

18 Days To Better Digital Photos!



By Amy Renfrey
Digital Photographer

www.digitalphotographysuccess.com

Table Of Contents

Part1- Creating More Open Spaces For Your Landscape Pictures

Part 2- Indoor Photography Explained

Part 3-Creating Sensational Pictures Of People

Part 4- Avoiding Overexposure Outside

Part 5- Altering Digital Images- A Saviour Or Artistic Dependency?

Part 6 - The Technical Stuff made easy

Part 7- The Secret Of Capturing Great Composition

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Part1

Creating More Open Spaces For Your Landscape Pictures



Have you ever wondered what it would be like to finally capture that big expansive look and feel to your landscape pictures? How awful is it to arrive at an awesome place that lays out a scene of majestic colour and expansiveness before you only to find you can't capture it properly on your digital?

How frustrating huh?

The secret is your lense. Think of the lense as an 'eye' of your camera. Your digital camera has to have something for the light to go into to collect the information to produce the photo. And it can't reproduce an awesome scene if it doesn't have the right visual range from it's 'eye.'

The camera is basically modelled on the human eye. In fact it was discovered that in order for a camera to work it must have light directed into it. And it does this via the lense.

To understand this point, think of this: Can you, yourself, see a long distance away clearly without the aid of a pair of binoculars? Which is why in taking pictures, the long distance zoom lense was created. Even though we are not talking about zoom lenses right now, you get my point. The camera is the same. It needs a little help if you want to create a wider, more expansive feel.

The lense of your camera is one of the most important things that you'll need to know (especially with nature shots). To create a majestic landscape or a powerful scene of nature a wide angle lense is what is used to do this. Good digital photography is always done with the help of 'tools.' Very rarely do you 'point and shoot' and hey presto a magic, professional looking photo appears. Oh if it was that easy!

Now don't fall into this trap: a wide angle lense just gets everything in. Yes and no. In using a wide angle lense a certain amount of compression occurs. What I mean by this is that your mountain landscape scene becomes two dimensional. It means that the lense 'flattens' the scene to a large degree. It has to in order to become a picture. A wide angle lense gives you a better, wider angle in which you can take the landscape at. It actually compresses more than a normal lense would, leaving you with a much better picture.

All fantastic professional landscape shots are done this way. And if you seriously want better landscape pictures then a wide angle lense is the way to go. Just check with your digital camera manufacturer as to what lense is able to be adapted to the camera itself. And in no time those pictures will improve and your experience with digital photography will be so much more rewarding.

Further information about wide lenses can be found in "Digital Photography Success" at

www.digitalphotographysuccess.com

Part 2

Indoor Photography Explained



It doesn't take much to get great shots indoors. In fact the secret is so simple that it'll amaze you when you know what it is.

The first secret to taking good indoor shots is that you need light. The major problem with indoor shots is really just they are far too dark. I've taken shots of things inside and sometimes found that no matter how hard I try, without the aid of an overhead lamp or sunlight streaming through the window my shots just won't turn out.

Portrait shots are a classic example of this. There is a very good reason as to why photographers who work at their family residence, have lots of big and obtrusive lights, lamps etc, creating a lot of light. That's because they know that in order to work successfully indoors, they must have adequate lighting or forget it. It's really that simple.

The correct balance of a light is a tricky one sometimes. You can have too much light which tends to create too many areas of white light. These blocks of overexposed light eliminate detail.

The problem with indoor pictures is that too often the picture is underexposed. This means not enough exposure to light. Because we see differently to the camera, it's difficult to know exactly how much light to have in your picture.

The good news is that the more you take pictures indoors and play around with the light, the more you know about what light you need at that time to take that subject. It's really just a matter of practice. With this practice you develop a subconscious knowledge about

what light will work. Its funny how that just happens automatically after a while of practice.

