

SMARTPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY



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DOMINIC GOSS

*"What I like about photos is that they capture a moment that's gone forever, impossible to reproduce."
- Karl Lagerfeld*

Features of a Great Smartphone Camera

Gone are the days when you would carry a big and heavy camera around your neck. Nowadays, even tourists do not walk around, looking silly and out of place with a large camera hanging from their neck. Barring a few true blue photography enthusiasts, most people nowadays make do with their smartphone cameras. Yes capturing a moment has become so easy that people simply need to remove their smartphone and click a picture to capture it forever. However, needless to say, not all smartphones are really great at capturing pictures. Hence, you need to do some digging by going through mobile phone comparisons and then decide on the perfect smartphone camera. So, what are the factors that make a smartphone camera a success?

A good way to start would be to go through a thorough mobile phone compare. Yes, a good mobile phone compare will help to ensure that you have all the options before you. So, what do you look for in a good smartphone camera? Given below are a few points to keep in mind:

Mega Pixel Count

The most important factor that dictates that quality of images is the mega pixel count of the camera. Most smartphones today come with main cameras that are either 8MP or more. The front camera though, can start from being non-existent and can go up to 13MP or more, as was seen in the HTC Desire Eye. A bigger pixel count in general means a higher resolution image, although the more pixels you tend to jam into a sensor, you'll also end up with more noise. So, in the end, although the MP count does definitely play a huge role in the quality of the images obtained, it is by far not the only thing that really dictates the kind of pictures you land up with. Good mobile phone comparison sites will highlight this feature well enough for you to understand.

Zoom

Several smartphone cameras come with specific zoom, sometimes 4x, and this can even go up to 10x, when it comes with its own zoom lens, as was seen in the Samsung Galaxy K Zoom. Yes, a good zoom means you can focus in on something without letting the image get too pixelated. This is a handy feature for people that like to opt for good photography, although in that case, a phone like the Galaxy K Zoom or the Nokia Lumia 1020 will be your best options.

Camera Apps

One of the most fun features to have in your phone is the camera app and all that it has to offer. Camera apps today offer several interesting features, like adding animation and merging two pictures, besides other fun effects that are sure to be a hit among friends. So look up on what different camera apps have to offer by visiting mobile phone comparison sites.

So, this was all about the features to look for in a good smartphone camera. So, go through all the mobile phone comparisons that you can come across before finalising a buy!

This article was contributed by Roopkatha Dasgupta at KnowYourHandheld, one of the best [<http://knowyourhandheld.com/>]mobile phone comparison sites you can come across. Go through different mobile phone comparisons to get an idea of what to buy and what not to buy, because a thorough [<http://knowyourhandheld.com/compare>]mobile phone compare will help you make the right choice.

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Freelance Photography

One of the most popular forms of earning money through art and skill is photography. Many teenagers and people in their mid-20s are now skilled with digital cams and DSLRs. All they need to do is convert this form of skill into a form of entrepreneurship. One country has almost 50,000 events going on as the same day every day. Someone has to cover each of these events. Someone has to do the photography of it all. The number of photographers no matter how many is always less than needed for some unknown reasons.

Therefore the domain is perfect for anyone who is good with a digital camera. All they need to do is set up a good career platform. The need to diffuse a business is the most important in freelancing. In freelancing, the more people you know the more jobs you get. All you need to do is

1) Develop a portfolio

Even if it means starting off at low pay initially. One just needs to add things up to their portfolio in order to get the "experience" column filled.

2) Social Marketing

Tell everyone you know. Friends, family, colleagues, neighbours etc. The more referrals you get the better for your business.

3) Professional Org.

Join professional organizations, such as small student based communities that do event coverage.

4) Volunteer

Volunteer in community service work. As even if it doesn't get you money it fills up your experience column and adds to your portfolio of pictures.

Nowadays small points to shoot cameras are within accessible reach to all and even majority of the cellphones and smartphones have good quality cameras in them. Utilising those even normal people with normal photography skills can capture amazing images and lifelong memories for themselves and friends. Mostly people do this just as amateurs or hobby but if they organize it a bit and use a professional approach then they can utilise it to make more than just pictures and earn money.

This can lead on to become independent studios which are a booming business these days and can lead on to good private businesses which can be very efficient ways to earn for the younger generations to earn for their own and relive some financial pressure from their parents.

