

YOUR GUIDE TO DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY



FREE Mini Ebook Version

You are granted permission to distribute and share this book to anyone free of charge and for any purpose, on the sole provision that it remains unedited in any way.

Get your full version from:

www.ShrinkPictures.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

YOUR GUIDE TO DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

*The section headings are listed below so you can see what's included in the Full Ebook.
Only the first part of each section is included in this FREE Mini Ebook*

*To learn more, purchase the "Complete Guide to Digital Photography" for just \$17.
Purchase your copy today from: www.ShrinkPictures.com*

PART ONE: INTRODUCTION

- Capturing the Moment and Archiving the Memory ** Read this section now FREE
- Different Kinds of Digital Cameras Available
- Where Have All the Lenses Gone?
- Professional Digital Technology at Consumer Prices
- Shopping for a Low-End Digital Camera
- Digital Photography Myths
- There is More to Digital Than Pixels

PART TWO: BASIC DIGITAL CAMERA USE

- Getting to Know Your Digital Camera ** Read this section now FREE
- The Ease of Using a Digital Camera
- Tips for Shooting a Better Digital Picture
- Taking Photos of Your Pets
- Taking a Better Night Picture
- Tips and Tricks: Horizons and Sunglasses



PART THREE: WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR DIGITAL PHOTOS

- Sharing Your Digital Pictures **** Read this section now FREE**
- Printing Your Digital Pictures
- Printers for Digital Photography
- Digi Art
- Digital (Photography) Rights

PART FOUR: ADVANCED DIGITAL PHOTO INFORMATION

- What is White Balance? **** Read this section now FREE**
- Interpolation and Digital Zoom
- What is EXIF?
- Raw DIGI photos
- Defining and Fine Tuning *Image Noise*

PART FIVE: DIGITAL PHOTO EXTRAS

- Free Windows Photo Editors **** Read this section now FREE ****
- More Than a Flash in the Pan
- The State of Memory (Cards)
- Important Equipment for Traveling with Your Digital Camera
- Recharge Your Knowledge of Batteries
- Turning Digital Photography into a Moneymaker
- Digital Photography and Printing for Fun and for Money



PART ONE: INTRODUCTION

Capturing the Moment and Archiving the Memory

Many of us who grew up in earlier times have fond memories of Christmas morning when we were children. Just as we youngsters were opening our treasures Santa left; a parent would enter the room and turn on the movie camera topped with bright blinding lights. In the past it was quite an ordeal to take home movies. But, despite the blinding light, we would dutifully parade in front of the camera with our new treasures.

Now, our parents were not experts in movie camera technology and certainly none of us were trained on how to act for filmmaking. However, we managed to create some wonderful and memorable documents not only of our family, but of an era in human history. In watching those home movies over the years, the parental genius as a cinematographer became more obvious.

Thus, it is that we must encourage ourselves not to wait until we can afford the best equipment or have the best talent to capture. The path to better equipment and more experienced talent is found as we capture the moment and the stars before us today.

Now, that you have overcome the first objection to documenting your memories via photographs and video, you may find yourself waiting for that perfect event or moment. Are you one of those people that leave the camera equipment in the bag until that perfect moment arrives?

If so, you need to understand cardinal Rule #2 of documenting history. Those who have their cameras out, loaded and busy capturing imperfect moments will be the ones that have camera in hand when the perfect moment arrives.

Experience shows it is not the subject that required hours of preparation to photograph that shines. It is the inspired moment that came and went much too quickly that is the most enduring over time. When a photographer is prepared and observant, they will naturally need expend only a little effort to *let the shutter capture a special moment* and thereby bring them great esteem, recognition and years of joyful reminiscence.

One such moment was when a friend's parakeet, Fred, took a birdbath in a glass of water that was sitting by the piano as she was playing one day. The camera was nearby, but she was not fast enough to get the photo. With camera in hand, I sighed and said to Fred, "*I bet you can't do that again.*" Fred dutifully replied by taking another dip in the water glass, which was captured, in three great photos.

Birds like Fred are very rare! With a digital camera, she would have taken a lot more photos of him.

If you are one of those photographers that had it all together until new digital technology came on the scene, you may be fragmented and confused over which technology to use. Not to worry, embrace the best of both worlds. You don't have to choose between analog and digital. What you do have to do is to know the capabilities and limitations of each.

Analog equipment can produce award-winning photographs of publication quality even with a camera under \$100. Analog photos have plenty of mega pixels for publication quality prints up to poster size unless they have been scanned under 300 dpi and/or downloaded on the Internet at a lower resolution.

Digital cameras on the other hand are a bit trickier. Unless a camera is over 5 mega pixels it may not have the support features to allow it to take publication quality photos. There are numerous other specifications one must be aware of. The quality of the lens and size of the *sensor* are two primary factors that will affect the quality of digital photographs.

