

A person wearing a black hat and a black shirt is climbing a tree trunk. They are holding a camera up to their eye, taking a photograph of a river. The river is surrounded by lush green trees and foliage. The scene is outdoors, with a sandy bank visible in the foreground.

How To Take Great Photographs

Alan Mead

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by Albert Meadows

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1. History Of Photography

Have you ever wondered where modern photography came from? While we are now well into the digital age and film is all but gone, the lighting techniques and other photography techniques were developed in the early 19th century. Niepce and Daguerre are regarded as the inventors of modern photography. They used silver and chalk as their basis for a compound which, when exposed to light, darkens. Thus the first negatives were made, albeit very grainy ones.

From the early cameras seen in western films we moved on to manual cameras with film. This film captured the image on a roll to be developed in a dark room to prevent being spoiled by excess light. Those early cameras required a technique for taking the picture. You needed an understanding of aperture and shutter speed and trial and error were often used to get the best picture possible. A lot of time was needed to prepare for each picture and success was not always the result.



Aperture is measured by F-stops, which is the term for the size of the hole in the aperture that lets the light from the subject reach the film. You have probably seen these numbers on cameras, f2.8, f5.6, f8 etc. The smaller the number, the larger the size of the hole or aperture.

Shutter speed is the time a lens is allowed to stay open to let in the light. In a darkened room without flash your camera will the aperture wide open and a very slow shutter speed to allow enough light to fall onto the film This is because the dim light necessitates the

shutter be open longer for the correct amount of light to reach the film. The lack of light means the film needs to be exposed longer to obtain the picture where as more light will need to have the shutter moving at a faster speed.

From the manual cameras we moved into the automatic types. The camera became lighter. The shutter speed and aperture were programmed into the camera so as to relieve the operator of the task of manually setting them. A measure of film speed was developed which is called the ISO rating of the film. The ISO of most common daylight film was 100. For situations requiring a higher speed film, such as low light or high speed action, an ISO of 200, 400 or even 800 was available. Now cameras were 'point and shoot' just press the shutter button to take a picture. Then came the auto camera with manual over ride, which allowed the more experienced photographer to have more control over the picture.

Digital cameras are photography today, even cell phones can have quite reasonable cameras built into them. Now we can see the picture we take instantly, no need for film and processing. The pictures can be shared with our friends and family through social media, email etc. and our home printers give us the flexibility to create prints. Photography has moved on from the difficulty of taking the perfect shot using a skill born to a few to everyone able to take pictures with a device that fits in their pocket.

This is not to say photography and photographers will not remain. There will always be a need for the skill and experience of the professional photographer. Digital cameras now have a wonderful light sensitivity range which allows them to be used in almost any situation. Of course, if the light is too low, the situation might require the use of a flash. Knowing the photography techniques that were developed over 100 years ago will help you to get that perfect photograph with your digital camera. Photography may have originated with only a few people able to take photographs, but we can see the advancements their inventions started have allowed anybody to take photographs.

2. Introduction To Digital Photography

When digital cameras first started appearing in stores around the mid nineties, they were little more than novelty items. Poor resolution and low sensitivity picture sensors had many skeptics saying that they would never compete with film. Since then, most people have thrown out their film cameras and now almost everybody has a digital camera.

Before looking at the digital camera itself, it is helpful to have a definition of what digital photography is. Quite simply, digital photography is taking pictures using a camera with an electronic picture sensor and transferring the resulting image to some form of digital storage. Scanning a photograph uses a similar process, however, the image is usually transferred to an attached computer.

The quality or resolution of digital cameras is no longer an issue, so film has become almost extinct. It is a sad fact that Eastman Kodak, the first company to produce cameras and film for the common man, has recently filed for bankruptcy protection. And although they also invented the digital camera, they were unable to capitalize on this.



Digital cameras offer the advantage of being able to see your photo instantly on its built in screen. No waiting in line at the photo shop waiting for your prints to be developed, often only to be disappointed. Digital cameras allow you to delete the shots you don't like on the spot, so you keep only the ones you like.

Another reason why people prefer digital photographs rather than traditional ones is that

there are a variety of ways for sharing a digital photograph. One can send it through it e-mail, post it on social media sites, burn it to a disc, send it via Bluetooth or print it just like film photographs.

However, there are purists who still choose film over digital. According to them, there film photographs produce more lifelike images than those taken by digital cameras.

But the advances in digital cameras of today have made them so good that it will only be a diehard film user would fail to be impressed.

Having recently gone through the exercise of transferring some of my old slides and negatives to digital really impressed on me how far digital cameras have come.

3. Digital Photography The New Way To Taking Photographs

Photography is an art. A practiced eye and experience allow you to catch the unexpected. However, not everyone has the time or inclination to study a landscape, the patience to stalk wildlife, or the time to wait for the right light to capture a building. You will need to develop a photographers eye to see those pictures hidden to the average photo taker. Great satisfaction can be yours if you take the time to look for that special picture. Digital photography is *the* new way of taking a picture. There are many advantages to working with digital photography.

The darkroom is out and the computer (and printer) becomes the lab for many of us using digital photography. Now we can share our photos with family and friends using the internet and social media. And with the digital camera, you can see your subject in the LCD screen, not only while you are preparing to take the picture, but the result is available to view on the screen immediately after taking the picture. No waiting for the photo lab to develop your prints. Memory cards, not film now determine how many photos we can take, no longer the limitation of 12, 24 or 36 shots on a roll of film. Most memory cards have huge capacity, they are inexpensive and can be purchased almost anywhere.

Digital photography can encompass the professional cameras with the interchanging lenses (SLR), with all the features of the old film SLRs, or it can be one of the more popular compact digital cameras that are small enough to drop into your pocket or purse. Digital cameras have revolutionized picture taking for everyone, professional or amateur. As I said before we can see the picture instantly, so you can decide which pictures you want to keep long before you have any printed.

Digital cameras come in all sizes from a key chain camera to the professional SLR. We have all had a little fun with digital on our phones which can now rival traditional cameras. If you are more interested in the professional side of photography the first digital camera you choose might be a single lens reflex camera (SLR). It can be automatic if you feel more comfortable the camera making the decisions for you, however almost all digital cameras have manual settings for aperture and shutter speed as well.

As with film photography, setting up your shot is half the fun. Framing the picture on the screen or in the viewfinder, taking the picture in your mind before you ever push the shutter button can be great fun. Setting up your shot still requires you to have an eye for the unusual or for making the unusual out of a common scene. Walk around the subject and see what the subject looks like from many aspects, you may even decide to take

several photos and choose the best angle later. This is where digital photography surpasses film cameras every time. Having taken your photos from several angles you are able to check them straight away and select which ones you think are worth keeping. It is a faster way for you to learn how to set the shutter speed and aperture on a shot and use lighting because you see the results while you still looking at the scene.

