

1: Photography Tips and Tutorials for Beginners

Get digital photography tips from photographers Rob Sheppard and Bob Martin in this photo field guide from National Geographic.

You are here because you want great pictures – We are here to make your images amazing! We can show you the gear you need to capture them and provide advice in the use of that gear. Bookmark this page now! Because you are going to want to come back often to use the vast resources available here – and to stay up to date on what is happening in the photography world via our news page! We you and I know that what the design and production departments deliver is seldom completely in-synch with what marketing is telling us. This site aims to concisely your time is valuable tell you what you need to know about cameras, lenses and related accessories while providing in-depth product details unavailable elsewhere. I am confident that you too will find the reviews invaluable! Lens Recommendations Uniquely qualifying the advice given here is that, with very few exceptions, I have owned at least one copy of every Canon DSLR camera and lens that has been sold in the last 15 years, plus many discontinued Canon models and many Nikon, Sigma, Tamron, Tokina, Samyang, Sony and Zeiss lens in addition. As you know, the best lens is only the best lens for you if it fits within your budget, if it delivers the image quality you need, if it has the right focal length range and other features you need. Let this site guide you through the DSLR camera and lens selection process. If you cannot see the difference in our test results, you will not likely see them in your images. Our lens test file folder has over 75, painstakingly-captured test files in it. These test results are captured in a specially-equipped lab environment. Discover what the camera or lens you are interested in is capable of. Become a better photographer by reading the comments and tips presented here and by learning the camera and lens settings used to capture the images. Canon Lens Information Canon is producing an incredible line of lenses. Learn what you need to know about used lenses do you really save money by buying used? Photography Tips Having great gear is only part of the photography equation. This site will help you use, protect, maintain and travel with that gear. There is some aspect about these models that make people want to buy them. The list of cameras and lenses are the most popular models on this site.

2: www.enganchecubano.com features DSLR and Mirrorless Camera and Lens Reviews, News, Deals and

The simple approach is usually the best in digital photography, and you have to decide what needs to be in the shot, while not including anything that is a distraction. If possible, choose a plain background - in other words, neutral colors and simple patterns.

Particularly those progressing from a point and click camera to a digital SLR camera. Before you go away however, read these 12 important DSLR photography tips for beginners. They will help get you off to a great start! It will become your new best friend. Read it as often as possible, especially in the first couple of months after purchasing your DSLR camera. Always store it somewhere handy. For example in your camera bag. Buy a UV filter for each lens you own. Learn to use all your SLR camera settings. Practice changing settings like ISO , aperture and shutter speed , so you know them like the back of your hand. In addition to UV filters, other important pieces of equipment should include a sturdy tripod and a remote release. They both come in handy for taking photographs that require long shutter speeds. The best ones will explain what camera settings were used, along with each photograph displayed. If you notice spots appearing in your photos, buy a cleaning kit or dust blower from your local camera store. Many now have an in-house cleaning service which is always a good alternative. Put the main lens on your camera before you leave the house. If you need to change the lens outside, face the camera body downwards. The faster the photograph is taken, the less chance there is of it being effected by camera shake. Holding the camera closer to your body or resting it on a nearby object is also a good tip. When you buy a digital camera bag, think about the future. Many photographers on average own at least 3 lenses. Personally I own 2 camera bags. One holds a camera with a single lens. My second bag carries my camera and all three lenses. This one is useful for traveling purposes. Learn what RAW file format is. A raw editor such as Lightroom or Gimp , which is free to download, will do the job nicely. There will also be many times when you only get one chance to take the photograph. The best way to learn what your SLR camera can do, is through experimentation. If your taking a photograph of running water, try both fast and slow shutter speeds to see for yourself what the difference is. Or if your photographing a beautiful landscape, try different aperture settings. Always press the shutter button half way down to prefocus before going all the way and taking the photograph. It is also especially useful when you can anticipate where a subject is going to be positioned before it gets there. You can prefocus on that spot by pressing and holding the shutter button half way, then as it comes into view, press the rest of the way down.

