



Hints and Tips Cheat Sheet
Frankston Photographic Club
Photography is Our Passion

The Hints and Tips Cheat Sheets are a simple guide to a technique to help make your image taking and competition entries easier.

Plan >> Take >> Edit >> Print >> Submit >> Tell

Basic Rules for Composing and Image

There are no fixed rules in photography, but there are guidelines which can often help you to enhance the impact of your photos.

Composition is how you choose to frame the picture you're about to make.

Rule of Thirds

- Divide your image into 9 equal segments by 2 vertical and 2 horizontal lines
- Place the points of interest on the intersection of the lines
- Some cameras have screen overlays included

Rule of Odds

- Related to the rule of thirds
- The eye is more comfortable with an odd number of elements
- The eye will naturally focus towards the centre of a group
- You want your viewer to look at a subject, not at an empty space

Symmetry and Patterns

- Symmetry is pleasing to the eye
- Disrupting symmetry introduces tension and a focal point

Balancing Elements

- If you have one main subject with the rest of the image is empty, include another image of lesser importance to fill the empty space

Leaving Space

- breathing room and implied movement
- "breathing room" frame your image for visual freedom and/or freedom of movement
- "implied motion" if your subject is in motion you need to give the subject space to move into

Figure to Ground

- Find a contrast between subject and background

Diagonals

- **Diagonal lines create great movement**

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Golden

Ratio

- Divides your image into sections that are roughly 1:1.618
- Lines are concentrated in the centre of the frame
- Approximately 1/4 in the middle. The remaining space is evenly divided either side
- There is also a golden section rectangle
- Idea can be found in many of the great classic works of art

Triangles

- If your image has diagonals
- Divide your image diagonally from corner to corner
- Draw a line from one of the other corners until it meets the first line at a 90-degree angle
- Place image elements within the resulting triangles

Spirals

- Based on the nautilus shell which matches the golden spiral shape almost exactly
- For use with objects that have curving lines rather than straight ones
- Make a spiral using the lines of the Golden Ratio as a guide
- Use the spiral to lead the eye to a particular point in the image

Leading Lines

- Use natural lines to lead eyes into the picture
- Leading Lines can affect the way we view an image by pulling us into the picture, towards the subject, or on a journey through the scene
- Different types of lines can enhance a composition: straight, diagonal, curvy, zig zag, radial

View Point

- Take time to think about where you will shoot from
- Viewpoint impacts the composition and the message conveyed
- Eye Level, High Above, Ground Level, Side View, Back View, Far Away, Up Close

Background

- Images can lack impact if the subject blends into a busy background
- The human eye is excellent at distinguishing between different elements in a scene
- Find a plain and unobtrusive background and compose so that the background does not distract or detract from the subject

Depth

- Include objects in the foreground, middle ground and background
- Overlap object by partially obscuring one with another
- The eye recognises layers and mentally separates them out forming an image with more depth

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Framing

- Use natural frames including: windows, doors, trees, archways, holes
- The world is full of objects which make perfect natural frames, such as trees, archways and holes. By
- Place around the edge of the composition to isolate the main subject

Fill the Frame

- **Get close to your subject**

Centre Dominant Eye

- Place the dominant eye in the centre of the photo

Patterns and Repetition

- Patterns are aesthetically pleasing, but the best is when the pattern is interrupted

Cropping

- Crop tight around a subject to eliminate the background "noise"
- This allows the subject the viewer's undivided attention

Experimentation

- Digital photography means no film processing costs or running out of shots.
- Experiment with composition and delete the unwanted images later.
- You never know whether an idea will work until you try it.

References: For more detailed information

- <https://petapixel.com/2015/03/16/9-photo-composition-tips-as-seen-in-photographs-by-steve-mccurry/>
- <http://www.photographymad.com/pages/view/10-top-photography-composition-rules>
- <http://www.nikonusa.com/en/Learn-And-Explore/Article/h7dfrceh/5-easy-composition-guidelines.html>
- <http://www.digital-photo-secrets.com/tip/3372/18-composition-rules-for-photos-that-shine/>

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1. Plan

- Have a concept for a competition, camera or editing technique
- Check the weather, site permissions, time of day for best image
- Make sure you have the gear you need. Cameras, Clothes, Phone, Money, Food etc

2. Take

- Find inspiration in a technique or competition subject
- Look for a Venue, Event or Activity

3. Edit

- Image Editing Techniques will be based on Adobe Photoshop CC and Adobe LightRoom CC
 - (subscription: <https://creative.adobe.com/plans>)
- Make a booking to an Image Editing Workshop: ([Link to FPC page TBC](#))

4. Print

- Frankston Camera Club Print Workshops

5. Submit

- Frankston Photographic Club Competitions: competitions@frankstonphotoclub.com.au
- Inter-Club Competitions, National and International Competitions.

6. Tell

- Other members of the Frankston Photographic Club in the Monthly Newsletter.
- Write a short article of your experiences and learnings and include some images.
 - Send them to: newsletter@frankstonphotoclub.com.au.
- What you enjoyed or what we can do better on the Weekend Workflow Workshops.
 - Send them to: socialsecretary@frankstonphotoclub.com.au.

Voice Recognition Technology can be used to help write an article for the FPC Newsletter
Apple, Google, Windows, Linux and others have various **[Voice to Text]** applications that let you speak and have it converted into text.

Look for a microphone symbol on your device or application similar to (see right ->)
Activate and Speak: To activate may be a 'click' or a 'tap'

Give it a go. It's pretty easy and pretty accurate;
There shouldn't be too much editing afterwards.

We look forward to reading about yours and their adventures and learnings...