Digital photography may not seem like it would still require you to use all those skills you needed on an old film camera, but this is definitely the case. Digital photography enhances your learning while you are still on the spot. Instead of long hours in a darkroom or waiting in line you can get the picture you want right then and there. It certainly helps towards vacation photos because you can see if there is something in front of the lens, such as the camera strap. Or maybe you forgot to take the lens cap off. Digital photography is a rapidly changing area of technology with more features, higher resolutions and more compact sizes almost every day. What an exciting time to be starting out on the path of digital photography.

4. Tips On Buying A Digital Camera

There is a lot to consider when it comes to buying a new digital camera. The choices facing you when you go to buy a digital camera can be quite confronting. The range is huge with you having to decide on color, size, features and price of course. However, you will save money over time, so go for the best you can afford. You will no longer have to purchase film and you can delete pictures that are less than what you wanted. There are now thousands of models and numerous brands to select from. You will want to look at as many cameras as you can to be sure you are getting the right camera for you. You will also be able to find what the best deal is for your money and a camera that meets all your needs.

When buying a digital camera today, it is wise to look around and compare prices. Once you have decided on the camera that you want, you will find that prices can vary greatly from store to store. So do some research and get the best price you can. However, if you are not familiar with digital cameras, it might be worth paying a little extra to shop where the sales staff actually know what they are talking about and can help you get the best out of your new camera. So stick with stores that have big electronics departments or specialist photographic shops to be on the safe side.



Where ever digital cameras are sold, they will be kept in locked glass display cabinets or if displayed on the counter, held in place by a security device. You will need to ask the sales person to open the cabinet for you because you really need to feel the camera in your hand to judge if it suites you. Don't forget to have your list of questions ready to ask and find out as much as you can about the camera(s) you are interested in. If possible, try the camera out, give it a god test drive to make sure it is for you. Make sure it has batteries included, if not get the salesperson to provide them so you can turn the camera on and test it.

When choosing a digital camera today, cost versus features is not really an issue. Nor is resolution as every camera being sold today will have more than adequate picture quality, a far cry from the early days of digital cameras. But you will want to decide what is important to you before you go to the store. Have your budget sorted out and the list of features at hand before you get to the sales counter. It might be an advantage to search the net to see what is available in your price and feature range. Even compact cameras have good lenses and a zoom range of 4 or 5 times. The range of features is fairly standard in each price range. Don't be pushed into buying something you don't want or is way out of your price range. Stick to your plan and buy what you like and keep to your budget - you can always upgrade when you can afford to later on if you decide you need something better. Most stores offer a return or exchange policy if you really think you have made a mistake, but make sure you check with the store before you buy.

5. Choosing A Subject In Photography

How do you know what photos you will take? Where do you get ideas from? Are you going out for a walk and hope to see some wildlife? Questions asked by people starting out in photography all the time. If it the first time you have picked up a camera, just take pictures of everything to start with and see what you like and what seems to be most natural for you. Most people have something that interests them - nature, people, buildings, fashion etc. Photography is an art and as such your passion will direct you in certain directions in time to the types of pictures you will take.

Over time, you will get an idea of what it is that grabs you about photography. This is usually where your interests lie. You might find taking candid pictures of people fascinates you, or you might love taking pictures at sporting events. Perhaps flowers or wildlife is you thing, the list is endless. Don't worry about it, it will come to you naturally the more time you spend behind the camera.

Some times the practical gets in our way. What I mean by that is sometimes we are restricted by the locale where we live. For example, if your interest is in animals, you are not going to find too many exotic animals if you live in suburbia. So make do with what lives in your area, it may be domestic animals or small animals that live in the park. Once you feel confident, you might want to go further afield and visit a forest or at least somewhere out of suburbia. And so your experience and confidence grows. Oh, and what were we talking about. That's right, choosing a subject. Well, you see, it really found you didn't it?

So now you have found your niche. Of course, that doesn't mean that you are restricted to taking pictures just in that area. Always be broadening your horizons, many people eventually have several areas that they have become quite expert in. For example, I love taking pictures of wild flowers, but landscapes and seascapes fascinate me too. And who doesn't like to take pictures of sunsets? So paint with a broad brush as they say. Having your favourite photography topic doesn't mean you have to ignore everything else. Taking photos is fun, so don't take it too seriously.

Have you ever hear of the photographers eye? It is a term used to describe the ability of a photographer to see a picture in a subject that other people don't. If you have the eye, pictures just stand out, they are obvious to you. A person in a crowd or a dewy spiders web in the dawn light, unusual gnarls in a tree trunk. In other words, things the we would normally walk past without taking any notice of, a photographer looking for a picture will see. So you should aim to develop an eye for a picture, regardless of what style of photography most interests you. Having the ability to see pictures in the mundane will

give you an endless supply of subjects to take photos of.

Choosing a subject for a photo will usually depend on what you are looking for and the quality of the light. Keeping your photographers eye to the fore you will see interesting shots almost everywhere. Sometimes, however, you are more tuned to your favoured style and won't see pictures in everything. If you are more into nature, you might not see the city building with unusual lighting. Don't worry about this, your eye only works when you are using it, although sometime a picture really stands out and asks to be taken no matter what the subject matter. Most people interested in photography carry a camera with them everywhere they go, it becomes a habit. Often this habit turns into a hobby and sometimes develops into a career. So try to develop the photographers eye. You may have it naturally but many people have to develop it. Look at everything as if there may be a picture in it and you will soon start to see with the photographers eye.

6. Candid Photography

In candid photography, the aim is to take a picture of your subject without them being aware that it is about to happen. Part of the fun in photography is catching your human subject's off guard so that your pictures have more emotion. That doesn't mean that candid shots are just snapshots, you will see candid shots in almost any magazine. If you look of celebrity magazines you will find that most of the pictures are candid. Newspapers and magazines thrive on candid photography, so what makes a candid photo more than a snapshot?

The most important thing is that a candid shot is planned where as a snapshot is usually a spur of the moment shot. Although the final result may sometimes be similar, knowing what you want from your candid shot is important. Usually you are looking for a facial expression or body movement or some other specific parameter. You need to be able to react quickly, without your subject being aware that you are even there with your camera at the ready. The best way to do this if you have a digital automatic camera is to keep it on the auto setting. Digital cameras sometimes take moment or two to focus and you can loose that candid shot if your subject becomes aware of you.

When taking a candid picture, the usual photographic principals still apply. You will still need to look at the lighting situation, angle etc., although it is often not possible to be able to choose the ideal position. So making the best of every situation is part of the art of candid photography. And the most important of all, being able to capture the right moment for a classic candid photo.