3: 10 Digital Photography Tips That Instantly Improve Your Photography

Digital photography tips that demystify digital photography! How to choose & use digital cameras and process images with Photoshop for terrific photographs. Tips on wedding photography, black and white, printing, 3D & more!

Photography tips Our collection of top digital camera tips and essential photography advice will have you improving your photos in no time. Culled from experts and photographers who have been taking pictures for quite some time, they all agree that these 44 camera tips are essential knowledge for honing your craft. So feast your eyes below, check out some of our best photography tips on everything from setting up your digital camera to honing your photo composition, and by the end you will learn the secrets and shortcuts to getting high-quality pictures every time. Avoid this by checking - and resetting - all of your settings before moving from one picture-taking opportunity to the next. Format, not erase Formatting your memory card wipes it clean and rewrites any pertinent camera information. Erasing your images does not. So always format your cards to minimise the risk of any data corruption. Update your firmware Firmware is the in-camera software used for processing images, setting a whole range of parameters and even controlling what features are available to you. But do you always need to? Sometimes a smaller image size might be all you need, and reducing the resolution not only means more images will fit on a memory card, but you can achieve a faster shooting rate, too. If sports photography is your thing, reducing the resolution will help you avoid delays as your camera clears its buffer. Raw, JPEG or both? If you intend to do any manipulation or retouching, shooting raw is often the best solution thanks to its increased bit depth. However, raw files are larger, so take longer for the camera to deal with, and you also need to process them before they can be printed. Just make sure you pack an extra memory card. The A to Z of Photography: Raw Digital camera tips: You can do exactly the same with your DSLR or mirrorless camera, so you know precisely where its strengths and weaknesses lie. Dynamic range Digital camera tips: Dig deep for a decent tripod and it will give you many years of service, making it a sensible long-term investment. The 10 best tripods you can buy right now Digital camera tips: Hand-held or tripod mounted? If you religiously use a tripod, set out without it and see what happens, and if you normally travel without one, take it with you to see how slowing yourself down affects the results you get. Expert guide to image stabilization Digital camera tips: If not, invest just a few pounds or dolloars in a hotshoe-mounted spirit bubble. It will save you hours correcting your shots in Photoshop later. Most DSLRs and mirrorless cameras now have a grid that can be activated and superimposed over a Live View image on the rear LCD screen, making getting level horizons a breeze. You may have your camera, lenses and tripod, but if you use a quick-release tripod head, is the base-plate attached to the camera or the tripod? Have you got the right diameter adaptor ring if you use Cokin or Lee system filters. Autofocus or manual focus? Discover how to master manual focus Digital camera tips: Which AF point s should you use? DSLRs and mirrorless cameras may have a bewildering number of AF points to choose from as well as a wealth of focusing modes, from simple single point AF to much more advanced focus tracking. Buying lenses A bad lens will always be a bad lens, no matter what DSLR or mirrorless camera you attach it to. A few extra pixels and smarter features might sound enticing, but a faster maximum aperture and higher optical quality could go much further in helping you take better pictures with the camera you already have.

4: Photography Tips - Be a Better Photographer

Digital Photography School has what you need to take your photography to the next level. We offer daily tips, resources and free tutorials that will help you get the most out your camera and create stunning photos.

