 to take this skill even further.

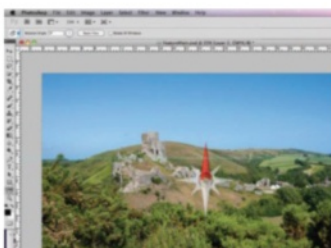


✓ A summer day

Some summery scenes can look a bit flat – with no detail in clear blue skies. Try summer sunrises, which are always beautiful and most modern cameras have scene modes dedicated to bringing out those vibrant hues.

✓ A stormy day

Clouds make a much more interesting sky than clear blue, so take your camera out on grey days too. Protect your camera in a simple carrier bag in case it starts to rain.



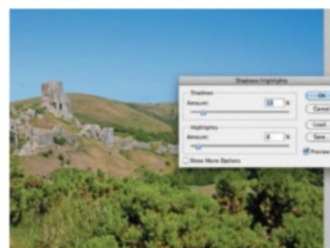
02 Straighten the shot

Your horizon line may be slightly wonky. Before you click OK on your crop selection, place the cursor over one of the corners until a curved arrow appears. Now click down and rotate the frame. Try to level the horizon line up to the straight edge at the top of the box. When happy, select OK.



03 Enhance colours

Enhance colours in your photo using the colour balance tool (Image>Adjustments>Color Balance). Using the cursors, slowly make adjustments to the colour tones, working through highlights, midtones and shadows. Select Preview to see how the adjustments affect your final image.



04 Boost the contrast

Now add some contrast to your shot to bring out the detail in the highlights and shadows. Use either the Brightness and Contrast tool or Shadows/Highlights (Image>Adjustments>Shadow/Highlights). You are able to make more contrasted adjustments using the midtone slider. Select Preview to see the results.

Shooting skills

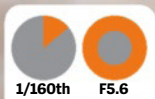
Capture great wildlife shots no matter what camera you shoot with



Learn about some of the most common mistakes in wildlife photography



Shot on location at the New Forest Wildlife Sanctuary



Capture wildlife

Learn how to take great wildlife shots by following these simple steps

Wildlife is a great subject to photograph as it can be done in almost any location.

Wildlife is essentially all around us, wherever we are, and is a fascinating subject that offers an incredible number of possibilities for taking images.

Despite what many people may think, wildlife shots do not need to be left to the safari, zoo visits or other more exotic locations. Wildlife is all around us, often as close as our own back gardens, so there is no reason why everyone can't take some great photographs.

Thanks to the incredibly wide range of subjects involved, wildlife shots can be

taken using any kind of camera. It is also a subject that does not necessarily require a certain lens or specific setting to capture a great shot.

No matter what animals you're shooting, one thing you need to remember when photographing wildlife is to try to keep your distance. Leaving plenty of room between you and your subject will not only give you much more natural photos, but will also ensure that the wildlife is not disturbed. It is therefore useful to have a degree of zoom on your camera so you can get some closer shots; however, places like zoos will make this less of a problem.

Over the next few pages: Some great, inspirational wildlife shots and a tutorial to try at home



**Taken on a...
DSLR**

What's good about it...

✓ The ability to use different lenses means it is great for all types of wildlife shots

What could be better...

✗ Switching lenses and settings can take time and mean you lose the shot you have been waiting for



**Taken on a...
Cameraphone**

What's good about it...

✓ It's always within easy reach, so it's perfect for any unexpected situations

What could be better...

✗ Image quality is not brilliant, and you may not have a sufficient zoom



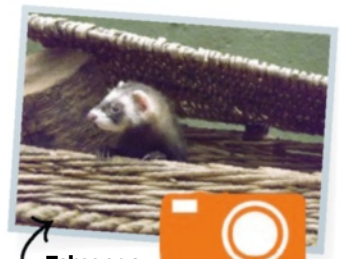
**Taken on a...
Compact camera**

What's good about it...

✓ Dedicated wildlife shooting modes, and it's easy to keep about you

What could be better...

✗ A lack of manual control may mean you miss the ideal shot



**Taken on a...
Compact system camera**

What's good about it...

✓ High image quality, and the ability to use manual settings

What could be better...

✗ Different lenses are required for different shooting situations

Shooting skills

1. At home

Get practising in your own back garden

Bring the wildlife to you and set up a simple bird photograph

It is not always easy to go out and take the best wildlife shots. Many of the great wildlife photos are of exotic animals in remote locations. However, this is not possible for the majority of us, and we have to deal with what is within our reach. With this in mind, we decided to try shooting wildlife in our back gardens.

The most common creatures that visit our gardens are birds. They're plentiful and come in all shapes, sizes and colours. The main problem with shooting wildlife is that it is often unpredictable. However, there's nothing wrong with bringing the wildlife to you, stacking the odds in your favour of achieving an excellent shot.

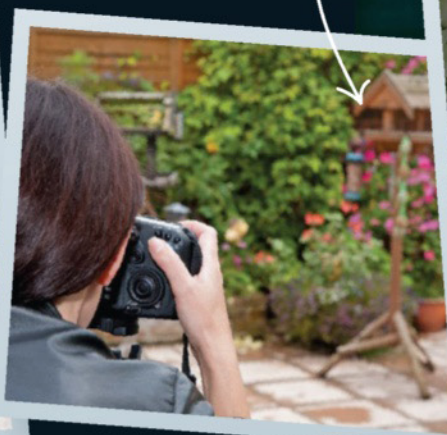


Your settings should look something like this!

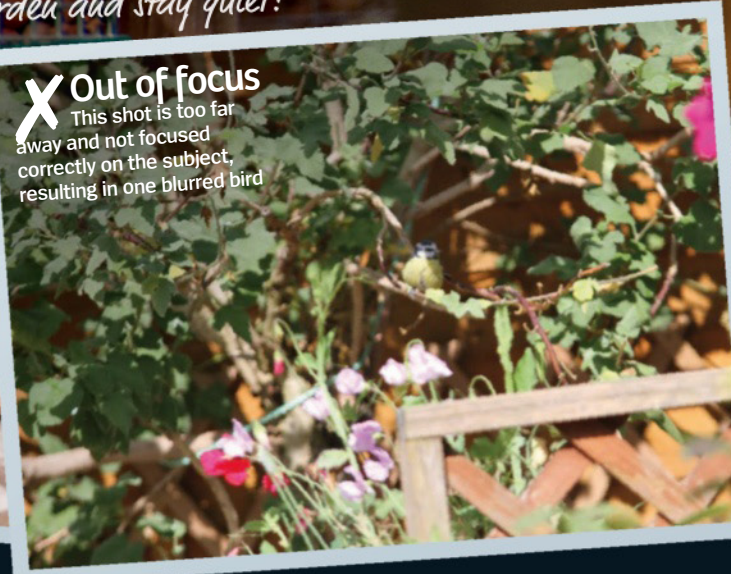


Make sure you switch to autofocus first!

Find a secluded spot in the corner of your garden and stay quiet!



X Out of focus
This shot is too far away and not focused correctly on the subject, resulting in one blurred bird



Set up a bird feeder

Using a feeder will invite the birds into your shot



01 Position the bird feeder
Place the bird feeder where you can see it clearly. Use this as an opportunity to frame your shot, as the feeder will determine where the birds will be. Avoid placing it where there are any distractions, as these could ruin the final shot.



02 Use a tripod
Using a tripod means you can leave the camera pointed at the bird feeder, allowing you to keep all of the settings ready for when the subjects come along. It will also reduce any risk of blurring the image due to camera movement.



03 Switch the shutter speed
Switch the camera over to Shutter Priority mode. This will allow you to adjust the shutter speed and let the camera adjust the other settings. Use a fast shutter speed (eg 1/1000sec) to freeze the subject, and avoid any risk of a blurred image.



Zoom into your subject ✓

This shot is nice and close, and the bird has been isolated from the background by using a wide aperture (low f-number).

💡 Technical tip

Try to stay focused on one part of the scene, such as the bird feeder, and wait for the subject to come into view.

.....Jargon buster.....

High Speed Continuous

Many cameras have the ability to take a number of shots in quick succession without you needing to lift off of the shutter release. The speed at which this can be done depends on the camera, but is incredibly useful for moving subjects.



04 Set the ISO

Even though you are shooting outside in the daytime, boost your ISO up to around 800. This will ensure the camera will get enough light and that the image will remain sharp, even if the weather takes a turn and the scene becomes darker.



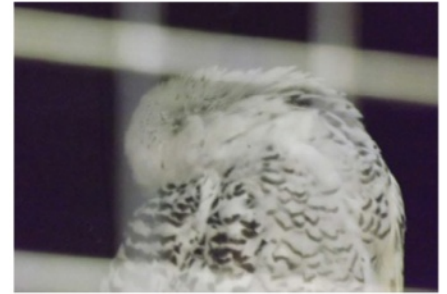
05 Continuous shooting

Most cameras have a high-speed shooting option, which enables a number of shots to be taken in succession. Taking several shots very quickly will give you a better chance of getting a good photo, and will ensure you don't miss that perfect picture.

2. Watch out

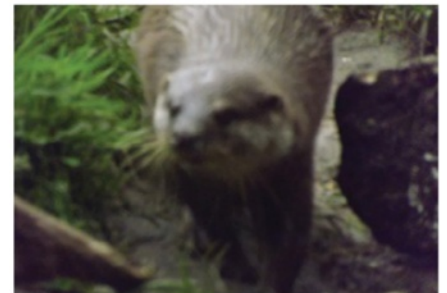
Common errors to look out for

Four things to avoid when shooting wildlife



X Fence in shot

When taking photos through a cage or at a zoo, ensure the focus is on the animal and that the fencing does not come into the shot.



X Out of focus

Animals move very quickly, making it easy to get out-of-focus shots. Try using continuous autofocus and high-speed continuous shooting to combat this.



X Reflections

A common error when shooting through an enclosure is that your own reflection will turn up on the glass. Watch out for this in bright, sunny conditions.



X Bad timing

Keep an eye on the composition of your shot, as well as animal movement. Try picking a spot and waiting for the animal, or pan your camera with them.

Shooting skills

3. Setting up

Get great shots at a wildlife park

Head out to your local zoo and try getting some natural wildlife shots

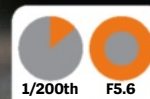
Shooting wildlife while out in the animal's habitat will give you the most natural photos. However, these shots will be a lot harder to achieve. Using a wildlife sanctuary or zoo is an excellent way of getting up close and personal with the animals. They also provide the opportunity to see more exotic animals that otherwise wouldn't be possible.

There are some animals that are naturally inquisitive, and as such will be interested in you. They may even come to investigate you and get close enough for you to get some great photos. However, the majority of animals will be aware of your presence and will be on edge because of it. Shooting in this situation requires a different approach to taking set-up shots at home.

Jargon buster

Focus point

Sometimes it is not always best to focus on the middle of the frame, and focusing on a subject to the side of the frame will give the best final shot, while keeping the same composition. If your camera allows it, select the main animal's face as the focus point.



Technical tip

Check on the feeding times for the different animals, as this is likely to be when they are at their most active.

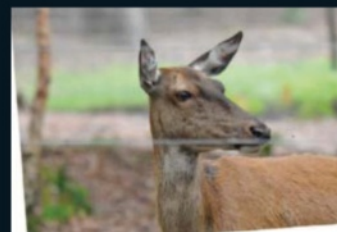
4. Editing

Remove a fence in Elements

Use some simple editing techniques to rescue a ruined wildlife photograph

It's very easy to take a great shot but have something small ruin it. While out shooting in a wildlife park, fences and enclosures can make it difficult to get the shot you want and you may find your best shot has a fence or wire running through it, like our example above.

Follow our tutorial to find out how to quickly and easily remove an unwanted fence from a photo.



01 Straighten

A common error is taking a shot that's not straight. This is an easy mistake, as you're often distracted by the animal's movement. Select the Straighten tool and draw along one of the lines. This will automatically level out your photo, but it will need to be cropped.

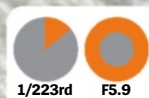


X With a compact

Be aware that a compact generally has less of a zoom, so shooting through a fence won't give great results. Try shooting over the top of fences or use editing software to combat the problem.

✓ With a superzoom

A superzoom will allow you to shoot through obstacles and from distances. However, at full zoom the camera will be hard to stabilise, so try using something like a fence to rest the camera on.



5 steps to...

Better wildlife photos

01 Inspiration

Wildlife is not a subject that is restricted to safaris and zoos, so don't be afraid to get out and there and see what you can find.

02 Stay hidden

Try not to get too close to animals in the wild, and don't disturb their habitat. This will help you get more natural photos as well as protect them.

03 Patience

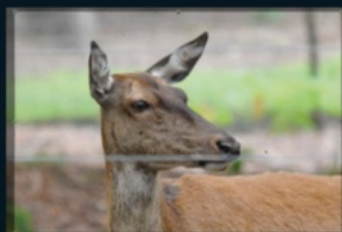
Animals are often very afraid of us, but if you remain in one position for long enough they will become much more comfortable with your presence.

04 Be ready

Many animals are fast and don't stick around waiting for you to get a good shot, so make sure you and your camera are prepared.

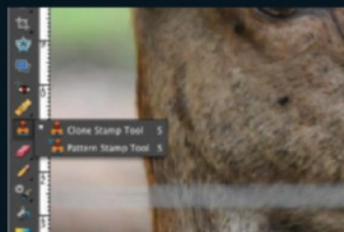
05 Settings

Research the best settings for the chosen subject to avoid having to play with them too much when out shooting.



02 Crop

Often with wildlife shots it is difficult to get the correct composition first time. It is also very hard to get close enough to the subject, especially when using a smaller camera. Carry out a simple crop to cut down on any unwanted space, or to get closer to the subject.



03 Clone tool

Cloning takes a part of the image and duplicates it over a selected area. Once you have chosen the Clone Stamp tool from the tool bar, select a source for the duplication and start to draw over the fence. Choose a cloning selection similar to what is being replaced.



04 Healing tool

The Healing Brush tool acts similarly to the Clone Stamp, but will do a lot of work for you. Once selected, use the brush to cover the area that requires further blending. It will then automatically blend the area to the rest of the image as best as possible.



05 Colour curves

Once the fence has been removed, it's a good idea to boost the look of the photo to reduce the visibility of the cloned areas. Bring up the Colour Curves window and boost the brightness and contrast. This will improve the photo and detract attention from the cloned sections.

Sports photography

Master your camera for any sports event and capture some stunning shots

Sporting events are often unique moments that may never happen again. Getting the most out of these photo opportunities can therefore be very important, and if you get tickets to future events, such as Olympics, Wimbledon or other sporting occasions, you may need to brush up on some of your photography skills to capture those once-in-a-lifetime moments.

Sports photography may seem like a very specialist subject, and one that is best left to the pros. However, there are lots of opportunities to capture the action in a number of different situations, from big sporting events to school sports days.

The best thing about capturing sports or action shots is that getting great photos from any event doesn't have to rely on

having the latest and greatest bits of kit, and many easy techniques can be achieved with the simplest of cameras.

However, getting your best action shots can be very difficult, especially as you're likely to have absolutely no control over your fast-moving subjects. But mastering simple techniques can ensure you are able to capture great shots in a number of ways, preserving the action that is unfolding in front of you as well as letting you take some of your best photographs yet.

So, regardless of whether you're heading out to a high-profile international sports event or simply watching your children run about in your back garden, grab your camera and let us show you how to get the most out of the action.

Over the next eight pages:

We show you how to capture all the action with some great tips and techniques

Whether it's with a zoom or by utilising your particular position, to shoot those dynamic images it's absolutely essential that you get in close to the action



Learn how to freeze movement with shutter speeds

Take control of your camera's settings for better sports shots





“Whether you’re shooting a Sunday morning football league or pro-athletes at the Olympics, these tips will help you get started”

Shooting skills



Wide angle



Mid-length



Telephoto



1. Focal lengths

Use your zoom to capture the action

Learn how to set your focal lengths of your camera to get the best results

Whether you are using a DSLR, a simple compact camera, or even your smartphone, chances are you'll be able to zoom in on the action. For sports photography, this can be very useful.

Capturing what is going on sometimes means getting in close. Zoom in fully (the telephoto end of the zoom) to shoot close-up details or action that's happening far away from where you are positioned.

However, although a long and powerful zoom on your camera can ensure you can get up close wherever you're shooting from, capturing the wide-angle shots by not zooming in can often be a great way of putting the action into context with the entire event.



The zoom on a compact camera will usually be a lever on top of the camera. Use two fingers to zoom in if you're shooting with an iPhone

Does my camera do it?



DSLR

What's good about it...

✓ Lenses for DSLRs can be found in a range of focal lengths, often offering excellent image quality to match

What could be better...

✗ Longer zoom lenses can be very large and heavy, and are often very expensive



Compact system camera

What's good about it...

✓ Lots of zoom lenses are available, and some are compatible with DSLR lenses

What could be better...

✗ Like DSLRs, CSC lenses can be very expensive and too large to carry around all day



Compact camera

What's good about it...

✓ Many compacts and superzooms can now outreach most DSLR lenses

What could be better...

✗ Image quality can often deteriorate when using longer focal lengths



Cameraphone

What's good about it...

✓ Quick and easy to zoom in, and specialist lenses can give good magnification

What could be better...

✗ It's all digital zoom, so image quality will decrease when using longer focal lengths

2. Sports settings

Prepare any camera for shooting movement

Master the settings on your camera to help it keep up with your subject's activity

Capturing dynamic sports photos, freezing the action, and portraying the event doesn't have to rely on expensive equipment and professional techniques. Mastering the settings on your camera, and using them effectively will ensure you get the best shots every time.

Most cameras now come with a whole host of dedicated settings that are ideal for getting great action shots. A common scene mode within any camera is the sports setting, which speeds everything up to keep up with your subjects. Team this up with continuous autofocus and a high-speed burst mode and you'll be able to freeze your subjects with ease.

Shooting from different angles can give a new perspective on an otherwise dull shot



A monopod is ideal for sports photography as it's more mobile than a tripod



If you're shooting on a compact camera, for best results look out for this icon which indicates 'Sports mode'



Many cameras come with a 'burst mode' which will take several shots in quick succession, which is ideal for freezing action in sports photos. Look for an icon like this...



Technical tip

Using burst mode may see your memory card struggle, so try reducing your picture size so it can handle the load.

Jargon buster

Scene Modes

The scene modes of your camera are ready-made shooting modes that are designed for specific shooting situations. Setting a scene mode will tell the camera exactly what you are going to be photographing, leaving it to decide on the best possible settings for your subject.

Bad example

If you have manual controls on your camera, increase the shutter speed to avoid blurred shots like this



Good example

Using the perfect shutter speed can keep the subject in focus while maintaining the sensation of movement

Shooting skills

3. Freeze and blur action

Take control of advanced settings for better shots

Capture sports using different techniques for more dynamic action shots

There are two different ways to deal with motion in sports: one is to freeze it, portraying an exact moment in time, while the other is to keep a bit of that movement in your shot through motion blur. Simply freezing the action in the shot is not always enough to display the effort and sense of competition, and blurring the movement and presenting a sense of speed in your shots is an excellent technique for sports photography. Making use of the methods for freezing and blurring we show you over these pages can be all that's needed to turn basic images into sports shots to be proud of.

Technical tip

Capturing indoor events can be difficult. Experiment with scene modes and try boosting your ISO to capture the action.

Be aware of other spectators at an event – shoot through the gaps so they don't spoil your shots

Good example

✓ Using the correct technique will keep the subject in focus, with the background having lots of movement blur



4. Master panning

Convey some motion

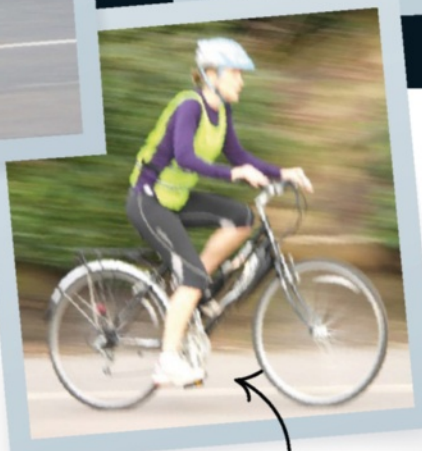
Move with your subject to give a sense of movement while keeping them sharp

Panning is a great way of portraying the action in your shots. It allows you to keep the main subject perfectly in focus and well exposed, while the background is washed away in a blur of motion.

Panning is a simple technique that relies on you mastering your own movement. You'll need a steady hand, or a monopod, and it may take a little bit of practice to get the technique right, but the results are worth it. Follow our tutorial and begin panning with perfection.

Bad example

✗ Although the background has some great movement, the subject is too blurry due to unwanted camera shake, which unfortunately ruins an otherwise great photo opportunity



Freeze motion



Good example

✓ By using a fast shutter speed the subject has been frozen perfectly in place, stopping the action at the right moment

To freeze motion, you'll need to set your camera to Shutter Priority and use a fast speed such as 1/125



01 Shutter speed

Although you'll need to use a fast shutter speed to keep the subject nice and sharp, you'll also need to keep it slow enough to allow for time to pan. Start with a speed of around 1/50sec and experiment depending on your subject.

Blur motion

Good example

✓ By using the right shutter speed, the movement of the scene has been captured while the main subject is frozen in place

Bad example

✗ Although there is movement in this shot, there is a lot of unwanted blur in the main subject

If you don't set the correct White Balance you'll end up with a colour cast like this!

Bad example

✗ In this shot the white of the subject has a colour cast, and the shot is too dark



In order to blur motion, you'll need to slow the shutter speed down to about 1/40sec but you'll need to hold the camera very still or use a tripod



02 AF mode

In order to keep the subject in focus while you are moving the camera, it is important to use a continuous auto-focus mode. If your camera has it, turn on focus tracking, which will track your subject as it moves across the frame.



03 Continuous burst

Although you will be panning with your subject, you will be taking more than one shot as they move across the frame. Using a continuous burst mode will allow you to take several shots as your subject flies past.



04 Stabilisation

To get the best possible results when it comes to panning you may need to find a way of keeping your camera still. Using a monopod will allow you to move your body and camera along with the subject, tracking them as they move past.



05 Action

Once you are ready to go, be sure to keep an eye on your subject as they enter the frame. As you begin to take your shots, gently sweep the camera along with the subject, being sure to keep a steady pace with them as they go past.

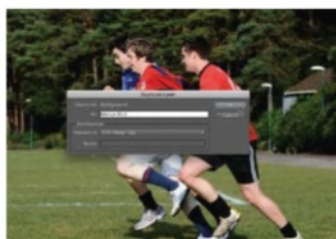
5. Editing

Fake a motion blur in Photoshop Elements

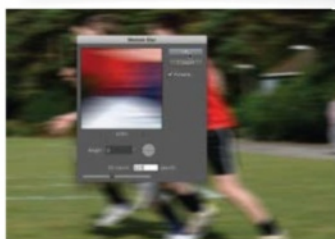
Follow these simple steps to create a sense of movement in your shot

Getting the right look of motion in your images can be a difficult technique to master. Fast-moving subjects are notoriously difficult to capture, and being prepared for the opportune moment can sometimes prove to be quite tricky.

However, there is no reason why your action shots can't be given the panning effect. Simple editing techniques can be used to apply some motion blur to the background of your shot, allowing you to instil a sense of movement in the image.



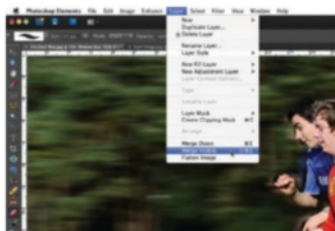
01 Duplicate the layer
Duplicating your layer lets you apply effects and edit the shot without affecting the original. It also gives you a simpler way of applying a motion blur. Simply right click on the background layer and select Duplicate Layer.



02 Motion Blur
Go to Filter>Blur>Motion Blur. From here you can choose the intensity of the blur, as well as change the direction. Align the motion with the subject's direction of travel and choose a distance to match the subject's speed.



03 Quick Selection
The main subject needs to be perfectly sharp. Reduce the opacity on the top layer and use the Quick Selection tool to carefully draw around the subject. A dotted line will appear around the edge of your subject to show the area selected.



04 Erase and finish
With the subject selected, simply delete the selected area. This will remove the subject from the motion blur layer, putting it back in sharp focus. Merging the two layers together will give you your finished motion-blur shot.



“Teaching yourself to keep an eye on the action through the camera will save precious seconds”



To get a sharp motion shot like this, you'll need to use a fast shutter speed

Surfers tend to move from one end of the beach to another - be prepared to move with them otherwise you'll miss the shot!



Get down low and shoot up to create interesting shots like this one



6. Top ten tips

Follow these tricks for better action photos

Professional photographer Jordan Weeks shares his advice for great sports shots

Sports photography as a genre covers a huge area, with lots of techniques needed to capture a wide range of subjects. A lot of these principles can be applied to most action shots, but getting the best out of each opportunity takes time and patience.

We spoke to professional sports photographer Jordan Weeks to get his top ten tips on how to get your best action photos. Jordan explains that it is as much your ability to control your camera as it is to consider your subject in order to capture stunning shots. For more of Jordan's images, head to www.jordanweeks.com.

01 Shutter speed

Think about the effect you want. A slow shutter speed will help to create a sense of movement with blur, whereas a fast shutter speed will give a pin-sharp, crisp shot.

02 Depth of field

Assess whether the background will be a distraction. Use a large aperture of f5.6 or less to blur out the background, or to keep it sharp use a narrow aperture setting of around f22.

03 Research your subject

It's a good idea to research and understand the sports which you photograph, so that you can predict when the action is about to take place.

04 Plan your photo shoots

Prepare in advance. Grab a notepad and plan the photos you want to take. Think about angles and check the weather!

05 Move with the subject

Don't be afraid to follow the action. When photographing surfers, for instance, they zip quickly across the beach, so move with them or else you'll miss the shot.

06 Autofocus vs manual focus

Autofocus can be great, but often you'll need to set your focus manually on one point, then take the shot when the subject enters this 'focus zone'.

07 Watch the action through the camera itself

Teaching yourself to keep an eye on the action through your camera and instinctively hitting the shutter at the right time will save precious seconds.

08 Be patient

Sports photography requires a lot of patience. You'll often find that you're hanging around waiting for a long time. Just try to be patient and use the time to learn more about the sport which you're shooting.

09 Go prepared

Sometimes when photographing sports, it can be an all-day event. Take some food, drink and suitable clothing.

10 Tripods are optional

You'll need a tripod for a big (and heavy) lens, but smaller lenses are no bad thing because they let you get up close and move freely with the action.

Shooting skills



*You'll need a tripod
if you're using
manual modes!*

Low-light shooting

Learn how to take your best low-light shots with our simple guide

Low-light photography can be applied to a broad range of subjects, and as such it's something that deserves a good deal of attention. It can encompass anything from sunrise and night time landscapes, all the way through to indoor group photos and simple snaps at home. It is therefore something that photographers of all abilities will come across, and something that most of us will have struggled with.

Photography in general very much depends on the available light, as it is the light that completely alters the way a shot will look. There are always specific times of day for the optimum shot in natural light.

However, much of the time we cannot control what time we shoot at, and there will always be situations when we're taking photos indoors.

It is particularly difficult to capture a great shot in much darker conditions. Even if you're using the most advanced cameras and the different lighting systems available, taking your best photographs in low light can be a real challenge.

However, taking control of your camera, altering the settings accordingly and making use of what light there is available will help you to get some excellent photos in difficult conditions.

Over the next few pages: We give you some great tips on how to deal with low light in any situation



Taken on a...
DSLR

What's good about it...

✓ A long shutter speed coupled with a graduated filter allowed for rich colours

What could be better...

✗ Few dedicated scene modes meant it was difficult to quickly get a good shot



Taken on a...
Cameraphone

What's good about it...

✓ By using an app with different scene modes we were able to get good colours

What could be better...

✗ The detail in the brighter areas has been blown out, losing some of the detail



Taken on a...
Compact camera

What's good about it...

✓ Varying scene modes allowed us to interchange and experiment

What could be better...

✗ We couldn't take control of the shutter speed, so the colours weren't as rich



Taken on a...
Compact system camera

What's good about it...

✓ Using a longer shutter speed meant we could capture the intense colours

What could be better...

✗ Limited filters; a graduated filter would have given more foreground detail

5 steps to... Better low-light shots

Use these tips to make better use of low-light situations



Go from this underexposed shot...

To this candle-lit portrait!

Jargon buster

ISO

The ISO setting determines the camera's sensitivity to light. A higher ISO value (eg 1600) will enable the camera to produce a brighter image in darker conditions. This can, however, give the shot a grainy and unpleasant texture.

01 Get inspired

Low light can be a hindrance to some shots, but it inspires a whole photography subject at the same time. There are plenty of opportunities to get creative with what light is available.

02 Sunrise & sunset

Dawn and dusk are popular times at which to shoot. Sunrises and sunsets are two of the most common types of low-light photographs, but can present a variety of problems.

03 Settings

A large number of problems that occur when shooting in low light can be overcome with better use of different settings. Take control of your camera and get the most out of low-light situations.

04 Interiors

Low-light interior images are also very common, and they can pose many problems. However, there are some easy tips to follow that will help with any shot.

05 Editing

For those times when your shot didn't quite come out how you had hoped, we're sharing some quick fixes for common errors that occur when shooting in low light.



1. Get inspired

Learn how to get creative with your low-light photography

It's easy to think there is nothing to photograph in low light, but there are many subjects and creative options to get involved with

Evenings, night times, and even indoor events can put us off taking our cameras out. They are notoriously hard to capture, and often leave us with a host of blurry and unpleasant photos. However, there is no reason why you can't take control of your camera to get the shot you want, as well as use the darker surroundings to your advantage.

There are plenty of quick fixes for low light, most notably automatic scene modes. You can also take full control of your camera and discover creative ways to shoot in low light, as well as ways to deal with the tricky conditions to get the shot you want.

Don't neglect the evenings, late nights, or even indoor functions. By stretching your camera's capabilities, as well as using the light available to you, there are endless possibilities for stunning shots.

3 of the most common... Mistakes for indoor shots



Always using flash

When shooting in low light, it's easy to switch on the flash to light up the scene. However, this can create harsh shadows.



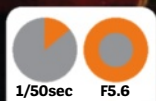
Focusing problems

A camera can struggle to focus in low light. Ensure the focus is set correctly, so the camera exposes for the correct part of the photo.



Auto ISO

Leaving your camera on auto ISO can sometimes mean it's overused, producing bright but grainy images. Use in moderation.



Shooting skills

2. Sunrise & sunset

Learn how to capture a stunning sky

Sunrises and sunsets can be hard to capture, but getting them right is very rewarding

There are many factors that can affect the type of sunrise or sunset you capture, but location, the weather conditions and time will be the biggest problems to overcome when trying to capture a great shot.

Sunsets are very accessible, especially around winter. Earlier evenings mean you're more likely to be outside when the sun begins to set. Sunrises, however, can be difficult to capture, as they may clash with your lie-in. However, there is little more rewarding than capturing a great sunrise on camera, so why not get up early and take advantage of the great morning light?

You'll need a long exposure (around 5sec) to capture enough light



3 of the most common... Landscape errors

● Wonky horizon

The wonky horizon can detract from the image. Make sure you use a tripod or spirit level to ensure your landscape shots are straight.



● Too much foreground

This shot has too much foreground, resulting in dead space with no real focal point.

● Overexposed

Focusing on the foreground in Auto mode will often result in an overexposed sky.

✓ Using a focal point

By using a main focal point, reflections of the water and a correctly exposed sky we have created a great sunrise shot



💡 Technical tip

Set a low ISO and use a high f-number to ensure very little noise with everything in focus. This requires a tripod.

✓ Using lead-in lines

Some foreground interest and a lead-in line guides the eyes through the scene and onto the sunrise.

Capture sunset on a compact

Utilise the built-in scene modes for a great shot



01 Tripod

Even using a compact camera can require a tripod. They are essential bits of kit for landscape and low-light shots. Smaller tripods are ideal for compacts as they are easy to transport.



02 Shooting mode

With a compact camera it is tempting to simply leave it on Auto. However, due to the many colours of the sky and the fast-changing light, this is often not suitable for sunrises and sunsets.



03 Scene selection

Almost all compacts come with an abundance of scene modes. Many now have dedicated shooting modes for sunrises and sunsets, but a night time or even landscape scene mode will improve your shot.

3. Settings

Use the best settings to achieve the best results

Make sure you know which camera settings to use and when to use them

Most newer cameras, including the more advanced compact system cameras, now come with built-in automatic scene modes. These are designed to suit any situation and provide the best settings for the shot. These are excellent if you simply want to focus on the subject and fine-tune your composition.

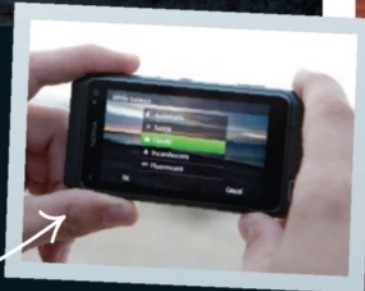
However, if you want to take more control of how your shot comes out,

you'll need to shy away from the automatic modes and get to grips with manual shooting. It is worth noting, though, that various settings will require other considerations.

A shot like the one below will require a slower shutter speed and a high f-number, which will keep everything in focus, but it will also require you to use a tripod to keep the image sharp.

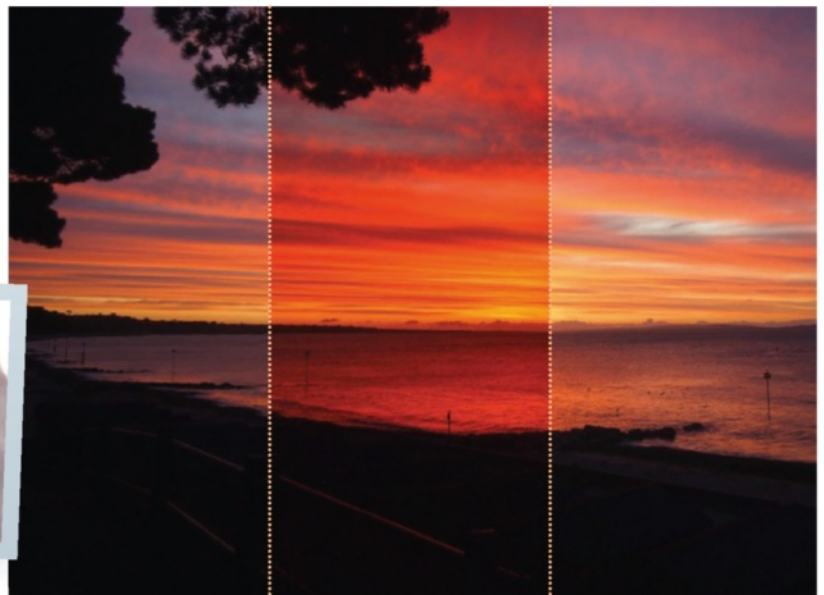


Some smartphones, such as this Nokia N8, now include scene modes



04 Taking the shot

Before taking your shot, make sure you have securely set up your tripod for a nice straight shot. Test out a few different angles and play with the available scene modes to get the best out of the situation.