So what makes the classic candid photo? It is almost any of the human emotions that people express in normal day to day living. Sometimes these are very raw emotions and at other time they can be gentle or tender emotions. It ranges from the horror of a child in a war zone to the tenderness of lovers on a bench in a quiet park. It all comes back to the photographers eye again, always looking for a picture in the area around them, camera always ready. It is not easy to remain detached from your subject sometimes, however, you still have to be unobserved to get that unique candid picture.



The key to taking candid photographs of your friends is to draw them away from the fact that you carry a camera. If they forget you carry a camera, they are more likely going to act naturally. Some people tend to pose in front of the camera while others will shy away turning their backs when you get ready to take a photograph. Knowing your friends and family will help you find the best way to take candid shots without their knowledge.

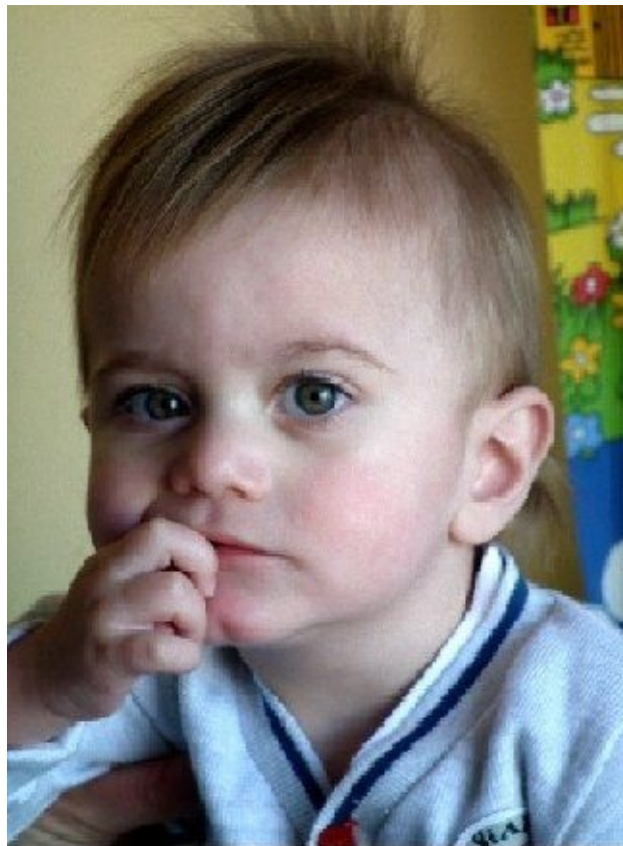
The beauty of digital photography is your ability to take lots of pictures without running out of film. This is a great advantage in candid photography as you can keep shooting without knowing that sometime soon you will have to change the film; and likely miss the very shot you were after. And now, with almost every digital camera having a reasonable length zoom, you have more chance at remaining undetected as you chase that candid shot. Not that you have to be Secret Squirrel to take good candid shots. You can still manage this even when your subject is aware that you are there. It's a matter of being subtle at such times, they will notice you're there if you keep shoving your camera in their face . Just remember to always have your camera with you so that you will always be ready to catch that perfect candid picture.

7. Getting That Priceless Baby Photo

the many types of photographs you might take with your digital camera, taking pictures of babies is going to be one of the most taxing of jobs. Regardless of whether you are a professional or just a mom or dad trying to get that great shot of bub, getting a baby to cooperate is not an easy task

So who's in charge here anyway? Well it's not the photographer, that's for sure. Baby is king when it comes to taking their photo. Their mood can change in an instant. Hunger, tiredness or the look or the camera (or the photographer) can change the direction of the photo session at the baby's whim. But there are a few ways round these sorts of problems.

Babies respond well when they are fed and rested, when with people they know and trust and when they get all the attention. So I guess you can see a couple of potential solutions here if you are one of the parents, make sure baby has been fed and has had their sleep. Now, as we all know, baby likes to be the centre of attention so we have to make sure that that is exactly what they are. Keeping them occupied with silly faces and funny noises can result in that classic baby photo.



That is why, if at all possible, I would discourage having the photos taken in a studio. If

you can set up a place at the baby's home, where there is a comfortable and familiar setting, you will have many more opportunities to get that smile that will make the portrait of a lifetime. So if you can arrange for the photographer to call at your home, that will make getting the best out of baby much easier. And of course, the same applies if you are taking photos of your own child, a familiar setting will always work best..

Taking the photos at home means that you have some control over things such as the time of the shoot. You know baby's routine, nap time, feeding time etc, so you can arrange for the photographer to be there at the appropriate time. So now everything is in place for a trouble free session. Oh dear, They haven't just started teething have they?

Obviously, babies like people they know. Throw someone new into the mix, like a photographer, and things change. If you are that photographer, allow a little time to let the baby get used to you, play a few baby games, make some silly faces etc. Sometimes the camera could be a little frightening to the baby, although, these days, with cameras everywhere, this is not very likely.

As far as the camera goes, think about the kind of equipment you will need to get that perfect baby portrait. Will you be using available light or flash? Will you use bounce flash (where you bounce the flash off the ceiling) or studio type flash units? You don't want to intimidate baby with too much scary stuff. But do make sure you have good quality equipment so that you will be able to take the best picture you are able to. So when you get that perfect picture, the printed result will take pride of place on display in the family's home..

Baby photographers often use interesting backdrops which can create an effective point of interest in the portrait. It provides an amount of flexibility for the photographer and allows the parents some say in what the portrait will look like. And don't forget, baby is not very tall, so try to get down to their level.

Happy babies are laughing babies and laughing babies make terrific pictures. Mom and dad know the things that always get a giggle so exploit their inside information. The baby will enjoy getting to know you and hearing those familiar games coming from you. And that should help you to get that baby laugh or smile you want.

By learning the baby's personality and how to get in tune with the child, you can coax pictures from them that might otherwise have been impossible to get. And that is what you want with a portrait of a baby that you want to last a lifetime.

8. Posing By Not Posing

One of the most difficult niches in photography is portrait photography. Getting people to cooperate while setting up your portraits is an art in itself. Some people thrive on this type of work, to others it can be like extracting teeth. Children can be difficult in the extreme, family groups can seem like they had an argument on the way to the sitting, while men would often rather a visit to the dentist.

Let's look at some ways to make this a less painful exercise for both you as the photographer and the portrait sitters. Often, returning to take advantage of some candid techniques is useful, even though you are in a formal setting.

In the studio or in some other formal setting, putting your subject at ease is the key. While getting ready for the session, take the time to get to know the people you will be photographing. Ask some general questions about what they do, hobbies etc. Find out if they have a sense of humour, get them to have a bit of a laugh. That will make it a bit easier to get them to smile.