Our 50 essential photography tips will help you get more familiar with your pocket snapper. With a firm grasp of aperture, shutter speed, sensitivity and focal length, the ratio of truly great to merely mediocre shots you download at the end of an expedition is all but guaranteed to climb. Understand aperture The most fundamental element any photographer should understand is aperture. The aperture is the physical opening within your lens that allows light through to the sensor or film in an older camera. The wider the aperture opening, the more light can pass through, and vice versa. If you find this inverse relationship tricky to remember, imagine instead that it relates not to the size of the hole but the amount of each fin encroaching into the opening. Picture the size of the fins, visible here inside this lens, when trying to understand the concept of f-stops. Aperture measurements Lenses almost always have their maximum aperture setting engraved or stamped on one end of the barrel. Rather than being opposite ends of a single scale these describe the maximum aperture at the wide angle and telephoto maximum zoom lens positions respectively. Always buy a lens with the smallest number you can afford in each position. Avoid using aperture to compensate for poor lighting Changing the aperture has a dramatic effect on the amount of light coming into the camera, as we have already said. The image on the left was taken with a wide aperture and so has a shallow depth of field; the image on the right was taken with a narrow aperture and so has a long depth of field. This has the same effect as widening the aperture in a camera lens: We call this a shallow depth of field. This is perfect for portrait photography, as it draws forward your model within the scene, making them the central focus while the background falls away. This image of a chicken was taken with a wide aperture to keep the subject in focus while blurring the background. Use a narrow aperture for landscapes For landscapes, on the other hand, you want to have everything from close-at-hand foliage to a distant mountain in focus. This is achieved by selecting a narrow aperture. This image of a Moroccan campfire is taken with a narrow aperture to maximise the depth of field. Reportage and street photography, weddings, Christenings and so on are less predictable as your subjects will be moving in relation to the frame. Filters and lenses 7. Check the diameter of your lens when heading out to buy a new filter. If you only buy one filter Although you can add blue to your images in Photoshop or a similar post-production editing tool, the effect is never as believable when done that way as it is when shot using a lens. Invest in an inexpensive circular polariser to improve the blue of skies in your images. Use it to shoot through windows and water. We used a polarising filter when shooting this frame to cut through reflections on the surface of the water. If you have no choice, set your zoom first and adjust the effect afterwards, being careful not to throw the lens out of focus in the process. Make sure you set your white balance manually when using a filter. After all, your lens was an expensive investment. Dispensing with a skylight filter will not only save you money, but also avoid the chance of introducing light problems due to increased reflections or the slight reduction in the level of illumination reaching the sensor. For the best results, use the smallest number of filters possible. Choose a manual lens over a powered one Some compact interchangeable lens cameras come with a choice of powered or manual zoom. You can also often make finer and more predictable changes when zooming manually than you can with a powered zoom rocker. Shoot slowly, zoom quickly This works particularly well when shooting cars and other forms of transport as it gives them a sense of motion. Give static subjects added dynamism and excitement by changing the zoom while using a slow shutter speed. Try a prime lens for more creativity Shooting with a fixed focal length -- a prime lens -- will make you think more carefully about how you want to frame a subject to tell a particular story. It will often also get you a cleaner, sharper result. What do the measurements on my lens mean? Lenses are measured in terms of their focal length, which broadly describes the effect they have on incoming light and the way it is focused on the sensor. A long focal length, such as mm, has a high level of magnification, like a telescope, and so will fill the sensor with just the central part of the view. This lens has a fairly long telephoto with the zoom topping out at mm. As such, neither the height nor the width of the frame measures 35mm, but