Automatic settings

Creative art filters as well as full auto modes can produce perfectly good shots. However, the camera will not know what subject you are photographing, so it will be unable to optimise the settings.

Does your camera do it?

- ✗ DSLR
- ✓ Compact system camera
- ✓ Compact camera
- ✓ Cameraphone

Sunset scene modes

An automatic scene mode tells the camera to apply the ideal settings for the scene. With a sunrise or sunset it boosts the saturation, making the sky more colourful and striking.

Does your camera do it?

- ✓ DSLR
- ✓ Compact system camera
- ✓ Compact camera
- ✗ Cameraphone

Manual settings

Manual modes are more difficult to use and only come on advanced cameras. They give you more control over how the shot turns out, so you can bring out the detail where you want it.

Does your camera do it?

- ✓ DSLR
- ✓ Compact system camera
- ✗ Compact camera
- ✗ Cameraphone

Shooting skills

4. Interiors

Master low-light interior shots

Capture some great interior shots, even in difficult conditions

Interiors of buildings are notoriously difficult to photograph well for a number of reasons. They are usually badly lit and have lots of dark areas, while the lighting that is there is artificial, making it very hard to expose correctly.

Some simple settings changes on your camera can make a huge difference to the final shot. Boosting your ISO and adjusting the white balance to the correct setting will help you to capture the shot, as will using a wide aperture and a slower shutter speed.

Using your flash correctly can be a quick fix when shooting interiors, but in some situations it will simply light up the foreground subject, and is therefore not always ideal.

Jargon buster

White balance

Each digital camera will have a variety of white balance settings, all designed for different shooting conditions. The correct white balance will adjust how the camera sees the whites in the scene and then it'll change the colours of the scene accordingly.



5. Editing

Quick fixes for low-light problems

If your photo doesn't turn out how you'd like, these tips will help rescue your shot

Although there are many ways to deal with low-light situations, there are always times when your shot doesn't come out how you wanted it and you can't retake it. Shooting in RAW format will allow you to rescue your images quite easily; however, there are lots of quick and easy ways to bring an image back to life in Photoshop Elements.



01 Shadows and Highlights

This shot has come out too dark, with darker areas accentuated by the brighter candles. Shadows and Highlights will boost the lighting in the shadows, while reducing the intensity of the brighter candles. Don't boost too much, though.



No flash means this image is noisy and slightly blurred



✓ Use your flash to avoid blur

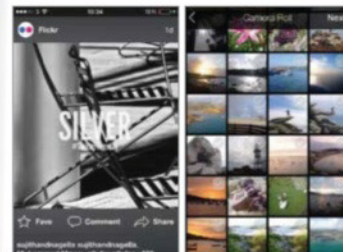
Flash is very helpful for indoor shots as it will reduce noise and blur, but be careful as it can bleach out areas of your image. If you wish to shoot without it you can slow the shutter speed or boost the ISO.

✓ Candlelit portraits

This is a prime example of a low-light situation, but one that would be ruined with a flash. Try to adjust your settings to keep the subject bright, but the flames correctly exposed.



Upload shots to Flickr from your iPhone

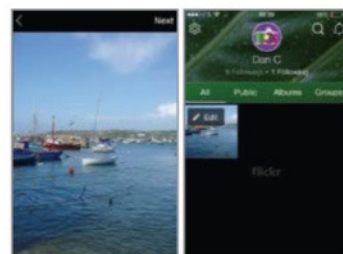


01 Open Flickr

Open the Flickr app on your iPhone and make sure you're logged in. Tap the camera icon along the bottom.

02 Photos

Give Flickr access to your images and you can select one to upload from your phone's photo albums.



03 Edit

The Flickr app allows you to edit your images and add info such as a title and description. When ready, hit 'Post'.

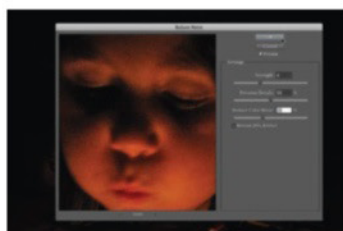
04 Upload

It should only take a few seconds to upload your photo, but it depends on your internet connection.



02 Brightness and Contrast

Now open up Brightness and Contrast to further adjust the look of the photo. This enables you to raise the lighting of the image as a whole. Using the contrast will also help to restore any darker detail lost through raising the light levels.



03 Noise reduction

Once happy with the look, open up the noise reduction feature. A low-light shot will contain lots of grainy noise, which will become more visible as you brighten it. Using noise reduction will help remove some of the grain and bring back the detail of the photo.



04 Crop

Cropping is simple but very useful, especially for low-light shots. This image contains a large amount of dark space, which surrounds the main subjects. By cropping out this unwanted darkness, the image looks brighter and the composition is stronger.



Technical tip

You'll only be able to upload on location if you have an internet connection. If not, just save the photo for later.

Shoot architecture

Develop an eye for architecture, making everyday buildings look extraordinary

Architecture is a broad subject, spanning castles and grand estates, to office blocks and churches. It's so easily accessible that it's unsurprisingly one of the most popular genres of photography. Like any subject, however, there are some helpful techniques that apply to any type of building to make your shots all the more impressive.

The fact that the subject is stationary is an advantage, but being at the mercy of changing light and weather conditions can confuse matters. Try heading out with your camera early in the morning when places tend to be less busy and when the lighting is at its best. Architectural photography isn't

just about the surface details so venture inside and practise capturing images indoors. This might mean switching the flash off if you are inside a church or cathedral, and you might need to consider taking a tripod with you.

Lighting is the key to all good photography; it sets the mood and brings inanimate objects to life. There really is no time frame for shooting architecture, because you'll find that buildings come alive after dark with neon signs and street lamps. This feature will help you get to grips with this rewarding genre that's accessible to everyone, no matter where they live.

Over the next few pages: Get inspired and learn all about composition, settings, cityscapes and editing your images



Taken on a...
Cameraphone

What's good about it...

✓ There are plenty of apps to play with to enhance the character of the building

What could be better...

✗ The lens isn't as wide-angle as some camera lenses, so composition is limited



Taken on a...
Compact camera

What's good about it...

✓ Pocketable and portable for outdoor, architectural shooting

What could be better...

✗ Low light architectural shots can suffer from noise with smaller sensors



Taken on a...
Compact system camera

What's good about it...

✓ Some have flexible LCD screens for capturing dramatic angles

What could be better...

✗ Lack of optical viewfinder so you will have to rely on the screen



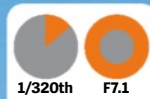
Taken on a...
DSLR

What's good about it...

✓ A range of manual modes, lenses and filters available

What could be better...

✗ Different lenses mean different sized filters, which can be expensive



Jargon buster

Tilt-shift lens

A tilt-shift lens prevents distortion by shifting upwards to fit more of a building in the frame, without holding the camera at an angle. It makes parts of the frame blurred even when subjects are at the same distance from the camera, which is what creates the miniature effect you get with tilt-shift lenses.

Don't limit yourself to buildings; bridges and gates count, too. Come back at sunset for dramatic shadows

Learn how to... Improve your architecture shots

Discover the best settings and compositions to capture amazing architectural shots

01 Get inspired

All buildings are different, so inject personality into each one by using different techniques. Think about shots creatively – you don't even need to have the building as the main focus.

02 Composition

Lie on the floor or climb up high to capture exciting angles. Zoom in really close and pick out interesting details or patterns for some striking abstract images.

03 Settings

Practise using your camera's manual modes on the local area, or even your own house, before venturing out to your chosen location.

04 Architecture in the city

Cities are packed full of visually interesting buildings, both old and new. Modern architecture makes for fantastic close-ups.

05 Editing

Make buildings appear miniature by using a tilt-shift lens, or fake this popular effect for free using editing software; we show you what to do post-shoot.

01

02

Scout out the building to find out what its most interesting features are, and try to capture these



03



✓ Get the right exposure

With the right settings, the exposure is balanced. Here we've used a high f number to keep every part of the image in focus.

✗ Over exposed

This shot is blown out (over exposed), and a faster shutter speed and a higher f-number is needed here.



04



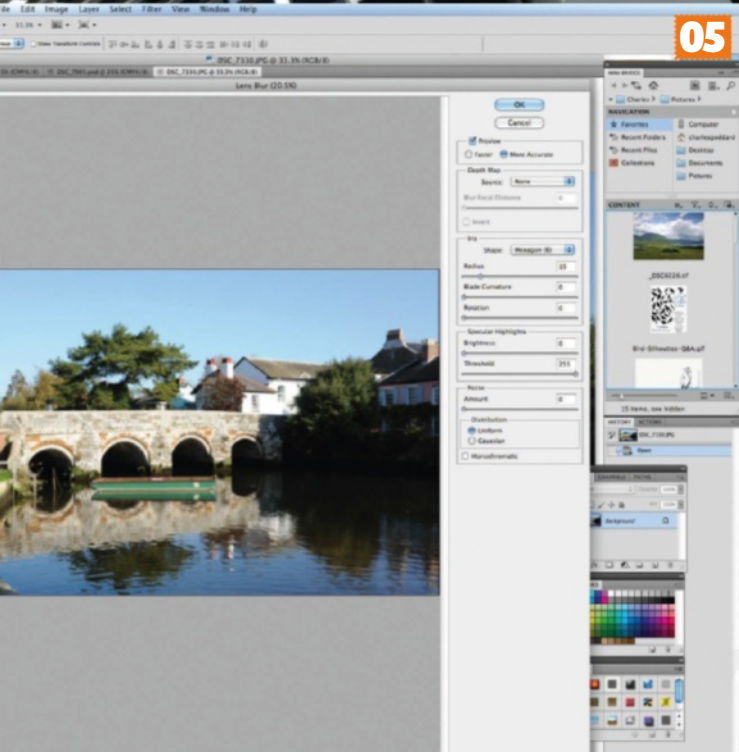
1. Inspiration

Fantastic architecture is all around us – learn to see it

Take a closer look at the buildings around you for photographs with personality

Next time you notice a building that captures your eye, really examine it for what makes it special. Is it the way the light is falling across it, illuminating the colours of the brick and adding texture to the nooks and crannies? Do the windows create patterns, or are there curious details like gargoyles that leap off the building's façade?

Find out what you admire about the structure, and compose your shot in order to highlight it. This might mean zooming in close to a specific detail, or pulling right back to include the surrounding area. Remember that architecture photography is not just about buildings. Nearby water can create beautiful reflections, and winding paths will help to guide the viewer's eyes to the main point of interest. Try visiting the location at different times of the day, especially at sunset where the shadows are long and artificial lights play with the appearance of the architecture.



05

Shooting skills

2. Composition

Learn how to compose your shots effectively

Add drama to your images by playing with angles and distances

Take one interesting-looking construction and try capturing it from at least five different angles. This will help you to realise the different effects you can create, and you'll find the images have more impact as a result.

When you peer up at a tall structure, you'll notice that the vertical walls start to meet each other. This is a natural distortion and it's not something to fear. Towers, for example, look imposing and strong when captured this way, creating drama in your shot. However, if you'd rather avoid this, try taking the photo from a distance. You can use the camera's zoom to bring the building closer, or you could crop post-shoot.

Jargon buster

Rule of thirds

This is a tried-and-tested composition technique that makes the final image appear balanced, and adds impact to the subject. Achieve this by imagining the image is divided into thirds – vertically and horizontally – and positioning the point of interest (such as the building) on a point where the lines would meet. Remember that this works with all genres of photography.



Capture the smaller details of a building for some really stunning abstract shots

Technical tip

When composing your shot, ensure the horizon line is straight. Press your camera's Display button to call up guiding lines to help you.

Add context to your shot by zooming right out and including the foreground

3 of the most common... Architecture errors



X Framing

Think about your subject's position within the frame. This picture feels off-balance.



X Horizon

Try and get the horizon line straight in-camera because you lose detail when correcting in Photoshop.



X Over exposed

This shot is over-exposed and needs a smaller aperture to let less light through. Try f5.6 or higher.

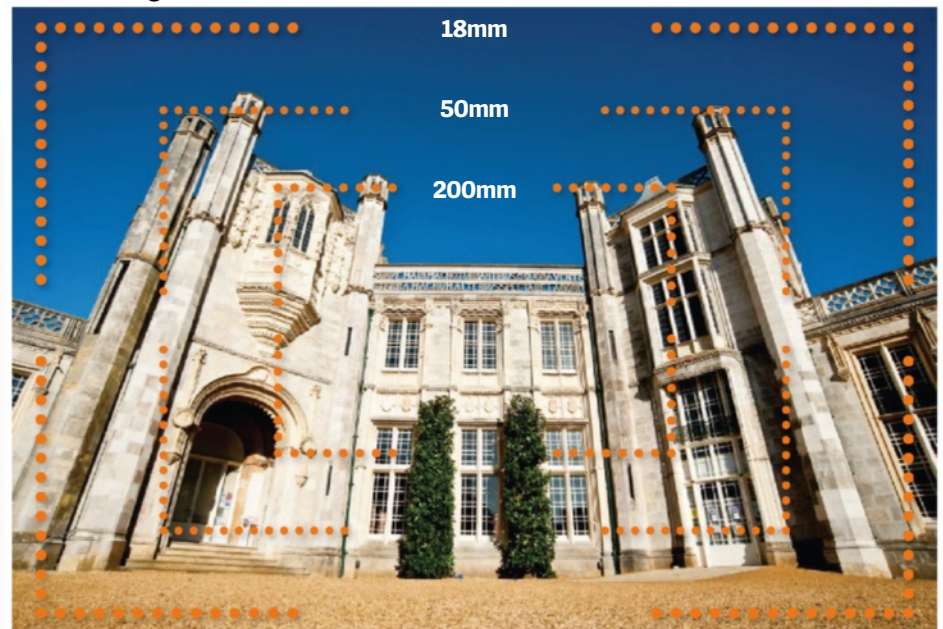
3. Settings

Optimum settings for architecture

Shoot the perfect architecture picture by using these very straightforward tips on exposure, white balance and focal length

Twist the mode dial to Aperture Priority and select a high f-number (narrow aperture). This will ensure that objects in the foreground, middle ground and distance are in focus. Then select Auto white balance so that you don't need to worry about this. Set the ISO no higher than 400 to maintain image quality and make sure the shutter speed is faster than 1/250sec for handheld shooting. Use your lens at its widest angle (such as 18mm) to try to fit in as much of the building as possible, or zoom in to focus on details. The diagram below shows what elements of our building we can see at different focal lengths.

Focal length



Taking the shots

✓ Angles

Kneel or lie on the floor to get a low angle. This can result in the building looking grand and rather imposing.



✓ Shutter speed

A high shutter speed will help keep shots sharp when hand holding the camera.

✓ Aperture Priority

Set your camera to Aperture Priority if possible, and use a high f-number to keep all the details in focus.



✓ Keep it steady

A wall or fence to lean on will keep your arms steady and help keep shots pin-sharp.



Venture inside the building and practise your low-light shooting skills. Cathedrals make great subject matter, inside and out

Shooting skills

4. In the city

Get creative in the city centre

Admire the mix of old and new, and start shooting stunning cityscapes

In the city, there's usually a healthy mix of grand, long-standing structures and modern elements, so there will be plenty of photo opportunities. You can afford to be more experimental with newer creations by cropping in close to show off the unusual design. Use natural frames like over-hanging branches and iron gates to highlight your subject, and use staircases and roads as leading lines that naturally recede towards your main subject.

City centres are designed to look exciting at night. Buildings are illuminated with vibrant coloured lights and cast interesting shadows. For low-light shooting, use a tripod to prevent camera shake and set the ISO to a higher setting, such as 400 or above.



Close-ups of contemporary architecture pack a visual punch; zoom in on the parts that catch your eye

Technical tip

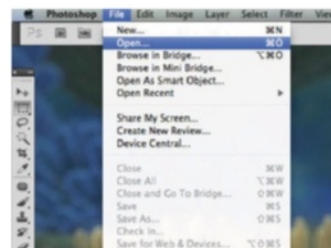
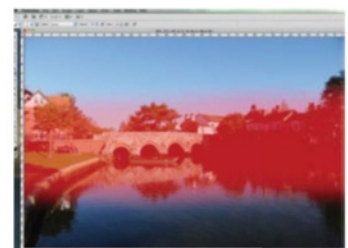
To minimise camera shake without a tripod, lean your elbows against a wall or post to give you some additional support, or tuck in your arms.

5. Editing

Add a tilt-shift effect

Create a toy town look by following these steps

Tilt-shift lenses are a pricey addition to your kit bag, but you can create the effect simply and cheaply using your editing software. The effect is known as Miniature mode, Toy Town effect, and Diorama mode, and some cameras have it as a Creative Scene mode. If not, it's easy to achieve in Photoshop by using the lens blur filter. The finished effect makes the objects in the scene look tiny, emphasised by the blur that surrounds the edges. These steps will show you how to achieve this fun and creative effect.



01 Open your image
Launch Photoshop and open your image. Some photos work better than others with this effect, but always try to shoot from 45-degrees above, because it enhances the appearance of looking down on a miniature model. Our image was taken at a distance, which looks just as effective.

02 Quickmask mode
Press Q on your keyboard for Quickmask, and G to select the Gradient tool. From the top tool bar, select Reflected Gradient and draw a line from the area you want to be in focus across to the area you want to appear blurry. This area will turn red and this part of the image will be in focus.

Shoot both portrait and landscape orientation to see which works best

Perch yourself high or crouch down on your knees for creative angles



Experiment with angles and don't be afraid to break the rules; this modern building looks abstract and striking with a wonky horizon

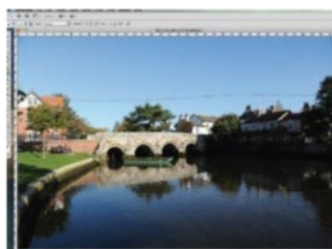
Jargon buster

Wide-angle lens

A lens is considered 'wide-angle' when its focal length is less than 35mm, which gives a wider field of view and therefore fits more detail into the image. Wide-angle lenses generally have a close minimum focusing distance too, which gives a whole range of shooting possibilities. You can access the wide-angle setting on a compact camera when the lens is fully zoomed out. Newer cameras tend to come with an ultra-wide setting of around 24mm or less.



03 Exit Quickmask
Hit Q on your keyboard to exit Quickmask mode, and make your mask a selection. Go to Filters>Blur>Lens Blur and play with the settings in the box until you are happy. By increasing the Radius, you will increase the blur effect, but remember to make sure the 'Invert' option is not ticked.



04 View the selection
You can get rid of the selection areas that look like marching ants by pressing Ctrl + D on your keyboard. If you are not completely satisfied with the image, simply go to Edit>Undo the effect, and go back to step 2 of this tutorial, but place the line in a different part of the image this time.



05 Colour pop
Boost the colours to brighten the scene and enhance the toy-town look by clicking Image>Adjustments>Curves, and plot a curvy S-shape on the graph. This will make the colours pop. Use the preview screen to check the effects of your experimenting until happy, and then click 'OK'.

3 of the best... iPhone apps for shooting



Pro HDR

It enables you to take three or more shots individually and combines them to create a single HDR image.



Magic Shutter

This allows you to use longer shutter speeds on your iPhone, which is perfect for low-light, indoor photography.



360 Panorama

It takes less than 30 seconds to shoot a 360-degree panorama. Send them to people to quickly show off your surroundings.

3 of the best... iPhone apps for editing



Camera+

This app comes with contrast and levels adjustment, as well as anti-shake features for improving casual shots.



Filterstorm

An adjustment app that comes with cloning tools, as well as noise reduction and selective adjustment with brushes.



MonoPhix

This app converts colour images to monochrome. It has vignetting, grain reduction or enhancement and contrast adjustment.

3 of the best... iPhone apps for sharing



PicPlz

Take your shot, add a filter, and send to friends by uploading to PicPlz.com, or connecting to Facebook or Twitter.



Burstn

This shoot-and-share app comes with a tilt-shift effect, which is ideal for architecture images. You can control who you share it with.



Flickr

Flickr users can upload straight to the site by using the Flickr app. Share, save and comment as well as view your contacts' photos.

Black and white

You'll discover new opportunities when you look through black-and-white eyes

Black-and-white photography can look really stunning. It can work in all weather conditions, indoors or outside, and with lots of different subjects. This is because images without any colour rely on the light and contrast to produce the depth and interest in the shot. Subjects with a vast contrast range work especially well, and this means looking for any subject with a large variation of tones from pure white to pitch black, and everything in between.

Considering the available sunlight or enhancing it with your flash can be a great way of boosting the contrast for black-and-white photos. Think about adding in a harsh

side light for portraits or shooting on an overcast day for landscapes so you have lots of white, grey and dark tones in the sky to later enhance.

Creating black-and-white photos can be very simple, and there are now a variety of ways in which it can be done. Using a preset camera mode is the easiest, as it enables you to see the final shot straight away.

However, even with black-and-white photos, the colour range still affects how the final shot looks. Therefore simply taking a colour image and using editing software to remove and edit the colour tones can often give you the best results.

Over the next few pages: Learn what to look for and how to shoot amazing monochrome photos



Taken on a...
Cameraphone

What's good about it...

- ✓ There are lots of apps designed to shoot in and convert to black and white

What could be better...

- ✗ Due to the smaller sensor, the image loses a lot of quality during conversion



Taken on a...
Compact camera

What's good about it...

- ✓ Most compacts come with specific black-and-white scene modes

What could be better...

- ✗ The sensor can lack good detail and colour range, compromising the quality



Taken on a...
Compact system camera

What's good about it...

- ✓ Most CSCs have art filters that give B&W shots a dramatic look

What could be better...

- ✗ Some filters can negatively affect the quality of the shot



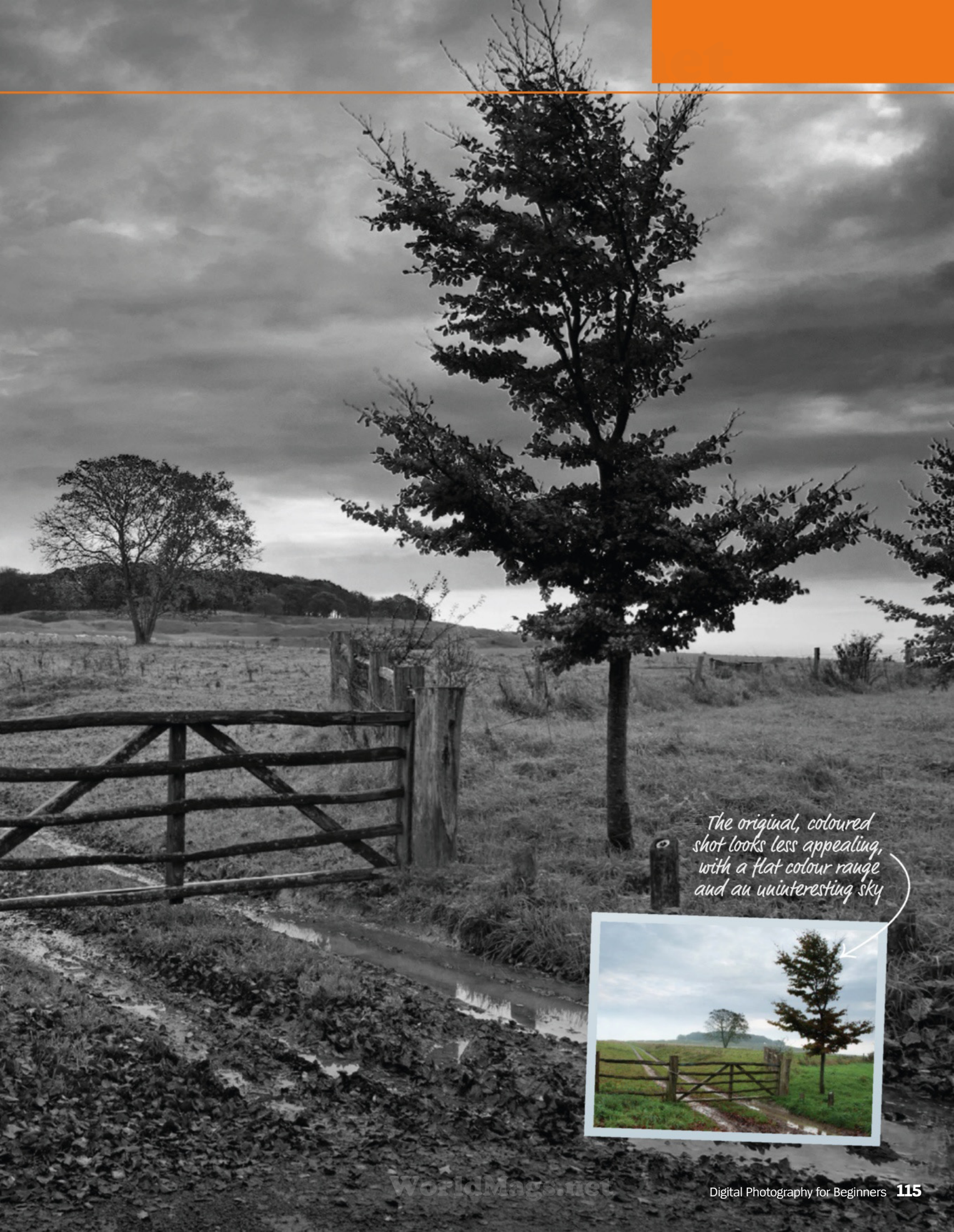
Taken on a...
DSLR

What's good about it...

- ✓ Dedicated B&W modes, while the large sensor helps to retain the detail of the shot

What could be better...

- ✗ We still needed to convert the RAW image in editing software for the best results



The original, coloured shot looks less appealing, with a flat colour range and an uninteresting sky



5 steps to... Great black-and-white shots

Follow these steps to improve
your black-and-white photos



*Go from this simple
coloured shot...*

*To this unusual
but excellent
black-and-
white photo!*

Jargon buster

Contrast

The contrast of a photo refers to the tones of the subject, which range from white to grey to black, or from the lightest to the darkest tone. A photo with white or black areas is referred to as a high-contrast scene, and one with mostly grey tones is a low-contrast scene.

01 Inspiration

Black-and-white photography can work well with many subjects, and you can improve the overall look of many shots by removing all of the colour from the scene.

02 Landscapes

Landscapes are very popular in black-and-white photography as the many different tones and colours in the scene can be enhanced when converted to black and white.

03 Settings

There are many specific shooting modes available for black and white, and, depending on the camera, there are creative art filters that can enhance the look even further.

04 Portraits

Removing the colour from a portrait can remove any distractions from the shot, as well as draw attention to the expression and details of the subject's face.

05 Editing

Some of the greatest black-and-white photos are created by removing the colour in an image-editing program post-shoot. We show you the best techniques for creative conversions.



1. Inspiration

Use black-and-white photography to your advantage

There are lots of subjects that lend themselves to being shot in black and white, with the lack of colour enhancing the shot

Black-and-white photography may seem like an easy technique to master; however, it is not suited to every subject, and can often be used in the wrong context, leading to flat and dull images. Many photographs will lack the colour and contrast range suitable for effectively converting to black and white.

Photographs with a large amount of textural detail are also great for black and white, as the conversion will bring out the details in all areas of the shot, from the main focal point of the image, right through to any background interest.

Black and white can also be used to enhance a photo, removing the colour as a distraction from the main subject and bringing all the focus to where it is intended. This works well in shots that have an uncontrolled and potentially distracting background.

3 of the most common... Uses for black and white



Landscapes

Landscapes often hold a vast tonal and contrast range, and are therefore suited to black-and-white conversions.



Portraits

Portraits are excellent for black and white, as removing the colour from the shot can create softer and more flattering skin tones.



Abstract

Abstract photos can vary greatly in subject matter, but removing the colour can draw attention to the intricate details of the object.



Shooting skills

2. Landscapes

Use black and white to enhance a landscape

Weather given you a dull sky? Discover how black and white can rescue your shot

Landscapes are great for black-and-white photography, mainly due to their large tonal range. Converting landscapes to black and white will also enhance the details of the scene, and can often be used as a tool for rescuing unflattering skies.

The sky in any shot is very important, but even more so when shooting black and white. A plain, boring sky will convert into a dull, white sky, which can leave an image looking flat. Overcast skies with a lot of cloud formations will contain a large amount of contrast, which is perfect for black and white, as we show in our example here...

X Lack of contrast

This image lacks tonal contrast when shot in black and white – the sheep blend into the background. This results in a flat and rather uninteresting image.



Set your camera to Creative or Art mode to find a black & white filter

Use an app such as B+W Camera or Instagram

💡 Technical tip

With black-and-white photos, the lighting is everything. Try using the sunlight to add depth and detail to your shot.



3. Settings

Utilise the settings available to get the best results

Experiment with the different filters as well as converting to see which produces the best shot

There are two main ways to create black-and-white images – in-camera art filters or post-shoot image editing. Many digital cameras now come with a host of dedicated scene modes and art filters, including black-and-white. These modes seek to remove the colour and boost the contrast of the shot. Sepia mode is a popular one and seeks to recreate an old Sepia film effect whilst many

cameras also offer Grainy Film mode that convert to mono and add a noise grain, like old film photos.

However, many photographers still choose to ignore these automatic modes and convert their colour shots to black and white using image-editing software post shoot.

We find out whether in-camera effects or image editing gives the best results below.



✓ Find some foreground

Using foreground interest will add more depth to your scene. A tree silhouetted against the sky will provide some sharp contrast.

3 of the most common... Black & white errors

● No detail

Lack of detail isn't great for shooting black and white. Avoid cloudless or overcast days and go out when there are a few clouds in the sky.



● **No focal point**
There is no main point of interest to this scene.

● **Tonally flat**
With only 2 blocks of colour, this shot is tonally flat and not ideal for black and white.



Sepia mode

Sepia mode is a creative filter that can be found on a large number of cameras. It gives the photo a retro effect, replicating the look of old film photos using a distinctive brown-tinted monochrome colour.

Does your camera do it?

- ✗ DSLR
- ✓ Compact system camera
- ✓ Compact camera
- ✓ Cameraphone

Film Grain mode

Film Grain mode removes the colour from the shot while boosting the blacks. It replicates the look of an old film, adding in a grainy look as well as boosting the contrast to enhance the shot.

Does your camera do it?

- ✗ DSLR
- ✓ Compact system camera
- ✓ Compact camera
- ✓ Cameraphone

Converted from colour

Converting the image from colour is a common technique. It enables you to control the different colour levels, boosting areas to enhance the photo. However, this process is time consuming.

Does your camera do it?

- ✓ DSLR
- ✓ Compact system camera
- ✓ Compact camera
- ✓ Cameraphone

Shooting skills

4. Portraits

Shoot portraits for black and white

With the right lighting, any portrait can look excellent in black and white

Portraits are very popular in black-and-white photography. Converting a portrait to black and white can soften and enhance the skin tones, as well as enhance the details in the facial expression. Babies and older people can work particularly well with wrinkles and skin textures being enhanced, but any subject can work as we will show you.

Removing the colour from the photo will help to achieve more flattering lighting, as well as help to remove any distractions from the background. It can also draw attention to the main focal point of the image – the subject's eyes.

Portrait photos can also benefit from the use of different shooting effects, such as high and low-key lighting, which adjusts the direction and strength of the lighting of the scene, and can be achieved using in-camera modes or using lighting like flash effects.

Jargon buster

High and low key

High-key images are generally those that contain mostly lighter tones, whereas low-key images contain darker tones and colours. High and low-key effects can be enhanced using dedicated scene and art modes, enabling you to boost the tones of the scene.



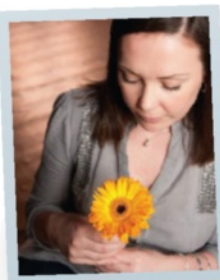
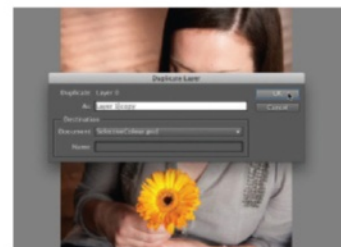
5. Editing

Use black-and-white conversions creatively

Add a touch of colour in Elements with our selective colouring tutorial

Selective colouring is the process of converting an image to black and white, while choosing a specific part of it to retain its colour.

This technique highlights the coloured object as the focal point of the photo. This leaves the rest of the photo without colour to frame and draws particular attention to the chosen subject. Experiment to see what works!



01 Duplicate layer

Duplicate the background layer to create a black-and-white layer and carry out adjustments on this second layer, thus not altering the original. It also means you can erase the unwanted black-and-white areas of the second shot.



High-key and low-key scene modes work well for black-and-white portraits

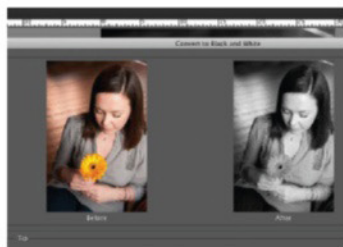


✓ High key

Using a high-key scene mode, we were able to slightly overexpose the highlights of this scene, bringing out the details in the lighter tones, while boosting the effect of the ambient light on the subject.

✓ Low key

By facing the subject towards the light and using the low-key shooting mode, we were able to underexpose the background, losing some of the detail but drawing all attention to the subject's face.



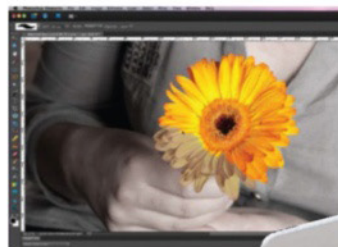
02 Convert

Select the new layer. Go to Enhance>Convert to black and white to open a dialog box to adjust the colour channels. Use the sliders to experiment with different lighting tones, and ensure your image is set correctly before proceeding.



03 Reduce the opacity

With the new layer still selected, use the Opacity tool to adjust how much of the new layer can be seen. You'll be able to view the colours of the original image more easily, and also see which parts of the new layer you are removing.



