



DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY 101

How to improve your photos
and create inspiring images

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Step One: Create interesting compositions

- 1) Make sure there is adequate light
- 2) Avoid taking photos into the Sun or into bright lights
- 3) Frame your shot
- 4) Take many photos of the same subject from different angles
- 5) Keep still, invest in a good tripod or monopod. Out of focus photos is the most common problem with digital auto-focus photography
- 6) For landscapes and nature shots keep the horizon or ground level to 1/3 of the frame.
- 7) Indoor lighting is generally poor, add lighting sources



DRAMATIC COLOR AND COMPOSITION

The subject should encompass the whole frame



Take thousands of photos, throw most away. There is a chance once in a while you'll be lucky with a great shot.



Use the whole frame for nature photos. When cropping select standard sizes such as 4x6, 5x5, 8x10, 11x14, 12x18.



Seasonal Photos

Composition is important. Lighting can enhance the overall impact of your photos. Warm or cool colors capture seasonal moods. Contrast helps emphasize the images. For landscapes keep the horizon / ground level low to $\frac{1}{3}$ or less of the image.



Dramatic Morning Light

Early morning light on the horizon can be dramatic. This scene was momentary event captured at the Morton Arboretum.



Portraits

Centralize the subject and deemphasize the background. Use 3 point lighting. Have the subject include their hands in portraits or have them hold something like a book or musical instrument. This adds interest and makes the photo less posed.



Pet Portraits

Again centralize the subject and deemphasize the background. Use high contrast to make the subject pop.



Nature

Use your zoom to capture interesting subjects, avoid trying to get the whole subject into the frame.



After several hours on a cold day in the dead of winter, these deer graced my shot.



Creative Photography

Have your camera with you at all times.
The best shots can be unexpected.



City Scenes

Morning light especially in the winter provides a dramatic effect. Light and shadow enhance the impact of the subject.





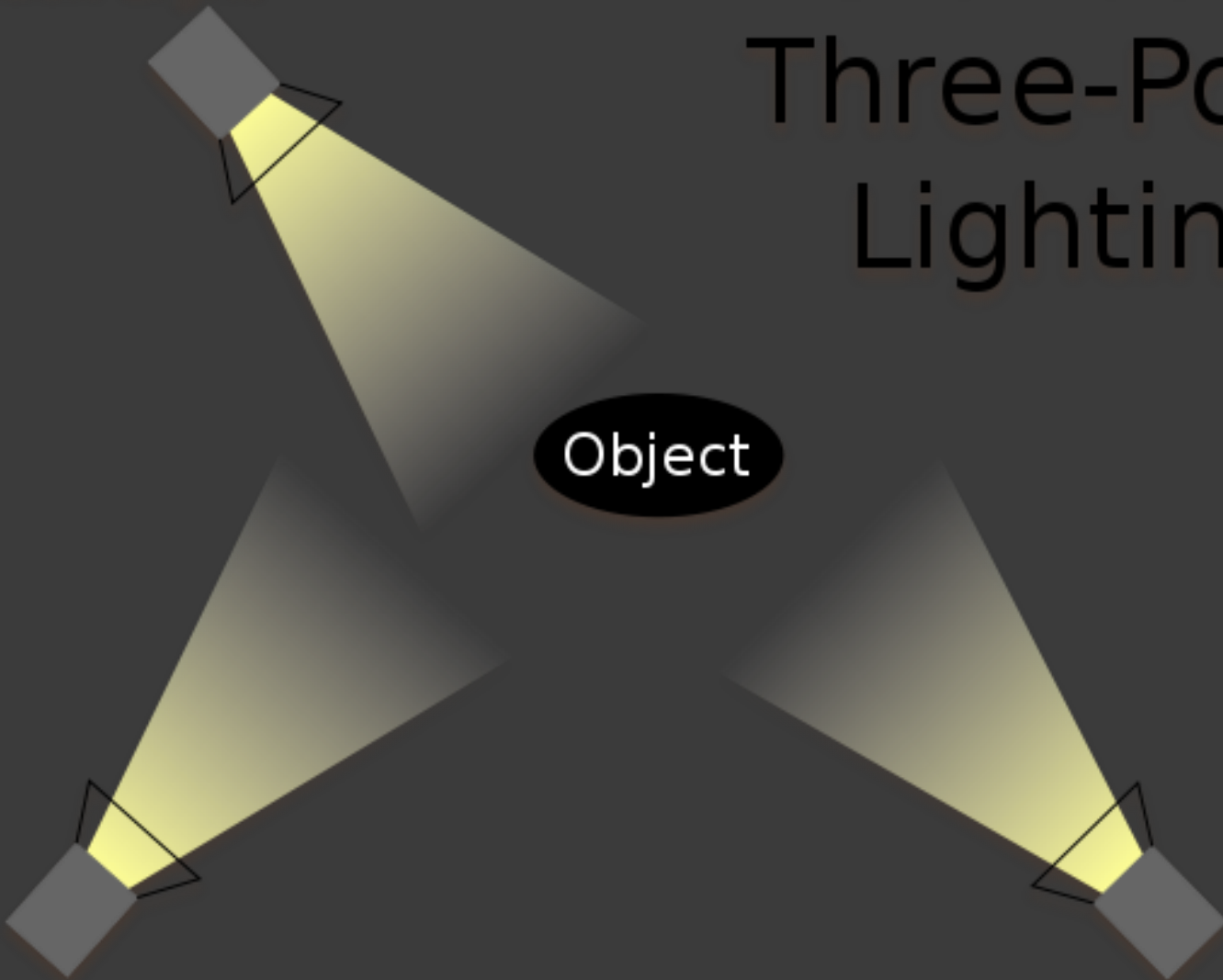
Standard Three-Point Lighting

#3 Back Light

Object

#1 Key Light

#2 Fill Light



White Balance

Photo on left has a blue color cast, the color spectrum temperature is off.



Images from

<http://www.cambridgeincolour.com/>

An excellent source for tutorials on digital photography

Autofocus vs. Manual Focus

Often point and shot autofocus cameras have an issue with staying in focus. This can result from shifting the camera when shooting. The sensor realigns with an object in back or in front of the subject.

Many digital cameras have a manual focus switch.

Align and focus your shot with autofocus then switch off the AF and shoot. If you are taking nature photos you have to be quick and steady.





Blurry photos due to camera shake
with hand-held shots:

- Increasing the shutter speed (shorter exposure time)
- Use a tripod when shooting
- If a tripod is not available lean against a wall or tree to brace the camera.

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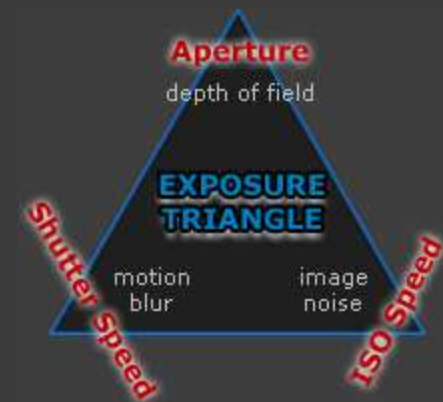




Photo Editing

The use of photo editors can improve the end product.





Photo Editing Software

Photoscape is a free digital editing software.



Photoscape

Includes a full digital photo editor and several other tools for image processing.