instead 24x36mm. To understand how the stated focal length on any lens will affect the shot captured by your camera, you need to factor in the multiplier effect, which converts the size of your sensor to the size of that 35mm piece of film. The multiplier is often between 1. This would make a 50mm lens, commonly used in portrait photography, act like an 80mm lens, thus increasing the effective zoom and narrowing the amount of the scene seen in each frame. On a Nikon D , which has a slightly larger sensor We can now use the green scale to understand how far away from the camera our subjects need to be if they are to be accurately focused. By following the lines running from the two green entries for 5. Anything closer than that will be blurred. To create a more intimate effect, adjusting the distance ring so that 0. Use zone focusing to understand which parts of your image will be in focus at any particular aperture setting. Buy at least a pair, complete with tripod stands and reflectors to direct the light. Understand colour temperature Different colours and levels of light are measured using the Kelvin scale. For the best results, look for studio lights with a temperature of around 5,500K to emulate bright daylight. Lights with a lower colour temperature often render a colour cast in your images that will have to be corrected in Photoshop or an alternative image editor. This professional studio bulb maintains a constant colour temperature of 5,500K, as specified on the furthest end. Effectively a five-sided cube with gauze sides and top, you position your lights so that they shine through the sides of the box, diffusing the light and softening the shadows. Light boxes usually ship with a felted back cloth that can be attached using Velcro to create an infinite field of view by obscuring the seams of the box. An inexpensive light box makes it easy to shoot with artificial light without casting strong shadows. If shooting people, ask them to hold the card themselves outside of the framed shot. Alternatively, invest in a set of reflectors. Shooting people with the sun in front of them, meanwhile, solves the silhouette problem but introduces another one: Observe the rule of thirds The most aesthetically pleasing images are those in which the subjects are aligned with the one-third power points in every frame. Position horizons one third up or down the height of the image, and people one third in from the left or right. Some cameras give you the option of displaying an overlaid grid on the rear LCD to help you line up your subjects along these lines. If yours does, go one step further and put key elements on the points where the horizontal and vertical lines intersect. Pressing it all the way captures the frame. Let your camera do the hard work: Get up early, stay out late Photography is all about painting with light. Light is what gives your pictures contrast, shape and texture, and often the best light is that which appears at either end of the day when the sun is lower in the sky. At these times of day it casts longer, more extreme shadows, which in turn pick out small details, bumps and texture. The softer light you get on an overcast day is perfect for shooting plants, flowers and foliage as it dampens the contrasts we were championing in our previous step. This allows the camera to achieve a more balanced exposure and really bring out the colours in petals. Overcast days present the perfect conditions for shooting flowers and foliage. Travel without a tripod: Balance your camera somewhere sturdy and safe, disable the flash and set a slow shutter speed of two seconds or more. By the time the self timer countdown expires, any residual movement caused by your hand letting go should have evened out, so your camera will sit still and steady throughout the exposure for a crisp, sharp result. We took this using the self timer and a long exposure. Combat this by packing a small beanbag in your camera bag. You can easily source a screw of the same size from a normal hardware store. Fill an empty bottle with grit to give it some weight and screw your cap to the top. The results are rarely flattering. Invest in a cheap monopod search eBay for handheld monopod and use this to hold your camera away from you while keeping your hands in a more natural position and the great scenery you want to stand in front of behind you. Your author in Greece, without the aid of a monopod, where the arm and watch strap somewhat distract from the Acropolis. Look at the eyes, not around the eyes, look at the eyes Ever wondered why so many magazines have faces on the cover? Art editors know that our inclination is to connect with the eyes staring out of the cover, and the same is true of your portraits. When shooting a person, if only one part of your image is in focus, make it the eyes. The eyes are in focus in this shot, so we read it as being accurately focused overall. Make use of scene modes Your camera knows better than you do how to use its own settings to create special effects. If possible, set your camera to save raw and JPEG images side by side so you also have a copy of the original unadulterated scene should you later change your mind. How to shoot fireworks Frequently the most impressive spectacle, fireworks are nonetheless tricky to shoot. Mount your

camera on a tripod and set your shutter speed to at least 8 seconds. All being well, the result should be pin-sharp streaks of light falling to the ground. We shot these fireworks using an 8-second exposure with the help of a tripod and timed shutter release.

5: Digital photography tutorials & free online digital photography instruction

Photography Tips for Beginners If you are just starting out in photography and you don't know where to begin, or perhaps you have been taking pictures with your camera for a while and want to improve your shooting skills, you've come to the right place.