Once relaxed a little, people will more at ease when you step behind the camera. If you are a good story teller, you can often keep their attention long enough for them to be looking at you while you take the picture. This is particularly important in a group shot, you don't want them all looking in different directions.

Wedding portraits can be particularly trying due to the many and varied distractions. Isolating the subjects from the rest of the wedding party is usually not practical. Keeping those distractions to a minimum by involving the other members of the party will be a great help in getting great photographs that the bride and groom will treasure.

A good start to a relaxed session can be to find a venue that the people are comfortable or familiar with. This requires that you, the photographer must not only be a skilled artisan with his camera but somewhat of a politician, a psychologist and a hypnotist all in one. So polish up some good "charm" and use it to ease those personality shots out of your subjects.

And perfect that charm for different personalities. You may need to charm the smile out of a young girl or tease it out of a child. Different approaches will be needed for different people. Try to get men to talk about their favourite sport or hobby. And for the babies, well, they will almost always smile for their mommy and almost certainly smile for daddy

so use them as your assistants.

Besides your photographic skills, you will need to become proficient in the people skills department too. Once you can relax your subjects, they will be happier and you will enjoy a satisfaction in your work that you well deserve.

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9. Portrait Photography

A family snap isn't a portrait. Sounds a bit snobby, doesn't it? As with any part of photography, portraiture is an art of its own. It puts you in charge of the situation (except if your subject is a baby) so that you have control of the lighting, the angle, the pose etc. Even though you aren't a professional photographer, some basic knowledge of their tricks and techniques will make a huge difference to your portrait photos.

Get to know the face you are about to photograph. Though it is a cliché, it is true that some people do have a better side. There are many reasons this can be, for instance my left eye is smaller than my right eye, and it looks like I'm squinting, so I would say my right side is my better side. There can be more serious reasons a person might want you to take the picture from a particular side, however, your job is to make the subject look their best.

What is it about your subject that will make a great portrait? Everyone has something that makes their face special and worth photographing. Sometimes it is beauty, sometimes character and sometimes they're just cute. Usually, if you are taking portraits of family or friends, you should know them well enough to capture their personality photographically. If you are taking a portrait of someone you don't know, take the time before you start to get to know them a little. That way, you will generally know what it is about them that will make a good portrait.



As with all forms of photography, lighting can make or break a portrait. Sometimes,

natural light might suit a subject better than artificial. Some photographers prefer natural light, some always work with artificial light. If you always work in a studio, manipulating artificial light becomes part of the art. Lighting in portrait photography can become a signature of the photographer due to the very individual ways it can be used. However, when you are just starting out, experiment and practice always and you will discover what your preference is. And that will be what gives you the most satisfying portraits for you and your subjects.

When taking a portrait, it is important to consider the background. Studio photographers always have a selection of backdrops to use depending on the subject. Sometimes using a scenic background will suit a subject, sometimes using different plain colored backgrounds will help bring out the subjects coloring to best effect. The background, whatever it may be, needs to enhance the portrait and not detract from it. Often, aperture control is used to make the background slightly out of focus, to put the emphasis on the subject. Your subject is the picture, not the background although sometimes the portrait can be made by the right choice of background.

So remember, portrait photography is a combination of lighting, angle, background and most importantly, knowing a little about the person you are photographing. And also remember that you can take as many shots as you like, in fact you will often need to take many photos to get just a few great portraits. So don't just snap away at family occasions, use a little thought and some of the principals of portrait photography and you will get some wonderful casual portraits.

10. Sneaking Up On The Wedding

When you go to a wedding, it's hard not to notice the professional wedding photographer. They have been employed to take the photos of that particular wedding; they are the primary wedding photographer. They are usually very good at their job, however, their job requires them to have a format which they follow, a standard list of photos that they must take. The standard fare of the ceremony, the formal shots, the cutting of the cake etc.

This might get good coverage of the wedding in a formal way, however, there is a lot going on at the wedding that the professional photographer misses. This is not to say that the pro is not doing his job, he is, it just means there are other things going on that are not on his list to photograph. That's why the bride and groom might ask a friend or family member who they think is up to the job to "back up" the photographer. If this is you, there are a few things you should be aware of.

The professional photographer is the main man. Don't get in his way, don't try to take over, let him do the job he is being paid to do. That is not to say you can't follow along and quietly take your own version of the things he is taking. But you aren't there to duplicate his work, you are there to get the shots that compliment the formal ones. The interactions between the bride and groom and the wedding party in between formal shots, the antics of the children at the reception - those sorts of things. Respect the professional and he will tolerate you. Don't get him off side, work around him and don't get in his way.



Don't feel redundant because the professional is taking all the stock shots. Fill in the story

around what he is doing. Look for the little side stories that abound at weddings, the bridesmaids fussing around the bride, the parents waiting nervously for the bride to arrive and so on. That is not to say that you can't take advantage of the professional's experience when he sets up the formal shots. Look over his shoulder, so to speak, and get some shots of the bridal party but from a slightly different aspect. They generally don't mind you taking your photos, just as long as you don't interfere with his work.

Don't miss those action shots during the ceremony. You have come with a less structured mindset than the professional has because your goal is to get the informal shots. So you have what you need in your hand and ready to go. You can move around the venue and get those photographs during the ceremony of little things going on up the front that everybody else will miss. Be on the lookout for the unexpected or different that is going on around you. The whole point of you being there taking photos is for your photos to be different to the ones the professional is taking. The pictures that show the rest of the story that will make the wedding album a treasure for the newlyweds.

The kids usually have a great time at a wedding and can provide some great photo opportunities. They are part of the wedding too, even if old aunty Mary thinks they should be left at home. So don't forget to take photos of them too, there will be lots of fun photos as a result. Remember, they are little people, so get down to their level to get the best shots. Oh, and don't forget to get aunty Mary's reactions too.

Remember, you're the second fiddle to the professional photographer. That is not to say that what you are doing is not important to the bride and groom. Your photographic efforts will be greatly appreciated by them. However, you are a guest too, so you can take a break now and then, put the camera down and enjoy yourself for a while. There are plenty of other cameras there to fill in the gaps.

11. Still Life Photography Techniques

As you will be aware by now, there are many niches in photography. Still life is one that has some of the characteristics of portrait photography. Still life photography allows a photographer to master the principals of light, shadows, use of color and how to bring out the character of an object. Now we will look at some of the some of the things that make up still photography.

A still life photograph, as you might have guessed, comprises of inanimate objects such as fruit, flowers, kitchen utensils, etc. In fact, the range of materials that can be used in a still life photograph are limited only by your imagination. Once you have selected and arranged your still life objects, lighting them to bring out their character and mood is the next step. Light and shade are the key here, so only one light source is used. Using shadows to produce the effect you want from the angle that best suits the subject will bring out the depth and character of the objects. Using soft or harsh light will change the look of the picture by changing the depth of the shadows. Reflections are also often used to great effect in still life pictures. To get the best shadows from your still life, the angle of light needs to be fairly acute. Using a light source from almost in front of the objects will not produce the same result as the shadows will not be so pronounced and the picture will look flat.