To work successfully indoors try taking a picture of your subject under window light in the beginning of the day. Even turn the overhead light on to create more light to help the camera pick up the subject more clearly.

You may even want to angle the light onto a wall to be reflected back onto your subject. This can work well inside if done properly. You can even create different types of light on your camera itself. And if you want to get really creative, remember that there are things you can do to create different effects with a very limited amount of money.

Best wishes,
Amy Renfrey

To find about more about light, and getting creative with light to create perfect indoor shots you can get all this info in the e-book 'Digital Photography Success' found at www.digitalphotographysuccess.com

Part 3

Creating Sensational Pictures Of People



Want to know one of the secrets to successful shots of people? That's easy. It's them. What I mean by that is that the art to capturing a great shot of someone is simply finding a way to let their good self shine through.

You see, when someone feels good it shows in their eyes, their facial expression and their body language. And this means that the more relaxed someone is the better chance you have to capturing that great shot of them.

So how do we get someone relaxed enough to get a good shot of them?

Composition wise, medium to close creates good angle for people. There's nothing worse than a picture being too far away. What's the point of that if you want to really see who someone is in a photo? In good pictures you can see the person's whole face clearly without any sense of trying to get a better look. The eyes are the thing that the composition falls around so make sure the person's eyes are the main feature, not the nose or mouth.

If you want to get creative then try taking shots of them from a front/side angle and in sepia or black and white. Changing the colour of the pic adds a new definition and depth

to emotion of the person. Just remember that colour is just *one* thing you can do. If your camera has only one setting, then you can ask a photo lab that specialises in digital prints to do you two prints of the same picture; one in black and white and one in sepia. (My lab charges me 64c for a 6x4 print. Very good value.)

With lighting, you need a fairly good amount, such as a flash at a medium distance away, such as under 3 meters, good focus, and the colour of the digital image is important. Its ideal to get the lighting right around the whole person such as reflective, soft light coming from a window for example. Window light is actually a great place to start if your person is indoors.

For outdoor light and people photography with digital, try to take the picture when it's not direct sunlight, as this hard light may cast unnecessary shadows. There's nothing worse than a great shot of a person with a huge shadow of their nose that you can't take your eyes off. It's not very flattering.

Getting your person to feel comfortable around you is another issue too. If they want a good picture taken of them selves then make sure it's not a posed pictures, as relaxed ones will bring out the fun, happy side of them.

And have fun. There is no reason you can't enjoy yourself or be relaxed yourself when taking someone's picture. Once you have all the components right and they feel comfortable then you will have a great picture.

To learn how to take excellent digital shots of people you don't know everything is revealed in Digital Photography Success which can be found at:

www.digitalphotographysuccess.com

Part 4

Avoiding Overexposure Outside



Have you ever had a problem where you are outside taking pictures, on a sunny day, and no matter what you do, the darker parts of the picture are just too dark? The brighter parts are okay and clear, but the rest...well it almost seems as though the camera forgets about them. And that's true.

The thing is the camera needs light in order to create an image. It will look for the brightest light source coming into the lense, and then the aperture will open or close accordingly. What that means in 'English' is that if you have too much light from the brightest light source the camera will have a tendency to only focus on the light from this source.

The camera can't monitor one area of the scene and then another just by focusing the camera on one point of the scene. It's not as good as the human eye! (How good would it be if that were the case...I can only dream!)

Have you noticed that this doesn't happen so much on a cloudy day? That's because the light is fairly even, or the same, right through out the picture and the camera doesn't have to work as hard as it normally would on a sunny day.

That's the light you ideally want. Filtered light. And the way to combat this 'bright light' problem is to mimic filter, cloudy-day light as much as possible.

The first step to doing this is to try as much as possible to take digital pictures in even-light situations, such as overcast days or to help avoid overexposure you can put a filter over the camera.

A filter is a tool that helps reduce glare and sharp points of light and gives you some even light throughout the scene. Once you reduce your overexposure effect in the picture by using a filter to assist in the glare reduction you will find that your pictures become better and more interesting.