Portrait photography techniques, tips and tricks Tip 1. Focus on the eyes While eye contact is not always desirable in a portrait, sharp eyes certainly are. Then, with the shutter release half-pressed to keep the setting locked, recompose your picture before taking the shot. Using a standard or telephoto lens Wide-angle lenses are a great choice for photographing environmental portraits, where you want to show a person within a specific context. However, wide-angle lenses used close-up will distort facial features and create unflattering pictures. A better choice for portraits is either a standard lens or a short telephoto lens. The classic portrait focal lengths for a full-frame camera are 50mm, 85mm prime lenses and a mm zoom. These will help to compress features and provide a more natural-looking result. This can help you create those creamy-smooth, out of focus backgrounds that give portraits a professional quality. Position your model at an angle to the window and use a white or silver reflector to open up any shadows across their face. Be aware of any color casts that may be introduced by features on the other side of the glass as well - a lush green lawn can give skin tones a sickly quality, while late evening sunlight on a patio will reflect lots of warm light. The trick is not to blow the highlights in-camera, but rather brighten up the shot later in software such as Photoshop. Baby portraits When it comes to lighting baby portraits, natural light is the best choice. Flash will just end up spooking them. Try and position them near to a window and use a reflector to bounce light into any shadows. The more light you can get onto your subject, the lower ISO sensitivity you can use for the best quality photos. The A to Z of Photography: Photographing children Taking photos of children is fun but challenging. Play games with them: Fit a wide-angle lens and shoot without looking, poking the camera into their face. Get them used to the shutter sound and not having to look down the lens and smile. However, keep a close eye on clothing too. Photos may end up full of noise, and even then the shutter speed may not be fast enough for sharp images. Family photo posing ideas Think about how your arrangement of people in a group family portrait can tell a story about the relationship between the different members. A simple idea is to place the emphasis on the patriarch or matriarch of the family, or the newest arrival. Sit the children in front of it and have the adults standing behind it. Not only will it increase the amount of light available to make the exposure, but it will allow you to spread the illumination for softer shadows.

6: 41 tips and tricks to improve your photography | TechRadar

Photography Tips - Be a Better Photographer Please support this site and my family by using the links provided throughout the site to make your purchases. Canon Refurbished (Like new gear at nicely reduced prices).

Take a quick peek and then pick a few to start with and you will be well on your way to quickly improving your photography. Okay, dive into these 10 powerful tips and learn how to take your photography to a whole new level. Most photographers just automatically bring the camera up to their eye and shoot everything from that vantage point. For the best results try several different vantage points and distances of the same subject. There are many different perspectives to take that will dramatically affect how your subject looks. Typical perspective Better perspective Another way you can change your perspective is to shoot a subject with either a vertical or horizontal camera view. Try holding your camera both in the up and down vertical position as well as the horizontal side to side orientation. Some subjects look much better photographed one way rather than the other. You can shoot both very easily and decide later which photo you like better. The easiest digital photography tip to play around with first, in regards to composition, is the rule of thirds. Some newer cameras have the ability to have those lines show up on your LCD screen or inside your viewfinder. Crop in closer to emphasize your subject more. While teaching a photo workshop last year at a local high school I realized how much my students could benefit from this technique. I confessed to my photography students in that class how I often turn into "Captain Cropper" and it really will help you improve a lot of your photographs. You can do some "cropping" in two different ways. The first is the easiest way. You can simply use your zoom lens and zoom in closer to your subject while you are composing your photo. This makes your main subject more dominant in the photo. The first photo below is a nice photo, but look how much more interesting the sky and clouds look when I zoomed in closer. Wide angle - 40mm lens setting Zoomed in to mm lens setting In the case of this sunset photo I included the fencing and some of the blue sky in the wide angle shot. In the 2nd photo, I zoomed into a telephoto setting and the sky became more of the prominent part of the photo. The second way you can crop in tighter is by using photo editing software later. Look at the photo of this young couple in front of the Gazebo. Cropping in tighter often simplifies the photo and eliminates background distractions and makes your subject more dominant in the photo. It all depends on your preferences. This requires a little more effort on your part, but it gives you the time and flexibility to really nail down your cropping just right. If you want to get it right immediately and not have to mess around with software, do all your "cropping" with your zoom lens on your camera. Hey, I get it. This is one way you can do it. Aperture Priority Situation Another situation where you can use this technique is when you are shooting portraits. You can improve the visual separation between you subject and its background. This is why portrait photographers love and use aperture priority mode. When you control the shutter speed, you get to control how much blur, if any, that you want in your photograph. More on that in a second. First, you will need a tripod in many situations where the shutter speed is too slow to get a sharp photo. Much Better Results By Using a Tripod Tripod Needed For Car Light Trails Using a camera tripod often leads to sharper pictures in general and also gives you the ability to stop down your lens to a smaller aperture setting and get more depth of field. Tripods also have many specialty reasons to be used: Tripods slow you down. Rather than use the quick look-aim-shoot method, setting up your tripod forces you, in a good way, to take more time to view your scene. Practice sounds like a dirty word, but make it playful practice in your mind and then it becomes a fun activity. The more you look to take interesting photos for practice, the more photo opportunities will present themselves to you. Avoid that sinking feeling of seeing an opportunity for a great shot and not having a camera with you. You have a few other options with your DSLR camera. You can set your ISO to a high number so that you can get a good exposure without any flash. This will give you a much more natural look. Lit by direct flash Lit by bounced flash gun I did this comparison in lighting techniques by photographing a frosted light shade hanging over our billiards table. The first photo on the left is with the pop-up flash activated. You get a distracting shadow on the wall behind the light. Look at the two backgrounds behind the camera photographed below. Distracting background Simple background I set my camera on the table and