Still life photography is great way to learn color control because you choose the colors of the objects within the picture. Getting the balance right between contrasting colors while still maintaining a natural look is quite an art. You don't want to produce a clash or disharmony but rather you want to create a pleasing look. Remember, if it doesn't look right to you, chances are that others will not find it pleasing to look at either.



What you use in a still life picture and how these objects are arranged doesn't always have to make sense to produce a great result. Abstract arrangements of objects can be fun to set up and can make striking still life pictures. As with all still life arrangements, some thought needs to be given, not only to the objects used but also how you arrange them. Even though the selection of objects might not make much sense, the end result must be something that is pleasing to the viewer. Even though every viewer will see it differently, the important point is that they should see a great picture. However, because everybody sees it differently, not everybody will like it. Criticism is usually a good thing in photography as generally people are trying to be constructive and helpful; but you can't win them all.

Variety is the spice of life they say, and in still life photography this is true also. Sometimes, you can use the same core of objects and by rearranging them and adding other objects, changing the angle and the lighting, you can create many variations on the same theme. Remember, a haphazard arrangement of objects doesn't make a composition, so use basic principals such as the rule of thirds when taking your still life photos. Your arrangement of the objects needs to make some sense and be balanced in a way that will show the objects to best effect. And once you have mastered the still life in color, try to do the same in black and white.

Some photographers don't find the still life as interesting as many of the other aspects of photography. However, it can be an absorbing and very satisfying area of the art. It requires you to think about what end result you want before you start to take any pictures. And yes, the good old photographer's eye is important too. Still life, far from being boring, can be a challenging and rewarding area of photography to work in.

So, what is the point of a still life photo?. Besides creating interesting pictures to hang on

your wall, just think of where you see still life pictures every day. Open almost any magazine and you will see many beautiful still life pictures. Look at all those recipe photos, furniture arrangements, etc. And every catalogue is full of them. There are many areas where still life photography is used every day. So don't disregard still life photography as pointless as it is a very important aspect of photography. Try it and you might just get the still life bug. And you never know, it may lead to a very satisfying career.

12. Lighting Tips For Photography

Photography requires a few skills to make your photos look great. One part of making a photo stand out is lighting. Lighting in photography takes a little planning and understanding of a few techniques. Getting the light right is an easy way to create a picture that will stand out from the crowd. So let's look at just a few of the secrets to good lighting.

You only have two choices, natural or artificial light. Either way, you will rely on the Kelvin scale to determine the temperature of light and therefore the color of light. Known as color temperature, it can allow you to manipulate the way your picture will look. For instance the 'warmer' the light the redder the light will be, and conversely the 'colder' the light the bluer the light will be. So you may need to pick the time you will go out and shoot photographs outdoors as the lighting offers so many different hues depending on the time of day, the weather and the season. However, all digital cameras have an auto white balance feature which will try to correct for these changes in color temperature, so if you want to take advantage of the differing colors outdoors, you will need to turn this feature off.

So to use natural light effectively, an understanding of the color of light is essential. It is an interesting exercise to take a photo of the same scene at different times of the day. This will clearly show how different the light can be say, in the morning, at mid day and in the evening. So having an understanding of how the sun impacts on the over riding colors will determine time of day you want to take a particular photo. Bluish tones in the morning give way to more neutral colors around noon. Sometimes, you don't have a choice when it comes to the time you need to take a picture and so you can use filters to change the color of light, but we will cover this later. Knowing how you want to shoot the picture will also help you determine when you wish to take the shot.

The time of day must be considered again because of the angle and direction of the sunlight. To create a softer light with less distinct shadows, some form of diffuser can be used, even the shade of a tree is a form of difuser. If the best angle for the picture is not the best from the angle of the light, sometimes a reflector can be used compensate for this. This is often the case when taking pictures of people at around noon when the sun is directly overhead. Shaddow can also be an advantage depending on your subject. An old gnarled tree, for example, can make a very effective picture by using the light and shade caused by bright sunlight.



Landscapes and seascapes are subjects that you can use the different light at different times of day. Here is where it is an advantage to have some knowledge of color temperature. Use sunlight as your friend. Even a cloudy day and the diffused sunlight that results can provide interesting results. So there is more to natural lighting than meets the eye. Time of day, angle and direction, light and shade, all these aspects will have an effect on the color and use of the light. With practice you will get to know the best time of day to take different styles of picture that use the varying nature of natural light.

As I have said before, photography is an art that requires you to practice its techniques. Natural light is such a big part of taking pictures that it is important to come to grips with it. So experiment with different times of day, situations of light and shade etc. Digital photography allows us the freedom to take virtually as many photos as we like, so practice and experiment as much you like. You will be surprised at what you can come up with as well as get to know what works and what doesn't. When you make taking photographs interesting, it becomes your hobby and hobbies can often lead to vocations.

Regardless of your status as a photographer, you can use light to make the difference between a good photo and a great one. Remember that you can modify the lighting conditions by using a little thought. And if you can use light to your advantage, your pictures will stand out with beauty and interest.

13. Landscape Photography

For those who are attempting their first landscape photography, you may be disappointed when the pictures don't look as good as you had expected. You will probably wonder what is going wrong. It is something that all landscape photographers ask themselves from time to time. You can't do much to change the scenery but using your photographers eye, you will learn to see the elements that make the best pictures. You will also find that there is little research on landscape photography, and so it also remains a mystery to many. It could be up to the gods of chance.

However, although it helps to have a breathtaking view to start with, landscape photography like any other form of photography is an art. This is why it is important you learn to use what you've got when it comes to making a landscape work for you, so that you get the pictures you desire. First, remember the basics. Always think with a photographer's mind. The scenery is immovable but you aren't, so, if possible, select a position that gives you the best picture. Use your photographers eye, but don't forget composition techniques such as the rule of thirds, that is usually one third foreground, one third the main subject and one third sky for example. These thirds will comprise of different sections depending on the subject, it is the proportions that are important. Look at the horizon line and, where possible, use it to make sure that your picture is straight. Often, a landscape is so interesting that a great picture can be made from it where ever you move around in it..



And as with any outdoor photograph, the seasons and the time of day can make a big difference in the resulting picture . If you are going to a specific and unfamiliar location, do some homework. Don't miss that terrific sunset because you underestimated the time it would take you to get there. It is sometimes a good idea to listen to local radio stations so

that you can steer clear of the rain and other bad weather conditions that might delay you. And don't forget that the locals know the area, the seasons and very often, the best place to take your photos. They can be one of your best resources when you are out of your own territory.