04 Erase

Using the Eraser tool, erase the black-and-white areas that you wish to restore colour to. Return opacity of the black-and-white layer to normal and merge the layers together.

Shoot, edit and share B&W shots on the go

3 of the best...

Apps for shooting black and white



Camera+

Included in a vast range of shooting and editing features is the option to edit your shots into black-and-white photos.



Black and White Camera Pro

A simple app designed to allow you to shoot in black and white, as well as carry out minor edits.



B+W Camera

This app enables you to shoot in black and white, as well as take original colour shots and convert them.

3 of the best...

iPad apps for converting to black and white



Colour Splash for iPad

A very basic application that removes the colour from your photo, then enables you to reapply it in selected areas.



FX Photo Studio HD

A comprehensive editing application that allows you to edit the photo, from full black and white to selective colouring.



Photoshop Express

Use this great editing app to remove the colour, as well as boost the contrast for a great black-and-white shot.



Perfect lighting

Learn to use light effectively and get great shots with our lighting guide

Lighting is a key element in photography and is responsible for almost all of your good and bad shots. Encompassing all photographic genres, it can affect the outcome of every photograph you take. To ensure you get great shots every time you shoot, we have put together all you need to know about working with available light in this simple guide to lighting.

Whether you photograph landscapes, portraits or still life, we have outlined some of the most important lighting tips and techniques over the following eight pages. With some great hands-on advice, you will

soon master shooting indoors and out, as we cover all the need-to-know lighting basics. Learn how to use a reflector and discover when it's best to work with flash. We will also share some great still-life lighting advice and show you how to enhance your final shots in Photoshop.

It's time to start paying attention to the light, and uncover new and creative ways to shoot in-camera. You can now follow our simple setups at home and achieve the same professional results that we have, regardless of what camera system you find yourself using.

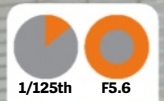
“Lighting can affect the outcome of every photo”

✓ Try and make use of natural light by placing your subject by a window or any other well-lit area. No flash was used here, as the light was strong enough.



Over the next few pages:

Get inspired and learn how to light portraits and still life, as well as how to fill in with flash, and quick lighting fixes



Taken on a... Cameraphone

What's good about it...

- ✓ There are some great editing apps that help enhance the lighting contrast in your captures

What could be better...

- ✗ Due to the small sensor, image quality is poor and you can lose out on capturing lighting detail



Taken on a... Compact camera

What's good about it...

- ✓ With some fantastic built-in shooting modes you can achieve great creative results in-camera

What could be better...

- ✗ With a fixed camera flash you are unable to adjust the direction or strength of the flash light



Taken on a... Compact system camera

What's good about it...

- ✓ Most have speedlight accessories for the hotshoe, for low-light shots and fill-in flash

What could be better...

- ✗ Unlikely to offer as many accurate light-metering modes as a DSLR camera



Taken on a... DSLR

What's good about it...

- ✓ Its large sensor means it can produce fantastically detailed photographs

What could be better...

- ✗ This is an expensive system for beginners who do not quite understand how manual modes work yet

Learn how to... Improve your lighting

Follow these five quick lighting tips for better photographs



✓ Use the sunlight

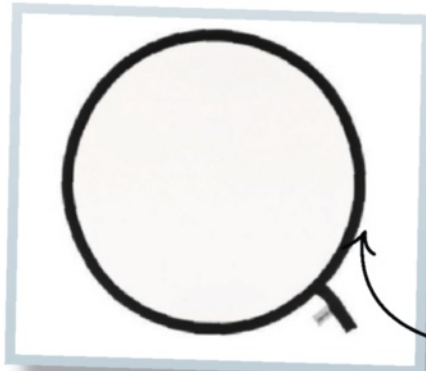
Waiting patiently for the streams of sunlight to break through the clouds has turned a potentially dull shot into a stunning landscape photograph.

✗ No directional sunlight

Shot on an overcast day, this image appears flat without any directional sunlight to add depth and contrast.

3 of the best...

Accessories for improving the light in your photographs



✓ Reflector

A collapsible reflector, such as this one from Lastolite (www.lastolite.com), is an ideal camera-kit accessory. Portable, it can be used on location or indoors to bounce light back into the shadows of your shot.



✓ Tripod

A key piece of kit for landscape photographers, a tripod such as this Manfrotto 4588 Neotec Pro Photo Tripod (www.manfrotto.co.uk) will enable you to set longer shutter speeds for exposures that capture more light.



✓ Speedlight

A detachable speedlight such as this Metz 54 AF-1 flash unit (www.metzflash.co.uk) is a great investment for portrait photographers, and will enable you to get better exposure results in low-light shooting situations.

01 Get inspired

Look for the light and get creative with what's available. Always aim to enhance and illuminate the main subject in your shot.

02 Perfect portrait lighting

Balance out the light, and bring detail back in the shadows by repositioning your model and also by using a reflector.

03 Fill in with flash

Take control of your speedlight or on-camera flash's direction, and discover how you can fill in with flash light.

04 Lighting a still life

Shoot some stunning still-life shots at home by simply using directional and diffused ambient light from a lamp.

05 Editing

It doesn't matter if you don't capture it in-camera, there are some simple editing steps you can follow in Photoshop to enhance your lighting.

“Transform your photo from a dull snapshot into a work of art”

1. Inspiration

Get inspired by lighting

Look for the light and get creative

Light is what transforms your photograph from a dull snapshot into a stunning work of art. When shooting, it is important to pay attention to how light falls and reflects within your frame. You can then set your camera accordingly to pick up on the light regardless of whether you're working in manual or automatic modes.

Get creative and don't be afraid to experiment with your camera settings. Try shooting in optional scene modes

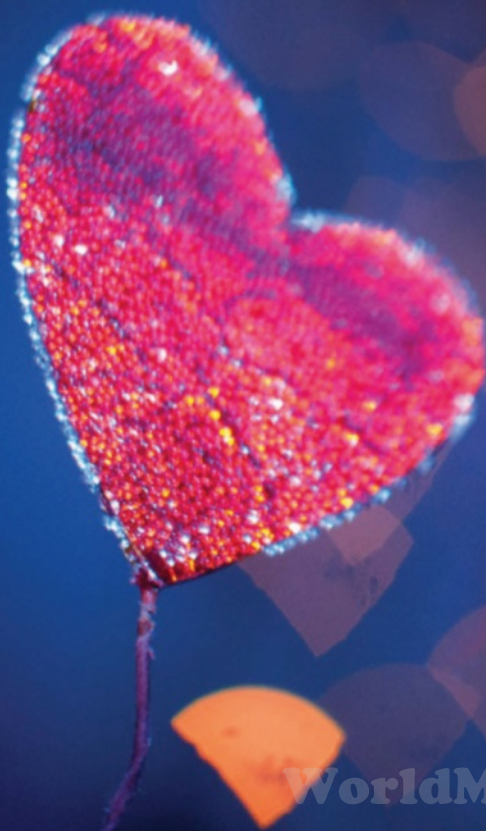
or add a creative camera filter to see first hand how you can transform the light in your photographs. Even try switching over to shooting in manual modes and set longer exposures for more creative light captures.

Whether you're shooting a landscape, portrait or still life, get inspired by the available light and remember that when taking a photo, it takes time and patience to achieve professional results.



✓ Use light creatively

Using fairy lights, or another light source, you can create a pleasing 'bokeh' photo like this, with blurred-out light. Experiment with light for some creative results.



✓ Head outside

The sun can make for perfect lighting on a bright day, so make use of this natural light-source for some well-lit images.



Shooting skills

2. Portraits

Master lighting for perfect portraits

Learn how to light your portraits following these simple steps

Portraits are one of the most popular subjects to shoot, but are not always the easiest to get right. Lighting plays a big part in how successful your portrait photographs are, based on how flatteringly the light falls on the model's face.

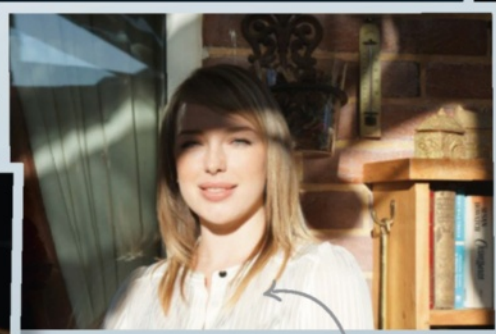
Whether you are working with ambient light or flash, ensure you pay particular attention to how you position your model in relation to the light. You want to accentuate their most flattering features and avoid creating harsh and distracting shadows across the face. To overcome this, always try to use a reflector or fill-in flash, which can balance out the shadows and bring light back into the model's most important features: the eyes.



This backlit shot has been improved by using the on-camera flash to fill in light on the model's face

Sometimes facing the model in the direction of sunlight can create striking results, but avoid taking too long to shoot, as the model will begin squinting before long

3 of the most common... Lighting errors



X No reflector

The position of the background light creates a nice halo highlight in the model's hair, however, without any light reflecting on her face, it is difficult to see the model's features.

X Bad Composition

Badly composed, a distracting shadow has fallen across the model's face in this picture, and the strong direct sunlight has made her squint.

X Incorrect light direction

Sitting side-on to strong directional light like this creates harsh and unflattering shadows across one side of the face. Reposition the model or use a reflector to fill in the shadows.

3. Flash

Fill in your shot with flash light

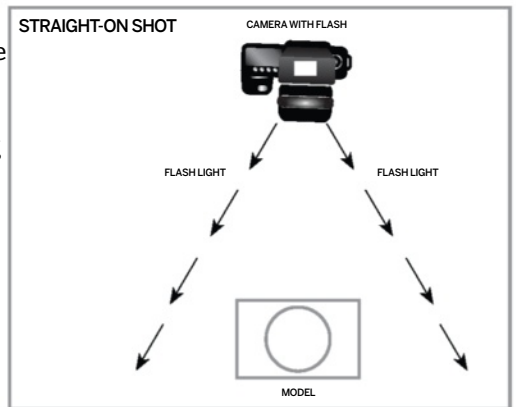
Discover how changing the direction of flash can significantly affect how your photo looks

Most on-camera flashes will fire automatically when low light is detected, but this won't always result in better image outcomes. A basic pop-up flash is provided with almost all camera systems, and is capable of flashing straight on, but results aren't always as artistic as you may have hoped, with highlights often blown out and strong contrast shadows appearing in the background. Some advanced cameras work around this by offering different flash strengths, allowing you to alter the settings, or add a speedlight accessory via the hotshoe.

Ideal for filling in the shadows or illuminating faces in low light, when used correctly, speedlight flash can creatively enhance your captures. With a rotatable head you can adjust the direction and strength of the flash before it reaches your model. Below we have outlined a few basic flash-head adjustments to show you just how easy it is to transform your photographs into professionally lit portraits at home.

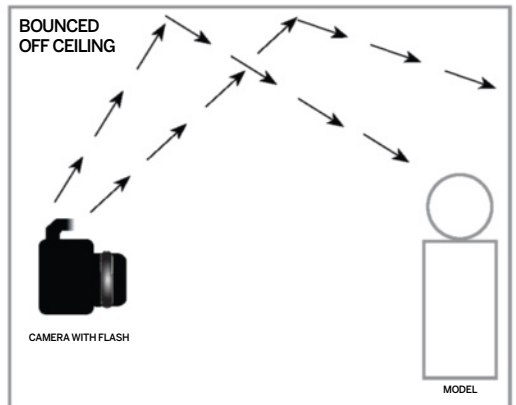
01 Face-on flash

The flash brightens the middle of the face, but the light graduates out quickly and creates strong shadows in the background. Direct camera flash like this is ideal for filling in light on predominantly backlit shots, creating a balance between the foreground and background.



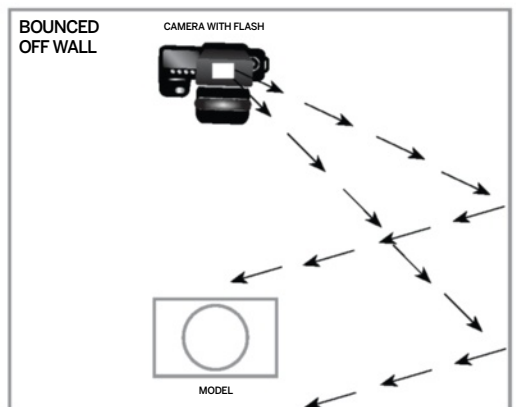
02 Bounced off ceiling

Bouncing the flash off the ceiling first will diffuse the light and let it land more naturally onto your subject. With high ceilings, increase the power of the flash to ensure that enough light falls back down onto your subject.



03 Bounced flash off wall

By rotating the flash head sideways at a 45-degree angle, you are able to effectively bounce the flash off the side wall first, therefore replicating a professional and flattering side light across the model's face, as in this picture.



Using a white piece of card as a reflector, the natural light in this backlit shot has been bounced back into the model's face, illuminating her features and adding highlights in her eyes



4. Still life

Lighting a still life

Learn how to light and shoot a stunning still life at home

Still-life photographs needn't be taken in the studio with flash. You can create the same professional-looking shots at home using ambient light in a controlled way. Set up a simple still-life shoot at home with a bowl of fruit and a desk lamp. An ideal light source for this type of shot, it will give you control over the direction and strength of the light. Look closely at how the light falls on your subject, and aim to accentuate the shape of the fruit. Remember when shooting with warm ambient light like this to set your white balance accordingly in order to prevent colour casts appearing in your captures.



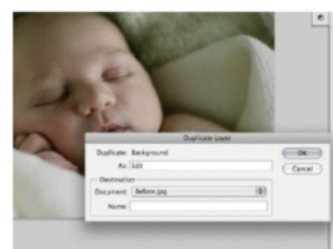
5. Editing

Fix the light at a later stage

Quick lighting fixes in Photoshop

You may not always get the shot you had wanted in-camera, which is where Photoshop steps in. Correcting what you may have missed, there are some fantastic editing tools and techniques that are ideal for enhancing light.

Open your RAW image file in Adobe Photoshop and follow these five simple steps in order to improve the contrast in your captures.



01 Create a new layer Upload your captures onto your computer and then select one that you want to edit in Photoshop. Once loaded, create a new layer via Layer> Duplicate Layer. Rename your new layer 'Edit' and click OK. Select your new layer in order to activate it and go to Image> Adjustments>Levels.



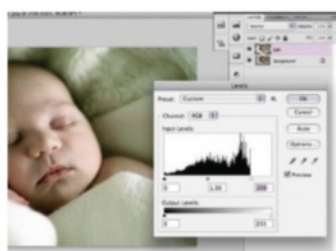
Holding greaseproof paper over the light has helped to soften its intensity, and has nicely dulled the highlights while still accentuating the shape of the oranges here

X A flat snapshot

Lit using an overhead ambient light, this image appears flat and lacks any depth making it more reminiscent of a snapshot than a composed still life.



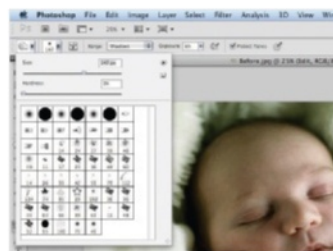
Lighting from the side can help to add depth to an image by creating contrasting shadows. Remember that the closer the light source is to your subject, the stronger it will be, which can create blown-out, distracting highlights, as seen in this image



02 Use the histogram
The histogram is bunched to the left, meaning there are no highlights and the shot is dull in midtones. Select the highlights slider at the bottom-right of the histogram and drag it up to where the mountainous range begins. Tick the Preview button, to see how this will affect the shot.



03 Adjust the midtone
To add in more midtone contrast, select the midtone slider and slowly adjust it towards the highlights slider. When you are sure you're pleased with the results, just click OK. You can now select the Burn tool from the Tools palette, which is on the left-hand side of the screen.



04 Use the Burn tool
Use the Burn tool to darken areas in the frame. Select a wide, soft-edged brush with the range set to shadows. Set exposure to 6% for gradual build up. Begin brushing areas that need more contrast and depth. Burn around the edges of the frame to draw the eye into the centre subject.



05 Brighten and save
Switch to the Dodge tool to lighten areas. Select a good size soft-edge brush with the range set on either midtones or highlights and the exposure up at 20%. You can now add brighter highlights to your image. Flatten the layers via Layers>Flatten Image, and save your shot as a JPEG.

Starter projects

Step-by-step guides to creative projects that really make your shots stand out

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Have fun creating a photogrid

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Give a photo a nostalgic feel

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Capture floral close-ups

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Capture a sweeping scene

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Make your own personal card

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Impress your friends with a fun portrait



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Use Photoshop Elements for vintage photos



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Create a fun profile image for Facebook





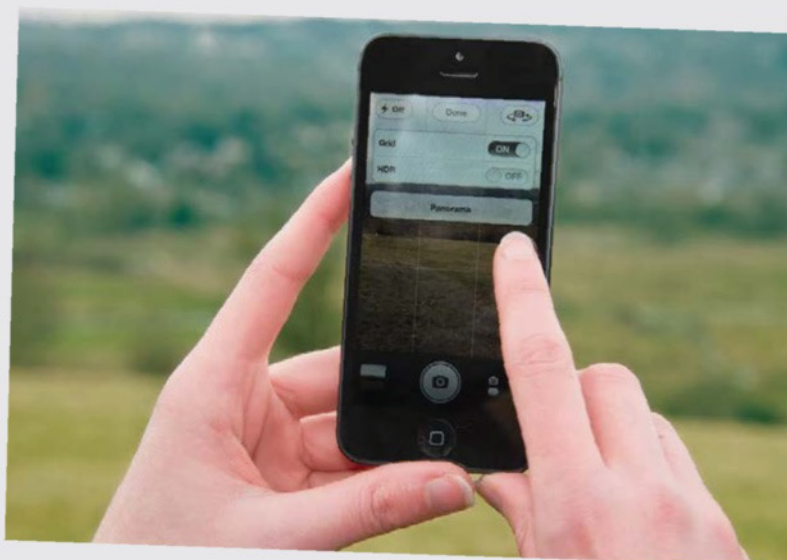
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*Take amazing
panoramas on
your phone*



*Make customised
cards for
your friends*

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Make a portrait photomontage

Have fun creating a Brady Bunch-style grid with your shots



What you'll need...

- ✓ Reflector
- ✓ Props (optional)
- ✓ Basic editing software

We used...

- ✓ Photoshop Elements 12

You could try...

- ✓ Photoshop
- ✓ Editing apps

What you'll learn...

- ✓ How to create a portrait grid from several images and mount it on canvas

The saying goes, “Less is more,” but sometimes you can never have too much of a good thing. A photomontage is one of those exceptions, since they are a great way of displaying a collection of your best portraits. Each frame could feature a different member of your family like The Brady Bunch (if you can coax them all into posing for you), or they could even showcase the same person.

To make things interesting, you'll need to photograph a variety of different poses and expressions. This will come naturally once you've built a rapport with the model, so spend some time before the shoot getting to know them. Putting some upbeat music on and offering plenty of words of encouragement as you shoot is a sure-fire way to put them at ease. That way, you're bound to capture one-off gems such as spontaneous laughter that will look fantastic as part of your collage.

The possibilities are endless, so it's best to decide on the style of portrait grid you want to create before the big

day. Think about whether you'll need a box of props for the model to experiment with, and also decide what you would like them to wear. It's best to keep certain elements consistent across the collage – clothing being one of them – and choosing a bold and bright outfit over a more subdued number will have an impact on the overall effect.

To help you make these decisions, consider where you'd like the portrait grid to end up. They make ideal canvas prints, which are available to order from the websites such as www.my-picture.co.uk, so think about the room you would hang it up in. If in doubt, you can't go wrong with black and white – it's a timeless classic that goes with any surroundings. That's why we've opted for a bold, stripy jumper and a plain white background to make our portraits pop. Once you've chosen, simply follow our guide to discover other tips and tricks for creating a fun collage from your photos.

Shoot Take your best ever portraits



01 Find a location

Choose a location with plenty of light and a plain wall, or enough space to set up a portable background. If you're next to a window, ensure the light isn't blinding your model or creating any harsh shadows.



02 Pick the camera settings

Using Aperture Priority, select an f-number like f5.6 to keep more of the model's face in focus. Make sure the shutter speed doesn't fall below 1/60sec to avoid blur – increasing the ISO to 400 can help.



03 Change the white balance

Auto white balance can sometimes leave indoor portraits looking a bit orange, so delve into your camera's menu and set it to Tungsten instead. This is usually illustrated by the light bulb symbol.



04 Look sharp

To keep your subject in focus, find the autofocus options. Select Single AF or Face Detection if it's available. Now press the shutter button down halfway to focus. Ensure the focus area is on the face.



05 Use a reflector

A reflector will help to bounce light into your model's face, eliminating any shadows. To find the right position, hold it just out of shot and move it gradually back and forth, watching how the light changes.



06 Give direction

Come to the shoot armed with ideas for poses so you can direct your model. Look at other portrait grids on the internet for inspiration, or download the Posing App for reference images.

Tricks for cropping images



Avoid amputation

Never crop a person at the joint, such as knees, elbows or shoulders, as it looks like instant amputation. For a more pleasing effect, aim for the thigh, chest or part-way across the arm.



Leave space

Remember to always leave breathing room to create a much more natural effect and give the model space to 'look into'. If they are facing a certain direction, leave more space on that side.



Rule of thirds

The rule of thirds applies to portraits, too. Imagine your image is split into thirds vertically and horizontally, then ensure that the subject's eyes are positioned on the top third line.

3 of the best... Collage creating apps

Photo Grid Free (iOS/Android)

Combine multiple photos with more than 300 layouts in a single picture, which can be shared via Instagram or other social networks.

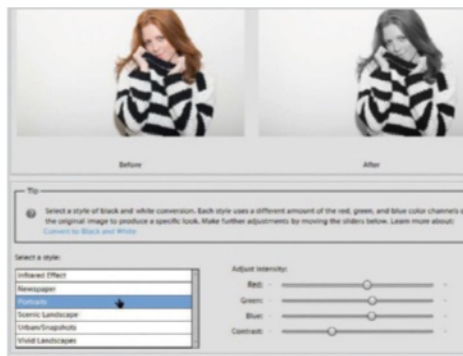
InstaStitch Free (iOS)

It doesn't matter if your photos are all different sizes, as this app can still combine them into one framed image, with 38 layouts to choose from.

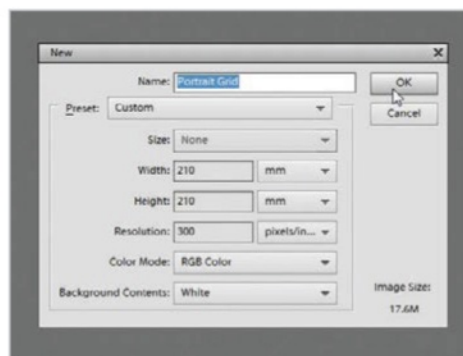
ProCollage £1.49/\$1.99 (iOS)

This app gives you extra control over customising your backgrounds with colours and patterns, as well as the option to add text and vary position.

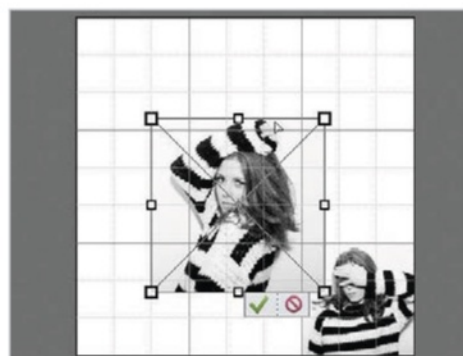
Edit Convert your colour images to black and white



01 Convert to monochrome
Open your images in Photoshop Elements, go to Enhance and select Convert to Black and White. You can then choose a style to see what works best for your photos. We selected the Portraits option.



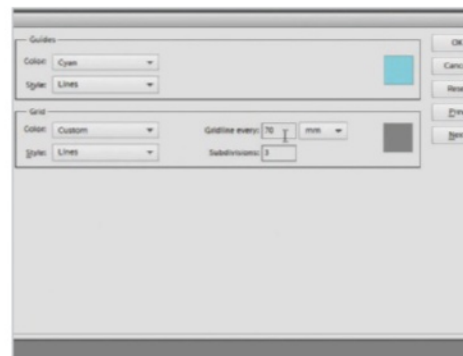
03 Create a canvas
To create a blank canvas for your portrait grid, head to File>New>Blank File. Now adjust the canvas size dimensions to suit the shape and size of the canvas you want to print later on. Click OK to confirm.



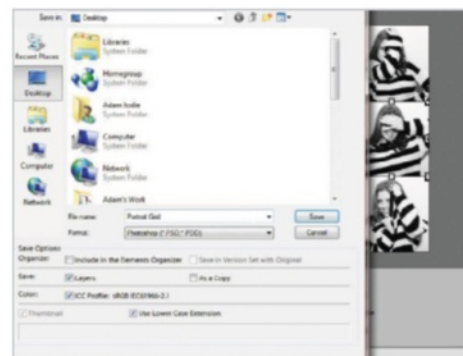
05 Position your pics
Click File>Place and select one of your images. Ensure 'Constrain Proportions' is ticked and then click and drag the corners of the image to fit into one of the squares. Make sure View>Snap To>Grid is selected.



02 Crop your image
After converting each image, you will need to crop them by selecting the Crop tool and entering 20cm in both the Width and Height boxes. Then click and drag over the image to make your selection.

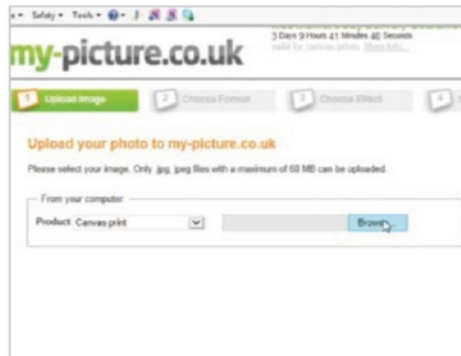


04 Make a grid
Click View from the options along the top and select Grids. Adjust the number of squares in your grid by clicking Edit>Preferences>Guides & Grid. We chose to have a gridline every 70mm (nine squares).



06 Save the file
Experiment with the positioning of your photos until you are completely happy, and click View>Grid to see what it looks like without gridlines. Then save your finished portrait grid by hitting File>Save.

Share Show off your portrait grid on canvas



01 Do your research

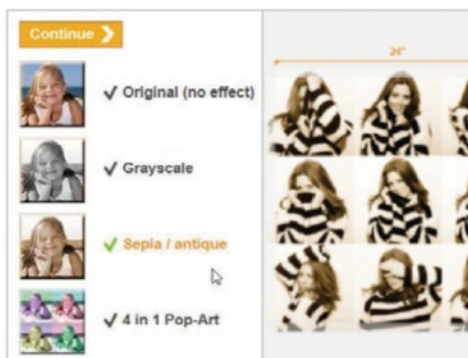
There are plenty of online retailers waiting to transform your photos into canvas prints, so have a look around to get the best price and read the reviews. We've opted for my-picture.co.uk.

02 Upload your picture

Select Upload>Browse to find your image. Take note of any instructions, for example – my-picture will only permit JPEG files. To change the format of your image, open it in Elements and click File>Save As.

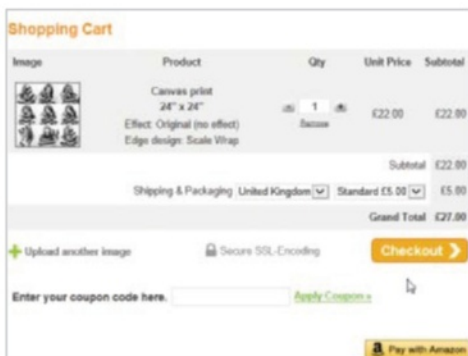
03 Choose the format

Click Continue and wait for your image to upload, which might take a moment depending on the size. You will then be asked to choose the format for your canvas photo from a list of sizes and prices.



04 Apply an effect

There is the option to add one of six effects to your picture, including Pop-Art and Sepia. Once selected, it will give you a preview of what it would look like. If you prefer your earlier work, select Original.



05 Add to shopping cart

Now is the time to check your order in the Shopping Cart window. If all the details are correct, then click Checkout and enter your address and payment details. Don't forget to make a note of delivery times.

Technical tip

Portrait lenses start at 50mm but some professional photographers swear by longer lenses, up to 200mm. The longer the focal length, the more flattering the photo.

Show personality

Encourage your model to express different emotions on camera

Keep it simple

Plain backdrops mean attention won't be stolen from your subject

Maintain consistency

Keep elements like clothing and colour the same in each image

Hands up!

An easy way to add interest is to bring the model's hands into the photograph



A vintage-effect landscape photo

Capture a stunning vista and give it a nostalgic feel



What you'll need...

- ✓ A digital camera
- ✓ Editing software or app
- ✓ Social network profile

We used...

- ✓ Samsung NX1000
- ✓ Photoshop Elements 11
- ✓ Pinterest

You could try...

- ✓ Any digital camera
- ✓ GIMP
- ✓ Flickr

What you'll learn...

- ✓ Landscape shooting tips
- ✓ Creating retro effects

Retro photography is very popular at the moment, thanks to the vintage filters of apps like Instagram and the nostalgic look of Lomo images.

Lomography is a movement that started in the early Nineties after the founders discovered the unique photos produced by toy film cameras. Lomo photos tend to feature unusual colours, with a soft focus and dark vignettes where the colour falls away at the edges of the frame, which makes them look particularly retro.

However, the good news is that you don't need a Lomo camera to achieve this fantastic effect, as it

can easily be re-created using image-editing software. Almost any photo can be given the Lomography treatment, from portraits to still life and landscapes. It is important to make sure that the most important part of your image is positioned in the centre of the frame, otherwise it will become obscured when you add the vignette.

This easy-to-follow guide will show you how to take a great landscape that's perfect for a retro makeover, then give it the Lomo look in Photoshop Elements, and finally post it onto Pinterest to share with the world.

**Our unedited shot**

The original image we took was bright and colourful before we added the vintage edits, giving us a good base to work from

Shoot

Take a beautiful landscape photo

**01 Choose your aperture**

Set your camera to Aperture Priority mode and then select a narrow aperture (high f-number). This will ensure that everything in your photo is in focus. You can take control of the soft focus blur in post-production using our editing tips later.

**02 Keep it clear**

Make sure that your camera's ISO is set as low as possible, preferably at 100 or 200. This will stop you from taking noisy images, keeping your shots clear with lots of detail. If your shots are too dark, slow down your shutter speed or widen your aperture.

**03 Use a scene mode**

If you are having trouble getting your settings right, you can always use a Landscape scene mode. This will get your camera to choose the settings so you can focus on composing the shot. It will often capture more vibrant blues and greens.

**04 Zoom out**

To make sure you fit everything into the frame and leave enough space at the edges for the vignette, use the shortest focal length that your camera or lens has. You'll have to zoom right out or twist your lens so that it is set to the smallest number.

**05 Use the gridlines**

If your camera has the option to turn on gridlines, then use them to help you compose your shot. The grid will help you to keep your horizon straight, position it a third or two thirds of the way up and get your main focal point in the centre square.

**06 Steady your shot**

As you are using a narrow aperture, you may need to select a slow shutter speed to let enough light into the lens. Use a tripod or rest your camera or elbows on a steady surface to reduce the risk of camera shake when the shutter is open for a while.

3 of the best... Retro photo subjects



Architecture

Old buildings and bridges make great retro photo subjects as the image will look as though it could have been taken years ago.



Portraits

The soft focus look is very flattering for portraits and you could get your model to wear vintage clothes for a timeless photo.



Still life

Try to find retro-looking objects around your house and position them in a simple setting for an old-school still-life shot.

3 of the best... Retro camera applications

Vintage Camera Free



Take a photo and add one of a number of vintage effects. Then share your shots with your social network profiles for all to see.

Retro Camera Free



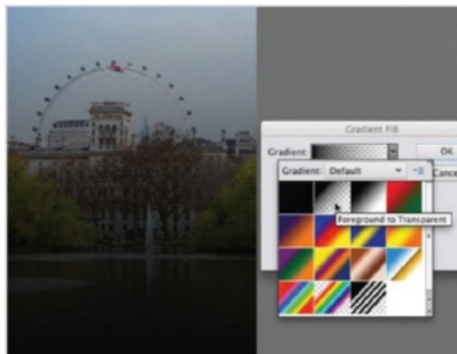
An app with five different cameras inspired by analogue models for taking retro photos. You can then upload them straight to Facebook.

Hipstamatic £1.49/\$1.99



Hundreds of different retro effects can be applied to your snaps, and you can share them instantly online or order prints straight from the app.

Edit Create the Lomo effect for a vintage photo



07 Add a vignette

Open your photo and click on the Create a New Adjustment Layer icon at the top of the Layers palette. Select Gradient from the menu and choose Foreground to Transparent from the drop-down menu or by double-clicking to open up the Gradient Editor.



08 Adjust the vignette

In the Gradient Fill box, change the Style to Radial and tick Reverse. Now adjust the scale to change the strength of the vignette. Choosing a high percentage will create a subtle vignette, while a small percentage will blacken the frame's edges.



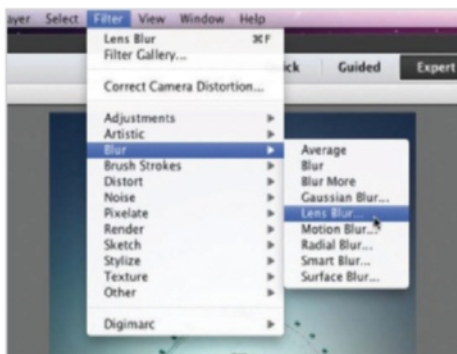
09 Change the levels

Select the background layer and then go to Enhance>Adjust Lighting>Levels. Individually adjust the levels of each colour channel, bringing out the reds and greens in particular. Make sure the Preview box is ticked so you can see the results as you experiment.



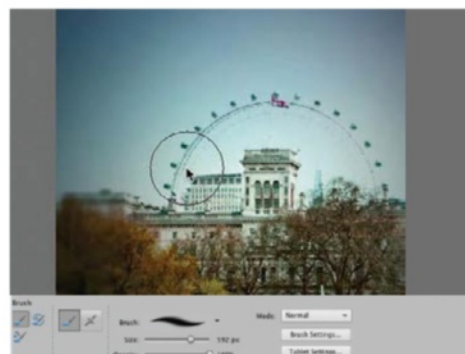
10 Alter the hue

Now go to Enhance>Adjust Color>Adjust Hue/Saturation and move the Hue slider to adjust the colours in your shot even more, trying to keep within the blue and green sections of the slider. Again, it will take a bit of experimentation, so tick the Preview box.