You may not be able to afford a \$1,000 digital camera to get 8 to 10 mega pixels for publication-ready photos. With most digital cameras, you can preserve the raw data to provide you the greatest opportunity to use editing software to make the most of your photos. However, you can only work with whatever raw data that you have captured. To be sure, ask a salesperson who knows digital technology.

Today, one can also archive and edit their photographs electronically from emails to CDs and DVDs. It is always best to keep one copy of your photographs on a CD in addition to prints and negatives to make sure you have more than one working copy. Computer software packages help you mix your photos and film together to make mini movies of your project or special event. What a long way we have come in the relative short time since Christmas home movies of the past.



Purchase the "Complete Guide to Digital Photography" for just \$17.
Only the first part of each section is included in this FREE Mini Ebook
Purchase your copy today from: www.ShrinkPictures.com

PART TWO: BASIC DIGITAL CAMERA USE



Getting to Know Your Digital Camera

As with anything you are learning about, you will feel more comfortable if you understand what you are studying. Basically, you don't really need to know exactly how your new digital camera works.

However, if you are not really informed about some of the inner workings, you may not purchase exactly what you need. You need to know at least the basics, so that when you are looking for a digital camera, you will know what to keep an eye out for. Put simply, the more you know, the better your pictures are going to end up!

There is something called a "**Digital Zoom**" that you will most likely need to become familiar with. The digital zoom differs from the "Optical Zoom", in that it electronically makes pixels in the middle of your picture appear larger. Basically, this function takes a small part of the picture and enlarges that piece, instead of the entire photo.

If you are trying to focus on the whole picture and make the whole picture larger, then the "Optical Zoom" function is what you need to use. If you want to focus on an image in the middle of the picture, and let the rest of the picture appear less in focus, then the "Digital Zoom" function is what you will want to use.

A "**Pixel**" is what each photograph you take is made up of. If you look closely at a picture, it is made up of tiny dots, known as the "pixel". A "megapixel" is a term that you will hear and see very often in the world of digital photography.

It refers to the highest resolution possible that a given digital camera offers a consumer. "Mega" means millions, so if you have a camera with a 5-megapixel resolution, your camera uses 5 million pixels an image. The more pixels a camera uses, the higher quality each photo will produce.

You will see and hear about a term called the "**ISO**". This is an abbreviation for the International Standards Organization. This is the organization that sets the bar for photography. In terms of the ISO of your digital camera, it is talking about how sensitive your camera is to lighting. You need to know that the higher the ISO on a camera, the better for darker conditions. The lower the ISO, the better suited this camera will be in lighted conditions.

If you stumble across the term “**Shutter Lag**”, this is referring to the time it takes between pressing the button for a picture and the time it gets taken. Sometimes, the picture seems to take a pause in that time, and that is because of the shutter lag. You really only need to worry about this if you expect to be taking pictures of things that need a quicker or slower response time. For instance, you may want a faster shutter speed for action type pictures. If you are taking pictures of sleeping babies, it probably won't matter if there is a lapse in time. It is important that you ask questions about the camera you are buying. Most digital camera makers don't list the shutter speed of a camera. The best way to find out is to test it yourself, before you buy the camera. Also, many digital cameras have different “modes” of shooting, so that is a good way to control the shutter speed for many different conditions. If you need a versatile camera, get one that offers modes of shooting, instead of just manual.

Lastly, you will want to get familiar with a term called the “**Focal Length**”. This term explains just how far out a shot can be taken, and still be in focus. There are a couple of different categories of focal lengths, including *telephoto* (perfect narrow sized photos) and *wide-angle* (best for wider shots).



It is noted that most of the digital cameras are built with telephoto lenses, and not the wide-angle. If you are looking to take pictures of wide spaces, then you may need an additional lens.

Not sure which lens you would use? A general rule of thumb to go by is that if you are taking pictures of large groups of people or wide nature shots, the wideangle is what you will need.

Purchase the “Complete Guide to Digital Photography” for just \$17.
Only the first part of each section is included in this FREE Mini Ebook
Purchase your copy today from: www.ShrinkPictures.com

PART THREE: WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR DIGITAL PHOTOS

Sharing Your Digital Pictures

If you are a picture-taking nut, then you probably love to share your work with others. When it comes to sharing digital pictures, there is nothing easier!

Whether you have just taken another great picture of the new baby, or you have recently found an old photo that you know someone else would love, you can quickly share it with others. There are many ways to share a digital photo and there are just as many great reasons why you should!

Why do you want to store your digital photos onto a CD or DVD? So that you can have them anytime you want, and so that you can print copies that you may need in the future. You can quickly slide the CD or DVD into a computer or any player you may have lying around.