Color and tones, light and shade. These are important to a landscape photograph. Some scenes work best with bright colors and the sun shining. Others will look spectacular with the subdued colors of winter. Don't make the mistake of chasing the bright sunny colorful photo, look at each scene and judge it on its merits. You will be surprised at the results you get when you look deeper into a scene and find something there that you wouldn't have imagined if you had just given it a passing glance.

The world is full of natural wonders. Sometimes we live with them every day and don't see them for what they are. They might not be as great as the Rockies or as spectacular as the Grand Canyon, but natural wonders none the less. Landscape photography is all about getting the most out of a scene. Use your photographer's eye to find that beautiful picture that you didn't know was there, even though you drove past it almost every day. You don't have to go to Egypt to get great photos (it's a great experience though) you will find endless possibilities much closer to home. It can be very satisfying creating a great landscape photograph where others have never seen one.

14. Wildlife Photography

I love taking nature photographs. One of the areas of nature is wildlife photography. Wildlife photography can be exhausting, frustrating, even boring at times. You will probably take a lot of photos you will just discard, but every now and then you will find one or two in the batch that will give you that “yes!” moment. And then it’s all worthwhile.

Wildlife photography requires dedication and patience and generally, a lot of time. To be consistently successful as a wildlife photographer, you will eventually need some fairly specialised equipment too. Because you can’t get up close to animals in the wild, a telephoto or zoom lens is required. That then means you will most likely need a SLR camera that allows you to interchange lenses depending on the shot. That being said, prior to my last trip overseas, I bought a SLR look alike type camera with a 24mm to 720mm (35mm camera equivalent) zoom lens (yes, that’s 30x) so that I didn’t have to carry lots of equipment with me.

With wildlife photography, nature rarely presents you with a great shot without you having to do something. Usually, planning is required so that you at least know what you are looking for and where you are likely to find it. In most cases where birds and animals are concerned, getting up close is out of the question. On the other hand, very small creatures will require you to get up very close indeed. The important thing is to be ready when the action starts so that you have the best chance of getting that special shot.



Although the family is hardly wildlife, sometimes stalking them to get a good picture is

harder than the real thing. They often know what your up to, or at least think it's a game, so it can be a bit difficult to get a good result. However, any practice with the family pet will help to give you an idea of how difficult real wildlife will be to photograph. If you can, turn your cameras sound effects, such as the shutter sound, off. You don't want to scare your subject off after the first shot. Take as many pictures as you can. It doesn't matter if you discard most of them, you just want that great shot you were planning for. You don't want to be adjusting the focus, aperture, shutter speed etc., you will never take a picture. Let the auto setting do most of the work for you to begin with, you can experiment later when you gain some experience.

Of course, not all wildlife moves at breakneck speed. Often, they are being still so as not to be noticed. You don't always have the opportunity to move around to get a better angle without disturbing your subject, so it's a good idea to take a few shots before you try to change your position. Once you've disturbed them, you can just about forget about that perfect shot. Fleeing or not, keep taking photos, you never know what might turn up.

Remember that not all cats are as friendly as your moggy at home. Treat wildlife as potentially dangerous unless you know for sure that your subject isn't. You're visiting their home so don't damage it just to get a photo. You may be visiting a national park or some other protected area, so do some homework before you set out.

If you want to be a wildlife photographer, you need to have patience. The wildlife is not going to move to your time schedule. Stay alert and have the camera ready to go. Use your photographers eye to see the picture before it happens. If you go home with only one picture you like, it's been a good days work.

15. Techniques For Underwater Photography

It's a whole different world once you go beneath the surface of the water. Most of us are never able to experience the thrill this brings or the wonders that that make up this underwater world. Fortunately, for those who are never likely to break the surface into this other world, intrepid underwater photographers have brought to us a sample of the mysteries of the deep.

Unlike wildlife photography, the underwater world needs to be viewed up close. That means that the marine life needs to be photographed up close. This is, for the most part, because the water contains small particles that reduce visibility. So the closer you are to your subject the less water you have between you and it. Underwater photography requires a great deal of patience and sometime courage. This is the home of such creatures as shark, whale or, in some underwater environments, crocodiles and alligators. Other underwater creatures may shelter in coral, hiding from predators. Others swim in huge schools using the principal of safety in numbers.

Generally, most underwater creatures prefer to hide rather than outrun their adversaries. This is where the patience part comes in, waiting for them to come out of hiding long enough to take your photograph. Any sudden movement can startle these creatures, so you have to move gently while stalking your subject. But you must also follow the unwritten law of the underwater photographer, look but don't touch. Many underwater organisms will die if you touch them, particularly coral. Taking up underwater photography brings with it responsibilities, a code of ethics, you might say.



The deeper you go under the surface, the darker it gets. To take good pictures under these conditions requires a flash. Of course, it is a special flash for underwater use. Often, a ring flash is used so there is less flare in the camera lens. The water acts as a filter, making pictures turn out with a reddish hue. Flash eliminates this problem, allowing you to bring back the vibrant colors often found underwater.

Composition is always important in photography. The rules of composition still apply underwater, however, it is not always as easy as on land. As most underwater creatures use some form of camouflage, getting them to show up against their background needs skill. As with any form of photography, practice and experimentation will build your skill level. Digital photography has made a big difference to underwater photography because of the almost limitless number of shots you have available. Can you imagine trying to change your film underwater?

Underwater photography uses the same basic photographic skills you would use above the water. Although a number of the world's best underwater photographers learned their trade underwater, most of us will already be proficient photographers before going below. However, some new skills will need to be learned and you can only do this by going underwater. Although you won't be taking pictures in the great ocean depths, the thrill of bringing pictures of strange and colorful creatures back to show your friends will make it worthwhile. And if you want to take your new hobby further, I'm sure you will find classes in underwater photography not too far away.

16. Black And White

Many professional photographers will choose not to do their work in color, but just black and white. Black and white will give your pictures a classic look, but it also requires a technique that is needed to produce a great black and white picture. Black and white photography is something that is not easy for beginners, but you will be able to learn the techniques. You will also be able to focus more how the light changes the character of the composition rather than the color.

Black and white photography can often be more rewarding than color. Black and white can be made to bring out details that just don't show up in color photographs. It can bring out the character in a portrait or a still life more strongly, and yet it can be used to get a more delicate effect too. Most digital cameras now have built in black and white filters so you can try black and white photography easily. Black and white uses light differently, film was designed to use the blue end of the spectrum, so using different colored filters could produce some spectacular results. Whether your digital camera mimics black and white film is something you would need to find out, but from my experience, the better cameras do quite a good job. So have a try at some black and white photography. Compare them with the same shot in color and see which one you like the best.