11 Soften the focus

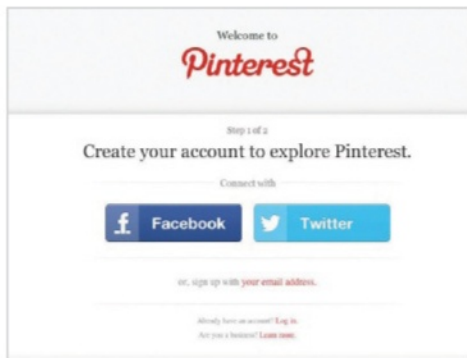
Select the background layer again and go to Layer>Duplicate Layer. Now click on the new layer you've just created and go to Filter>Blur>Lens Blur. You will see that your entire shot is now slightly out of focus, but we will bring out the important lost detail next.



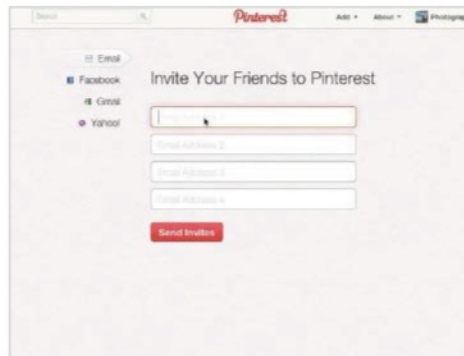
12 Bring back the detail

Staying on the same layer, click on the Layer Mask icon in the Layers palette. Select the Brush tool from the toolbar, change the colour to black and adjust the brush size as you see fit. Now brush over the main focal point of your shot to bring it back into focus.

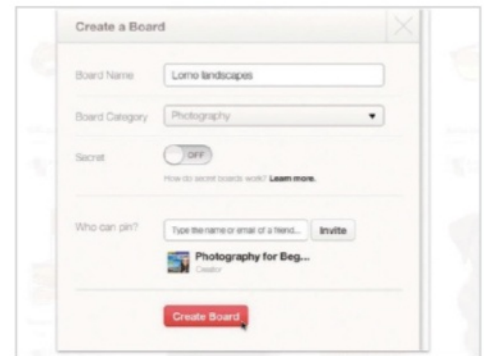
Share Upload your photo as a pin on Pinterest



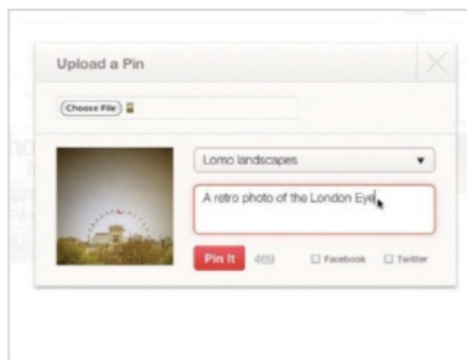
13 Sign up Go to www.pinterest.com from your internet browser. If you already have a Pinterest account then log in. If you don't, you can join Pinterest by signing up with your email address or sign in with your Facebook or Twitter accounts, if you already have them.



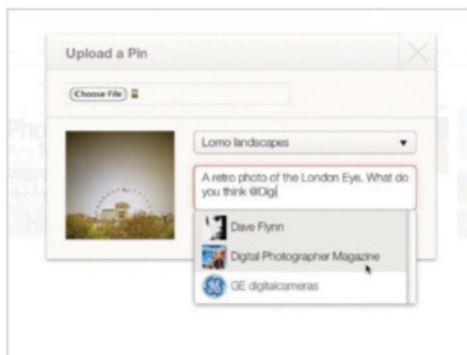
14 Invite your friends On the homepage, click your profile at the top and select Invite Friends from the menu. You can then type in your friend's email addresses or find them on Facebook, Gmail and Yahoo!. If they create or already have an account, they can then see your pins.



15 Create a board Click Add+ at the top of the home page, and then select Create a Board. A board will let you group your pins together, so give it a relevant name and select a board category. You can decide if you want it to be private and allow others to add pins to your board too.



16 Pin your photo Back on the homepage, click Add+ again and select Upload a Pin. Select your photo from your computer and then select the board you have just created from the drop-down menu. Now you can add a description to explain your photo.



17 Tag your pin If you want a particular Pinterest follower to see your shot, type an @ symbol in the description box and type their name. It should then appear in a drop-down menu for you to select. Now you can pin your photo and tick to share it on Facebook and Twitter.

Consider noise

We've chosen a low ISO to keep everything clear, but you could use a high ISO to add noise for an even older look

Centre the subject

Make sure you keep your main subject in the centre of the frame so it's not covered by the vignette

Colour

Look for bright colours, as dull colours will appear even more washed out when you add the effect



Technical tip

Adjusting your camera's white balance settings to give your photo a warm colour cast will allow you to make it look more retro in camera.

Create a stunning macro masterpiece

Discover how to capture incredible floral close-ups



What you'll need...

- ✓ DSLR with macro lens
- ✓ Tripod
- ✓ Editing software

We used...

- ✓ Nikon D800
- ✓ 60mm macro lens
- ✓ Photoshop CS6

You could try...

- ✓ A CSC or compact with Macro mode
- ✓ Photoshop Elements

What you'll learn...

- ✓ How to capture a floral macro image

Macro is arguably one of the most intriguing types of digital photography, as it allows you to peer into a microscopic world that is otherwise missed by the naked eye. Once under magnification, even the most simple of household items can be transformed into a detailed utopia, which makes for some truly stunning photographs. Flowers are a common choice in macro photography, as their bright colours and intricate textures translate well when under magnification.

In order to photograph close up and personal with a subject, your camera is going to need to be able to focus much closer than normal. Unfortunately, most standard lenses have a limit as to how close they're able to get to a subject before they're unable to lock on and achieve sharp focus. Macro lenses have been specially built so that they can focus much closer to subjects, and are available for most makes of DSLR and CSC. Most macro lenses will have the word 'Macro' written on the side of

the lens, though the magnification they offer will ultimately vary between different makes and models, so it's always best to check to see what the lens's enlargement ratio is – this is also usually found somewhere on the lens barrel. 'True' macro images are taken at a ratio of 1:1, while lenses with a smaller ratio (ie 1:2) will only offer half the amount of magnification.

If you don't own a macro lens, there are other cheaper alternatives to gaining close-up pictures, including close-up filters that screw onto the front of a regular lens to increase its minimum focusing distance, as well as extension tubes that sit in between the camera and lens to let it focus closer. If you don't own an interchangeable lens camera at all, some compact cameras feature a built-in macro mode. When activated, this allows the camera to take photos much closer than normally possible, so there are plenty of ways to join in with the macro fun!

Shoot

Set up and start shooting your subject



01 Use a tripod

When shooting under magnification using a macro lens, even the smallest of movements will be exaggerated, so setting your camera on a tripod is a great way to avoid knocking the shot out of focus.



02 Set up your subject

Sit your flower in a vase and place it next to a brightly lit window – you could even head outside if the weather is nice. Placing a piece of coloured paper behind the flower will create a clutter-free backdrop.



03 Add the drops

Dissolve two teaspoons of sugar in a small cup of water – this will help the droplets stay in place. Using the head of a pin, or the tip of a pencil, carefully blot small drops of water onto the flower.



04 Set your aperture

Switch the camera to Aperture Priority mode (A or Av on the mode dial) and set an aperture of f8. Remember, when focusing close up, even using an aperture of f8 will only create a very small in-focus area.



05 Use Live View to focus

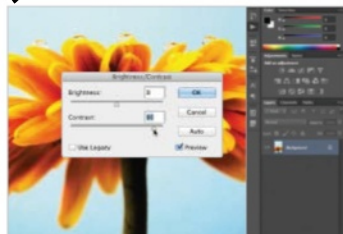
When taking photos close up, it can be hard to get the focus where you want it using the camera's autofocus. Switch to manual focus and activate the camera's Live View function to help get sharp focus.



06 Take the shot

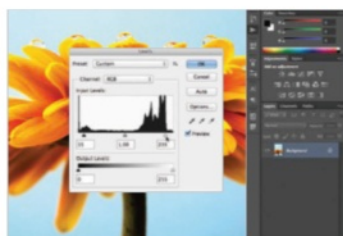
While looking at the rear screen, turn the focus ring on the lens until the drop of water is pin-sharp. Now, fully depress the shutter button to take the picture, being careful not to knock the camera.

Ways to add contrast to your macro



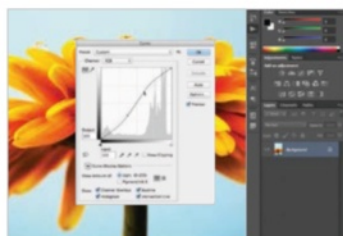
Increase Brightness/Contrast

Go to Image>Adjustments>Brightness/Contrast and move the Contrast slider right to add contrast. This is the quickest and easiest way, but offers less control than the methods below.



Adjust the Levels

Head up to Image>Adjustments>Levels. In the window, move the Black point slider to the right to darken the shadows, then move the White point slider to the left to brighten the highlights.



Experiment with Curves

Go to Image>Adjustments>Curves. In the window, click and drag on the curves diagram to adapt it into an S-curve. This will darken shadows and brighten highlights to boost contrast.

3 of the best... Macro accessories

Dorr Extension Tubes



From approx £114/\$260

Extension tubes are placed between the camera and the lens, allowing it to focus on subjects much closer.

HOYA Close-Up Filter +2



From £21/approx \$35

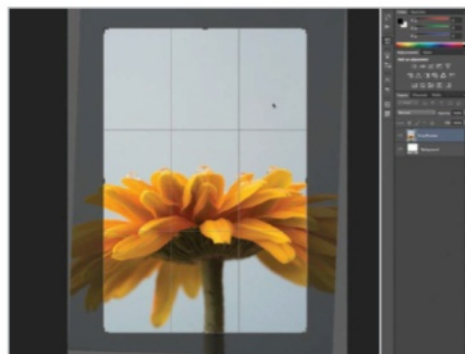
Attaching a close-up filter to a lens allows it to focus much closer to subjects than previously possible.

JJC Reverse Ring From £10/\$15



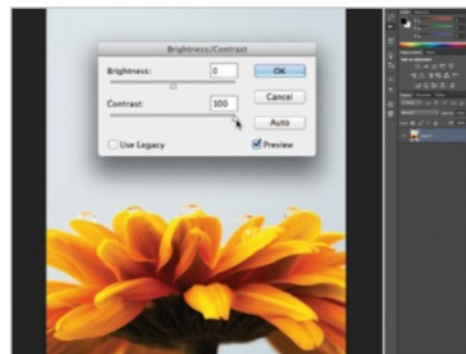
A reversing ring allows you to mount a standard lens backwards on your camera, letting you focus closer than normally possible for macro results.

Edit Use Photoshop to enhance your floral shot



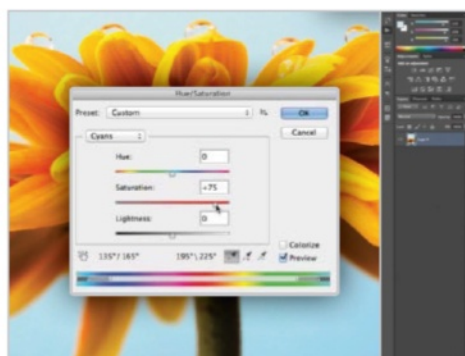
01 Crop the image

Open your image in Photoshop and grab the Crop tool from the toolbox. Make a tight crop around your subject while holding Shift on the keyboard to keep the crop in proportion. Hit Enter once you're happy.



02 Add contrast

Head up to Image>Adjustments>Brightness/Contrast. In the window that appears, drag the Contrast slider to a maximum value of 100 to give your image a real boost of contrast. Click OK to apply.



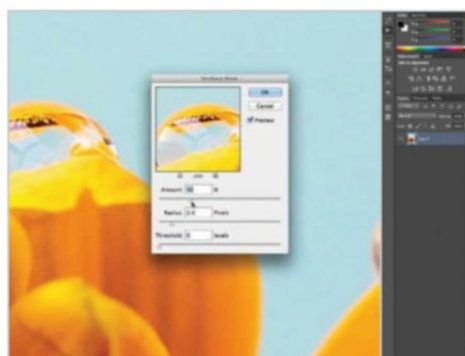
03 Boost saturation

Go to Image>Adjustments>Hue/Saturation. We want to boost the background, so click where it says Master and choose the correct colour (Cyans here). Increase the Saturation to +75 and click OK.



04 Remove blemishes

Grab the Spot Healing Brush (J) with a brush size of around 20px. Make sure that the Content-Aware option is ticked at the top, then paint over any imperfections on the flower to quickly remove them.



05 Sharpen your shot

Head up to Filter>Sharpen>Unsharp Mask. In the window that appears, set the Amount to 50, then move the Radius to a value of 2. Leave the Threshold set to the default value of 0 and click OK to confirm.



06 Add a vignette

Go to Filter>Lens Correction. In the window, click the Custom tab and locate the Vignette options. Move the Amount slider to the left to around -30, then move the Midpoint slider right to around +70. Click OK.

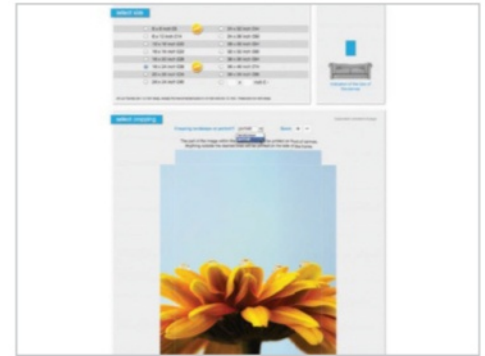
Share Turn your image into wall art with HelloCanvas



01 Visit HelloCanvas Enter www.hellocanvas.co.uk into the web address bar at the top of your browser. Once you're at the website, click on the orange Order Here button in the middle to get started making your canvas print.



02 Upload your image On the next screen, click the Upload Photo button at the top of the list and, in the window that appears, locate your image. Click on it to select it, then click the Open button. Wait while your image uploads.



03 Adjust the canvas Select the size of canvas you would like to order, then decide whether it should be portrait or landscape. You can also determine the edge style using the options lower down the page. Click the Next button.



04 Additional features On this screen you can adjust the number of prints you'd like to order, add creative effects such as sepia toning or black and white, or add a wooden frame to your canvas. Once you're finished, click Next.



05 Place your order You'll be given a rundown of your order. To make adjustments to this, simply hit Previous to go back a step. Otherwise, click Next to complete your order by entering your payment and postage details.

Technical tip

A macro lens is able to focus much closer to objects than a standard lens and is vital if you want to capture close-up images.

Pleasing backdrop

Keep it plain and clutter-free for a professional studio look

Stay sharp

Making sure your water droplet stays pin-sharp is the key to a great shot

Bright colours

Make your image really pop with eye-catching, vibrant colours

Refraction

Angle your camera so you can see the flower's centre in the droplets



Create a panorama on your cameraphone

Capture a sweeping scene on your cameraphone and turn it into a canvas print to take pride of place in your home



What you'll need...

- ✓ A cameraphone
- ✓ A photo-editing app
- ✓ Printing service

We used...

- ✓ iPhone 5
- ✓ Adobe Photoshop Express
- ✓ Print Panoramics

You could try...

- ✓ A digital camera
- ✓ Adobe Photoshop
- ✓ photo-canvas.com

What you'll learn...

- ✓ How to take a panorama on your smartphone then print it and display it for all to see

Panoramas involve stitching several photos of the same scene together to include more in the frame than is possible with a normal photo. This is great for landscape or group shots as you don't have to cut anyone or anything out of the photo.

It is possible to take a panorama with any camera, even your cameraphone, and many will even stitch the photos together for you. Some cameraphones, such as the iPhone 5, come with a panorama mode built in. But if yours does not, then there are a huge number of free and paid-for apps that you can download to do the job. If you are using a digital camera that does not have a panorama mode, simply take a series of shots that line

up and overlap each other slightly, then use software such as Photomatrix or Photomerge in Photoshop to stitch the photos together.

Panoramas make for great wall art, and in this tutorial we will show you how to turn yours into a canvas using Print Panoramics. This company specialises in panorama prints, with a wide range of canvas and print dimensions available. Due to the increasingly good-quality images produced by cameraphones, their size specifications are in fact optimised for panoramas taken on iPhone cameras, which we will use for this tutorial. However, you can use shots taken on any smartphone or camera and even create non-panoramic prints of various sizes.

"It is possible to take a panorama with any camera, even your cameraphone, and many will even stitch the photos together for you"

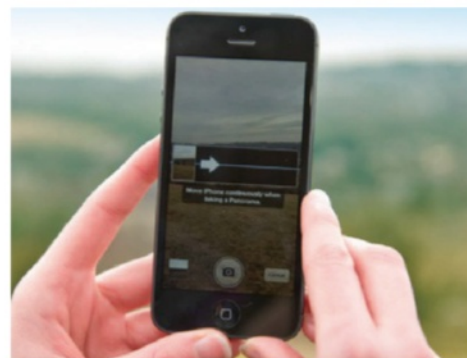
Shoot! Take a smooth and sweeping panorama with your smartphone



01 Use your smartphone On the iPhone 5, open the phone camera, tap Options and then Panorama. If you have a different phone, then download a panorama app. They are all really easy to use, just sweep your camera across the scene and it will stitch it all together.



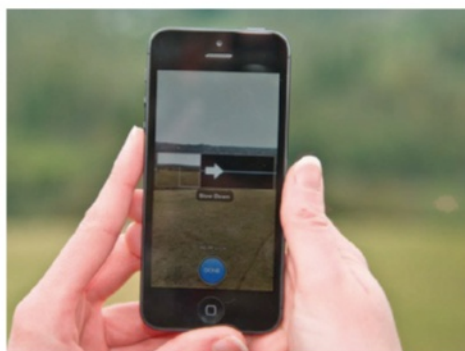
02 Don't forget composition Think about the composition. Look for foreground interest, such as trees or buildings, and position skylines a third of the way up or down the frame. It is also important to get the horizon straight, so activate the gridlines to line it up along them.



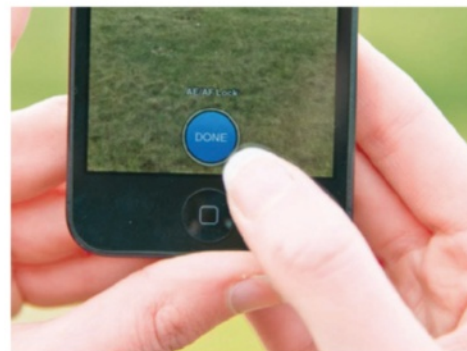
03 Choose your direction Select which direction you want to take your panorama in, left to right or right to left. If you are using the iPhone 5 then simply tap the screen to change the direction. If you are using an app, check the instructions of how to change it.



04 Get rid of obstructions Before you take your panorama shot, make sure there are no obstructions in the way. Wait for any people to move, otherwise they could appear at several points in your image. Also stand clear of any pillars or posts that will obstruct your view.



05 Sweep smoothly For a steady panorama, hold your phone with your elbows tucked in. Slowly swivel your body around; the iPhone 5 will tell you if you are moving too fast. Keep moving for a while after you have taken the photo to ensure it is smooth throughout.



06 Take your shot You can either keep moving until the camera automatically stops taking the picture, or tap Done when you have captured as much as you want. The phone will then stitch your panorama together and save it to your Camera Roll.

5 of the best... Smartphone apps for easy panoramas

Panorama ++ £0.69/\$0.99
Take or build 360-degree panoramas then share them instantly. You can also merge more than one to create vertical overlapping panoramas.

Photaf Panorama Free
This app has an orientation sensor that knows the exact angle each picture was taken, allowing it to stitch together shots seamlessly.

AutoStitch Panorama £1.49/\$1.99
This app helps you take panoramas, and stitch together photos taken with any camera app. You can then crop the results and share.

Wondershare Panorama Free
Take a great panorama and then add effects, such as Crossprocess, Old Photo and Sketch, to make it stand out. Then share it with one tap.

360 Panorama £0.69/\$0.99
Pan your camera in any direction and 360 Panorama will stitch in seconds to capture the entire scene. You can then instantly share your shot.

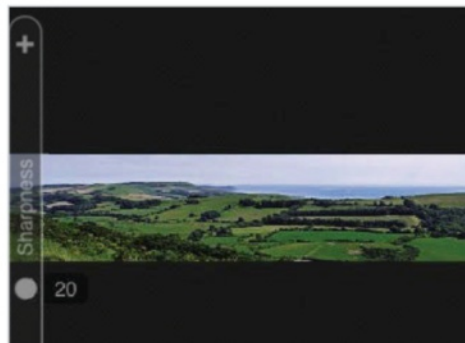
Edit! Perfect your panorama with Adobe Photoshop Express



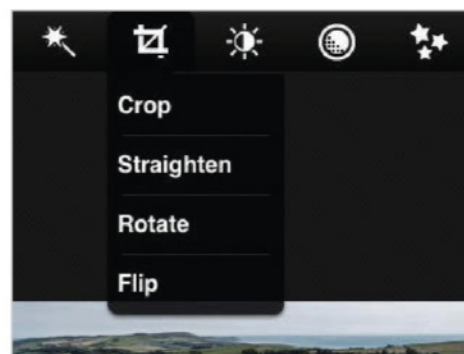
07 Get the app
Download the free Adobe Photoshop Express app onto your phone and then select your panorama photo from the cameraroll to open. Once it is open, tap the pencil icon at the bottom of the screen. You are now ready to start editing.



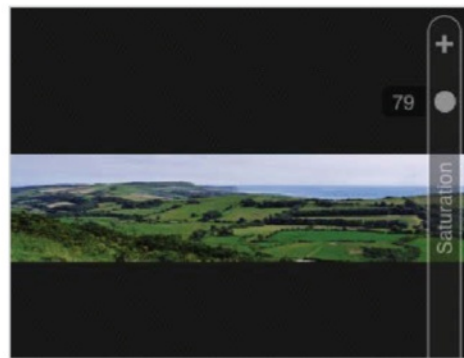
09 Correct the exposure
Tap the Exposure icon on the toolbar and select Exposure. Drag your finger upwards if your shot is underexposed (too dark) and drag your finger down on the screen if the shot is overexposed (too bright). Keep going until you are happy.



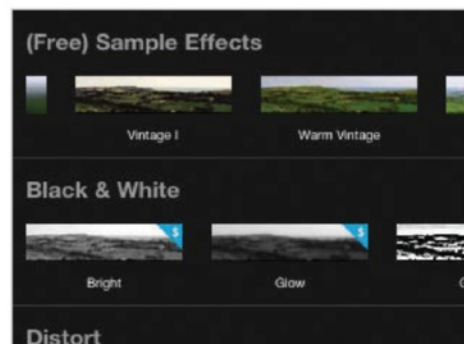
11 Sharpen up
Tap the next icon along on the toolbar and select Sharpen. Drag your finger up or down the screen to sharpen or soften the look of your shot until you achieve the results that you want. This menu also allows you to reduce noise if it is grainy.



08 Recompose a shot
You can crop and straighten up your shot in the Crop menu on the toolbar. Print Panoramics's size specifications are optimised for the iPhone camera. You may come into difficulty when uploading your shot to the website if it has been cropped.



10 Adjust the colours
You can also select Hue/Saturation or Tint/Temperature from the Exposure menu. These will allow you to adjust the colours of your photo by either warming or cooling them or making them brighter and more saturated.



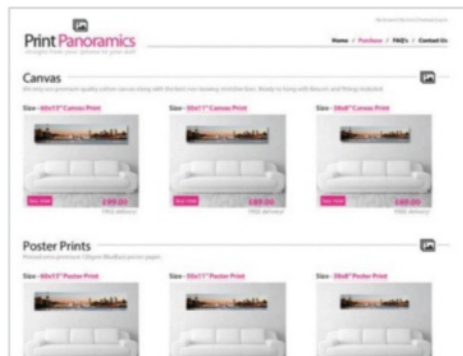
12 Add an effect
By tapping the Effects icon on the toolbar and selecting Effects, you can choose from a number of different creative options and filters. You may wish to select a Vintage filter or convert your shot to Black & White. When you have finished, tap the tick.



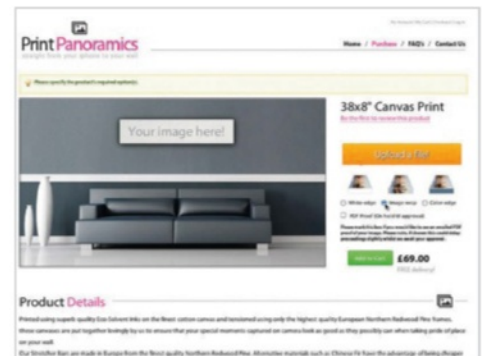
Share! Turn your smartphone panorama into stunning wall art



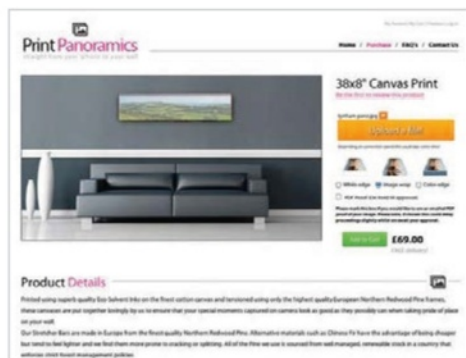
13 Head to Print Panoramics First you need to open up the website. Type www.printpanoramics.co.uk into the address bar of your internet browser. Once you have found the home page, click Purchase in the top right-hand corner of the screen to go through to the next stage.



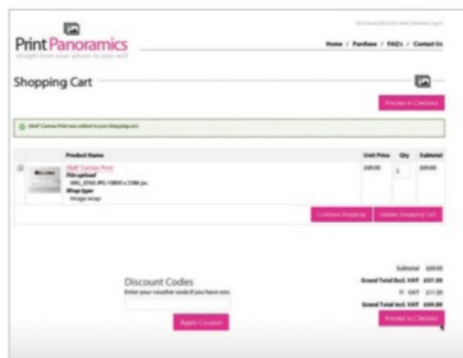
14 Select your canvas size Now select the size and type of print you want. There are three different canvas sizes to choose from, as well as six poster print sizes, all at varying prices. You can also select a non-panoramic canvas if you want to upload a regular photo.



15 Choose canvas options Once you have selected your chosen canvas, choose whether you want your image to wrap around your canvas or whether you would like to leave a white or coloured edge on each side. Simply click on the option you would like to choose.



16 Upload your photo Now click on Upload a file! and select your panorama photo from your computer. It may take a little while to upload, but when it does you will be able to view a preview of what your canvas will look like on a wall. When you are happy, click Add to Cart.



17 Buy your canvas You will now go through to view your shopping cart, where you can see what you are about to purchase and how much it will cost. You can also select the quantity you would like to order. Next, click Proceed to Checkout and purchase your canvas.



18 Fix it to the wall Once your canvas arrives, fix it to the wall of your choice. Make sure there is enough room for it, and avoid placing it on coloured walls that will clash with the colours in your photo. You may wish to consider this when taking the shot.



Contrast

Use a panoramic scene with plenty of contrast and interest to avoid a flat or dull piece of wall art

Colour

Bright colours will really make your canvas print stand out on your wall and enhance the room

Personal

Choose a location that is special to you. It will make a great talking point for visitors and friends

Edges

Unless you add a white border, allow for some space at the edge to be wrapped around the canvas

Technical tip

Print Panoramics's products are optimised for the iPhone, but you can use a panorama taken on any camera.

Shoot, edit & share a bespoke birthday card

Surprise a friend or family member on their special day by making and sending them a fun, personalised photo card

Great shot secret!

Avoid taking your shot in a busy location. Having lots of people in the background could distract attention away from your model.

Creative cards

✓ Making your own card is a great way to show off your shots as well as give a great photo gift



What you'll need...

- ✓ Digital camera
- ✓ A model and props
- ✓ Editing software
- ✓ Online card printing service

We used...

- ✓ Canon PowerShot G15 camera
- ✓ Balloons
- ✓ Elements 11
- ✓ moonpig.com

You could try...

- ✓ GIMP
- ✓ funky pigeon.com

What you'll learn...

- ✓ How to create a fun personalised card

A birthday is always a special occasion, but often the cards you can buy from the shops don't feel very special at all. This year, have a go at creating your own personalised card that is guaranteed to make the birthday boy or girl smile.

Everyone loves a birthday surprise, so why not send them something they won't be expecting – a card featuring a photo of someone floating in mid-air! To make your card really personal, get another of their friends or family members to be your model. Alternatively, you can put yourself in

the photo. Just set up your camera on a tripod and use the self-timer to take the shot once you have run into the frame. Just be sure to use the longest timer setting so you have enough time to pose.

Over the next few pages we will show you how to take the shot, create the floating effect in Adobe Photoshop Elements and then design your card at moonpig.com. So grab your camera and a few fun props to pose with, and follow along as we begin creating a special card for someone's special day.

**Busy backdrop**

X Try to keep the background clean so your subject stands out

“To make your card really personal, get another of their friends or family members to be your model”

Shoot

Take your floating photo

01 Select your setting

Find a setting with a relatively simple backdrop. You need to make sure that the props and your model will stand out and that you will easily be able to edit out the object your model is standing on. For example, use simple grass and sky.



02 Pick your props

Choose the props your model will be holding to emphasise the floating effect. Using balloons or a colourful umbrella in an outdoor setting works well as it will look like they have been swept away by the wind. Find a stool or chair for them to stand on.



03 Position your model

Get your model to pose on the stool. Have fun with it and get them to act as though they are being blown away, with a shocked expression and their arm stretched above their head. Be careful that their arm does not create a shadow across their face.



04 Set to aperture priority

Set your camera to aperture priority mode and select a narrow aperture (high f-number) to make sure the entire frame is in focus. This will ensure your model and props are sharp in your image and it will make editing out the stool easier.



05 Take the shot

Once your model and props are in place, you can then take the shot. It is a good idea to crouch down low to emphasise the illusion that they are floating. Make sure there is a plain background behind the stool from this angle so you can easily edit it out.



06 Shoot an empty shot

Stay in the exact position you took your shot from and get your model to move themselves, the props and stool out of the frame. Then take a shot of the scene without them in it so you can copy in the background when you edit out the stool.

3 of the best... Personalised card printing services



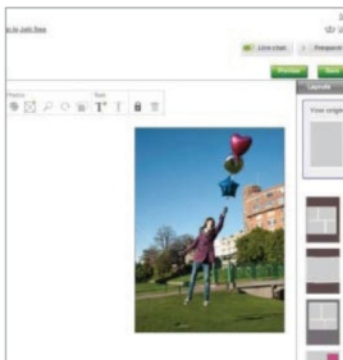
Funky Pigeon

Funky Pigeon allows you to create personalised cards for absolutely any occasion. There are some great templates to choose from and you can either upload a single photo or multiple images for your card. Head to funkypigeon.com for more.



Jessops

Jessops now offers a personalised card service where you can upload your shot or customise a ready-made card. You can also order more than one card. Check out jessops.com.



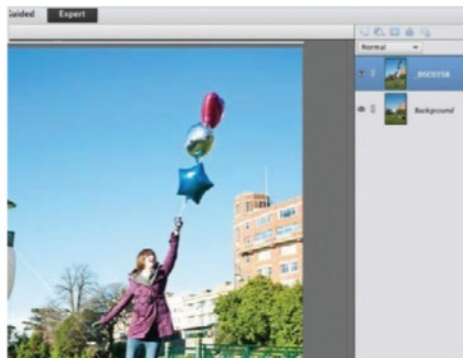
Photobox

Photobox offers a great range of card templates for all occasions. You can add your own photos and text, plus you can order a set of ten. For the full range, click photobox.co.uk.

Great shot secret!

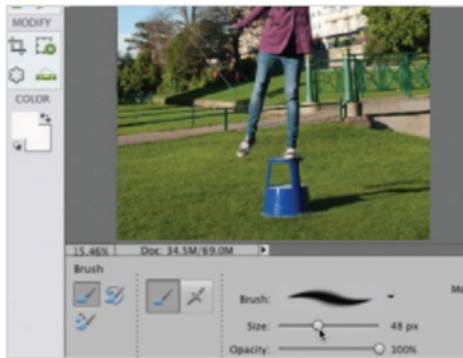
Get your model to wear colourful clothes and try to do your photo shoot on a sunny day so your image is fun and bright.

Edit Remove the stool from your shot



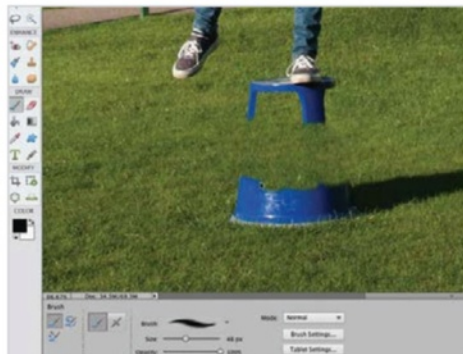
07 Open both images

In Photoshop Elements, go to File>Open and select the image you have taken of just the background, without your model in it. Then go to File>Place and open the image that does have your model and props in it and click on the green tick.



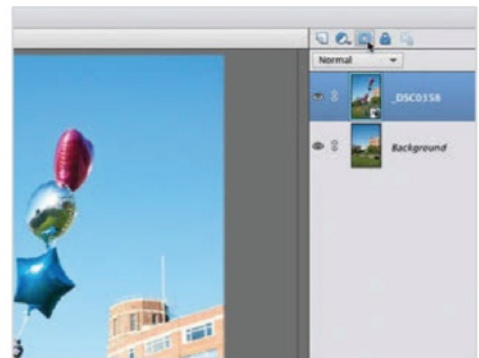
09 Select the Brush tool

Zoom in to the area where the stool features in your image and then locate and select the Brush tool. You can find this from the Tool bar on the left-hand side. Ensure that the Opacity is set to 100% and adjust the brush size as you see fit.



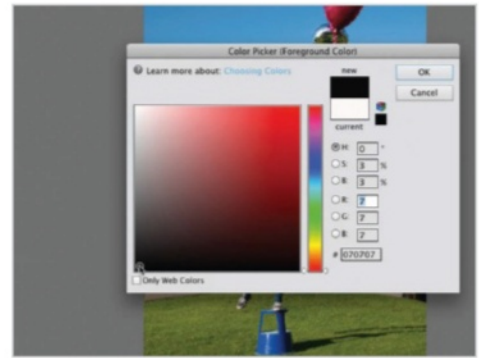
11 Remove the stool

Now paint the grass over the stool. This will remove the stool to reveal the background in the other photo behind it. Select a smaller brush size to remove the areas around your model's foot, and be sure to remove the shadow of the stool too.