Apart from all of this; just keep on learning. One of the easiest ways is to never let go of what you are doing and keep getting better at it.

Making money from home is becoming a valid business today. There are many people who work from their homes using the internet as a tool to make a full time income. If this interests you and you would like to learn more, please visit [<http://thegoodlife4u.com>] there you will find a comprehensive how to guide available for download in PDF form. It includes everything you need to know to get your business up and running with step by step instructions on utilising the powerful

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tool of the internet. Please visit [<http://thegoodlife4u.com>] for more information.

Tips for Focusing Your Photographic Efforts on Your Garden

Why Take Garden Photos?

Record Keeping

Taking pictures of your flower and vegetable gardens can help you keep records of what you grew and where you grew it. Many gardeners practice some form of crop rotation, being especially careful not to plant the same vegetables in the same location year after year. A photo or two can be a big help in keeping track of where you planted your tomatoes the previous season. Digital photos are especially helpful, since you can store them on your computer, label them, and click on the photo's "properties" to see exactly when the photo was taken. A photo might also be a good reminder next year if you planted some things too close together this year.

ID that Bug or Disease

The old cliché that a picture is worth a thousand words is certainly true when it comes to identifying pests, damage from pests, or disease symptoms in the garden. One or two good photos can be compared to photos online to identify the pest or disease.

Send Photos to Friends

Serious gardeners enjoy sharing their garden experiences with their gardening friends and extended family. Today's digital technology makes it easy to capture the wonder and beauty of your garden and email or text it to a special friend.

Garden Photographs as Art

Photos help us preserve the beauty of our gardens. Roses will fade, sunflowers will wither, and the visiting monarch butterfly will fly away... but great photos from the garden can last a lifetime. Digital photography enables us to take lots of pictures, edit and crop them, and print them on our computers or have them printed by professionals... at a fraction of the cost than we used to spend when all cameras had film!

Garden Photographs as Gifts

A great photo from your garden or from a friend's garden can make a wonderful gift, too. Online companies can help you turn a photo into a wonderful print for framing, or your shot can be used to decorate a tee shirt or a coffee mug. With a little help from online companies, a collection of garden photos can be used to make a very personalized calendar. Personal computer software also makes it possible for you to make your own greeting cards from garden photos.

Digital Slide Shows

If you've had the opportunity to visit one of the great public gardens in the USA, you probably took a lot of pictures. You can post them on one of the photo-sharing websites and invite others to see them, or you can make your own digital slide show by loading the images onto your personal computer, tablet, or onto a digital picture frame. With additional equipment, like Apple TV, you can play the slide show through your TV.

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How to Take Better Garden Photos

Equipment

By far, the two most convenient types of cameras for garden photography are compact digital cameras and smartphone cameras. They're easy to have on hand for that spontaneous opportunity, and you can take multiple shots without worrying about wasting film. Digital photos are also relatively easy to edit and crop, and they're very easy - and affordable - to share.

If you have a digital camera with interchangeable lenses, you can be even more creative and can expand your garden photo opportunities considerably. Telephoto lenses allow you to get close-up photos of birds and bees without scaring them away. And, telephoto lenses will allow you to narrow the depth of field of your photograph so that a single bloom or piece of fruit will more clearly be highlighted.

Composition

By far, composition is the most important consideration when taking a photograph for any artistic use. Composition - the design of your photo - determines how the subject is framed and how other elements can be reduced or eliminated to avoid any distraction. Many of us can improve the composition of our photos by merely moving in closer to the central subject.

With a little practice, you can learn to compose interesting photos by focusing on smaller elements or interesting patterns that you may have overlooked in the past. Many people claim that a developing interest in photography has helped them see the world in different ways.

Distractions

As mentioned above, good photo composition enables us to eliminate distractions that would otherwise make a photo less attractive. If the objective is to highlight the beauty of a single rose

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bloom, try to avoid including any foliage that might have black spots or insect damage that could distract from the beauty of the bloom.

Similarly, background buildings, tools, and people can distract from the intended focus of your photo.

Light

All photographers become more aware of light, and its effect on their photos, as they develop their skills. Almost all garden photos are taken outdoors, with natural light as the source. Early morning and early evening light tends to be a little warmer and softer, while a bright afternoon sun might be a little harsh. But, any light condition can be used to make interesting photos, so long as you are aware of the effect of the light on your subject.