You can view the CD or DVD as a kind of slide show, if you want, and everyone can look at it at the same time; no more waiting to pass the pictures from person to person this way! You can also conveniently and effortlessly copy the CD's for anyone you want, if you have a CD or DVD burner, which are not really very expensive.

Probably the easiest and most popular method of sharing a digital photo is to print it out. You can either print it out yourself, on your own printer and paper at home, or you can have a professional do it for you. In either case, you will need to store the images onto a CD or DVD and use that to print out your copies. (It's a little like when you have regular film processed, in the fact that the hard copy of your pictures will be used to pick out the photos you would like to print out.) You will then pick out the photo(s) you want to print and they will be printed out onto a glossy photo paper. It's easy as pie and very inexpensive, especially if you can do it at home!

If you are comfortable with using your computer and the Internet, you can also learn how to send your pictures with an email. This is a quick and convenient alternative to the old "snail mail" way to send mail to another person. With an email, the recipient can get the pictures faster than you can blink an eye!

They can also print them out; if they decide they would like to, or use them as a wallpaper background for their computer. You can learn to download the photo and send it right on the Internet, and your computer's user manual should also have a section explaining it. It is not hard to learn, so don't let the technology overwhelm and intimidate you.

You could also choose to place the pictures onto your own business or professional website. This way, you can just direct people to the website instead of sending out a bunch of emails! It's a really great way to be able to share many pictures with a lot of people all at the same time. They won't have to wait for their turn and can pick and choose what it is they want to see.

If you don't already have a website, or don't have a clue as to where to begin making one, there are a lot of really good resources on the Internet that will help you out. Many sites will charge a small fee, but will set it all up and run it for you, that way all you need to worry about is taking those pictures!

When it comes to sharing your prized digital pictures, you don't have to get in your car and drive across town to do it! The Internet is the perfect way to share the pictures with many people, very quickly! You can also store the pictures and email them. If you prefer the old school method, just download the photos onto a CD or DVD and print out the ones that you would like to share. Then you can mail those out, too!

*Purchase the "Complete Guide to Digital Photography" for just \$17.
Only the first part of each section is included in this FREE Mini Ebook
Purchase your copy today from: www.ShrinkPictures.com*

PART FOUR: ADVANCED DIGITAL PHOTO INFORMATION

What is White Balance?

White balance is a very important element in digital photography. It is the number one difference between digital and film photography. If you have the improper amount of white balance in your digital photograph, it is pretty much unfixable, too, so it is very important to pay attention to it at all times. Basically, white balance is known as the way the digital camera adjusts to compensate for the kind of lighting conditions in each scene. It is essential in creating the true to life colors that digital photography is known for.

Why is white balance so important in digital photography? Because a digital camera picks up pretty much every color in an image, like a video camera does. If you have ever used a digital camera and your images appear to have a green or pinkish tone, then you are looking at the result of not having the proper white balance.

Have you taken a picture of the most beautiful sunset, only to find that when you check it over in your viewfinder, that it appears dark and off color? Well, the reason for this is that your white balance is not at the proper levels. With a digital camera, pretty much every scene you capture will involve many forms

and levels of white balance. If you are taking a picture of the sky, what appears white to your eye, may have a bluish tint in a digital camera.

How do you correct your white balance? With a digital camera, you can control the white balance more easily than a traditional film camera. You will need to adjust your white balance to every different lighting condition you encounter. In most digital cameras, the white balance will be automatically adjusted for you.

There are models, though, that allow the user to set the white balance manually. You will need to check your camera's manual to be sure where the white balance setting is located, if you can manually adjust it.

It is very important that you always check the settings on your digital camera whenever you begin to shoot pictures. There is nothing worse than spending the day taking new photographs and then realizing that you have the camera on the wrong settings. You will want to really pay attention to your white balance setting because the lighting conditions around you will most likely change from day to day.

Whether you are a beginner or a novice digital photographer, the white balance of your photos will make or break the way your pictures turn out. It is not hard to correct your white balance setting, before you begin taking pictures, but if you don't, it is extremely difficult to correct it in your pictures.

You may not think of the white balance of your digital camera, but you really need to train yourself to do so. If not, you are more likely to have photos that don't offer the colors that you tried to capture. This problem is especially easy to view, as you can easily check your pictures as you take them. Unlike a traditional film camera, you can retake pictures that don't come out the way you wanted. If you take a few tester pictures, you can gauge your white balance and make the adjustments needed, before you waste your time and patience!

The next time you decide to take pictures with a digital camera, you absolutely must take the time to check on your white balance setting. Keep in mind that even though your camera has settings for white balance, the settings won't work properly if you forget to use them.