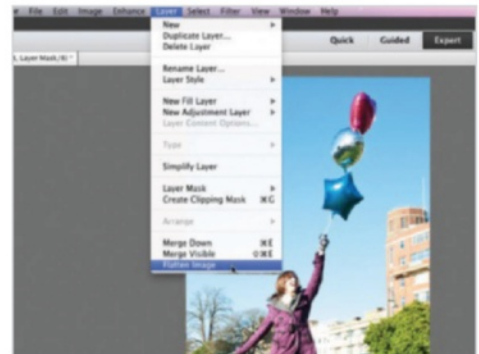
08 Add a Layer Mask

Once you have both images open as two separate layers, head to the Layers side bar. Click on the image that has your model in it, then click on the Add Layer Mask button which is found in the Tool bar at the top of the interface.



10 Change Brush colour

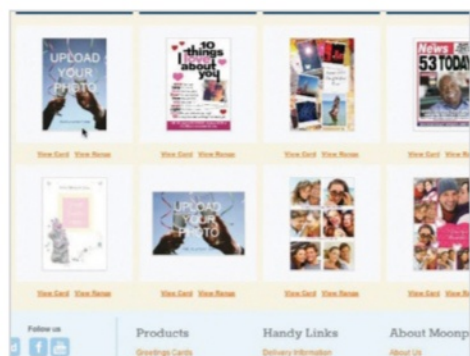
Once you have selected the Brush tool and specified the Opacity and brush size, click on the selected colour that is shown at the bottom of the Tool bar to open up the colour palette. Set the colour to black and then click OK.



12 Flatten your image

Once you have removed the stool and its shadow, go to Layer>Flatten Image to merge the two layers together. You can then save your image by going to File>Save As and selecting JPEG as the format then type in a file name.

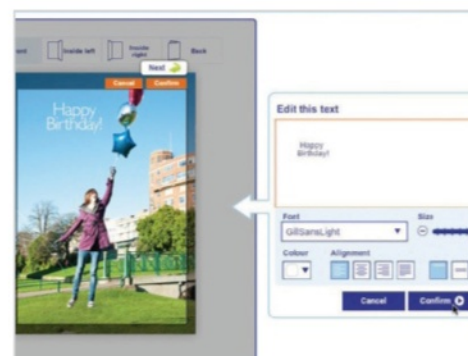
Share Create your birthday card at moonpig.com



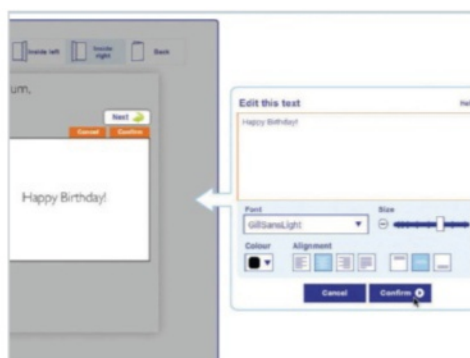
13 Select your card
To create your birthday card, go to moonpig.com and click on the Photo Upload button on the homepage. Then click on the plain Upload Your Photo card in either landscape or portrait, depending on the orientation of your shot.



14 Upload your photo
Select the size of card you would like, and then hit Next Step. Click on the card and select Edit Photo. You can then upload your final edited floating image from your computer. Once it has uploaded, position your image and then click Confirm.



15 Edit the text
Click on the card again and this time select Edit Text. Type the text you want and position it in a plain area of your photo, such as the sky. Then change the font, size, colour and alignment, making sure the text is fully visible and easy to read.



16 Type your message
Once you have clicked Confirm, you can then edit the other pages of your card. Click the inside-right button and type your birthday message. You can edit the font, size, colour and alignment of the text. When you are finished, click Confirm.



17 Order your card
Finally, you can order your card. Click Order Now and then select where you would like the card to be sent. Choose the Back to Me option so you can give it to the recipient, or select Direct to Recipient to have it posted straight to them.



Fun props

Bright, colourful and fun props such as balloons will add plenty of personality to your birthday card

Super setting

Pick an uncluttered setting that both complements the shot and makes the editing stage easy

Lighting

Make sure your subject is well lit, and shooting on a bright day will add more colour and vibrance to a fun shot such as this

Shadows

Try and keep the shadow of your subject in when you clone out the stool's shadow, otherwise it will look unrealistic

Technical tip

It is important that you can see your model's expression. If the light is behind them, meter for your subject so their face is not underexposed.

Create a cool profile picture

Impress your friends with a fun portrait



“Perform some digital trickery in editing software”

What you'll need...

- ✓ Digital camera
- ✓ Tripod
- ✓ Editing software

We used...

- ✓ Canon EOS 600D
- ✓ Slik tripod
- ✓ Adobe Photoshop CS6

You could try...

- ✓ Any digital camera
- ✓ Adobe Photoshop Elements

What you'll learn...

- ✓ How to create a picture-within-a-picture image

Self-portraits are becoming increasingly popular in the modern world. This is especially true when it comes to social networking sites, as most require you to upload a photo of yourself to be used as your profile avatar. This picture is often the first thing that people will see when browsing your networking page, so why not get creative and try capturing something that's a little bit different?

For some people, the idea of taking a self-portrait might be slightly daunting. This is usually because we're so used to being behind the camera that the idea of posing for our own shots may seem alien at first. But in practice, it's actually a lot of fun, and with yourself as the main subject of the picture, it's something that you can try out whenever you like.

One of the biggest benefits of digital photography is that it allows us to perform some digital trickery using editing software. One great example of this is creating a portrait within a portrait. This requires taking a

photograph of yourself holding a large photo frame and then using editing software to cleverly copy the image inside of the photo frame over and over again so that it resembles a never-ending tunnel of images. The result is one that's truly mesmerising and makes for an interesting profile picture on social networking sites. What's more, the great thing about this technique is that you don't need any expensive or sophisticated photo equipment either; it can be done using just about any type of camera, including a simple point-and-shoot or even a cameraphone. You will need a tripod, however, to set your camera up on, or alternatively you can rest it on a straight, flat surface.

To find out how to shoot, edit and share your own creative avatar now, just follow along with our simple step-by-step guide below and we'll show you everything you need to create your very own mind-bending picture-in-a-picture self-portrait.

Shoot

We show you how to capture a creative self-portrait



01 Choose a location Using a location with a chair or bench is a good idea as it will act as a marker, so you always know where to be. It's also handy if you're holding a heavy frame as it means you can take the weight off.



02 Set up your tripod A tripod will enable you to take the shot and be in the photo at the same time. Once you've set your camera up on a sturdy tripod, frame the image, making sure you leave enough headroom to fit in the photo.



03 Select Aperture Priority Set the camera to Aperture Priority (A or Av) and dial in an aperture of around f5.6 – this should nicely blur distractions. Don't worry about the shutter speed as the camera will set this for you.



04 Focus the shot Place the picture frame roughly where you'll be sitting and focus on it by half depressing the shutter button. Afterwards, switch to Manual Focus (MF) to prevent it re-focusing when you take the shot.



05 Use the self-timer Activate Self-timer mode to give you enough time to get into position once the shutter button is pushed. Alternatively, you could ask someone else to push it for you or use a remote shutter release.



06 Take your image Fully depress the shutter button and get into place for the photo. Review the shot on the rear screen and make any compositional changes that you need to make. Carry on shooting until you're happy.

Accessories for taking self-portraits



Tripod

When it comes to taking a self-portrait, investing in a sturdy tripod is absolutely vital, as it'll allow you to keep the camera held securely in position while you're busy getting ready for the photo!



Wireless shutter release

A wireless shutter release is a handy tool that lets you take a photo from a distance using a small remote. What's more, with prices starting at around £20/\$33, they're affordable too.



Flip-out LCD screen

If you own a DSLR with a flip-out LCD screen, try activating the camera's Live-view function and use the flip-out screen to view yourself while you take the shot, to help with composition.

3 of the best... Apps for sharing



Twitter Free (Android/iOS)

Twitter is a microblogging service that lets you send and read 'tweets' from other users, which are either short, 140-character messages or photos.



Instagram Free (Android/iOS)

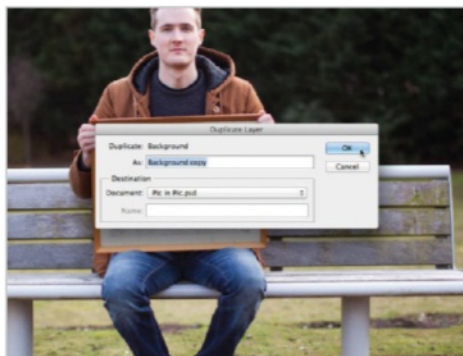
Instagram is a free social networking app that allows you to apply funky film effects to your images and then share them with other users.



Flickr Free (Android/iOS)

Flickr allows you to upload and share your images with other photographers around the world. Creating an account is quick and completely free to do.

Edit Construct your picture-in-a-picture in Photoshop



01 Duplicate the layer
Create a duplicate of the image on a new layer in the Layers palette (Window>Layers). Do this by Ctrl/right-clicking the Background layer, choosing Duplicate Layer and then clicking OK.



02 Resize to fit
Head up to Edit>Free Transform, then click and drag one of the corner tabs to resize the layer to roughly fit the photo frame. Holding Shift while you resize will make sure that the layer stays in proportion.



03 Move into position
If the layer isn't in the right position, click and drag in the centre of the image and move it into the right place. If you need to make further size adjustments, you can also do this now.



04 Rotate the layer
Move your mouse to the outside edge of one of the corner tabs, then click and drag to rotate the layer until it matches the angle of the frame. Once the image roughly fits the frame, hit Enter to confirm.

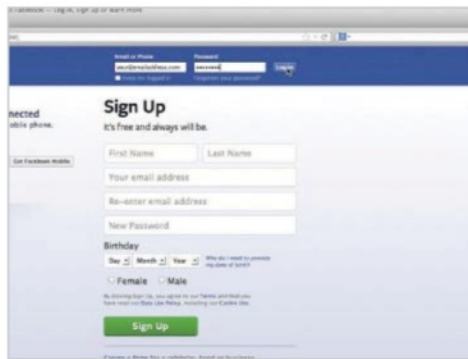


05 Tidy up the edges
Click the eye icon next to the top layer in the Layers palette, then grab the Polygonal Lasso tool and trace the inside of the frame. Go to Select>Inverse, then press Delete before going to Select>Deselect.



06 Repeat until complete
Click the eye icon next to the top layer to reveal it again. Now simply repeat steps 1 to 4 but duplicating the top layer instead of the background. Keep doing this until you've filled in all of the frames.

Share Upload your image as your Facebook profile picture



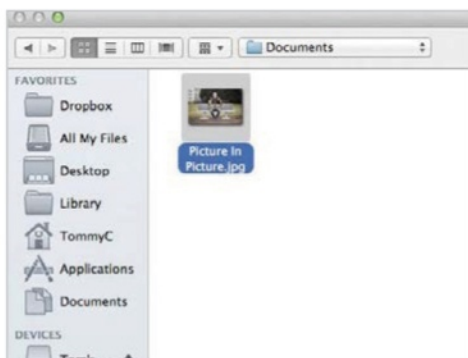
01 Log in to Facebook
Open up your web browser and type www.facebook.com into the web address bar. Type in your log-in details at the top and click Log In. If you don't have an account, create one using the Sign Up section.



02 Go to your page
Once you've successfully logged in to your account, head up to the top-left of the window and locate your current profile picture. Next to it you should see your name – click on it to visit your personal profile page.



03 Edit your profile picture
Hover the mouse over your current profile picture in the top left-hand corner of the window and you'll see the Edit Profile Picture option appear. Click on this and from the list of options, select Upload Photo.



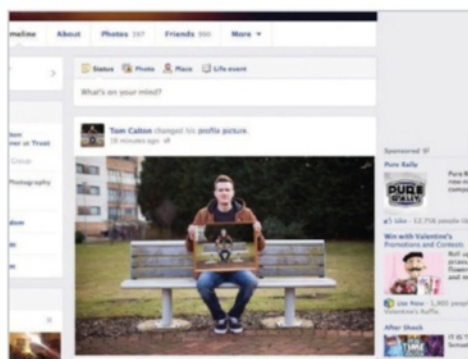
04 Upload your image
In the File Upload window that appears, navigate through your computer files and locate your picture-in-a-picture image. Click on it, then click the Open button at the bottom-right of the window.

Gain Likes
Your Facebook friends can show their appreciation by hitting 'Like' below your photo

Update
With your image uploaded, your friends will be informed about your new profile picture

Share
Clicking 'Share' will allow you, and others to show off your image with other users

Comments
Your friends can also give feedback about your new photo by hitting 'Comment'



05 Wait for the upload
Your image may take anywhere up to a few minutes to upload depending on the speed of your internet connection. Once the upload is complete, you'll see your new profile picture appear in the top-left corner.



Editing

Improve your images with these post-shoot edits

158 Creative editing effects in an instant
Unleash your artistic side

164 Fix exposures with traditional skills
Use adjustment layers to edit

168 Get rid of red-eye in your photos
Remove this photo flaw easily

170 Remove blemishes and improve skin tones
Use editing to look your best

172 Repair old prints
Work miracles on tattered shots

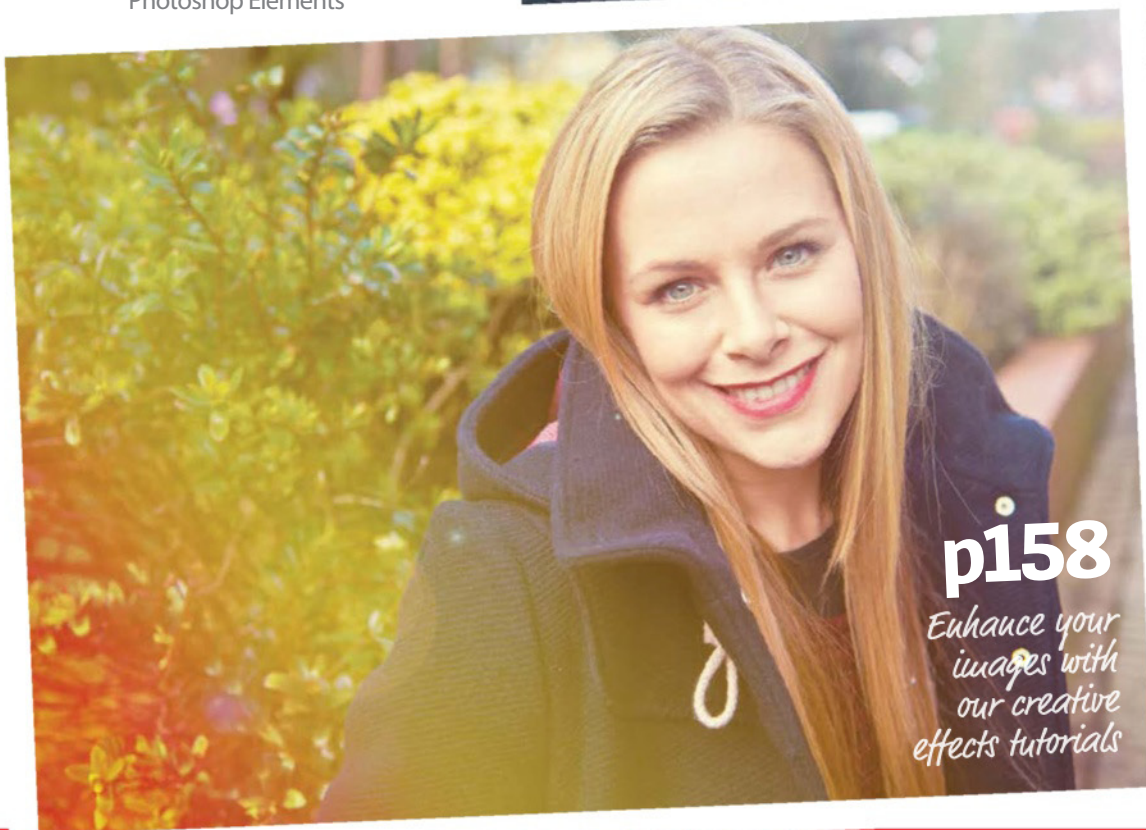
174 How to fix colour casts
Take control of terrible hues

176 Add impact to black and white conversions
Convert from colour using Photoshop Elements



p174

Get rid of ugly colour casts



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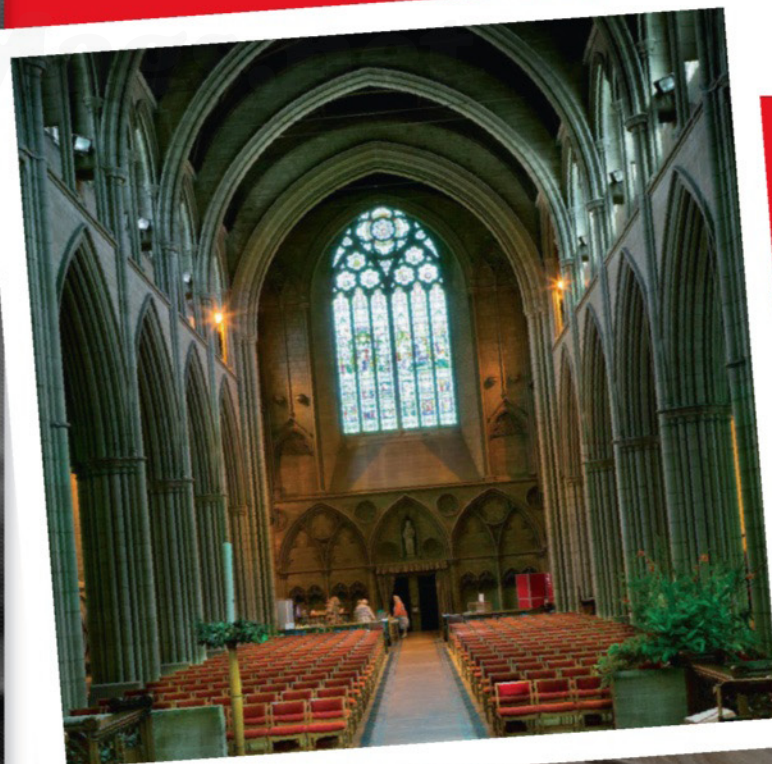
Enhance your images with our creative effects tutorials





p172

*Discover how to
repair your old
photographs*



p170

*Remove skin
blemishes from
your portraits*



p176

*Convert your
images to
black and white*



Creative editing effects in an instant

Unleash your artistic side with our easy-to-follow guides to applying fun effects in Photoshop Elements

What you'll need...

- ✓ A selection of suitable start photos
- ✓ Photoshop Elements

We used...

- ✓ Photoshop Elements 12

You could try...

- ✓ Older versions of Photoshop Elements or the full suite. Techniques will differ, though

What you'll learn...

- ✓ How to add fun effects to your images in post-production

Toolbar

Find all the tools here. Choose colours at the bottom. The front box shows foreground colour, while the back square shows background colour. To alternate, double-click on one

Menu bar

Explore what is hidden within these drop-down menus in this top bar. We will use the Filter and Enhance menus often over the next few pages, but you can also save, print and more from here

Tool Options bar

Whenever you click on a tool in the Toolbar, further options will appear at the bottom of the interface. You can choose to alter the opacity, tool setups, brush type, strength and much more

Layers panel

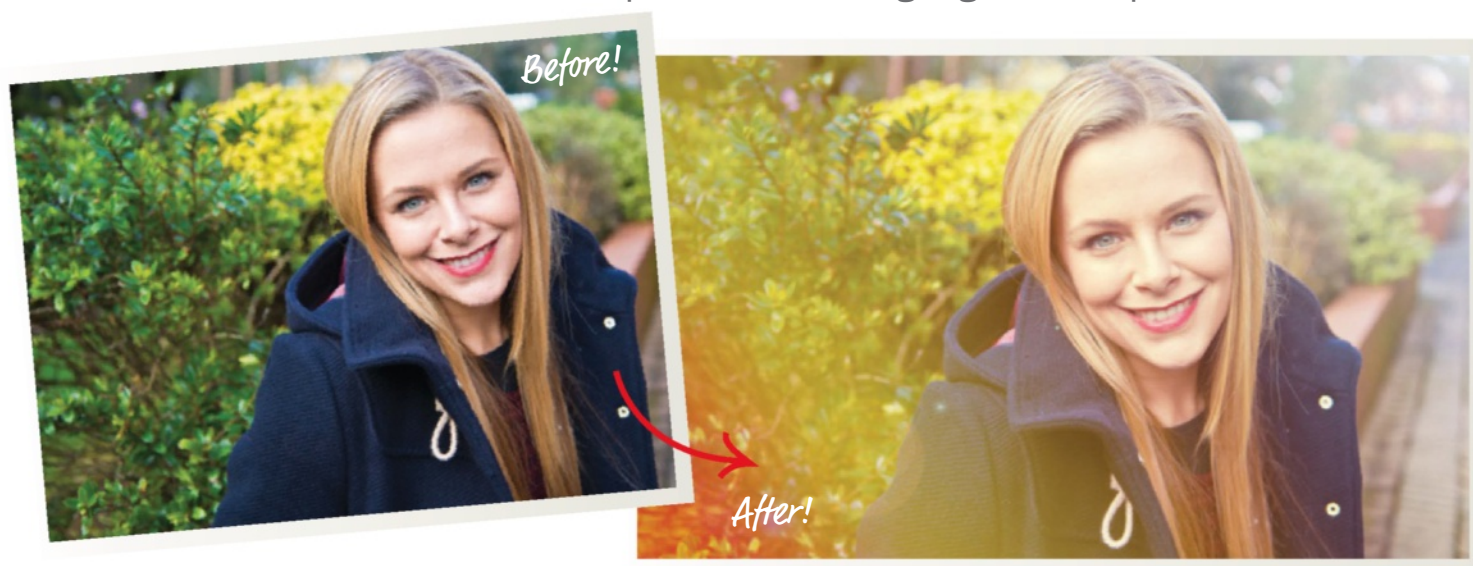
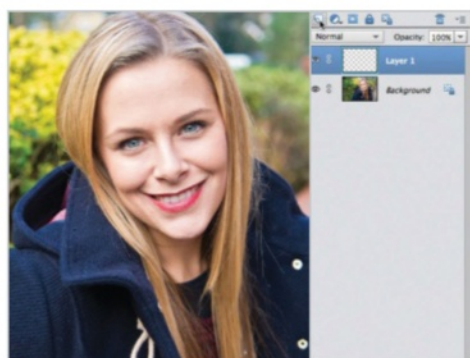
Choose to mask, duplicate, change opacity and blend modes, add adjustment layers, delete and much more in this side panel. All layer effects and multiple layers can be found here



Technical tip

Always duplicate your Background layer before you start a project. This way, any edits made to your photo will not be permanent if you hit Save. You will always have an original, untouched copy of your photo saved to go back to.

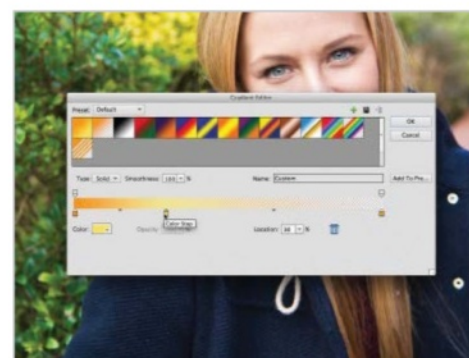
Retro film effect Transform photos with vintage light techniques



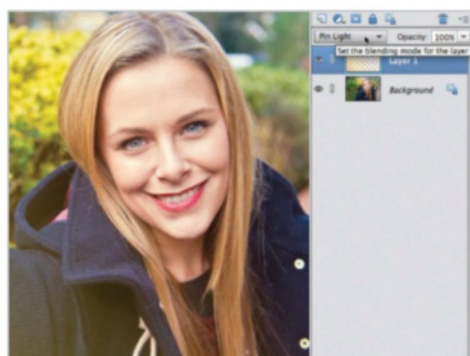
01 Add a new layer
To open an image go to File>Open> Select your chosen start photo. To fill your screen with your photo, choose View>Full Screen. Go to the Layers panel (right of your screen) and click on Create a New Layer at the top of the panel.



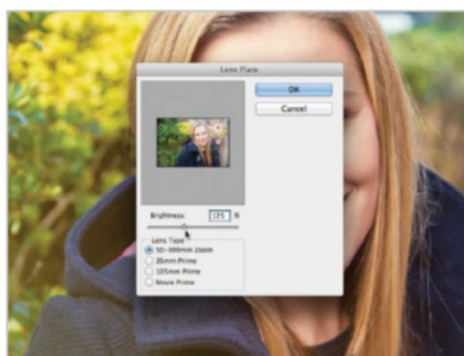
02 Choose the Gradient tool
The new layer will sit above the Background layer. Click on the Gradient tool, then click the Foreground colour square and select orange. Go to the Tool Options bar and click on the coloured gradient thumbnail to bring up the Gradient Editor.



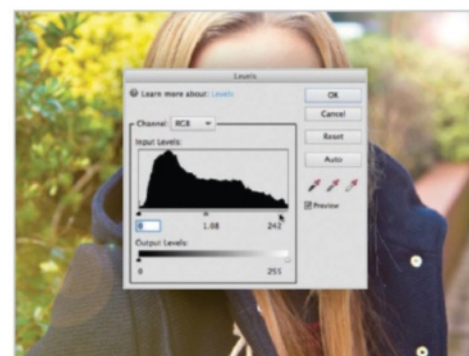
03 Set up your gradient
Click on the Foreground to Transparent blend. Click under the coloured line in the dialog box to add another colour stop. Double-click on this new stopper and select a new colour from the dialog box. Your gradient will now have two colours. Hit OK.



04 Add a layer blend
In the Tool Options bar choose Pin Light, 50% Opacity, Linear Gradient. Make sure the top layer in Layers is selected. Draw a line on the canvas from the bottom-left towards the centre. In the Layers panel, change the blend mode to Pin Light.

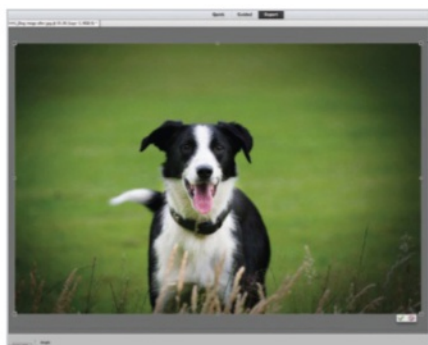


05 Duplicate a layer
Click on your Background layer, then click the top-right drop-down icon and select Duplicate Layer. Press the eye icon next to the bottom layer to hide it from view. Click the new duplicate layer, go to Filter in the top bar, then go to Render>Lens Flare.



06 Lens flare and levels
In the preview window, you can move the effect and alter the Brightness. When happy, hit OK. Go to Enhance in the top bar, select Adjust Lighting>Levels, then move the middle and right stoppers left on the graph to lighten the whole image.

Transform and crop your image



- 01 Activate Free Transform**
Open your start photo, go to the Layers panel and double-click on the Background layer. Go to Image>Transform>Free Transform (Cmd/Ctrl+T). Corner pointers will appear around it.

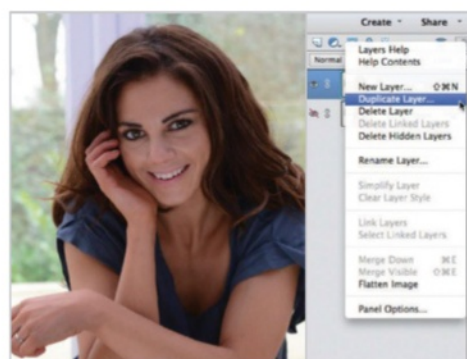


- 02 Rotate to suit**
Hover over a corner and a rotate icon will appear. Rotate the image, placing it at an angle. To alter the image size, hold down Shift to keep perspective, then move a corner pointer. Hit Enter.

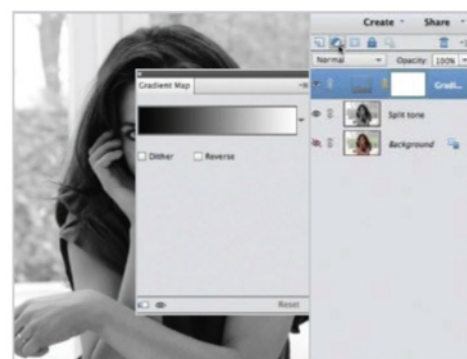


- 03 Select and crop**
Select the Crop tool (C) and draw over your image, selecting the area you wish to keep. Move the pointers and hover over the edges to rotate more if needed. When happy, press Enter.

Split toning Colour effects made simple



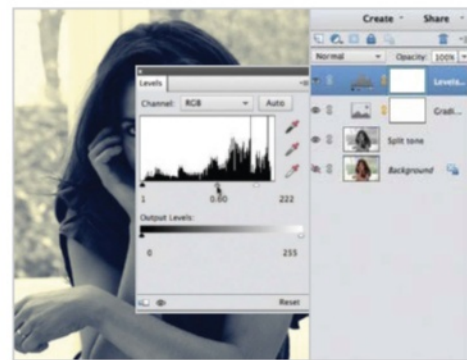
- 01 Duplicate for safety**
Open your photo in Elements. Go to the Layers panel, click on the top-right menu icon and select Duplicate Layer. Press the eye icon next to the bottom Background layer, hiding it from view.



- 02 Add a Gradient Map layer**
Click on the visible top layer and go to Enhance>Adjust Color>Remove Color, transforming it to monochrome. Go to the Layers panel, click Create new fill or adjustment layer and pick Gradient Map.



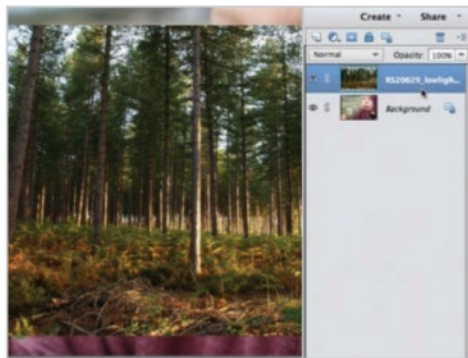
- 03 Choose a blend and colour**
Click on the coloured box in the Gradient Map dialog box, bringing up the Gradient Editor. Ensure the Foreground to Background option is selected. Double-click the black stopper and select a dark blue.



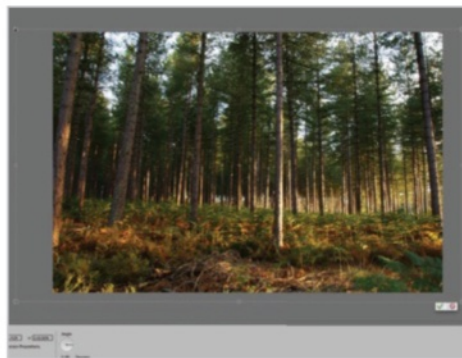
- 04 Finishing off**
Double-click the other stopper and choose a pale yellow. Click on the 'Create new fill or adjustment layer' icon, choose Levels, and move the sliders to enhance the shadows and highlights.

Double exposure

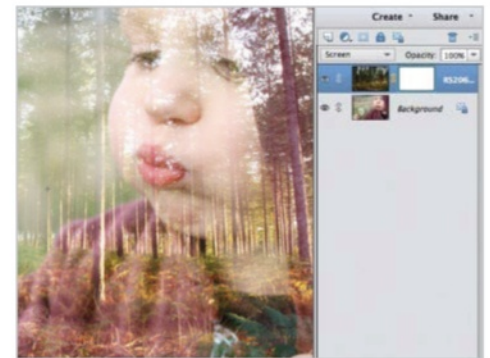
Merge images to create striking compositions



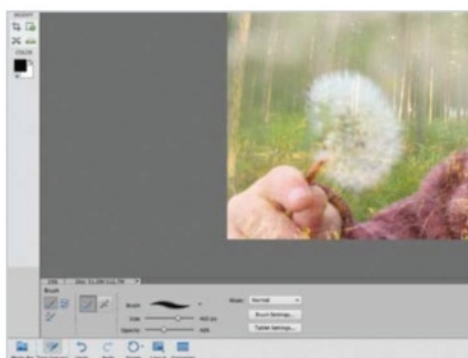
01 Drag and drop to merge
Open the images you wish to merge and press Photo Bin in the bottom-left, showing all open images. Double-click on the image that will be the base photo. Drag the thumbnail of the other photo from the Photo Bin onto the other open image canvas.



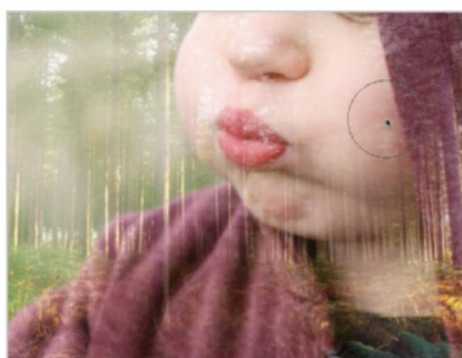
02 Transform to size
Your second image will be on top of the other in the Layers panel. Click it, go to Image>Transform>Free Transform and, holding down Shift to keep perspective, drag a corner pointer outwards to increase its size, matching the layer below. Hit Enter.



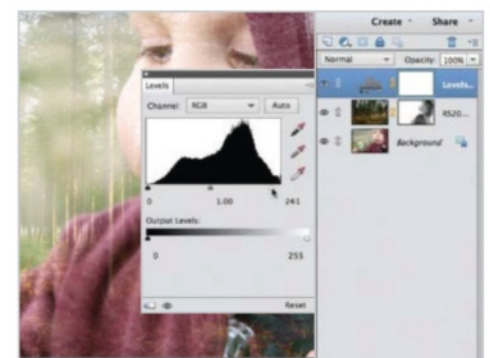
03 Choose a blend mode
Return to the Layers panel, click on the Blend Mode drop-down menu and work through the options, experimenting to see what effects can be achieved. The results vary depending on your photos and their colour make-up. Here we've chosen Screen.



04 Add a mask
Add a mask to the top layer and click on the mask thumbnail. Select the Brush tool and in the Tool Options panel select a large, soft-edged brush at 40% Opacity. Ensure the foreground/background colours in the Toolbar are set to black/white.