Professionals use filters to reduce glare from water for example. When you find that water creates that glary reflection of light in your picture a filter can help you create this evening up of light.

Overexposure of certain parts of your picture can be annoying. It detracts from your enjoyment and leave you feeling frustrated. But once you understand how the camera actually works, and what tools you can use to prevent problems.

If you'd like to know more about how to get the ideal light on your digital images without these annoying problems then check out Digital Photography Success.

www.digitalphotographysuccess.com

Part 5

Altering Digital Images- a saviour or an artistic dependency?



Since the introduction of Photo editing software it's become easier and easier to edit our digital photos. It is so easy to put a picture into the program, fix up the mistakes that exist and beautify our digital photos. But does this really enhance our artistic ability with digital photography?

Lets look at this for a moment.

Imagine standing at a beautiful scene. You've travelled miles to get there. And now you have finally been able to take a digital photo of the scene. All looks good in your viewfinder and you feel you have taken a great shot. But then after the day, as you have arrived back at your hotel, you realised that the digital picture isn't as good as you think it is. As it was a once off opportunity you might just feel as if your heart has sunk. You can not go back to take another one to try and 'get it right.'

What do you do? In this scenario you make it back safely to your home and insert the memory card into your computer and begin to 'fix' the mistakes in Adobe Photoshop.® Thankfully this software has given you a much better photo. Okay it's not what you wanted but at least its better. So now you have the luxury of 'fixing' your photographic mistakes at anytime. A good thing. Or is it?

Photo Editing Software is fantastic. It allows you to fix mistakes you can't go back to again, and it provides hours of fun and entertainment. I have edited many photos when I want to create a different version of that picture. And you can do some amazing stuff

with Adobe especially. I've got a friend who can teach you how to use Adobe for about ten bucks a month and within days you'll be getting great results. (I'll email you about this at the end of the eCourse.)

As much as I love it, the only trap with this thinking is that it has the potential to develop into a habit. The problem with this habit is that it doesn't allow you to develop your artistic skills. And if you do digital photography with undeveloped artistic skills then you must proceed back to the beginning and relearn many things.

Editing software is great, such as the above situation. But still it's your skills as a digital photographer that will give you the BEST PHOTOGRAPHY. These skills will last as long as you do and provide the ability to give you so many wonderful memories.

If you have Adobe, like I do, please use it for fun and alteration, not to replace artistic skill. Otherwise before you take the picture, rather than fiddling too much with the settings, just place it on auto and get some pictures that way letting the camera do the work. Often this can be a good way if you're in a hurry and want a great digital image fast. Having good artistic skills in digital photography is essential because you won't be developing dependant habits, and will learn to solely rely on your own ability, which is what digital photography is all about.

If you'd like to learn more about refining your artistic skills with your digital, easy and fast track ways are revealed in Digital Photography Success. The eBook can be found at www.digitalphotographysuccess.com

Part 6

The Technical Stuff Made Easy



Have you ever wondered how some people can get such good digital photos every time, and yet some are left struggling with trying to work out how to get a good shot?

I was like that too.

It took me what felt like ages to work out what they were doing that I wasn't. And I can tell you an easy way to start taking good pictures. And that is understand the technical side of digital photography. This doesn't take long and is all explained in plain, easy to understand every day language that a kid could understand in my eBook Digital Photography Success. After all why complicate it right?

When writing the eBook I wanted to take the complicated terms that baffle us normal people and transform the meanings so everyone who read it would be very comfortable with the meanings. If you are comfortable and relaxed in your understanding you learn so much better. (If only school was like that eh?)

So lets have a look at some of the more common things you have to know in order to get great digital pictures.

Light- the camera focuses on light and even looks for light. Without light the camera can't focus on anything and you will have a dull image. In order to let light in the camera needs to open its 'eye'. This 'eye' is called aperture.