With experience, photographers see what the camera sees... good shadows or bad shadows, depending on the desired effect. Backlighting a photo, where the subject is between you and light source, can also create dramatic and lovely photos. And, certain lighting conditions can allow you to photograph a garden element as a silhouette, purposefully focusing on the shape rather than color or depth of the subject.

Depth of Field

Depth of field is simply how much of the photograph is sharply focused, and it is determined by the size of the aperture (or opening) of the lens. Most automatic cameras will strive for as much depth as possible; but, you can override the camera's settings to reduce the depth of field in order to create more artistic results. While your eyes may be focused on a single bloom, remember that the camera may very well see all of the surrounding foliage as equally important. Get to know your camera's settings and options to create more interesting photos.

Focus

While slightly blurry or "soft" images may be very artistic (especially when photographing people), most photographers usually strive for well focused central subjects. Great in-focus shots are achieved by having as fast a shutter speed as possible, and holding the camera still when shooting. If possible, it will help to have something to lean on, or against, to reduce your body's movement when pressing the shutter. Professionals will often use tripods or other tools to help keep the camera steady while shooting.

Tip:

Instead of pressing or "punching" the shoot button, hold the button down for a second or two, focus on the subject, and then release the button. Your smartphone photos will be sharper and perhaps better composed as well.

Where to Get Help to Become an Even Better Photographer

Of course you can take online courses, or enrol in an adult education program. You may be motivated to subscribe to a photo magazine for a while to learn more about techniques and equipment. A simple Google search on "photographing your garden" will lead to hundreds of suggestions for books or articles to read online.

If you are interested in buying a book or two to add to your library, *Photographing Your Garden* by David Bjurstrom is a beautifully written and lavishly illustrated book that will help you become a better garden photographer.

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Garden photography, like gardening itself, is a wonderful lifelong journey, with lessons and surprises, frustrations and delights, and opportunities to learn and improve. Enjoy the journey.

For more gardening information and articles, [<http://mantis.com/>]click here.

Writer for Mantis and Mantis Owners.

How to Shoot Like a PRO: 10 Thought Processes of Successful Photographer Before They Hit The Shutter

Introduction

Are you an aspiring pro photographer? Have you ever wondered how to shoot like a pro? Don't worry, you are in the right place. Anyone today can qualify as a photographer provided they have a Smartphone or any other device with a good camera. It however takes more than owning a camera to become a real photographer. There are a lot of factors that come into play for a person to be transformed from a hobbyist photographer to a successful photographer, such as getting the right equipment, training/education etc.

This article will not focus on the practical aspect of becoming a successful photographer. Instead, we will attempt to get into the head of successful photographers and try to find out how they stand out in terms of their thoughts. If you are interested in discovering what goes through the mind of a successful photographer before they press the shutter, you are in the right place. Below are 10 thought processes that have been proven to be the essence of successful professional photography.

1. No fear

This is undoubtedly one of the most common thought processes that go through the minds of all successful photographers before a professional shoot. Unlike novice photographers, successful professional photographers are fearless when it comes to executing their duties. For instance, instead of worrying about a big job in hand, successful photographers get rid of the fear and embrace the opportunity as a chance to showcase their prowess. It is important to note that even the best photographers in the world are afraid of some jobs however, they have programmed their minds to tone down the fear to levels where it doesn't interfere with their work.

2. Open-mindedness

Successful photographers also go into photo shoots with an open mind. This is simply because they understand that photography is a very dynamic field which can't therefore be approached with a closed mind. Successful photographers are open to trying things that are out of the norm. They may follow basic principles of pro photography during every professional shoot however, they are willing to go where their subject goes, take random shots, try different settings that were not planned etc. This open nature is one of the main reasons why they get ahead faster.

3. Total confidence

Successful photographers are also in a state of extreme confidence before any shoot. They have done many photo shoots overtime gaining invaluable experience. They therefore trust their photography abilities beyond doubt. They know they are good at their trade so they don't worry about messing up the shoot. This self belief is what makes them open-minded and fearless before any photo shoot.

4. Positive mood

Successful photographers also become successful because they are able to check their mood. They understand the negative effects of a bad mood or attitude during a photo shoot. Mood plays a very

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important role in photography. For instance, you must smile and talk to the people you are photographing to be able to make them feel relaxed and look perfect. Even in photo shoots that don't involve people, a bad mood can ruin everything because you won't be at your best making it difficult to do your best.