took the first photo on the left with a plant behind it. Can you say distracting? Then, simply by changing my angle just a little, I shot the next photo from a spot that gave me a much simpler background. Sometimes it takes a little more effort than this simple example. Simply noticing the background will make a big difference in your photography. Take that one extra second to notice the background and figure out what you can do about it. We are all on this Earth for a limited time. Get inquisitive about what you can do differently the next time you take the shot. Use just a few select digital photography tips and the right camera equipment, mix in your own unique talents, and take truly great photos. It really is a m-a-g-i-c-a-l time to be interested in digital photography. This website will help you get there. After all, the title of this article is killer photography tips. This site has thousands of tips This photography blog was started in Search For An Article. It was fun then, but now I find it amazing. This web site gives you shortcuts to taking better photos by using the right equipment and adding in your unique talents. My photos have gotten a lot better. Please share this photo if you like it. It helps me grow this site. Go ahead and jump in! Explore the site for photography tips, reviews on camera accessories, and tutorials on lighting, composition, and exposure. Now I am passing on the information to you. Then why do so many of our pictures still disappoint us? You can take your digital photography to a whole new level. You have access to hundreds of articles on camera equipment and accessories. You can get help with composition, lighting, and posing. You can find tips on cameras, lenses, and tons of digital photography equipment. Plenty of photographers take bad photos. It seems like some people always take great photos and some of us struggle a lot more. It still happens to me sometimes, but all the practice I get know surely helps. Let me tell you something It is simply an amazing time to have an interest in photography Digital photography and the technology that has come along with it have given us so many great tools to work with. The cameras, accessories, software and information choices we have at our disposal are remarkable. Why should you even care about this web site? Life is a continuous learning experience. It is my hope that you will be glad you found this site. Two simple photography tips: Use simple lighting and basic composition rules Use the tips on lighting and composition found on this website and you can take photos as good as or better than these recent photos. You see my friend, it is my mission to give you some valuable tools for becoming a better digital photographer and understanding cameras and accessories. I am not a professional writer or a professional web designer. That should become obvious to you as you explore my web site. I am a professional photographer and I truly do have a passion for helping other people. I started my hobby in photography long before personal computers and digital photography were even a pipe dream. When digital photography arrived, I became a Canon camera guy after reading quite a few of the on-line reviews on cameras. I also saw quite a few advertisements for the Canon line of digital cameras. Canon was by far the early leader in digital camera manufacturing. That focuses primarily on Canon cameras, lens and accessories. I am not sure if I am an expert or not, but I sure have had a lot of experience with cameras and photography equipment over the last 43 years. Do any of these questions apply to you? Are you tired of making several of the most common photo mistakes?

7: Top 10 Digital Photography Tips | Top 10 Photography Tips

Photography Tutorials & Tips The photo tutorials on this site will help you turn your 'snaps' into photographs to be proud of that will delight your viewers rather than bore them to death. [Click here to find loads of free digital photography tutorials to read covering all aspects of photography.](#)