Black and white is often used for portraits. The character in a person's face can often be brought to the fore by the use of good lighting and black and white techniques. Better control of contrast is often available too. This is often an advantage in still life pictures as well as portraits. People often want their portrait taken in black and white because it brings something special to the portrait. And formal wedding photos can be made special also by the use of black and white.



Nowadays, you can manipulate your color photos on your computer using your favourite photo software. Making them black and white or even sepia can be fun, and by changing parameters within the program, can produce some quite reasonable results. This might save you from carrying two cameras at a wedding, for example, but to get the true feel of black and white photography there is nothing like doing it with the camera. After all, you want to be a photographer. Almost anyone can manipulate photos on a computer.

Black and white, as with any form of photography, takes practice and experience. Experimentation will always help you develop your skills, especially trying different filters and lighting. You will see how it enables you to bring out the character in a subject, whether it be a portrait or a landscape or a piece of driftwood. Learning how to take good black and white pictures is a most satisfying experience and a skill once learned is never forgotten.

17. The Use Of Lenses In Photography

Just having a camera is not going to get you the best pictures. New digital cameras usually come with a built in zoom lens of around 3x to 5x which is generally a very useful range. This brings the lens into the range of my old favourite, the 35- 80mm, wide angle to telephoto zoom lens. This is stated as the 35 mm film camera equivalent. which has remained the standard in digital cameras. This is because digital cameras have varying sized picture sensors that replace the 35mm film of old. This makes comparing the focal length of a lens difficult, so most manufacturers convert this value to what it would have been had the camera used 35mm film. Now we know what we are talking about.

Technology is moving so fast so even some mobile phones have reasonable cameras with zoom lenses built in. Although these compact cameras are great for day to day snaps, one day you might want to move up to something more flexible. With a SLR camera you have a wide choice of lenses to choose from, as the SLR has interchangeable lenses. Each brand of camera generally has its own style of lens mount, so you will be locked in to that brand once you purchase your SLR. Many third party manufacturers make lenses for the most popular brands of SLR cameras. If you buy a third party lens, just make sure it has an adapter for your camera.



There are many telephoto lenses in photography. Technology has enabled great advances

in lenses as well as cameras in general. I was very proud of my 75- 300 mm lens when I first got it many years ago. I now have a 24 – 720mm lens which shows how lens technology is forging ahead. While this is nothing like the size of some of the telephoto lenses you may see being used at sporting events and the like, it is a great advance for situations where your subject is some distance away. When you begin to move from the standard lens into something larger, it is handy to have a tripod to use with the lens. A tripod will help you keep the camera steady for clear shots. The 35- 80 mm numbers tell you the extent of reach of the lens or how much zoom you have. You can take photographs several miles away with a standard lens though you may not get the distinction of features in the picture that you need. While the standard lens has been selected for its versatility and can be used for most general photography, a zoom or interchangeable lens. or lenses give much more flexibility.

At the other end of the scale, the wide angle lens is often used for taking landscapes or in situations where more of a scene needs to be fitted into the frame. For example, a mountain range might fit inside the frame using a wide angle lens but only a part of it would be captured using a standard lens. Another application for the wide angle lens is in real estate photography, where a whole room can be fitted into the picture to show off it's features.

With the range of lenses available today, there is one for every application. From super wide angle or fish-eye lenses right through to the super telephoto, you will be able to choose the right lens for every task. An essential accessory when using telephoto lenses is a tripod. Tripods can be lightweight pieces of equipment however, using a large telephoto lens will require something fairly solid to stabilise the camera, although a lightweight tripod is ideal for travelling. Lenses are an important part of the art of photography, but choosing what is right for you can be difficult. The best place for getting help on selecting a lens is often your local photographic store. The staff are usually experts and are always willing to guide you in your selection.

18. Aperture

Aperture is a means of controlling the amount of light reaching your camera's sensor. Knowing how to use the aperture along with the shutter speed will in turn allow you to control depth of field. This is a very useful technique that will give you control over what part and how much of the picture is in focus. The aperture is basically a hole in front of the shutter that can be varied in size. Measured in f stops, a lens set to f2.8 would have the aperture hole larger than if it were set at f16 for example. To put it another way, a large aperture hole will have a small f stop number.

Generally, an aperture of around f8 to f11 is a good place to start in normal daylight. This gives a good depth of field and would be what the auto setting of your camera would most likely use in that situation. Using this mid range setting will give good focus results with good depth of field. The shutter speed will adjust for the correct exposure by being set faster for less light and slower for more light. The algorithms in digital cameras make the auto mode a pretty safe way to get great photos in most cases.

As you gain more experience in photography, you will want to be able to control the depth of field. Using a large aperture such as 2.8 or there about will give you a low depth of field. This is where the amount of the picture that is in focus is small. For example, taking a picture of a flower you might want the flower itself to be in focus, but have the background out of focus so as to have the flower stand out. Taking portraits is another situation where you might want to isolate the subject from the rest of the picture using a low aperture.



Using a high f stop of say f16 or f22. will make the depth of field much larger. A small aperture will mean that the everything in the picture, from the foreground right through to the far distance will be in sharp focus. Great for landscapes where you want the whole picture to be in sharp focus to give the scene a more realistic appearance.

Of course, aperture doesn't work on its own. It is used in combination with the shutter speed and so it is not always possible to get the exact outcome you desired. For example, when taking a landscape on a dull day, using an f stop of, say, f16 may not be possible without using a very slow shutter speed. This could introduce blurring due to camera shake while the shutter is open. In such cases, a tripod or some other support would be needed.

So learning to control the aperture to change the depth of field is a great creative tool. To be able to use this tool, you will need to have a camera that has a manual setting that allows you to access to the aperture and shutter speed controls. Most better digital cameras will at least have settings for aperture priority and shutter priority which will give you some useful control over these parameters.

19. The Use Of Filters In Photography

We touched on filters previously, so here we will look at them in more detail, both the original and more modern forms. If you started photography with a digital camera, you will probably associate photo filters with a software program such as Photoshop. However, those who started out with a film camera will remember the filters that screwed onto the front of the lens. Of course, these filters are still available and used in just the same way with digital cameras. Either way, most photographers are aware that filters enable you to change the picture in some way.

The most common filter used on cameras is a UV filter. This is often left on the camera to protect the lens, but it does have another purpose. As you know, outside we must be careful to protect ourselves against UV radiation. UV light also has an effect on both film and electronic picture sensors. It causes that misty look in the distance of landscapes that you didn't notice when you took the picture. The UV filter will remove this misty look in most cases. The same effect can be created with most photo programs as well.

