

# Photo Basics

When you are working with Digital photography, you can't forget Camera Basics.

1. Be sure to hold the Camera still. This is very important because most of digital cameras are in the 640 x 480 ranges to 3.3 Meg pixel so there is only a little information to work with. Camera movement in digital photography as in film photography can yield a picture that is too blurry to use. So hold your camera steady, hold your breath and press gently on the button. Use a tripod if possible. The more telephoto the more you camera movement you will have. If your camera has a digital zoom try not to use it, it compounds the camera movement because you are using only the middle of collector plate.
2. Even when you have an automatic camera and you are using Photoshop to work on an image, You still need to compose your picture. You need to frame the picture to have the right information in the picture. A little planing at the camera stage can save you a lot of time in photoshop work later. Composition is very important in any type of image making.
3. Take plenty of pictures, this doesn't cost much if you working Digital because you can erase the shots you don't use. If you are working with a film camera It is still a good idea to bracket your exposures and take plenty of shots.
4. Lighting is everything to Photography. In fact the word photography means to write with light. Look at your subject, to see if it is lighted right for you. If you are outside you can add fill lights or reflectors. If you are inside you can control the light as much as you want. You can use a flash If there is not enough light but this will change the way your subject will appear. Because light changes the appearance of the subject.
5. If your camera has manual control of the exposure settings be sure to learn how to run you camera manually. Light meters and auto cameras are made to read the middle range grey and set the camera for that exposure. So if you are pointing

at a very white area or a very dark background your exposure will be off. If your camera is automatic like a point and shoot if it is a film or digital camera you can change the fill speed or ISO to fool the camera. Some digital cameras also have a speed settings. When you are you are taking a picture, figure out where the you want the mid range greys. If you are working on a landscape or still lives you can put the camera on a tripod and vary the exposure to get both great shadow detail and highlight detail. In wide contrast area I have taken three exposures and put them together in Photoshop.

6. Make sure you have your camera in focus. Be sure to focus your camera fast. Long slow focuses your eyes will adjust to the camera being out of focus. A camera just a little of focus will cause the image to be blurry. Usually the fast focus is the best focus. If your camera has manual focus, using it will save batteries and time for the camera to compute the exposure.
7. When using a digital point and shoot try holding the shutter button down half way before taking the picture this will also speed up the time it takes the camera to compute the exposure. Don't be in a hurry to snap the shutter and then move the camera, most of these cameras are very slow in computing the exposure and you could end up with a picture of the ground.