Take your time and make sure that everything is set properly and you won't have to go back and try to correct it. If you don't check the white balance prior to taking your pictures, you will be very upset when they don't appear as you thought they would. Remember that it is very hard to correct the white balance once the pictures have been taken!

*Purchase the "Complete Guide to Digital Photography" for just \$17.
Only the first part of each section is included in this FREE Mini Ebook
Purchase your copy today from: www.ShrinkPictures.com*

PART FIVE: DIGITAL PHOTO EXTRAS

Free Windows Photo Editors

For the photographer that has a tight budget, it's good to know that there are free resources out there! If you take digital photos, then you can use some great editing software that is absolutely free, made available by Windows. Editing your pictures is a very important step in the photographic process, and can end up costing a pretty good amount of money by the time you are done. Anyone that needs to save money can take advantage of some great editing programs that are free and easy to use!

One of the many free photo editors offered by Windows is Paint.net. It is offered by Washington State University. You can freely download this freeware and use it to edit your own digital photos. The software has a ton of really cool features, including special effects! It is easy to use and you can even log onto a user forum, if you should need any help or want to see how others are using this great freeware!

Another user-friendly freeware program that you can download to edit your photos is VCW VicMan's Photo Editor. This freeware is similar to Adobe's Photoshop. This software has a limited free version, but you can purchase the software for a great price. If you take a little time, you can find it offered at many online merchant websites and can even stumble across some great discounts! This editor offers many of the common features any photo editor may need.

There is a freeware photo editor called Image Forge. Image Forge lets you paint and edit many of your photographic images. You can create some special effects and make one of a kind prints with Image Forge! With Image Forge, you can easily correct any problems that you find with your digital photographs. Whether you want to touch up a person's face, erase a tree or add stunning color, you can do it with this software.

If you want to instantly find and edit any and all of the pictures on your personal computer, there is no better tool to use than a freeware called Picasa! This program works to help you organize and sort through all of your digital pictures. You can make stunning photo collages and albums, as well as edit any problems you may have with any given picture.

If you take pictures, especially digital, then you know how important it is to be able to edit. Whether you are a professional photographer or it is a hobby, you will want your pictures to be the best that they can be, right? Well, most photographers, novice and beginners alike, are not perfect. Therefore, they will not produce a perfect picture. The vast majority of the pictures taken will need to be touched up in one way or another.

If you are looking to turn your pictures into pieces of art, there are many options available to you, as well. You can turn your print into a black and white picture and hand color some details. You can create beautiful special effects that will really make your digital photo stand out in a crowd, too.

As you can image, the tools to create the perfect picture can cost a lot of money, if you have to purchase them. If you are on a budget, or just like to save money, anything you can find for free is a bonus! Well, there are free photo editors out there, you just have to look for them. Since the introduction of the Internet, there are literally thousands upon thousands of pages of information that are geared specifically toward helping you achieve the pictures of your dreams.

You don't have to spend one penny to edit your photographs. All you need is access to a computer and scanner and you are well on your way. Just log onto any one of the number of free photo editor applications available and a whole new world of editing possibilities will be right at your fingertips. Don't let your money, or lack of, keep you from making the best pictures, just download some freeware and start editing your own pictures!

Another great free software is The Gimp. The opening paragraph on The Gimp .Org is the best way to describe this software "GIMP is the GNU Image Manipulation Program. It is a freely distributed piece of software for such tasks as photo retouching, image composition and image authoring. It works on many operating systems, in many languages." Visit <http://www.gimp.org/> and you will find more the just one free photo manipulation program but a wealth of free software applications to use with digital photos like Inkscape, Scribus, Blender and more.



*Purchase the "Complete Guide to Digital Photography" for just \$17.
Only the first part of each section is included in this FREE Mini Ebook
Purchase your copy today from: www.ShrinkPictures.com*

Disclaimer: *The Publisher developed this e-book to provide access to valuable information. Although we make every effort to offer only accurate information, we cannot guarantee that the information we make available is always correct or current. The Publisher does not warrant or make any representations as to the quality, content, accuracy, or completeness of the information, text, graphics, links and other items contained in these e-books. Consequently, no one should rely upon any information contained herein, nor make any decisions or take any action based on such information. The Publisher or any subsidiaries are not responsible for any action taken in reliance on the information contained herein and for any damages incurred, whether directly or indirectly, as a result of errors, omissions or discrepancies contained herein.*

Thank you to the photographers that allowed us to use the images within this book.

Purchase the "Complete Guide to Digital Photography" for just \$17.
Only the first part of each section is included in this FREE Mini Ebook
Purchase your copy today from: www.ShrinkPictures.com

You are granted permission to distribute and share this book to anyone free of charge and for any purpose, on the sole provision that it remains unedited in any way.