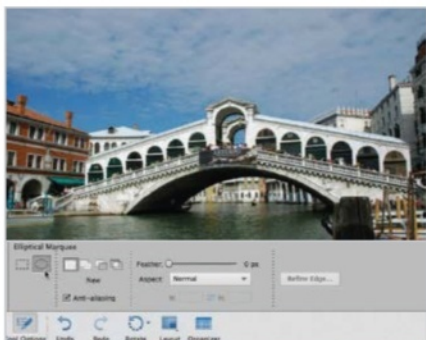


05 Mask and reveal
Paint away some of the top layer so the face becomes clearer. To paint back in an area, switch the foreground/background colours to white/black by pressing the arrow next to the coloured squares in the Toolbar (x). Black masks and white reveals.



06 Opacity and levels to finish
If you would like a more subtle effect, try lowering the top layer's opacity. Click on the 'Create new fill or adjustment layer' button at the top of the Layers panel and select Levels. Move the right white arrow left, enhancing the highlights.

Create a funky fish-eye effect



01 Set up the Selection tool
Open your image and duplicate your Background layer as a backup. Select the Elliptical Marquee tool (if not visible select Rectangular Marquee and choose it from the Tool Options bar).

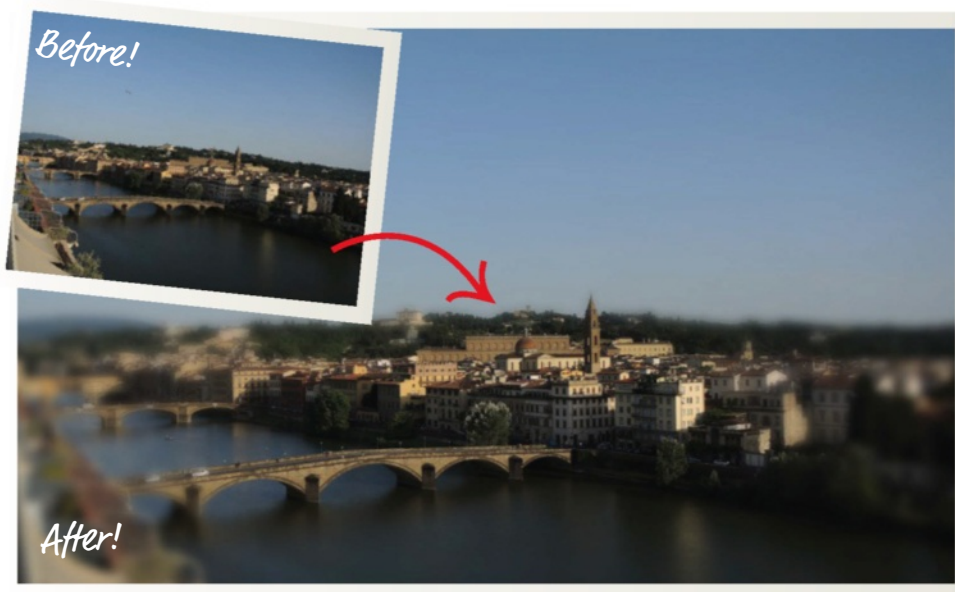


02 Create a new layer
Holding down Shift to keep perspective, draw a circle over the central part of your image. With the selection active, press Cmd/Ctrl+J to lift the selection onto its own layer.

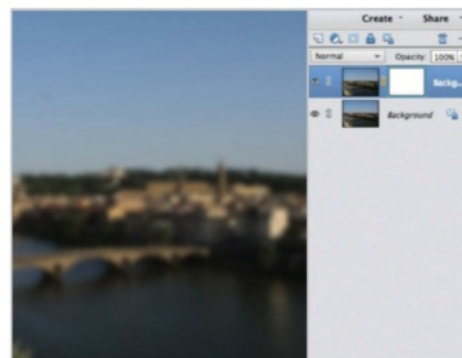


03 Apply the effect
Cmd/Ctrl-click on the top layer in the Layers panel to create an active selection, go to Filter>Distort> Spherize, move the slider to 100% and press OK. The effect will be applied.

Tilt shift Miniaturise with creative blurring



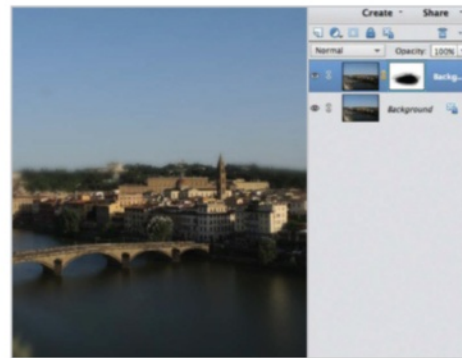
01 Duplicate and blur
With your photo open, go to the Layers panel, click on the top-right drop-down menu and select Duplicate Layer, keeping both layers visible. Click on the top layer and go to Filter>Blur>Gaussian Blur.



02 Add a mask
Set the blur radius to 20 pixels and press OK. Add a mask to the newly blurred layer located at the top of the Layers panel. In the Toolbar, set the foreground/background colours to white/black.



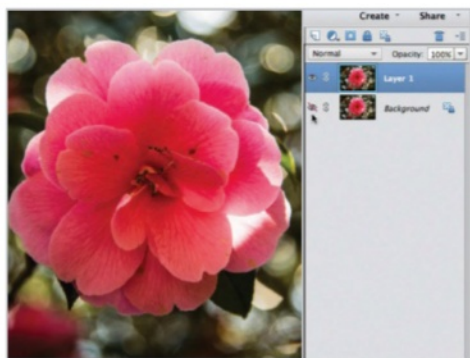
03 Erase your selection
Go to the Rectangular Marquee tool, and in the Tool Options bar select Elliptical. Set the Feather to 100 pixels. Draw an ellipse over the area of the image you wish to be sharp and press Delete.



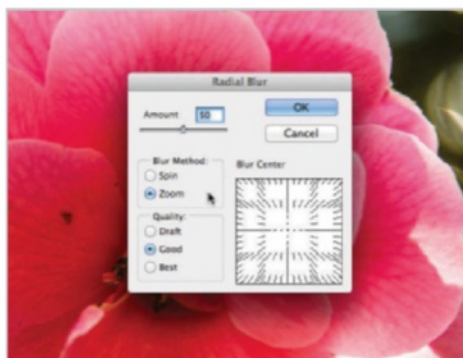
04 Create a gradual blend
If the area doesn't mask away, switch the order of the foreground/background colours. The feather should create a gradual blend. If it's too harsh, switch to the Brush and manually mask away.

Zoom burst

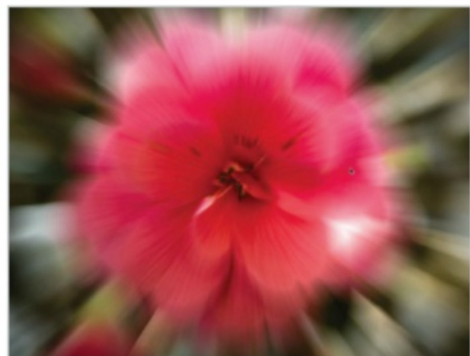
Use the Radial Blur to add motion



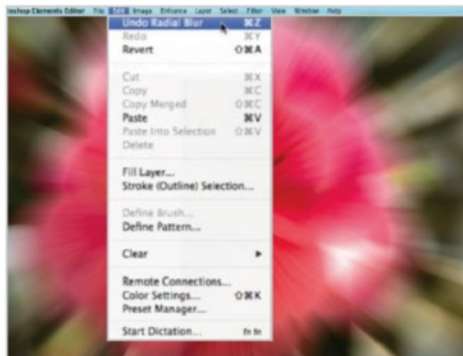
01 Duplicate and hide
As we always recommend, begin by duplicating your Background layer, as this blur effect will be applied to your photo layer. Hide the base layer and click on the newly duplicated top layer in the Layers panel.



02 Add radial blur
Click Filter in the top menu bar and select Blur>Radial Blur. In this dialog box, check the Zoom option. Good quality is fine. The Amount slider is what you move to control the impact of the zoom effect.

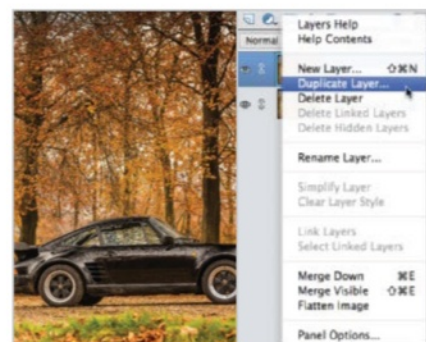


03 Trial and error
There isn't a preview mode in this dialog box, so the end result can be trial and error. Start off with an Amount of 50, press OK and see the effect applied. If you want to alter the level you can.



04 Undo and repeat
Go to Edit>Undo Radial Blur (Cmd/Ctrl+ Z) and repeat the process until you are happy. If you want to experiment further, try adding on a mask like shown in the tilt shift step-by-step for a more gradual blur effect.

Add motion blur speed effects



01 Duplicate first layer
With your start photo open, go to the Layers panel. Click on the top-right menu button and select Duplicate Layer. Click the top layer in the Layers panel, highlighting it blue.



02 Add your blur
In the top options bar, click Filter> Blur>Motion Blur. Experiment with the Angle and Distance and hit OK. Go to the Layers panel, click the Add a Mask icon and click on the mask thumbnail.



03 Mask away to finish
Select the Brush tool and set the foreground/background to black/white. In the Tool Options bar, set Opacity to 30% and pick a large, soft brush. Paint on your photo, masking away some blur.

Fix exposure with traditional skills

Use adjustment layers to emulate the traditional practice of dodging and burning



Dodge, Burn and Sponge are three tools packaged within Photoshop that should spend most of their time locked in the cupboard under the stairs.

They're destructive, meaning that if you use them directly on a pixel-based layer, you've only got the Undo command should you decide that you've made a proper mess or aren't happy. And this means undoing everything else you've done in the process.

A better, non-destructive method is to use adjustment layers and their masks. Separate Curves layers can be used instead of Dodge and Burn, and separate Hue/Saturation layers can be used as an alternative for



Sponge. The layer mask allows you to apply these edits to specific parts of the image just as you would with those naughty Dodge, Burn and Sponge tools, but this time all your work is recorded on the layer mask and undone at any time by simply brushing with black instead of white.

But why should you dodge, burn and alter saturation in the first place? Well, quite often the lighting or tones that nature provides aren't always the most beautiful. Dodging can draw attention to pivotal details, while burning is great for knocking back elements that are better hidden. Saturation is great for focusing the eye to the centre of the frame, and used together they're a formidable image-editing team.

What you'll need...

- ✓ Digital photo
- ✓ Image-editing software or app

We used...

- ✓ Photoshop

You could try...

- ✓ Elements
- ✓ iPhoto
- ✓ GIMP
- ✓ PhotoPlus
- ✓ Manufacturer's own brand software

What you'll learn...

- ✓ How to use Dodge and Burn
- ✓ How to use adjustment layers
- ✓ How to use the Brush tool

Layers and layers

We begin by creating lots of layers



01 Add a Dodge layer

Start by adding a Curves adjustment layer using the button at the base of the Layers palette. Push the Curve up hard with a single point and invert the layer mask using Cmd/Ctrl+I to Hide All. Double-click the layer text and rename it Dodge.



02 Add a Burn layer

Add a second Curves layer in the same way, this time pulling the Curve down hard with a single point for your burn effect. Invert the layer mask and rename it Burn. Now add a third adjustment layer with the same button, this time for Hue/Saturation.



03 Saturation layers

Push Saturation up to +35 and invert the mask as before. Double-click the layer text and rename it 'Sat Increase'. Add one more Hue/Saturation layer and pull the Saturation slider down to -35. Invert and rename it 'Sat Decrease'.



04 Set up the Brush tool

Press 'D' to reset the colour palette to white and black and 'B' to access the Brush tool. Set it to 0% Hardness. We'll use Dodge to bring out detail in the darker areas that we'd like to draw more attention to. Click the Dodge layer mask to make it active.



05 Zoom in

Now use Cmd/Ctrl and '+' to zoom in to any dark areas of your image. You can hold down Space and click and drag to move around once you've zoomed in. Resize the Brush tool with '[' and ']' and press 3 to set the brush Opacity to 30%.



06 Dodge to balance tones

Brush over the dark areas as many times as necessary to lighten them to match similar tones (zoom out to compare if you need to). In our image, the stone wall on the left needed balancing to match the right one.

3 of the best...

Simple ways to improve exposure



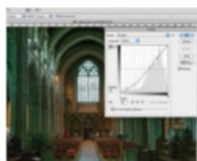
Shadows/Highlights

If you want a simple way to alter your exposure, just head to Shadows/Highlights in the Adjustments menu and either let the computer work out the best settings for you (as we have done above) or have a play with the simple two-slider setup to find the best result for your image. Work on an adjustments layer to make your edits non-destructive.



Brightness/Contrast

Another handy tool for photographers, which is again found in the Adjustments menu. This two-slider tool allows you to alter both the brightness and the contrast in your photo. Make sure you have checked the Preview box so that you can see what effect you're having on your image. Don't push it too far.



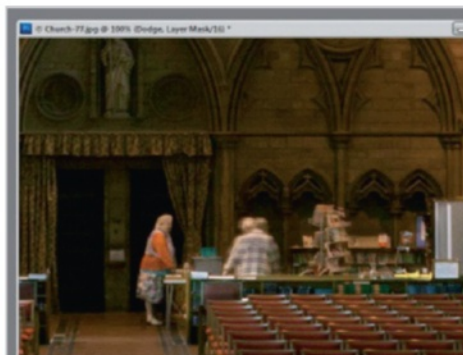
Curves

Add a Curves adjustment layer and create a gently sloping 'S' shape to create the perfect balance of shadows and highlights in your photo.



Make sure tones are even across your image

Let's get dodging... ..and burning



07 Dodge people

Elsewhere the tones are pretty symmetrical, so we'll use dodge to draw attention to important areas. The people and the stall in the background are good starting points for us; zoom in close and brush over important parts in your image.



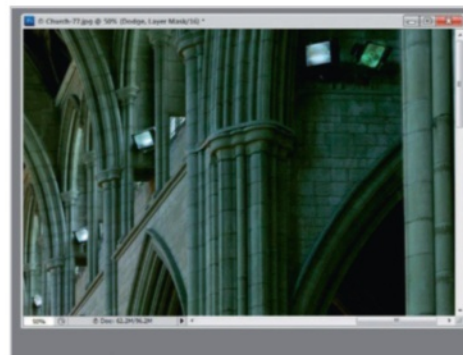
09 Burn corners

Next, click the layer mask on the Burn layer. We're going to use a very large brush, again at 30%, to darken the top-right and top-left corners to focus attention towards the middle of the shot. Brush twice over each corner, but don't overdo it.



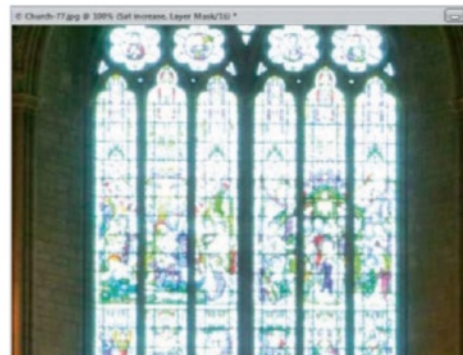
11 Sat increase

We can use saturation increases to bring out colour in important areas too. Click the Sat Increase layer mask. We can stay at 100% Brush Opacity as we want to increase the colour in our chosen areas by the same initial setting of +35 as we did with our burn.



08 Dodge the details

Work around the rest of the image in the same way, picking out areas to lighten. In our image, we chose to lighten the flowers in the foreground and the chairs in the centre of the shot. We also worked over the spot lamps along the top.



10 Burn windows

Press 0 for 100% Brush Opacity, size the brush very small and zoom in on areas that need lightening. We worked over the detail in the stained glass without touching the walls in between, which would become overly dark at 100% Opacity.



12 Brush the colour in

We worked over the people, pews, the foreground foliage and any areas with orange light, as well as the back wall, including the stained-glass windows. You can alter the Saturation slider if you want to increase or decrease the effect.

Quick Photoshop tips

Dodge and burn in colour

Traditionally, dodging and burning were used on monochrome images. The process of removing colour already affords a sense of unreality so adjustments to tonality rarely bother the viewer. Colour imagery provides greater expectations of reality, as it's viewed as being that much closer to an authentic reproduction of the world. This means dodging and burning tend to have a much stronger impact on the eye, appearing to drive a scene more towards a cartoony mood. If you're trying to maintain a semblance of reality, you'll need to be conservative with your adjustments and focus them on larger areas rather than details.

Converging verticals

When shooting large structures, you're going to have to point your camera upwards, and this means that the verticals are going to lean inwards. Correct this by running *Edit > Transform > Perspective* on a duplicate of the Background layer.



Burning for the corners

If you're using dodge or burn layers to correct large areas rather than small details, you need to use a very large brush for a more graduated effect. Zoom far out and pull the edges of the window to reveal an area outside of the canvas, then work with the brush edge for subtlety.



13 Sat decrease

To reduce saturation in certain areas, click the Sat Decrease adjustment layer mask. We can work at 100% here as -35 is a good setting. The stone work in our image has a green tinge, so we can use this layer to pull some of that colour out.



14 Brush the colour out

Resize the brush to suit and carefully brush the adjustment into the areas in your image that need the colour knocking back a bit. Pulling out the colour in our image also made the orange-lit areas look more impressive.



15 Sharpen to finish

Finish by running the Unsharp Mask filter on a duplicate of your Background layer (use *Cmd/Ctrl+J* to duplicate). A Radius of 0.5 pixels with 300% Amount is great for a full-resolution image, though you may need to go as low as 80% for some photos.

Get rid of red-eye in your photos

Learn to remove the dreaded red-eye in minutes, whatever image-editing software you have



What you'll need...

- ✓ Any image-editing program

We used...

- ✓ Adobe Photoshop CS4
- ✓ Adobe Photoshop Elements 9
- ✓ Corel Paint Shop Pro Photo X2
- ✓ Apple iPhoto

You could try...

- ✓ Generic software that comes with your camera
- ✓ Free options, like GIMP

What you'll learn...

- ✓ How to use the Red-eye tool

Red-eye is one of the most common flaws in portrait photos, and it's caused by the use of flash in close-up situations and low light. If you're taking shots at a party or in a bar, you can almost guarantee that some of them will suffer. There are ways to prevent red-eye in camera, but if the snap's already on your computer or memory card then it's time to turn to your image-editing software for a quick fix.

All photo-editing software will have a simple fix for red-eye, so it doesn't matter whether you have splashed the cash on Photoshop or are using the program that came on your camera's disc – the basics are always the same. In most cases there will be a built-in one-click option for super-speedy results.

Adobe Photoshop

Mastering this popular software's controls



01 To open your image, go to File>Open and locate the photo to open it. Next, use the Zoom tool at the bottom of the toolbar to focus on the eyes.



02 The Red-eye tool hides in the toolbar. You need to find the Spot Healing Brush tool (it looks like a plaster), then click and hold it to get a new menu.

Adobe Photoshop Elements

Auto or manual – your choice



01 Elements has three editing modes: Quick, Full and Guided. Both Quick and Full can be used to fix red-eye in different ways. We'll start in Quick mode.



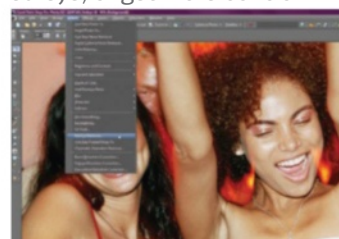
02 In older versions, go to General Fixes and click Auto next to Red-eye Fix. In newer versions, select Auto Red-eye Fix from the Enhance menu.

Corel Paint Shop Pro

Click away red-eye, or get more control



01 The easiest way to remove red-eye in Paint Shop Pro is to use the Red-eye tool in the left-hand toolbar. Simply use the tool to click on each affected eye.



02 If you need more accuracy, there is also a manual method. Choose the Red-eye Removal option from the Adjust menu to bring up the dialog box.

Apple iPhoto

The built-in Mac software offers a quick fix



01 Use the File>Add To Library option to locate your photo if it hasn't been added to your library already. Double-click on the photo you want to edit.



02 This will enlarge your photo and open the editing options along the bottom. You can zoom in using the slider to the bottom-right of the screen.



03 You can also use shortcuts. Cmd/Ctrl+J is the default command, but if you use Shift+J, you can cycle through the tools one by one.



04 In the top toolbar you can edit the Pupil Size and Darken amount. Try out the default settings to begin with, clicking in the centre of the pupil.



05 Photoshop will find the red-eye and correct automatically, but if it's not perfect, use Cmd/Ctrl+Z to Undo and then alter the settings.



03 Should Auto not clear up red-eye, then try entering the Full edit option instead. Locate the Red-eye Removal Tool in the left-hand toolbar to begin.



04 In the top toolbar, there is an Auto option. However, you can do it manually too. There are two settings here you can tweak, but the defaults are fine.



05 Click and drag the tool to create a box over your problem pupil. Let go of the mouse and the red-eye will be removed. Repeat for all pupils.



03 There are loads of options to choose here. Make sure you can see your affected eye in the Before and After windows by using the Zoom and Pan buttons.



04 There are a number of presets that you can choose to make results perfect, as well as settings for human and animal eyes.



05 Click and drag to draw a circle the same size as the pupil. You can drag the circle to position correctly and check results in the After window.



03 There is a dedicated Red-eye button at the bottom of the window. Make sure you can clearly see the affected eye(s) and then hit that button.



04 It tells you to click the centre of each eye that you want to treat, so simply click each pupil in turn and iPhoto will automatically reduce the problem.



05 You exit the Red-eye tool by clicking the cross in the black information tag, which will return you to the main interface to make further adjustments.



What causes red-eye in your photos?

The red-eye effect is caused by the flash from your camera. The flash light is too quick for the pupil to close, so the light passes through the eye, reflecting off the back of the eye and back out through the eyeball. The camera picks up this light and records it. It's red due to the amount of blood at the back of the eye, behind the retina.

Red-eye strength varies between people too; lighter-coloured eyes show a stronger red-eye effect than darker eyes. The effect is also seen in animal portraits.

3 of the best... Ways to avoid red-eye in camera



Change the flash setting

Many cameras offer a red-eye reduction flash mode. This is found by pressing the flash icon, usually on your camera's d-pad.



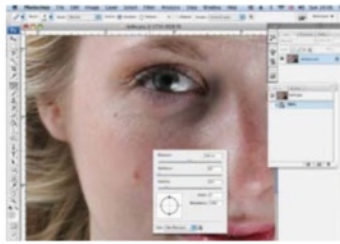
Set the scene

All cameras offer a Portrait mode. It's worth using this to reduce red-eye. It's even better if you have a Low-Light Portrait option.

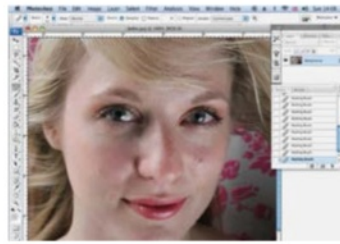


Bounce or diffuse the light

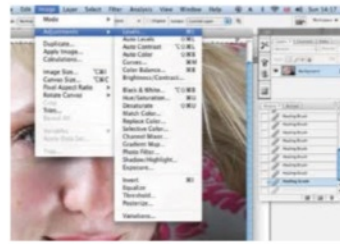
Red-eye is caused when the flash is in line with the eye – bounce your flash or diffuse it using a little piece of greaseproof paper.



03 Select the Healing Brush tool, the sticking plaster in the main toolbox. To change the brush size hold Cmd/Ctrl and click on the image.



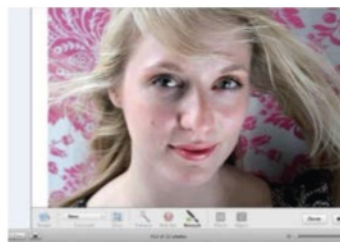
04 Select an area of the skin that is clear and a similar tone to that you wish to change, hold Alt and click. Release Alt and click on the blemished area.



05 To bring our picture to life a bit more and show off our model's perfect skin, use Levels in the Adjustments menu to brighten the image.



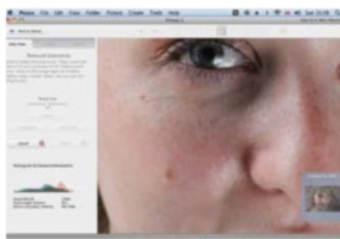
03 Now select the Retouch tool. Move the cursor over the blemished area and a click of the mouse will replace the blemish with a sympathetic tone.



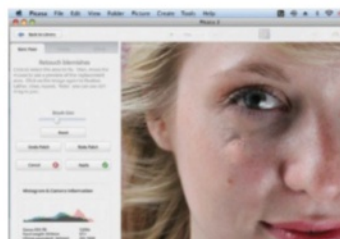
04 Be careful to make changes gradually, as it is easy to go too far and the image becomes heavily blurred. Go to Edit > Undo if you go too far.



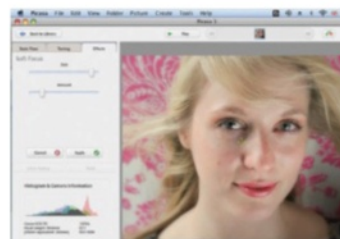
05 We used the Adjust tool to add a little warmth with the Temperature slider and to best highlight our model's perfectly retouched skin.



03 Select the Retouch tool in the left-hand toolbar. Change the brush size using the slider to match the area you need to edit.



04 Click to select the blemish, then move the cursor to an area that's clear. Picasa previews what the selection will look like. Click again to confirm.



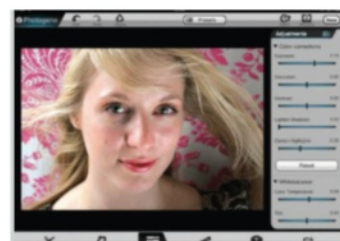
05 When you're happy with your changes, click Apply. We used the Soft Focus option in the Effects panel to add the finishing touches to our image.



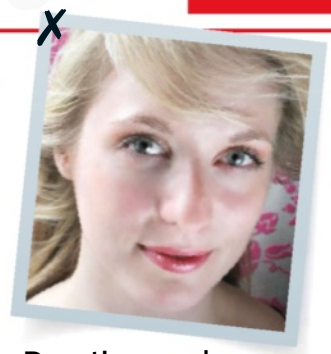
03 There are a few options in the Retouches panel. Tap Heal/Clone at the top of the panel. Double-tap the blemished area you wish to correct.



04 Two circles appear: one is the area that will change, the other is the fill selection. Drag the circles to select the desired effect. Tap the image to confirm.



05 The Adjustments panel enables you to reduce highlights with Darken Highlights. We also added warmth with the Temperature slider.



Practice makes not-so-perfect

We may try pretty hard, but none of us are perfect – the same applies to our appearance. It's easy and tempting to edit out every blemish, flatten every highlight and soften every cheek, but you'll find that the end result will look unrealistic. Make changes in small steps. If you are zoomed in on an image, remember to keep zooming out to check the overall appearance. Be sure to use the Undo tool to turn back if you've gone too far.

Why not try... Cameras with in-built image editing



Edit your shots seconds after you've taken them

While the options you get with in-camera editing are far from the comprehensive range of features offered by programs such as Photoshop and Lightroom, a variety of editing functions do come with a lot of compacts and cameraphones. You can crop, straighten and rotate your images in a lot of cameras and some even offer options such as simple retouching and filters such as Sepia, black and white, fish eye, miniature mode and much more. If these kinds of basic editing features are all you really need at this stage, consider buying a camera that will provide you with these editing extras.

Repair old prints

Use Elements 12's Restore Old Photo guided edit

What you'll need...

- ✓ Editing software
- ✓ An old photo

We used...

- ✓ Photoshop Elements 12

You could try...

- ✓ GIMP

What you'll learn...

- ✓ How to repair tears and stains and restore colour using the Restore Old Photo guided edit



“Work miracles on tattered and torn images”

Dig out your old photos and load them into Photoshop Elements 12 to restore them back to their former glory in just a few clicks. Follow our steps for using the Restore Old Photo guided edit, and see how it can work miracles on tattered, scratched and torn images.

Over time, photos can deteriorate in quality for a number of reasons. These include fading and discolouration, caused by too much exposure to sunlight, or bent corners and scratches from being stored loose in a box. These, along with other factors, can destroy photos that could reveal clues to our past.

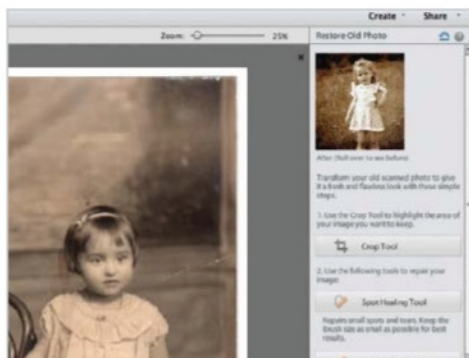
If you have images that have suffered from a tear here, or a crease there, scan them in and the new Restore Old Photo feature in the latest version of Photoshop Elements offers the right tools for undergoing some serious restoration. From the Spot Healing tool for dealing with

those small, indiscriminate blemishes, to the Clone Stamp tool for gradually weeding out larger areas such as tea stains or faded corners, you're sure to find what you need.

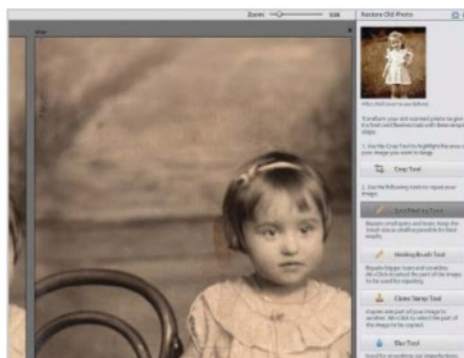
Once all blemishes have been cleaned up, converting your image to black and white will remove any discolouration or sepia toning. Sharpening and Dust Removal also form part of this new guided edit, but are not necessarily required for every restoration project. As a guided edit, Elements makes it very easy for anyone of any ability to follow along, but working knowledge of the tools is still required for making the best results possible.

When you're happy with the final restoration, we even show you how to really bring the image to life by adding colour. The end result is a transformation worthy of framing on the wall or showcasing in the family tree.

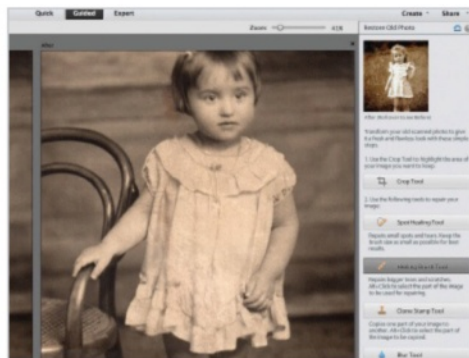
Restore shots Give images a new lease of life



01 New view mode
Open an old photo in Elements 12 and click on the Guided tab. Pick the Restore Old Photo option from the list of edits down the right. From the top-left, set the View mode to Before & After – Horizontal.



02 Spot the marks
Crop the image by clicking on the first option. Look to remove raggedy edges and to straighten the image. Click on the Spot Healing tool and draw over small specks and white marks to remove them.



03 Heal pixels
Use the Healing Brush on medium-sized specks and crease lines. Hold Opt/Alt to sample 'good' areas and then paint over the 'bad' pixels. Use the Clone Stamp in a similar way to fix the largest areas.

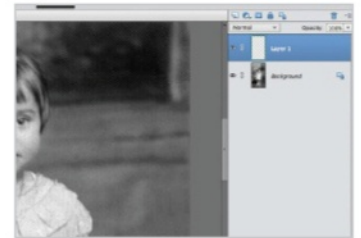


04 Complete coverage
Using the Spot Healing, Healing Brush and Clone Stamp tools, go over your image to heal the remaining problem areas. Be sure to sample areas of similar pixels so that the results look clean.



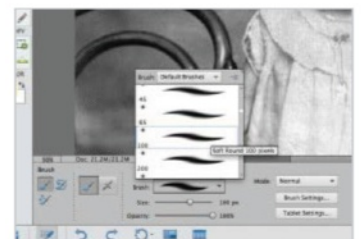
05 Restore colour
Finally, click on Convert to Black & White to remove the sepia colour. Using Auto Levels and Contrast will adjust the exposure to normal. Go back over the image with the Blur tool to hide imperfections.

Colourise black and white images



Expert mode

After restoring the image to black and white, you can add colour using Brushes. After hitting OK in the Guided Edit, click on the Expert tab. Click on Create a New Layer at the top of the Layers panel.



Brush setup

Change the layer's blend mode to Color. Select the Brush tool (B) and in the Tool Options choose a soft, round, 100px brush. Click the Foreground colour box and set its colour to a fleshy tone.



Apply colour

Brush over the skin and watch how your old image comes to life. Select a dark brown for the hair, and light red for the lips. Add new layers for each colour, setting blend modes to Color.

How to fix colour casts

Take control of terrible hues and learn to balance colour for better images



Goodbye blues!

No longer is this image suffering from a poor colour cast – a few tweaks and the strong, bluish tint can be reduced



Photoshop Elements 12

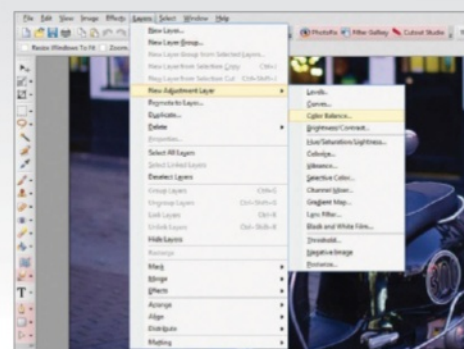
Available on: Mac/PC Price: £78/\$100



01 One way to correct colour in Elements 12 is to go into the Quick mode using the top buttons, and then click on Balance. Use the slider to offset the cast, moving it to the right to reduce a blue cast.

Serif PhotoPlus X6

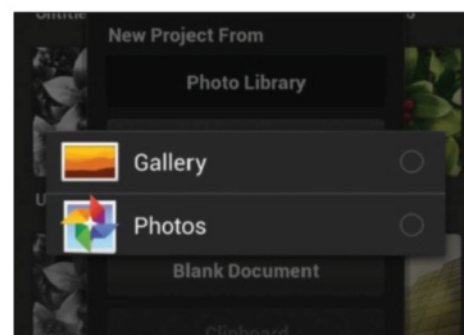
Available on: PC Price: £71/\$90



01 Once you've brought an image into PhotoPlus, adjusting colour can be done with an adjustment layer. To add one, go to the Layers menu along the top and down to New Adjustment Layer>Color Balance.