About this site Free online digital photography tutorials Looking for digital photography tutorials? The digital photography instruction on these pages are like having a photography expert at your side, helping you take better photos! Jump straight to the digital photography tutorials [Click to see what other visitors have submitted to the site.](#) Got a little more time? Browse through the archives and get even more ideas on how to take better photos. Every snapper can produce top notch photographs. Some of them will be OK. The thing that makes the biggest difference to the quality of digital photography is the person behind the camera. This whole site grew out of this philosophy. If you are looking for some digital photography instruction and want to take better photos - you have come to the right place! A quick example As a quick example of the difference a bit of simple digital photography instruction makes, look at the photo below. Roll your mouse over it to see the "before" and "after". The camera was the same. The time of day was the same. The subject was the same. My wife love her to bits! So, I just re-framed the photo and the "after" is the result. And it is really easy to learn - you just need some simple tips and tricks to help you out. The links below will take you to pages that cover more specific digital photography instruction. Tips and tricks that I guarantee will improve your photography! No need to try them all at once. Take your time, try one or two now, get the hang of them, and then pop back to continue learning how to improve your photography skills.

8: 77 photography tips and tricks for taking pictures of anything | TechRadar

Get digital photography tips from photographers Rob Sheppard and Bob Martin in Tips for Better iPhone Photography. Get expert tips and advice for taking pictures with your iPhone with this how.

Follow these simple pointers to improve the quality of your snapshots. July 12, Digital photography has democratized the medium. Keep these 10 easy tips in mind next time you head out to capture the world around you. And if you have any tips that have helped you take better pictures, please share them in the comments section.

Get Basic Composition Down The heart of a photograph is its composition—the position of different elements in a frame. The easiest rule of thumb to learn and remember is the Rule of Thirds. Try and align the subject of your photo along these lines and intersections and imagine the main image divided over these nine boxes. This gives you a more dramatic, visually interesting shot than one where your subject is located dead center. Many cameras and smartphones have a rule of thirds grid overlay that you can activate when shooting. Generally speaking, a camera looks at a scene and tries to determine the appropriate exposure based on the correct lighting of a gray card, which is why there are special scene modes for snow—without them, the camera would try to make the white snow gray. If a photo is too light or dark you can either delve through the dozens of scene modes that are available in modern point-and-shoot cameras, or simply dial in a bit of exposure compensation. If your photo is too dark, move the scale up above zero; if too light, move it down a bit.

Choose the Right Mode Your camera is likely to have scores of shooting modes, ranging from fully automatic operation to very specific scene modes. Use Your Flash Wisely Many a photo has been foiled by a flash firing too close to a subject. If you need to activate the flash, back up a bit and zoom in to get the proper framing. If things are still too bright—or too dark—check and see if flash compensation is an option. Many cameras allow you to adjust the power of the flash, which can help to add better balance to your flash-assisted photos. Adding just a little bit of light makes it possible to fill in shadows, resulting in a more natural-looking photo.

Change Your Perspective Most snapshooters and beginners will stand on two legs and snap shots from eye level. Different light casts different types of color—sunlight is very blue, tungsten lighting is yellow, and fluorescent is a bit green.

Use a Tripod or Monopod Sometimes, the best way to get your shot perfect is to take some extra time. DSLR users should definitely put care into selecting a tripod, as a set of legs and a head that are sturdy enough to hold the camera are paramount. Great for use at zoos and sporting events, a monopod is supplemented by your two legs in order to add stability to your camera—without the sometimes-cumbersome setup and breakdown required with a good tripod. You should spend some time going through your photos so you can eliminate redundant shots and discard photos that may be out of focus or poorly composed. Apple Photos and Microsoft Photos support basic organization, as well as a number of editing tools. Performing some very basic editing on a photo can help improve its quality drastically. Cropping a bit can help with composition, and you can also rotate a photo so that horizon lines are straight. We also have explainers to help you capture images of lightning and fireworks.

9: Digital Photography Tips and Tricks

Digital photography for beginners can be confusing. Exposure isn't as simple as learning about aperture, shutter speed and ISO. You also have to learn about how your camera looks at light.