Another common filter is the polarizing filter. You can think of a polarizing filter as sunglasses for your camera. Polarizing filters comprise of two pieces of polarized glass, one fixed and one able to rotate. To see how this filter works, get two pairs of polarized sunglasses and turn one in front of the other. You will see that the further you turn the second pair of glasses, the darker it gets. So it is with the filter, as you turn the outer part, the darker the picture will get, so you can make the sky bluer and colors more vibrant on very bright days, as with your sunglasses, reducing the glare. Another property of polarizing filters is their ability to reduce reflections, for example, on water on in windows.



There are many other filters you can use. There are soft focus filters, star filters, color correcting filters just to mention a few. And then there are also the many special effects filters used to distort the picture in some way. The soft focus filters are most often used in portrait photography and comprise of etched glass, the degree of etching depending on the degree of blurring you desire. Most often used with portraits is the centre spot filter, which is similar to the soft focus filter but with the center area clear.

The star filter is used to get that star effect on highlights in a picture. This is achieved with a number of fine lines etched into the glass which causes the light to flare along these lines, giving the star effect. As we discussed earlier, light varies in color. Usually, our eyes don't notice these variations, but our cameras will. For example, fluorescent light tends to come out green, incandescent light has a yellowish hue and so on. Filters are available to correct for all manner of lighting conditions although most people these days prefer to do this with their favorite photo software.

So as you can see, filters, either glass or digital, are very useful for any photographer. Giving you the ability to not only correct for lighting conditions but also to allow you to be creative. The photo below demonstrates how the yellowish hue has been removed from the shot with the use of a filter. Regardless of how you achieve the result, traditionally or digitally, filters are an essential part of the photographers kit.

20. Choosing Your Photo Editing Software

Now that almost everybody is using a digital camera, we turn to the computer to make many improvements to our photos. There are many software programs available and usually some sort of photo editing software is supplied with your camera when you buy it. This might be quite reasonable and adequate software for what you want to do, however, if you are serious about photo editing, you will generally need something a little more powerful.

And so comes probably the next biggest choice you will need to make after choosing your camera. There are so many pieces of photo editing software available, some free and some quite expensive. You will have to decide what you really want a software package to do before you go looking although a good place to get ideas is the net. As I said, many programs are free and many companies allow you to download trial versions of their paid software for you to try out.

Not everybody is the same and not everybody has the same requirements when it comes to editing photos. It is a personal choice and selecting one is often a matter of trial and error. So what is it you are looking for in your editor. Well, firstly, you need to know the basic things this sort of software can do. So lets start there.

- Be non destructive (leave the original photo untouched)
- Import photos from your camera into your computer
- Save the edited photos to a location of your choice
- Adjust the Brightness, Contrast and Sharpness
- Rotate or straighten the image
- Crop the picture
- Adjust the hue and saturation of the picture
- Remove red-eye
- Remove blemishes such as wrinkles, add visual effects
- Resize the image

Now lets have a quick look at what is available for free, remembering that these are just a

few of the vast number available .

IrfanView

IrfanView has been around for quite a while and does the basics well. It's a good place to start but not up there with the big boys.

PhotoScape

Although having an unusual interface, it has a good range of features. It is quite intuitive, it is fast, and is lacking only the most advanced image editing features.

Photo Pos Pro

Photo Pos Pro is a professional standard image editor with an interface that professionals would be comfortable with and features to match. It might be a bit daunting for a beginner though.

GIMP

This might not be for everyone, with its different layout, it is an extremely powerful photo editor that, once you get used to it is easy to use and would be suitable for both amateur and pro photographers alike.

Picasa

Picasa is a Google product and integrates with their web hosting service. Picasa is very easy to use and has integrated albums for sorting and storing your photos. It's ability to easily upload your pictures to the net might be something you would find useful.

Don't feel restricted to trying just these programs as they are just a sample of what is available at the time of writing. Digital photo editing might not interest you if you just want to take pictures and improve your art, however, digital photo editing is becoming an integral part of photography. Recently, I transferred much of my collection of slides and negatives to the digital world. I found some degree of digital editing was necessary to restore them after years of handling and storage.



Before Editing



After Editing

21. Choosing A Printer For Digital Photography

Although digital technology allows people to display and store their images using various media which, it is claimed, will last for many years, it is often preferable to have a prints of some of your photos. Some people like to use an electronic photo frame to display their favourite photos. However, many people still prefer to showcase their digital images using the conventional picture frame. This is why many people like to own their own photo printer.

Because of the demand for digital photography printers, many companies have many products available. Many manufacturers claim that their printer is the best for one reason or another. However, not every printer can claim the title of being the best. And not everybody wants or can afford the 'best'. So it is up to you to decide which price range you are comfortable with. If you were to go into a dozen different printer stores and ask for their best photo printer, I'm sure you would get a dozen different answers.

Really, what is "best" anyway, whatever you are talking about? Best is a personal thing, something that you need to decide. You are as individual in your choice of a printer as you are with your clothes So here are a few broad guidelines which you might find helpful when selecting your next printer:

1) Cost – it is easy to think that you can choose your photo printer on the cost alone. Of course, some people think you get what you pay for. Hence, the most expensive thing in the store must have the highest quality. Others define "best" as being the cheapest. If you believe that you probably will get exactly what you pay for, especially in photo printers.

In setting a price point for an item, companies take into account its features and performance, especially with printers. However, keep in mind that these days, manufacturers will set their printers at ridiculously low prices to get the sale and make up the difference with high cost consumables. It is not uncommon for a set of replacement ink or toner cartridges to cost more than the printer did in the first place. So take this into account when selecting a printer.

2) Design – there are a number of considerations to take into account when buying a photo printer, and design is one of them. Design is not so much about looks, as they all look much the same these days. You need to consider if it will fit where you work and will it look out of place. You don't want to end up with a printer that takes up half your workspace.

Function is also a part of the design process. You need to be able to access the controls and have easy access to the ink/toner area. Ease of use is always something people are looking for.

3) Features – almost anything is available in a printer today Inkjet technology and laser technology sit side by side and both have similar features. You know what you want your printer to do, so concentrate on the models that most closely match your needs.. Many printers today are multifunction, that is they not only print but also act as a scanner and a copier.

If you are technologically challenged, it might be an advantage if the printer is simple to operate without too many options and controls. If you are looking expressly for a digital photography printer which can perform one function well, then you don't need all the other functions After all, you want the best quality print from your printer, so perhaps that should be your main criteria when selecting a new printer.

It is important to note, that although having the ability to print your own photos at home, it can work out to be quite expensive when you work out the cost per print. Photographic stores, department stores and many other retail outlets have on the spot printing facilities that you can use to print you photos very cheaply from your memory card or other digital media. This becomes a much mor economic way of printing large volumes of photos such as your holiday, wedding or party photos.

[For more books on photography, from beginner to advanced, this is the place to go.](#)