Photoshop Touch for phone

Available on: iOS/Android Price: £2.99/\$4.99



01 Open the app and tap the middle button along the bottom (picture with a plus symbol in the corner). Pick the Gallery option to load an image from your stored photos. Tap it to go straight into the app.

What you'll need...

- ✓ Photo with a colour cast
- ✓ Editing software

We used...

- ✓ Photoshop Elements 12
- ✓ Serif PhotoPlus X6
- ✓ Photoshop Touch

You could try...

- ✓ Lightroom
- ✓ Photoshop CS or above
- ✓ GIMP

What you'll learn...

- ✓ Use auto commands
- ✓ Add colour adjustments
- ✓ Balance colour in images

White balance, or colour temperature, is usually taken care of by the camera automatically at the moment an image is captured, but it's not always accurate. Auto white balance settings can struggle in strong or mixed lighting conditions, which will result in unwanted colour casts. When an image has the wrong colour balance, it will appear to have an obvious tint of either blue or red. The strength of this tinting can, in some cases, damage colour in your image beyond repair.

To help you sort out your white balance woes, we have picked out three applications that can

correct colour casts quickly and accurately.

3 of the best... Apps for making colour pop

PicShop Lite Free (iOS/Android)



Simple to use, this app is split into four areas: Edits, Filters, Frames and Extras. After altering the colour balance, move on to tweaking and applying filters.

Pixlr Express Free (iOS/Android)



Not only can you edit colour with this app, but also create collages out of your images. Lots of effects and options for improving shots, and best of all it's free!

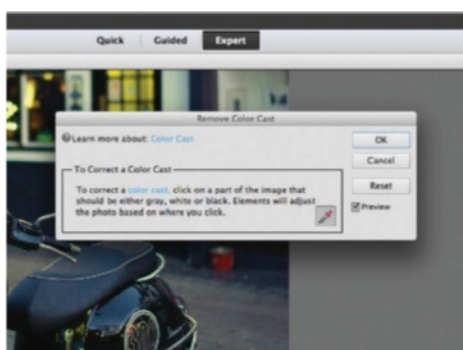
Afterlight £0.69/\$0.99 (iOS)



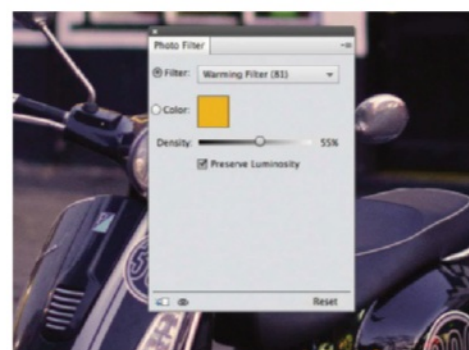
With an Android version coming soon, Afterlight gives you one-click effects. From 'Reef' to 'Groove' and light leaks, you can transform colours in no time.



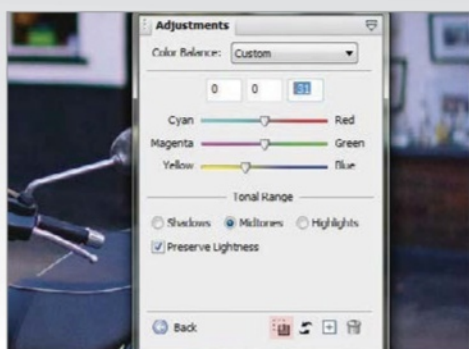
02 If the first method doesn't fix the colour cast, try going into Expert mode instead. In the Enhance menu along the top of the Elements interface, click on Auto Color Correction. This is an instant way to fix a subtle colour cast.



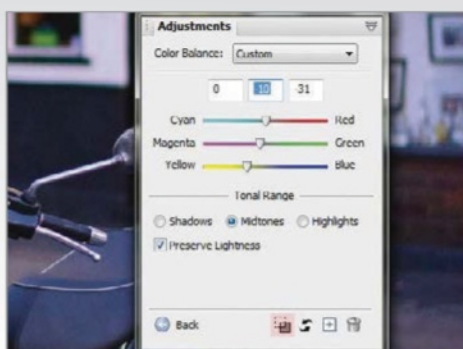
03 Another method for removing a colour cast is to go to Enhance>Adjust Color> Remove Color Cast. Use the eyedropper to click on the parts of the image that should be either black, white or grey, until you see normal colours return.



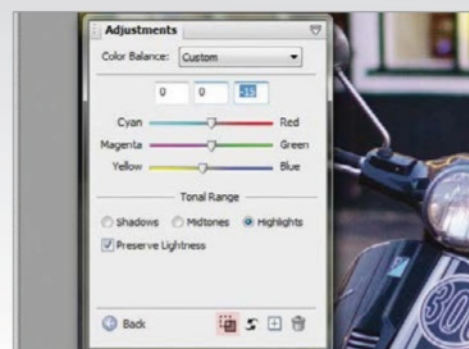
04 Colour can even be tweaked by going to Layer>New Adjustment Layer> Photo Filter. Apply a Warming Filter (81), at 50-60% Density, with Preserve Luminosity ticked. This will offset the blue cast. Use a Cooling Filter for red casts.



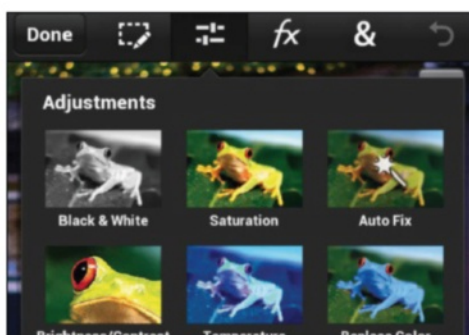
02 The adjustment will load as a new layer inside the panel. If you don't see it load, double-click the Color Balance thumbnail in the panel. As this image is predominantly blue, start off by sliding the Yellow/Blue pointer to show 0, 0, -31.



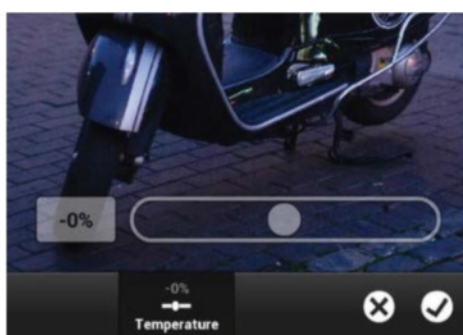
03 Notice how there's still a hint of a green cast in the shadow regions. To correct this, slide the Magenta/Green adjustment to -10 (the figures should read 0, -10, -31). That's the midtone areas fixed. Now click on the option for highlights.



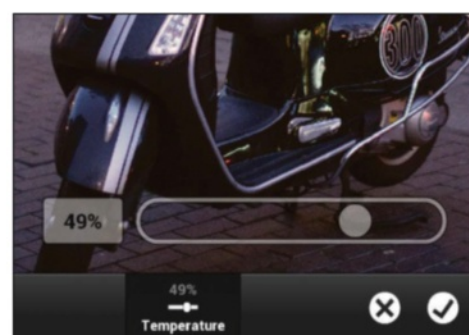
04 There's still a slight hint of blue in the white areas of the image. Slide the Yellow/Blue down to -15 to colour balance the highlight regions. View a before and after of the corrected image by clicking on the eye symbol on the layer.



02 Inside, tap on the Adjustments button at the top. A menu containing a number of image fixes appears. Try Auto Fix first to see what kind of results this gives. If it is not to your liking, press the back arrow in the top-right to undo.



03 Go back into Adjustments and choose the Temperature option. This is much easier to use than the Color Balance adjustment. Temperature has one slider that controls the amount of blue and red, to cool down or warm up the image.



04 To reduce a strong, blue cast, slide up the adjustment until it reads around 45-50%. Tap the tick button to confirm the changes, and then tap Done in the top-left of the Photoshop Touch interface to save the image to your device.

Add impact to black and white conversions

What you'll need...

- ✓ Colour photo
- ✓ Editing software

We used...

- ✓ Photoshop Elements 11

You could try...

- ✓ Photoshop CS
- ✓ Other Photoshop Elements versions
- ✓ GIMP

What you'll learn...

- ✓ How to make your conversions really pop

We show you a great way to convert from colour using Photoshop Elements and GIMP



Earlier in the book we showed you some top tricks for shooting in black and white, including five tips on how to make monochrome masterpieces in camera. So now you've got some cracking shots, you'll need to know how to convert them to black and white in Photoshop!

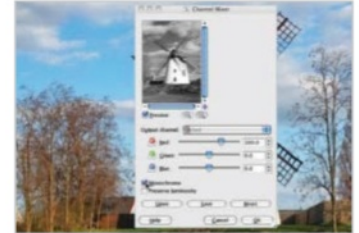
There are many ways to do this, one of the easiest being to move the saturation slider all the way down to strip away the colour, but these quick methods can often lead to flat and dull tones. If you spend just a little more time and use some simple tools effectively, you can really make your tones leap out.

If you shot your images in RAW, you'll be able to take a lot more control over your shots. Open them in a program that supports RAW files such as GIMP. If you're using Adobe Camera Raw, click on the HSL/Grayscale tab

and click Convert to Grayscale, then use the sliders to control the tones. You may also want to use the Tone Curve and Fill Light slider to adjust the tones even more. If you're using a RAW file, you can then open it in Photoshop and skip step 1 of the below tutorial.

If you're using JPEGs, though, you can get stuck in from step 1 and we'll show you how to make your black and white tones really pop! All it takes is some blend modes and a contrast adjustment layer – it's easy to do and really effective. We even show you how to do the same effects in GIMP over in our boxout. After this tutorial is complete, you may want to explore other editing options such as sharpening (Enhance>Unsharp Mask in Elements) and Shadows/Highlights to really finish off your shot. Let's get started converting better black and whites!

Convert in free editing program GIMP



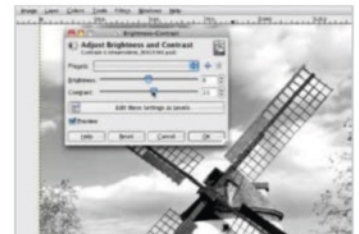
Convert to monochrome

Open the image in GIMP then duplicate the image (Layer>Duplicate Layer). Now go to Colors>Components>Channel Mixer, tick Monochrome and adjust the sliders to get the tones you want.



Set blend modes

Duplicate this black and white layer three times (labelling them as you go) and set the blending mode of one to Burn with a 5-15% Opacity, and the second to Soft Light (also 5-15% Opacity).



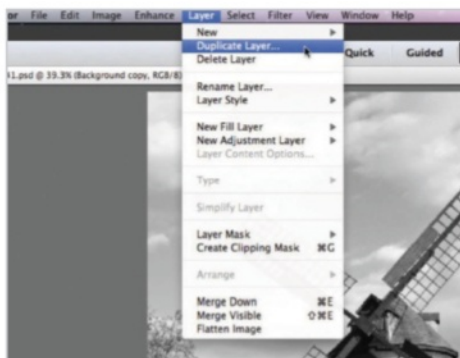
Increase contrast

With the third duplicate layer we will increase the contrast. Go to Colors>Brightness/Contrast, adjust the sliders, then click OK. Finally, select Image>Flatten image then you can save it.

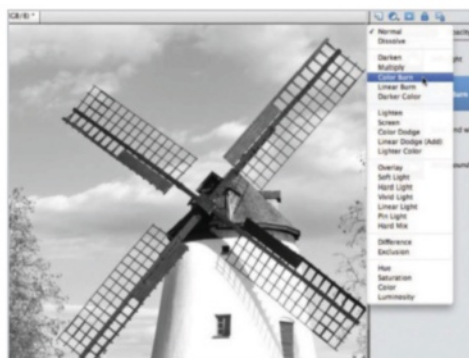
Go monochrome Add depth to your conversions



01 Duplicate and convert Open up your image then duplicate it (Layer>Duplicate Layer). Now go to Enhance>Convert to Black and White, pick a default and adjust the red, green and blue sliders until the tones look their best.



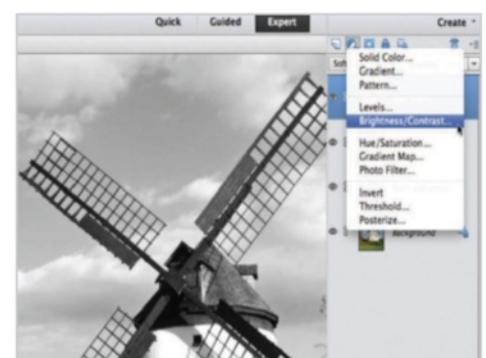
02 Duplicate the new layer There are ways to make tones pop more. Duplicate this black and white layer twice, either by going to Layer>Duplicate Layer, or dragging the layer to the 'Create a New Layer' icon in the Layers palette.



03 Set to Color Burn Rename the layers by clicking on the text and changing it to something memorable. For the first duplicate black and white layer, set the blend mode to Color Burn, at an Opacity between 5 and 15%.



04 Set to Soft Light For the second duplicate layer, set the blend mode to Soft Light and Opacity between 5 and 15%. The tones should now have more depth. Turn off the layer to see the effect it's had by clicking the eye symbol.



05 Increase contrast Go to Layer>New Adjustment Layer> Brightness/Contrast or click on the adjustment layer symbol in the Layers palette. Now increase the sliders until you get the effect you want. Go to Layer>Flatten.

Sharing

Give your friends and family the chance to see your shots with these guides

180 Share your photos on Twitter and Flickr

Create a gallery of your images and share it

182 Upload your photos to Facebook

Share with the popular social networking service

184 Upload your photos to Photobucket

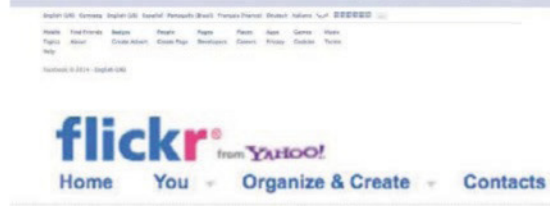
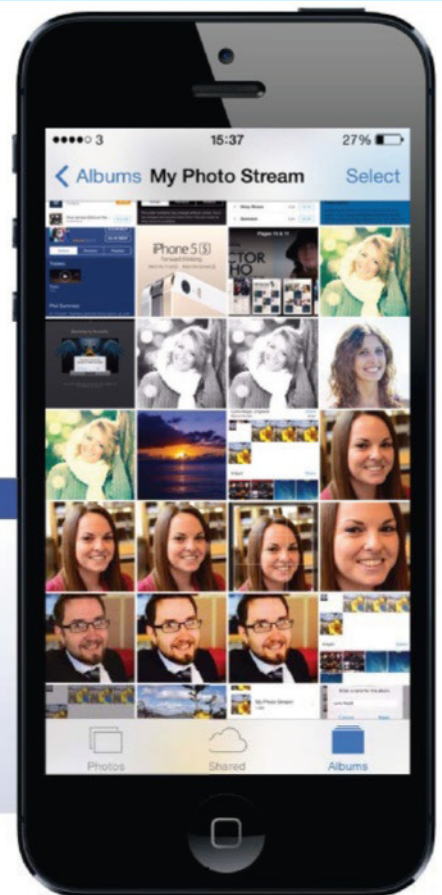
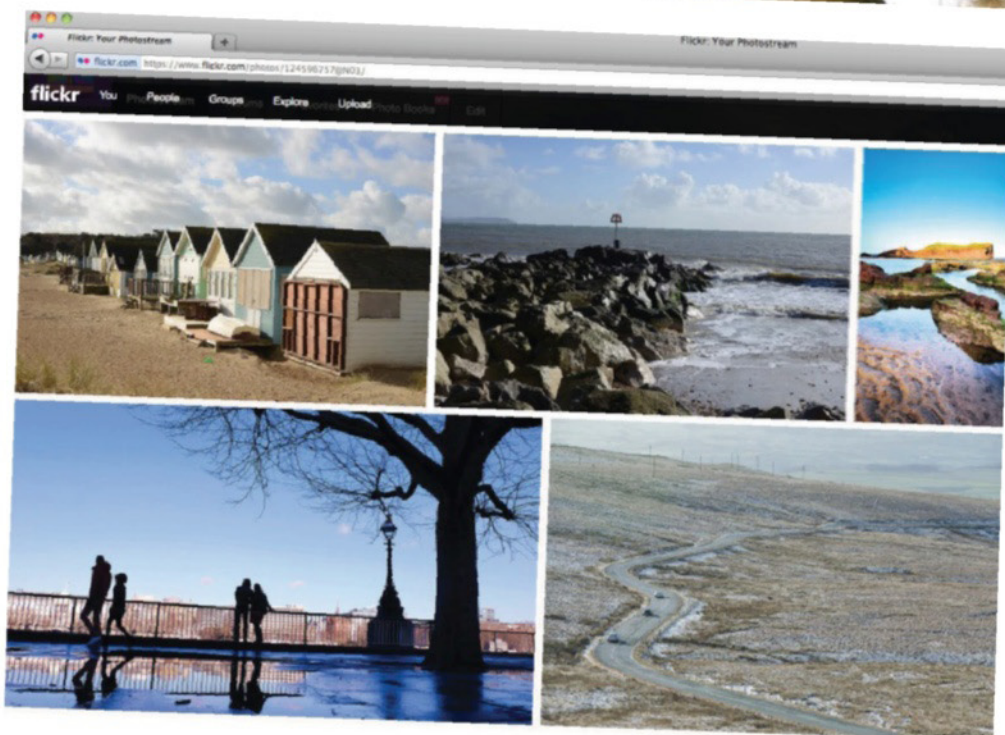
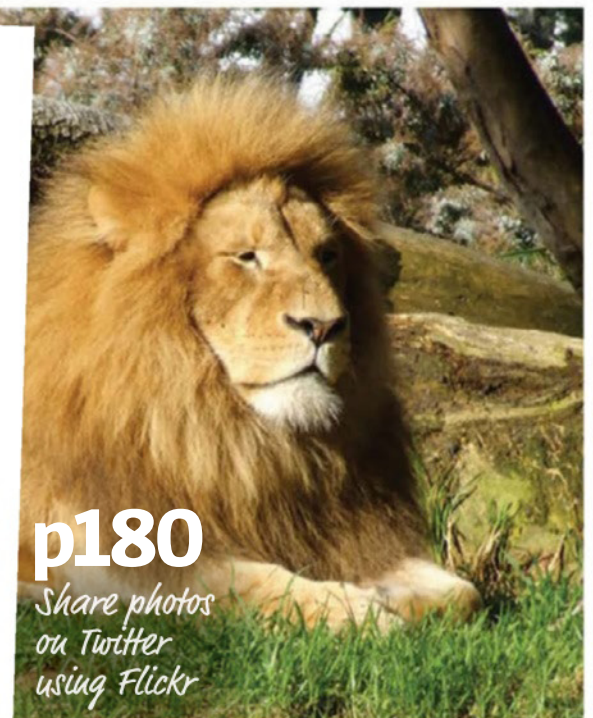
Become part of the community

186 Back up using iCloud and Photo Stream

Sync photos between devices

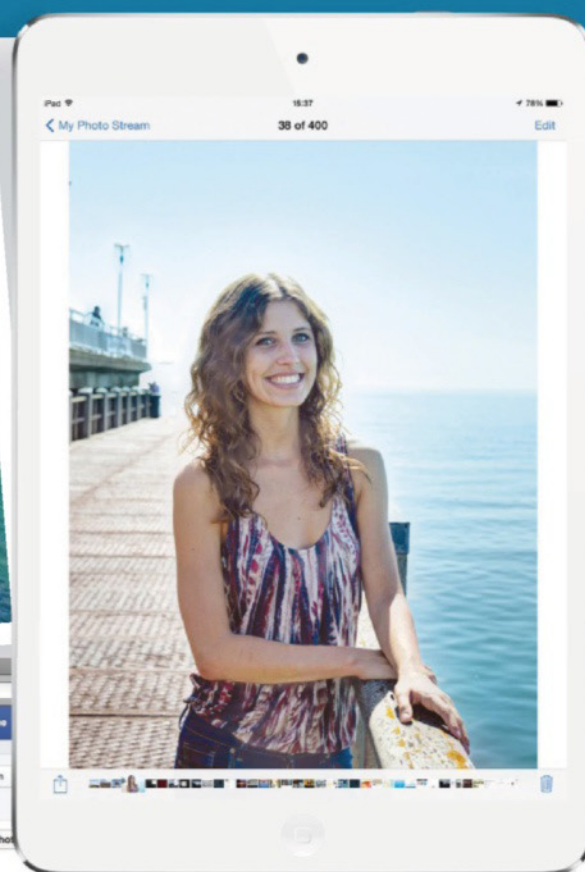
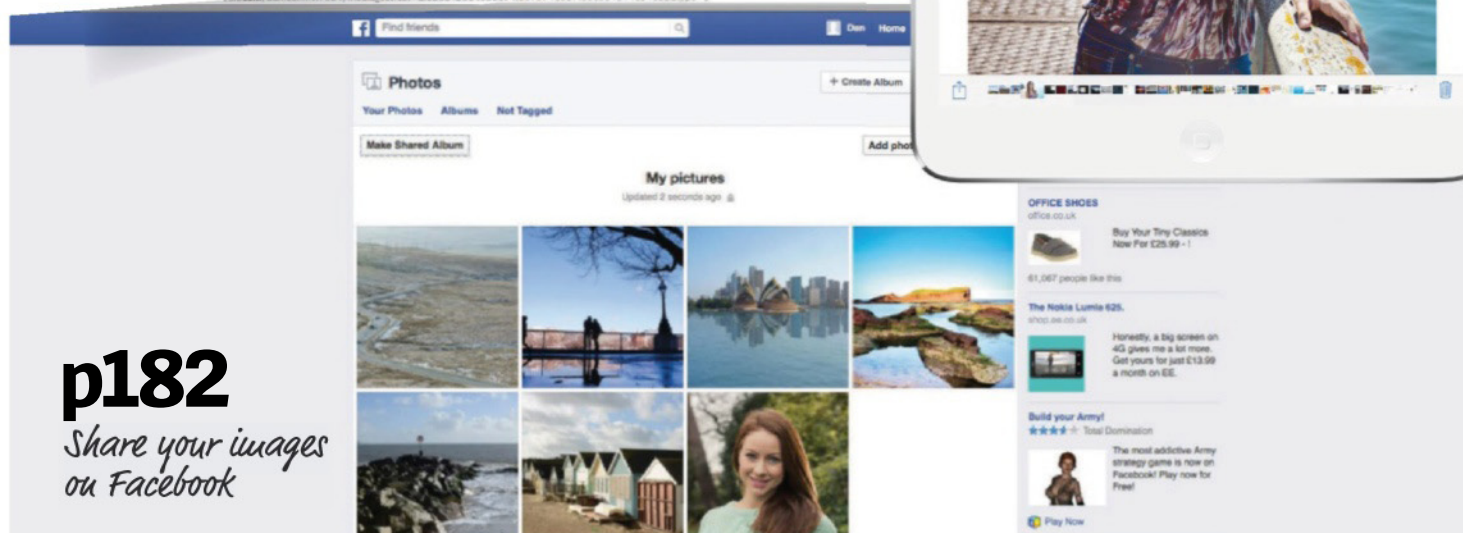
188 Make a slideshow with iMovie for Mac

Assemble your favourite images into a video slideshow



p180

Share photos on Twitter using Flickr



p182

*Share your images
on Facebook*



p188

*Create a great-
looking slideshow*





Share your photos on Twitter and Flickr

Learn how to invite your Twitter followers to view your best images on Flickr

What you'll need...

- ✓ Photos
- ✓ Twitter account

We used...

- ✓ Flickr

You could try...

- ✓ Twitpic
- ✓ yFrog
- ✓ TwitPix

What you'll learn...

- ✓ How to integrate Twitter with Flickr

Browsing through photo albums online is now the norm for many. It's easy, convenient and more suited to everyone's busy lifestyles. As such, sharing your shots through sites like Facebook has become a fuss-free click of a button.

Like Facebook, the micro-blogging site Twitter offers photo sharing as part of its service, but only one image at a time. There are also plenty of third-party image-hosting websites out there that'll link to your account safely and securely.

For this tutorial we'll be using Flickr, a photo-sharing site with added Facebook and Twitter functionality. Flickr is a reputable site that enables you to upload full albums, individual pictures and short video clips. This free service enables you to

store and organise the photographs however you wish, using different names, categories and so on.

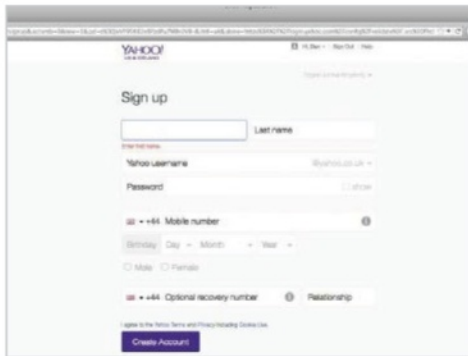
When you join the site, you're joining a community. Aside from being home to billions of images, Flickr features groups you can join and a search function for you to browse for inspiration. But you won't have to share with anyone you don't want to – there's the option to tweak security and privacy settings on your own photos.

Once you've uploaded your images to your Flickr account, it'll generate a shortened web address that transports your audience directly to the album or picture you'd like to publicise. Simply add this to your Tweet and your followers will have access to your snaps in no time.

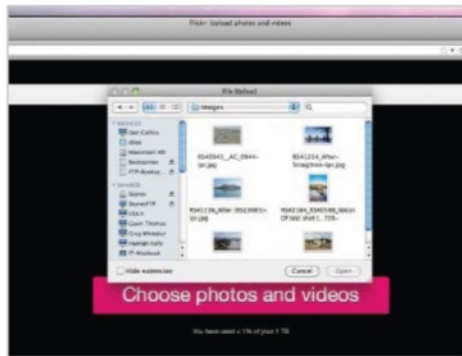
“Twitter doesn't offer an in-built photo-sharing function, so you have to use a third-party website”

Social network sharing

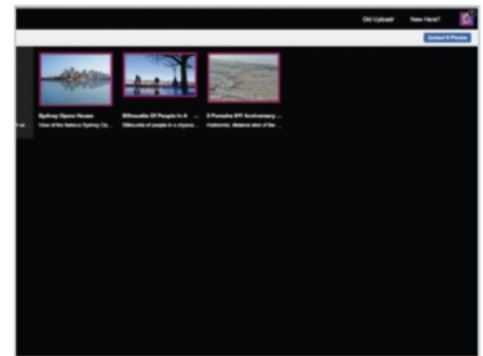
Use Flickr and Twitter to show off your best shots



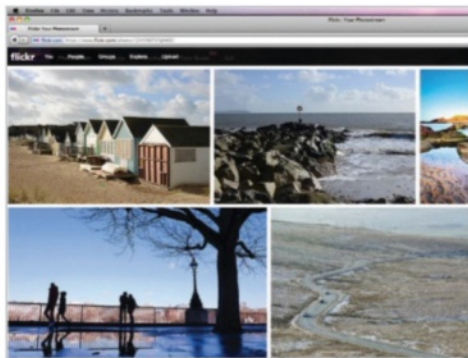
01 Create a Flickr account
Go to www.Flickr.com and click on Sign up. Flickr is owned by Yahoo!, and creating a Flickr account will also create a new Yahoo! account. If you have an existing Yahoo! account, click Sign in instead to access Flickr with your Yahoo! details.



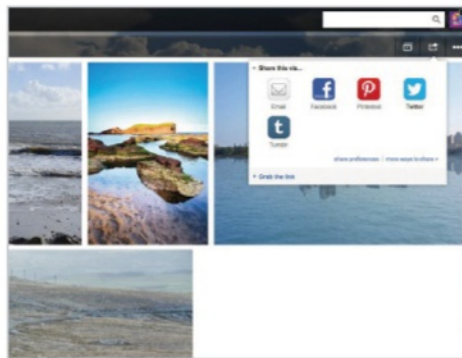
02 Choose your snaps
Now we want to upload our photos. Go to Upload on the top bar and click on the pink 'Choose photos and videos' bar. A pop-up box will appear, listing the items you have on your computer. Locate your images, pick your pictures and press Open.



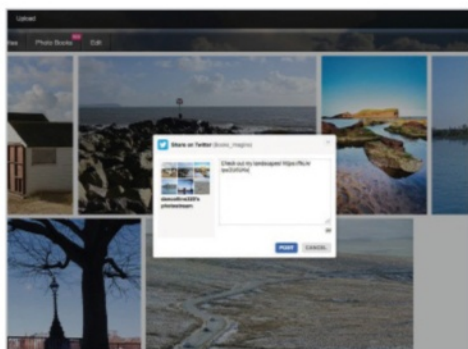
03 Upload the photos
You'll now see your shots in a grid. If you want to get rid of one, just highlight it and click on the cross. You can also add descriptions, change the privacy settings and make basic edits. When happy, click the blue upload button in the corner.



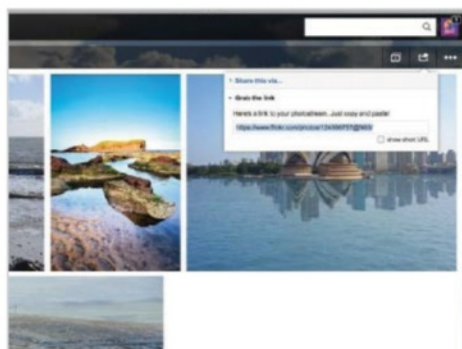
04 Finishing touches
The pink progress bar under the list of filenames indicates how long the upload process will be. When it's completed, you can click on your images to change the names and add descriptions and additional comments. Make sure you click Save.



05 Authorise sharing
Click on the Share icon (a box with an arrow) in the top right of the screen to see a list of sharing options, including Facebook and Tumblr. We want to share on Twitter, so click the Twitter icon and then 'Authorize app' to authorise sharing.



06 Post on Twitter
Once the two accounts have been linked, you will be able to post on Twitter directly from the Flickr page. A pop-up Twitter window will appear containing a short description and a link to your Flickr photostream. You can edit these details.



07 Other ways to share
When you are happy to proceed click on Post and the link will be posted to Twitter. You can also link and post to other accounts from the share menu, or you can click on Grab The Link to copy the link and share it manually to your other networks.

7 of the best... Photographers to follow on Twitter



Nicholas Samaras
(@NSUWP)

Nicholas is a great underwater photographer and most of his Tweets tend to point you to his latest work.



Todd McLellan
(@Todd_McLellan)

Todd's portfolio is varied and enjoyable to browse through. Of particular interest is his very cool 'Disassembly Project'.



David Bailey
(@BaileyQuotes)

The official Twitter feed from photographer David Bailey – his Tweets are short and sweet, but worth a gander.



Daniel Berehulak
(@berehulak)

Daniel is a staff photojournalist for Getty Images based in New Delhi. His work is both poignant and impressive.



Benedict Campbell
(@benedict13)

Benedict is an experienced photographer and CG artist. His mixture of styles will appeal to a wide variety of tastes.



Getty Images
(@GettyImages)

Getty Images are quality shots that cover a range of subjects. They are often used to illustrate current affairs.



Guardian Photos
(@guardianphotos)

The Guardian Photos Twitter feed shares the latest and greatest images recommended by the newspaper's picture desk.



Upload your photos to Facebook

Discover how to publish your pictures through this social-networking site

What you'll need...

- ✓ Photos you'd like to share
- ✓ An email account
- ✓ An internet connection

We used...

- ✓ Facebook

You could try...

- ✓ Flickr
- ✓ iPhoto
- ✓ Photobucket

What you'll learn...

- ✓ How to share photos on Facebook

Love it or hate it, Facebook is one of the most popular and influential websites ever created. It's also made the world a smaller place, reuniting long-lost family members and acting as a powerful tool of communication and socialisation for the many people that use it.

If you've not done it before, setting up an account (also known as a profile) with Facebook is free and easy to do. Once you've created this profile, there's plenty of scope for personalising your page, and sharing your photos through the site is one way in which to do this.

Publishing photographs to Facebook is a great way to update friends and relatives on your latest antics and activities. From family gatherings to

birthday parties or trips to the park, sharing photos through Facebook offers others a chance to indulge in the event – whether it's to relive the occasion or to take a look at what they missed.

As for the photos themselves, it's often a good idea to group them into themes or categories to make it easier for people browsing through. This is especially relevant if you plan to upload a lot of photos to your profile page. For example, creating folders titled 'Holiday snaps', 'Dave & Cara's wedding' and 'Our new house' on your computer will help organise them all when you transfer them to your account. You can then edit the details, giving them the same filenames, on your Facebook 'Photos' section of your profile.

“Publishing photographs to Facebook is a great way to update friends and relatives on your latest antics”

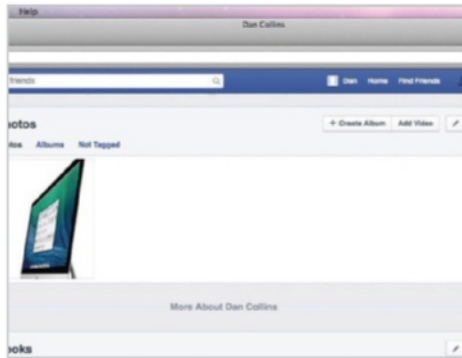
Publish images to Facebook

Upload and share your photos



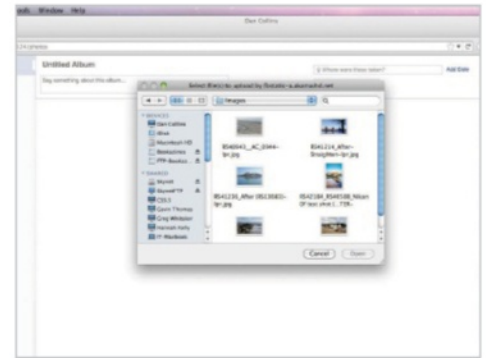
01 Create an account

First things first: we'll need to register. Go to www.facebook.com and fill in the details requested in the Sign Up panel. Once you've done this, click Sign Up. If you already have a Facebook account set up, log into it in the usual manner and go to step 2.



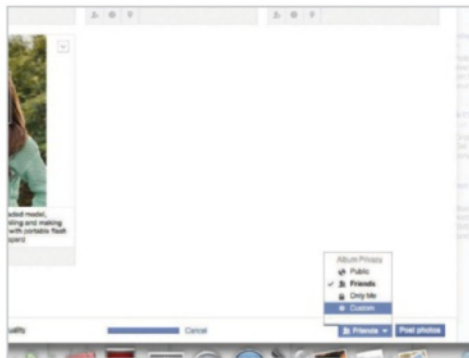
02 Personalise your page

Once you're on your profile page you need to click on the Photos tab along the top bar. Now you'll see the Create Album button. Click on this and give your album a name, then click on the Add Photos button in the middle of the screen.