Get digital photography tips from photographers Rob Sheppard and Bob Martin in this photo field guide from National Geographic. These cameras look and act like traditional cameras with a few extra features. Tricky camera designs are quickly leaving the marketplace because photographers want to take pictures and not be bogged down by hard-to-use technology. Many things about digital cameras are identical to film cameras, a few things are slightly tweaked from film expectations, and a number of features are unique to digital photography. Some of the big differences can actually help you take better pictures than you ever did with a film camera. For quality results from any camera, the basics of photography still apply no matter how an image is captured. A tripod is always important if slow shutter speeds are needed and big telephoto lenses are used. Fast shutter speeds remain a key way to stop action, and f-stops continue to affect depth of field. The important parts of a scene still need to have the focus centered on them, and dramatic light always helps make for dramatic photos. No beginner ever picked up a camera and knew what all the controls did. For the serious photographer, f-stops and shutter speeds were definitely not instinctive. Types of Cameras Digital cameras come in a variety of forms, from point-and-shoot pocket cameras to advanced digital SLRs. There is no right or wrong type, though a specific one may be best for you and your photography. Simple point-and-shoot digital cameras can give surprising quality when they have the right lenses and sensors. Because they are totally automatic in focus and exposure, they just have to be pointed at a subject and clicked. They have limited capabilities for controlling the image, although even very inexpensive cameras often have white balance controls. Advanced point-and-shoot cameras are similar in that they mostly rely on automatic controls; however, this group tends to add special features to make the cameras a little more flexible. Such features include exposure compensation, more white balance controls, limited manual settings, and more. Still relatively inexpensive, these cameras can be a good introduction to digital and are perfect for the families of serious photographers. Interchangeable-lens, digital SLRs offer all the controls of a 35mm SLR, including lenses that give you a wealth of focal-length possibilities. These cameras are definitely bigger than the other digital cameras. They include complete and extensive photographic controls, the best in image-sensor and processing technology, high levels of noise control, and more. Shoot It Right From the Start The way to get the best photos from a digital camera is to do it right from the start. Just remember that digital photography is still photography. The Basics The most common mistake people make is camera shake. When you move the camera inadvertently at the time you press the shutter, you risk the chance of blurring your image or reducing the sharpness of the image. Exposure Most point-and-shoot cameras have a simple exposure override facility, normally allowing you to overexpose or underexpose your picture. So if the subject is predominantly dark, experiment by overexposing to compensate. If the subject is predominantly light, then underexposure is the way to go. Try taking a test picture, look at it on the screen on the back of your camera, check the histogram, and adjust your exposure compensation. You can delete the bad pictures later. Composition A very basic rule of composition is known as the rule of thirds, or the tic-tac-toe rule. Imagine your viewfinder or LCD monitor divided into nine equal-size squares, like a tic-tac-toe grid. Compose your picture with your subject center-positioned at one of the four intersecting points. This should help you compose more aesthetic portraits. Zoom Your point-and-shoot camera will probably have an autofocus zoom lens. You will discover that the ability to zoom in on your subject is fantastic. Use your zoom lens and compose your picture with the subject filling your frame. Changing the Point of View Another thing to consider when taking your picture is your point of view. A picture can be more interesting when taken from an unusual angle. Equally, you could try climbing up to a higher viewpoint and looking down on your subject. Better yet, try both and then delete the one you like less. Transferring Digital Images Digital cameras today come with some way of transferring the photos to the computer. This usually involves some sort of cable, although some cameras are using infrared and other wireless technologies. Many people find a card reader much more convenient. Keys to Working in

the Digital Darkroom Many photographers have tried to work with image-processing programs such as Adobe Photoshop and found the whole process difficult, intimidating, and tedious. One big reason this occurs is that much of the instruction in books and classes takes the wrong approach for photographers: It dwells on the software and not the photography. Many photographers have sat through classes that taught them about such things as selections and layers long before they had any idea why they might want to have such knowledge. This was simply because the instructor thought these things were key elements of Photoshop. As a photographer, you know your photos and what you want them to do. Sure you might not know everything you can do with an image in the program, but that is less important than why you took the photo. Only you can know this, and your photographic intent will guide you, even through Photoshop, on a sure-and-steady, craft-driven journey that is not obsessed with technology. Experimenting without fear is another key idea for using the digital darkroom. Often, photographers have had to pay a price for experimenting, and many have gotten cautious and brought that caution with them into the digital darkroom.

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