When the aperture is open wide more light can come in. When doing night photography you need to open the eye as much as you can to allow time to let the light in to get a clear picture.

The amount of speed at which it does this I liken to the 'eye lid' blinking. The camera allows as much light is also if the shutter or 'eye lid' is open long enough to get the clarity needed for a good picture. The faster this eye moves, the quicker the light will come in.

These two main aspects of digital photography are important to help you understand the process and how the camera works. By understanding how the camera works you can get better control of it. Once you have control, you have great images. It's as simple as that.

I don't have enough time to explain about the rest of the technical stuff in one email today, but I've explained them in great detail in Digital Photography Success. I've taken ALL the professional technical terms and turned them into explanations like the above. After all it's photography, and professional photography techniques should be available and easy to understand.

No more confusion or feeling as if professional photography is above you. No, no, it's all there and available for you at anytime in Digital Photography Success.

[**www.digitalphotographysuccess.com**](http://www.digitalphotographysuccess.com)

Part 7

The Secret Of Capturing Great Composition



You know if I had only a few lines to write about what the secret is to better digital photography I would really say it consisted of three things.

1. The first is technical knowledge. (Technical knowledge gives you control over the camera and as a result give you the images you want.)
2. The second is light. (Light gives focus and clarity and sharpness in a picture. Without the right light, no matter how much you know about your camera the image won't turn out.)
3. The third is composition. (That's the arty side of digital photography.)

Let me explain this third point.

Composition is your angle at which you take the digital picture. The right angle can create the right emotional feel about what's going on in the picture. The wrong angle can completely distract you from creating the right and appropriate emotion for the picture. Angle is composition and composition tells a story. It's the emotional part of digital photography indeed.

I'll give you an example.

Imagine a beautiful child. You want to capture the child's inner beauty and innocence. What angle do you think will create the right emotion? Will it be from above? What about from the side? Will it be far away or close up? The answer is it depends on what feeling you want to create in the photo.

So the right answer would be: "What emotion do I want my viewer to *feel* when looking at the child?"

If you were to create a tender emotion then perhaps a close up of their face with their eyes looking straight at you might be one thing you do. Or perhaps you capture an angle from front on, but a head and shoulders shot, that captures more an active feel? Whatever feeling you want to create, remember that it's all in the angle you take. You are the artist, so feel free to create the emotion on the image and use your imagination.

This is the last lesson in the eCourse "18 Days To Better Digital Pictures". I want to thank you very much for your enthusiasm and energy in reading my course and hope you got a lot out of it. Everything I've written about it just a small fraction of what you obtain from my eBook Digital Photography Success.

With this eBook I have two bonus eBooks, the first on the digital technical side and the second on really cool abstract art in digital photography. At \$37.95 and over 200 pages of information this is a real good deal! www.digitalphotographysuccess.com

But it doesn't end there.

Digital photography is such intense fun that it is, you must continually work at it and find ways to improve. Your digital photography learning goes right throughout your life. And just wait until I have put together my online photography course....I'll keep you tuned in on that one.

So thank you so much for joining me and I hope to hear of your success and your learning and your joy of digital photography. And please send me your pictures you have taken and the things you have discovered from learning and doing more with your digital.

Come visit me in the blog; www.nomorebadphotos.blogspot.com. I've got weekly and biweekly tips and things to help you, such as help with lenses, filters, cheap things you can do that look professional, composition techniques, specific topics on landscapes, people, night time shots, colour, sepia, black & white, fixing indoor problems, fixing outdoor problems, travel photography tips and issues, white cards, tripods, taking pictures of kids and animals, wildlife tips, birds, lions, travelling overseas with the camera, storing digital images, the cameras ability to see colour and so much more!

My gift to you

And for my new landscape eBook, you can go to:
www.beautifuloutdoorphotography.com

Best wishes,

Amy Renfrey

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