5. The right attitude

Successful photographers also understand that attitude plays a crucial role in overall success which is why they ensure they are in the right mood before any photo shoot. It's one thing to have a bad mood and another completely different thing to have a bad attitude. In fact, a bad attitude is worse than a bad mood since it's more difficult to change a person's attitude towards something. Successful photographers have conditioned themselves to staying away from negative thoughts about tasks at hand however difficult or challenging they seem which is why they manage to stand out.

6. Originality in mind

Successful photographers also go into all photo shoots with originality in mind. The mind of a successful photographer is focused on capturing the most unique aspects of the subject. This is precisely why the most successful photographers let their subjects relax and be themselves. They also avoid copying the styles of other photographers focusing on what they are comfortable with and what makes them unique. They understand their uniqueness and don't compromise it for anything.

7. Preparedness

Being open-minded shouldn't be mistaken to mean being unprepared. Successful photographers have all photo shoots carefully planned step by step. They know the type of camera/s and light/s to use and the best subject angles to capture among other important photo shoot information. They understand the importance of going into anything when you are 100% prepared which is why they are successful. Their mind is ready for all aspects and steps of the photo shoot even before it starts.

8. Focused on perfection

Successful photographers also purpose to get it right regardless of factors such as time, cost and effort. They go into photo shoots having prepared their minds that they won't stop at anything until they get everything right. A perfectionist mindset is a very powerful mindset even outside photography since it gets rid of mental barriers which usually come in the way of success.

If you want to see a substantial improvement in your smartphone photography

Remember To Check This Out



9. Goals in mind

Goals can be defined as measurable outcomes of any event. Successful photographers usually have photo shoot goals in mind before they start shooting. For instance, they have a set target of the number of photos they want to take and the time they want to spend in a photo shoot. They may also have angle and lighting goals among other important photography goals to increase their chances of success. They understand the importance of setting goals when doing anything which is why they set goals in advance and have them in mind before they start any photo shoot.

10. Thorough understanding of the subject and surrounding

Before pressing their shutters, successful photographers also make sure they have a thorough understanding of their subjects and their surroundings. They don't rush to capture meaningless photos. Instead, they take time and understand everything first before taking photos. They understand that it takes more than a good camera to take perfect photos which is why they won't press the shutter button before they understand everything.

Conclusion

In a nutshell, the above information summarises some of the most important aspects of the psychology of a successful photographer before they press their shutter. After going through the above information, you shouldn't have a problem knowing how to shoot like a pro. It is however important to note that there is more to professional photography success than what is discussed above. It is therefore advisable to use this article as a basis for further research on how to shoot like a pro.

For more information, do join my mailing list (<http://sgeastphoto.com/tr/LearnPhotography.html>) or visit my photography blog (<http://sgeastphoto.com/tr/HowToShootLikeAPro.html>).

My mailing list will keep you up to date with the latest techniques and equipment that is used in

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creating all types of photography from around the world.

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[9 Secrets to Amazing Smartphone Photos \(surprisingly simple tips\)](#)

It's probably obvious to you that most professional photographers shoot with expensive DSLRs. But what you might not realize is that when they are not on photo shoots, pro photographers usually shoot photos with their iPhones and other pocket-sized cameras. Pros can take amazing photos with smartphones - or any small, inexpensive camera.

There are secrets and tips you never hear about that can quickly HELP you shoot amazing photos. The author, [Jeffrey Luke](#), is a professional photographer.

In this eBook he reveals:

- If using iPhone: How to adjust brightness by tapping and sliding
- Why you should avoid using flash for indoor photos
- 9 Secrets that you can use right now that will make your photos much better
- How to use window light for faces
- That you don't need a fancy DSLR camera to take breathtaking photos
- Why it is best to shoot photos in the early morning or just after sunset
- The best apps to instantly give your photos perfect contrast and color

...and lots more



Taking great photos is not about how many megapixels your camera has, or which zoom lens you own. You will learn how to shoot in an easy, intuitive way with the small camera you already own. You will learn how to take stunning photos using a few simple secrets that will help you to improve your photography right now...

[=>Learn from a pro how to take amazing photos \(try these secrets today\)](#)

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References

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