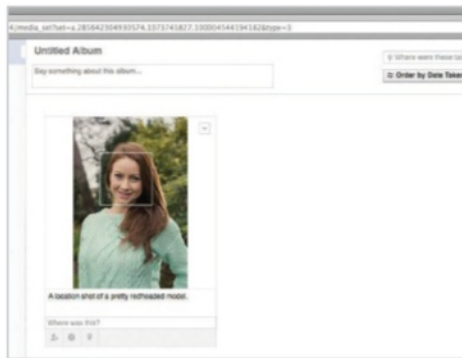
03 Pick your pics

You will now be invited to upload images. Navigate to where your images are kept and select the files you would like to upload. Once selected, click on Open. You can select as many images as you wish. The images will then begin to upload.



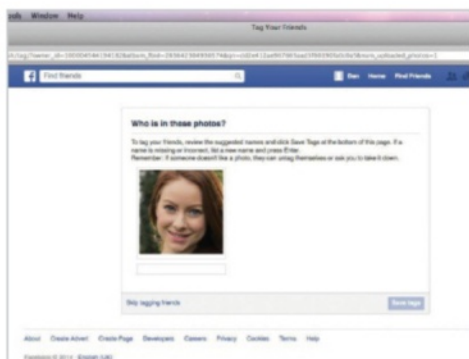
04 Who can see

Before clicking Post Photos to add your images to Facebook, you can select who can see them by tapping the arrow next to the Post Photos button. You can choose between Public and Friends, while custom enables you to select certain people.



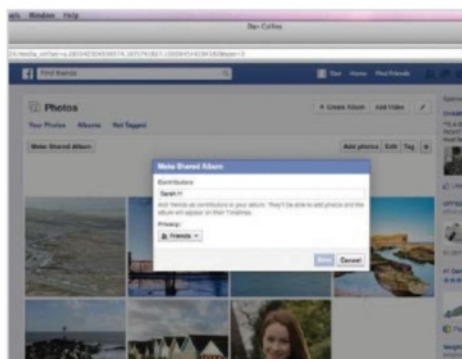
05 Add information and Post

Underneath each photo are three buttons, which you can tap to add more info about the image. The person tags people in your picture, the clock enables you to add a time, while the pointer can add a location. Click Post photos when done.



06 Tag friends

Facebook is equipped with facial recognition software, so if any of your shots have people in them, you can 'tag' them. If these people are on Facebook it'll email them with a notification. It'll automatically recognise when a face needs tagging.



07 Add contributors

When your images have been uploaded, you can allow friends and family to add photos to your album. Click Make Shared Album and then add the names of the people you would like to contribute into the text field. Click Save when you're done.

7 of the best... Photographers & organisations on Facebook



Getty Images

Getty Images' Facebook page is a great source of inspiration. It's updated frequently with photos on a variety of subjects.



Abduzeedo

Abduzeedo is a design inspiration website, so its Facebook page publicises the latest content to be uploaded there.



Flickr

Flickr's Facebook page is home to an excellent photographic community. Its Newsfeed contains plenty of helpful info.



Photography For Beginners

Check out Photography for Beginners magazine's Facebook page for photos and tips that'll help while you're out and about.



National Geographic

This page is home to incredible photography and it's updated regularly with stunning imagery. Click 'Like' then be inspired.



Flak Photo

There's a range of interesting and impressive images stashed away on this Facebook page. Like many of these organisations, you can also find them on Twitter.



Indie Photobook Library

Here to support the little guys, the Indie Photobook Library is a great way to find out about new art books and more.

Viewing 4 of 368 fall landscapes photos



< Prev | | Next >

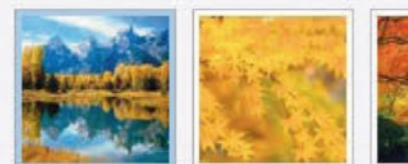


Get £400 scrappage discount for replacing your old boiler

Find out more

£400 OFF

British
Looking after



Links to share this photo

Email & IM

HTML

IMG

Collaborate on an online photo album

Use Photobucket Stories with friends and family

Photobucket Stories are a recently-added feature to the **Photobucket image-hosting service**. It allows multiple users to collaborate on the creation of a 'story' by uploading images, videos and text.

The software's editing and sharing features are simple to understand and allow you to choose your individual levels of privacy. You can also connect your devices with the Photobucket app from iTunes and Google Play.

This sort of story-telling format is great for occasions when a lot of people, who are not geographically close,

get together for special occasions. Weddings, birthdays and holidays are all perfect opportunities for a Photobucket Story. The great thing about having many contributors is that even if you missed the perfect shot, someone else may have bagged it. With Photobucket Stories you can add it in with the rest of your pictures.

You can link your Photobucket account and stories to Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest etc after you have created your story. We'll show you how to get started and to create an album that family and friends can share.

What you'll need...

- ✓ A Mac or PC
- ✓ Start images

We used...

- ✓ photobucket.com

You could try...

- ✓ Photobucket app

What you'll learn...

- ✓ How to set up, create and share a collaborative Photobucket Story

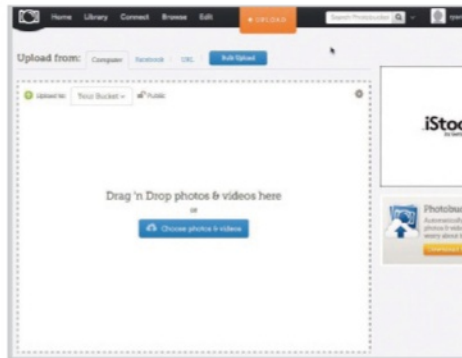
Create a Photobucket Story

Set up and share your story in an online album



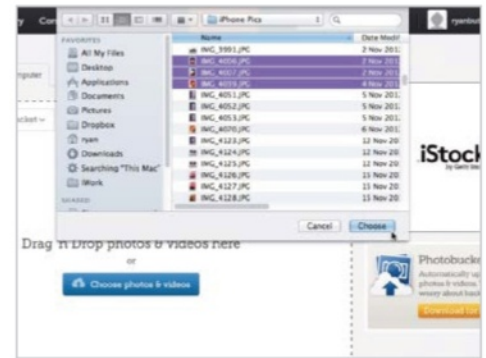
01 Set up an account

Head to photobucket.com and get started by setting up an account. You get 2GB of storage for free or you can upgrade later. To save setting up and remembering another set of details you can sign in using your Facebook or Twitter account.



02 Go to your account

You will be presented with some options about connecting your devices – you can either browse them or just click the X in the top right-hand corner and you'll be through to your blank account. Now click on the Choose Photos & Videos button.



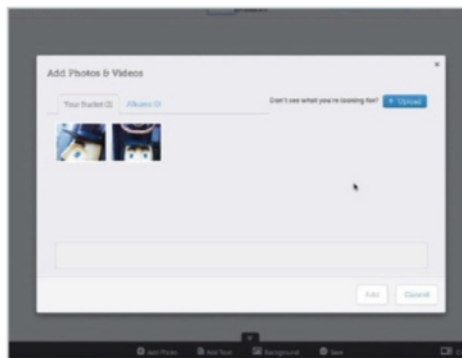
03 Upload to Photobucket

You'll be offered different ways of uploading pictures: either drag and drop the files from your desktop, use the app, or you can add from Facebook. The uploader allows you to add several files in one go by holding Shift as you scroll through and select.



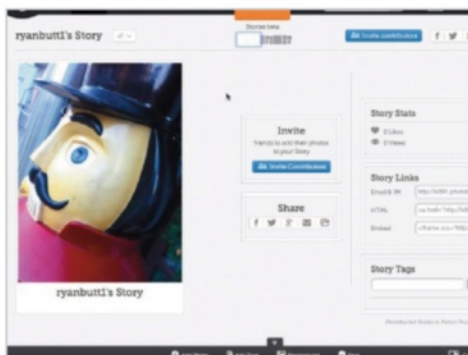
04 Create a story

The Create Story button is located on the left-hand of your Photo Bucket homepage. There is a video tour available to show you what a finished story could look like and it is useful to see how text and video elements can be incorporated.



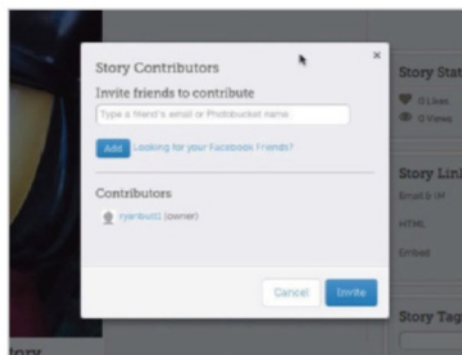
05 Start your story

Any images that you have already uploaded will be offered to you to add straight away, but you can browse other albums or upload again. Click your images to select and adding the chosen few by clicking the Add button in the bottom-right.



06 Personalise your story

Now start to tailor your story before you invite others to collaborate. Hover over each photo for a drop-down menu, which enables you to edit and resize the image. You can also add backgrounds, text and other media via the bottom menu.



07 Share your story

Start to share your story with others by clicking the Invite Contributors button top-right. You can invite some existing Photobucket users or invite others to join in via email. You are also able to share a story via Facebook or Twitter.

7 of the best... Apps for sharing your photos

Muzy Free
Muzy has over 20 million users worldwide and allows sharing and editing of pictures either through the phone app or your web-based Muzy profile.

Instagram Free
Instagram also facilitates photo sharing and editing, and currently has over 100 million users with superb edits and filters for retro-looking images.

Flickr Free
The official app for the world's largest photo-sharing site. Flickr also has built-in-camera/editing functions to share you images in the moment.

Livemapp Free
Livemapp allows you to snap and share your travel images by pinning them on a map, so they're available for your Livemapp community to enjoy.

DMD Panorama
iOS: £1.49/\$1.99 Android: Free
An app for panoramic shots, but it also has online and in-app galleries to share your images plus a 'near me' function.

Photo Transfer App
iOS: £1.99/\$2.99 Android: £1.29/\$1.99
This app is for sharing photos between devices (at home or at work) without compromising or compressing the quality.

Facebook Camera Free
This app connects directly to Facebook and allows a 'photo-only feed' in real time. You can upload images, tag instantly and view pics from other apps.



Back up using iCloud and Photo Stream

Take advantage of iCloud's awesome free photo back-up and sharing service

What you'll need...

- ✓ Mac with OS X Lion 10.7.2 installed
- ✓ Apple device with iOS 5/6/7

We used...

- ✓ iMac

You could try...

- ✓ MacBook Air
- ✓ MacBook Pro

What you'll learn...

- ✓ How to set up Photo Stream, to view your photos on any device

Photo Stream is an excellent concept, letting users share and back up their latest and greatest photographs with little to no effort. The system is based on iCloud, so you will need to have at least OS X Lion 10.7.2 and iOS 5 set up and running on your Mac and iOS device respectively.

With the updates added and iCloud already set up, all you need to do is enable Photo Stream and the system will begin to collect your most recently taken shots on your iPhone or iPad. They then become instantly visible on all of your iOS devices and Mac (as long as you are connected to Wi-Fi).

There are a couple of conditions, which is to be expected with a free service. The limits imposed on storage are up to 1,000 pictures or 30 days' worth of images. If you reach either of these limits then any photos taken or stored afterwards will replace the earlier ones added. So, as a backup, you have a limit, but as a sharing service you always have the most recent pictures.

Photo Stream is wonderful because you will never need to connect your iDevice to iPhoto again, as they are automatically saved in a new event. Here's how to use it...

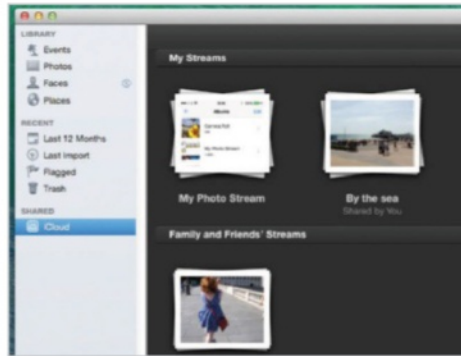
“Photo Stream is wonderful because you will never need to connect your iDevice to iPhoto again”

Using iCloud Set up a Photo Stream on your Mac



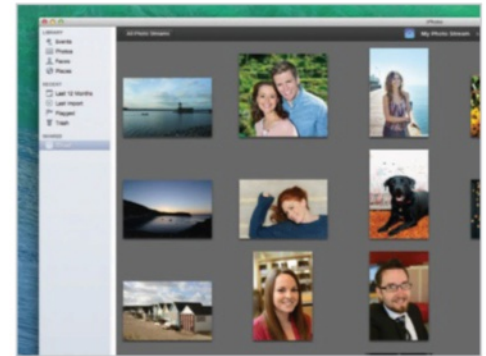
01 System Preferences

If you have already set up iCloud, you'll come straight to this screen after clicking the iCloud icon from your System Preferences. All you need to do is enable the service by clicking the tick box in the options provided.



02 iPhoto

You will need to make sure that your copy of Apple iPhoto is up to date. If it is, you will see the screen above when you click iCloud on the left-hand side of the interface. Click Turn On Photo Stream and it will begin to populate.



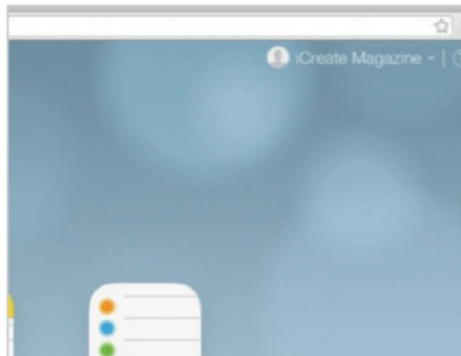
03 Import existing pictures

All of the pictures you have taken within the last 30 days will begin to fill the interface in iPhoto. You can now view these images as you would any other photos. Drag them into the Pictures folder to save and keep them locally.



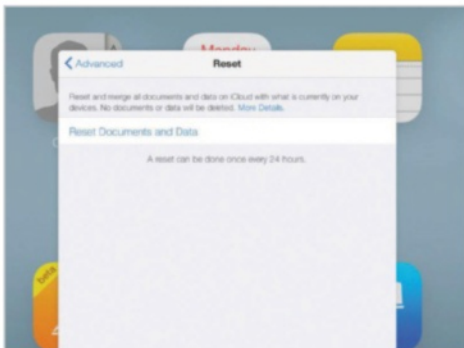
04 Add to Photo Stream

If you want to add new pictures to your Photo Stream from your iPhoto library, just click on the image, hit the Share button (in the bottom-right corner toolbar) then click on the Photo Stream option. It's as simple as that.



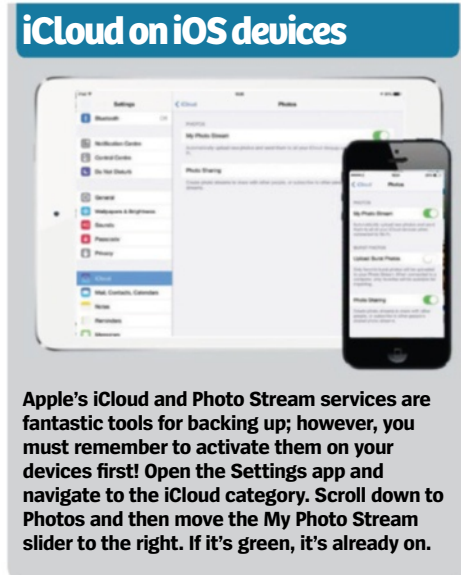
05 Visit the cloud

Open up your web browser and navigate to www.iCloud.com, enter your username and password, and then click on your name at the top of the browser. That will bring up the screen shown above. Click on the Advanced option.



06 Deletion

As with all permanent moves on a computer, you will be prompted to make sure that you are sure you want to proceed. If you're okay with this, click OK. If you wish, you can also reset your Photo Stream and remove your images from iCloud.



Apple's iCloud and Photo Stream services are fantastic tools for backing up; however, you must remember to activate them on your devices first! Open the Settings app and navigate to the iCloud category. Scroll down to Photos and then move the My Photo Stream slider to the right. If it's green, it's already on.

7 of the best... iCloud features of iPhone & iPad

iPhone and Contacts

Sync your contacts via all your devices
iOS 5 and iOS 6 enable you to create new contacts or update old ones with email addresses and the like, and then sync them across multiple devices.

Mac and iTunes

Making music accessible
The new iTunes and iCloud work together to remember your purchase history and download the same songs to multiple devices.

iPad and iBooks

Read on any device
Buy a book on your iPad and the iCloud will remember it so you can access it via your iPhone or Mac at a later date.

Documents in the Cloud

Change the way you work
Start a spreadsheet on your iPad and then pick up where you left off on your Mac later on that day when you're back in the office.

Calendar

Sync your Calendar dates
Sync your Calendar across multiple iDevices so that you can always access your latest appointments no matter if you're on your Mac or iPad.

Back up

Keeping your data safe
The iCloud is perfect for backing up photos, music, documents and the like across multiple devices and 'in the cloud'.

Find my iPhone or iPad etc

Track your iDevices' whereabouts on a map and remotely lock or wipe them if necessary if you aren't able to recover them.

Make a slideshow with iMovie for Mac

Assemble your favourite images into a video slideshow, adding transitions, effects and music

What you'll need...

- ✓ iLife featuring iMovie
- ✓ A collection of photos stored on your computer

We used...

- ✓ iMovie 10.0.1 on OSX Mavericks

You could try...

- ✓ All previous versions of iMovie
- ✓ Previous Mac OSs
- ✓ Windows Movie Maker

What you'll learn...

- ✓ How to make a slideshow of your images in iMovie

Creating a slideshow of photographs has always been a great way to exhibit your latest work, and with image software like Preview on Mac or Photo Gallery on Windows, it's no trouble to assemble your snaps into a slideshow quickly. If you want to take things a step further and create a more advanced and detailed slideshow, giving yourself complete control over the positioning, presentation and duration of your images, then check out this tutorial. We'll show you how to build a slideshow out of your images using iLife's iMovie software, which is available on Mac. iMovie is made primarily for editing together video clips, and because of

this it has the perfect interface for assembling a slideshow using a series of images. You'll also be able to use iMovie to add extra content to your slideshow including transitions, titles, music, sound effects and more. You can also use it to crop your image and make edits like colour correction.

Once you're happy with your creation you can simply export the slideshow in a variety of different ways, uploading it directly to YouTube, posting it on your Facebook account or burning it onto DVD using iLife's iDVD. Follow these simple steps to start piecing together a fantastic slideshow of your own.

Share

The new Theatre mode in iMovie lets you upload your movies to iCloud, and access them instantly on other devices too

Split

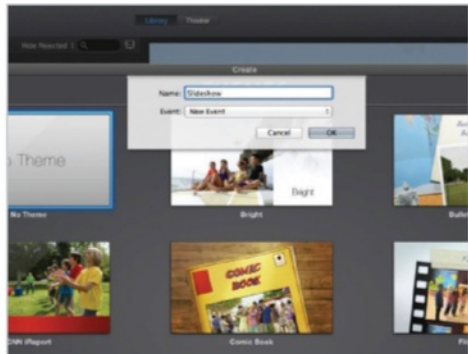
Use layers to stack two images or videos on top of each other to create a split screen effect

Enhance

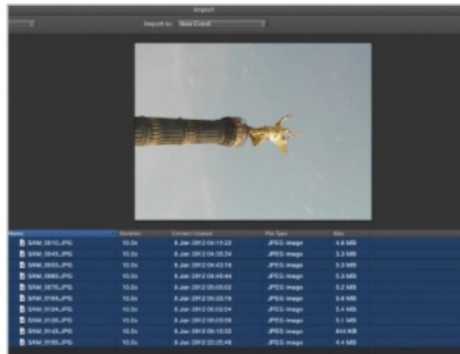
The Adjust option presents you with all you need to modify and improve your image with ease



Create a slideshow Showcase your photos in iMovie



01 Create a project
Open iMovie. In the top toolbar go to File>New Movie. In the Themes window, select No Theme so you're working with a blank canvas, then click Create. Title your movie. Click OK to create the project.



02 Import your images
In your new project, click Import, which can be found above your media library. Browse the folder that holds your images, select the images that you want to import, then click Import Selected/All.



03 Arrange your images
Click and drag an image into your timeline, then repeat this process with all of your images. Click and drag on the edge of an image in the timeline to change its duration in the slideshow.



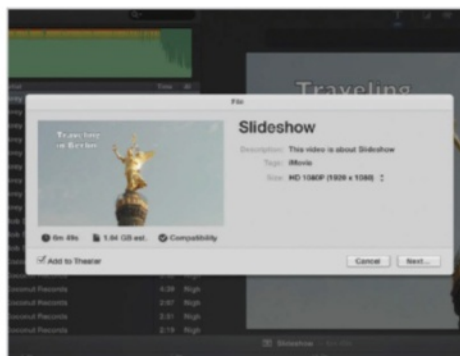
04 Edit your images
Click on an image so that a yellow box appears around it, then click on Adjust. Click the palette icon to colour-correct an image, or use the contrast square icon to adjust an image's colour balance.



05 Motion effects
Select the crop icon above the image window. Select the Ken Burns effect. Position and resize the Start box, then do the same for the End box. This will add a motion effect to your selected image.



06 Content Library
In the Content Library, click Titles. Drag a title thumbnail onto your timeline. Double-click on the text in the image window to edit it. Click iTunes. Here you can drop a music track into your timeline.



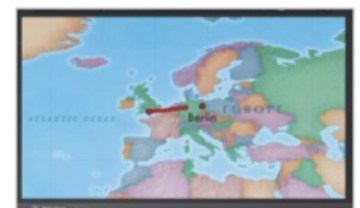
07 Share your slideshow
Click Share to share your video in different formats. Click File to export an .mp4 version of the video. Change the size to reduce the file size. Click Next, select a destination and click Save to export.

3 of the best...

Ways to spice it up



Add transitions
In the Content Library, select Transitions. Click and drag a transition thumbnail between two photos in your timeline to add it to the slideshow.



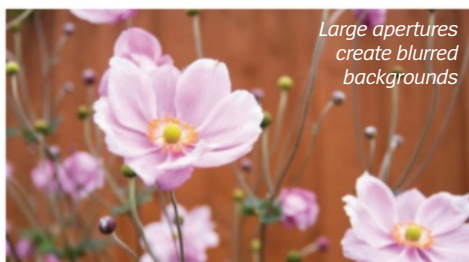
Add a map
If you want to put together a travel slideshow, you can use Maps and Backgrounds in the Content Library to add location information.



Enhance your images
Click Enhance to automatically improve the colour and contrast of your images. You can then adjust the colour effects manually.

Photography glossary

What does it all mean? We take a moment to talk about key phrases you're likely to come across in photography



Aperture

Aperture decides how much light is let in to the camera, and is measured on a scale of f-numbers. This setting also dictates how much of the image is in or out of focus.

SMALL APERTURE – A small-sized aperture of f11, f16 or f22 keeps objects in the distance looking sharp.

LARGE APERTURE – Shooting with a large-sized aperture of f2, f2.8 or f4, will make objects in the distance appear out of focus, placing emphasis on the main subject closer to the lens.

APERTURE PRIORITY MODE – This lets you choose the aperture with which you need to shoot. The camera will automatically control other important settings in the process.

Colour cast

Colour cast describes the tinting that an image may have due to the type of lighting used. This could be due to either wrong settings or for creative effect.

Contrast

Contrast is the vividness of the colours and tones in an image, and how much they stand out from subject to subject.

Exposure

Exposure describes the amount of light that has entered the camera to form an image. This is dependent on camera settings being correctly balanced, so that enough light is captured for a perfect exposure.

OVEREXPOSE – If an image is overexposed, too much light has entered through the lens and the subject appears 'bleached' out, or far too white.

UNDEREXPOSE – Underexposure is when not enough light has entered the lens, and images look dull and lack lustre in their contrast and colour.

LONG EXPOSURE – Light has been allowed to enter the camera for extended periods. This is usually put to use to create movement in landscape or sports photography.



Filters

Filters can be applied over the lens for replicating certain styles or effects. Some types include colour, grain and lighting effects. A lot of compacts will also add in-camera filters.

Focal lengths

Measured in millimetres, camera lenses have various focal lengths, which are used to zoom in or out on a subject. Focal lengths can be fixed, made to extend to huge distances, or to capture subjects close up.

TELEPHOTO – Lenses which are telephoto are used to capture subjects that are in the distance. These lenses are popular with sports and wildlife photographers, using a lens with a focal length of 200-400mm, for example.

WIDE-ANGLE – Lenses that have a wide angle cover a very broad field of view. Focal lengths include 15-30mm and these are extremely useful for landscape photography.

FISH-EYE – Fish-eye lenses distort the scene you are shooting in order to produce a sometimes-abstract composition, almost creating a bubble effect. The focal lengths involved in fish-eye photography can be 10mm or less.

HDR

HDR stands for high dynamic range and describes an image that has strong details, lighting and colours throughout.

Histogram

A histogram like the one below is used in photography to assess the lighting pattern through any given image. It shows which areas are most inside the visible spectrum.

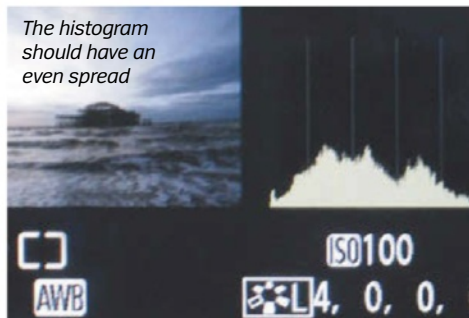


Image stabilisation

Either built into a lens or in-camera, image stabilisation counter-balances unstable movement. This helps to reduce the amount of blur caused by hand movement.

ISO

This is how sensitive the camera sensor is to light, starting as low as ISO 64 (not very sensitive) and up to ISO 3200 or above (very sensitive). Sensitive ISO ratings produce the most distortion, however.

JPG

JPG is used in all digital cameras to capture images in a compressed but high-resolution format. Images are portable but they cannot be enlarged.

Live view

Live view is available with DSLR cameras and it allows you to use the screen to compose an image. This is instead of using the viewfinder.

Macro

Macro is the art of capturing subjects at extreme closeness, creating heavy blurring in the process. Subjects can be larger than they are in real life.

Megapixels

The number of pixels in an image is measured in megapixels (mp). The more megapixels, the larger the resolution and printable size of the image.

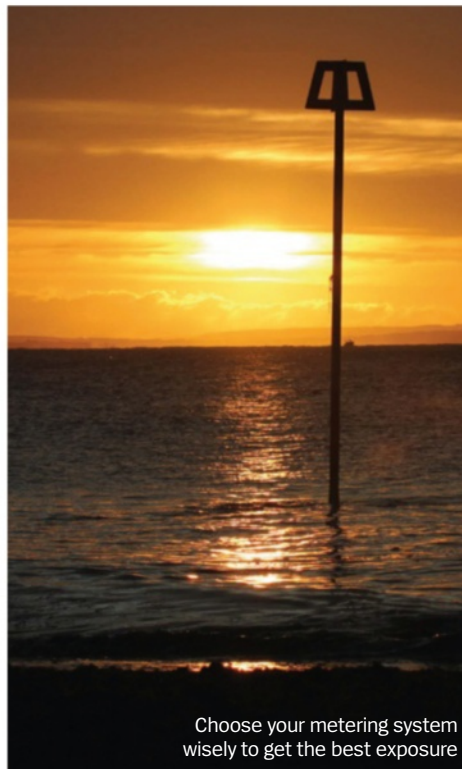
Metering

Metering is the way in which the camera analyses the lighting of the scene to make the exposure, for example, using just the central part, or an average. Metering modes are altered according to the scene and also the subject.

SPOT, OR PARTIAL, METERING – In this setting, the camera takes a light reading from the centre of the scene and calculates the exposure. Light in the background is not considered.

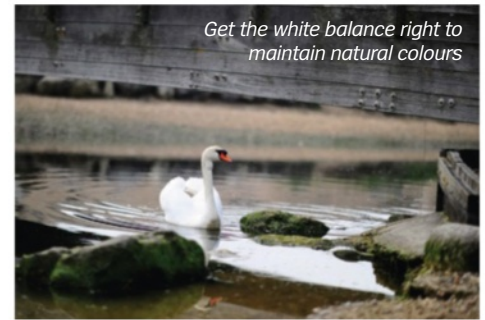
EVALUATIVE METERING – This takes the entire scene's lighting into account to make the exposure. It's also ideal if you're not sure which setting to use, or if the scene is constantly changing.

CENTRE-WEIGHTED METERING – This metering system is where the camera uses the most central part of the scene to calculate the exposure, as well as some of the surrounding light. It's halfway between Spot and Evaluative metering.



Noise

Created by the lack of light in a scene, noise is the distortion of pixels mainly seen in the shadow areas of an image. Noise occurs with sensitive ISO ratings.



Prime lens

A prime lens has a single, 'fixed' focal length, with no zoom function, for example 50mm. These are popular for their excellent build quality and advanced optics.

RAW

RAW images are uncompressed and high-quality. They have a level of detail that is second-to-none in post-shoot editing. This is a standard feature of DSLR cameras.

Saturation

The strength, or amount, of colour in an image is described as 'saturation'. A highly saturated image has unusually strong colour, and can look unnatural.

SD/SDHC/SDXC

These are common memory cards that many compact and DSLR cameras use to store images. Measured in gigabytes, the larger the card size, the more photos you can shoot.

Shutter speed

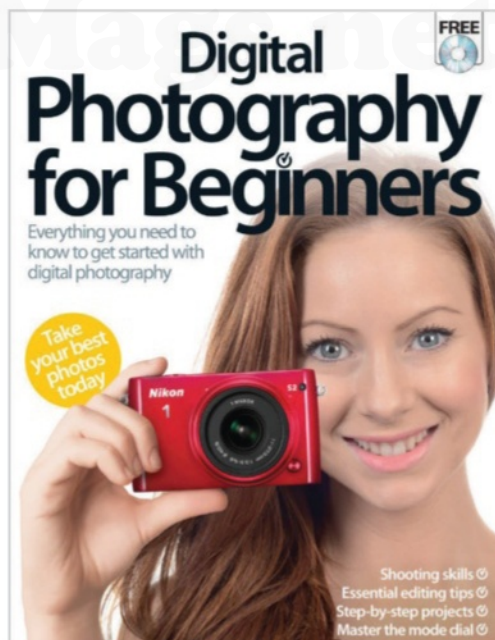
Shutter speed is the length of time that the camera sensor is exposed to light. Measured in fractions of a second, fast speeds prevent blurring.

White balance

White balance is used to keep the colour of light in an image looking natural (as if shot in daylight). Different types of white balance include tungsten, flash and fluorescent.

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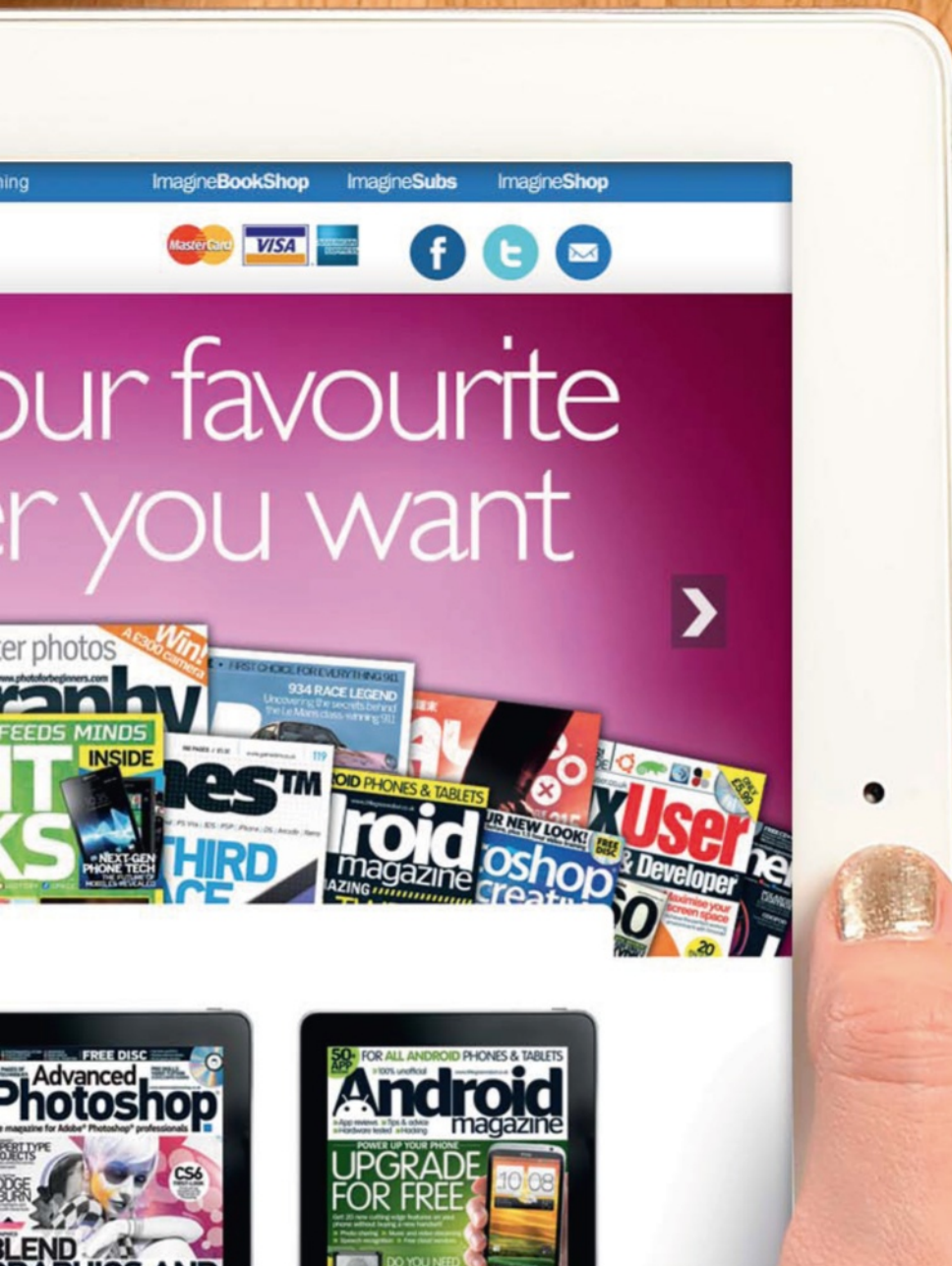
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