

Photo tips from the judge

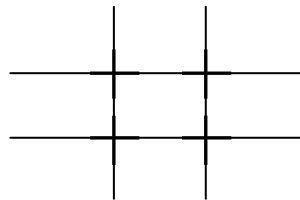
Composition:

Is what you see through the view finder what you wish to record? Look around you, move to your right or left. Most images are taken from eye level. Could your picture improve if you use a lower view point? Kneel down, lay down if necessary!

The Rule of Thirds

Google '**Rule of Thirds**' and you will find a wealth of information on composition.

It is one of the most popular 'rules' in photography. It is also popular amongst artists. It works like this: imaginary lines are drawn dividing the image into thirds both horizontally and vertically. You place important elements of your composition where these lines intersect. See the diagram:



As well as using the intersections, you can arrange areas into bands occupying a third of the frame. As you can see, it is fairly simple to implement. Good places to put things: third of the way up, third of the way in from the left: you get the idea. Bad places to put things: right in the middle, right at the top, right at the bottom, away in the corner.

Using the Rule of Thirds helps produce nicely balanced easy on the eye pictures. Also, as you have to position things relative to the edges of the frame, it helps get rid of 'tiny subject surrounded by vast empty space' syndrome.

One last thing about the Rule of Thirds: once you have got the hang of the Rule of Thirds, you will very quickly want to break it! This is fine. As I said earlier, these 'rules' are best used as guidelines and if you can create a better image by bending or ignoring rules, then fire away.

Depth of Field:

As one of the most important elements in a successful photograph, focus is a key area for attention. Of course, once you've mastered the basics of focusing on your subject, controlling depth of field is the next step which opens up a whole creative world of possibility that can transform your images.

Depth of field refers to the amount of the image that is in an acceptable level of focus, and is primarily linked to the aperture setting. As a creative tool, it allows the photographer to 'manipulate' the frame so that elements can become more or less apparent than they would otherwise appear in reality. For example, a wide aperture will provide a shallow depth of field, meaning a very small focal plane and thus small area of the image will appear in focus.

This can be useful in blurring the background detail or any undesirable areas distant from the subject or focal point – such as in sports or action photography. By contrast, a small aperture will provide a

deeper depth of field that keeps more of the image in focus. This is useful for keeping the majority, if not all, of the frame sharp – such as in landscape photography.

Read more at:

http://www.amateurphotographer.co.uk/technique/camera_skills/depth-of-field-explained-4196#QPUCIYtf0mS9Ouwj.99