

Getting the Most from Your Digital Camera

You Paid Good Money for Those Pixels.. Use 'Em!

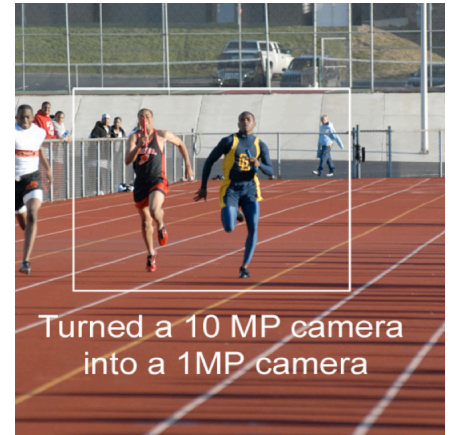
Maximize your resolution by cropping tightly and zooming in on your subject when you shoot. Fill the viewfinder.



High Level of JPEG Compression



Low Level of JPEG Compression



Don't Destroy the Quality of Your Digital Camera Images!

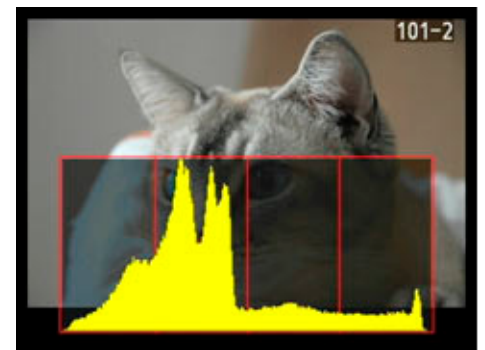
JPEG compression is a lossy compression that degrades the quality of your image each additional time that the image file is compressed. Open your original image and make all the changes in one single editing session. If you reopen, change, and save the image numerous times using JPEG compression you may start to see a visible loss of quality and detail.



Don't destroy the quality of your digital camera images by setting the resolution lower and the compression too high to make smaller files so you can fit more on your memory card. Purchase a larger memory card and shoot at the highest quality settings to preserve the image quality.

Check the Histogram

A histogram shows you how many pixels occur at each brightness level of your digital image and should be used to evaluate the exposure of digital images. A good histogram for a typical image should show pixels throughout the histogram from shadows (left side) to highlights (right side). If your camera will show a histogram you can use it to evaluate exposure right after you have taken a shot and you can adjust the exposure if necessary. Watch for clipping of highlight or shadow areas.



Exposure Compensation

Learn how to adjust the exposure of your digital camera. The Exposure Compensation controls on your camera allow you to fine tune the amount of exposure in small amounts, making the final images lighter or darker. Don't assume that your digital camera will automatically give you the best exposure in every shooting situation. Check your Histograms while you are shooting and make adjustments to improve the exposure. If you invest the time to learn the controls on your camera you will become a better photographer.



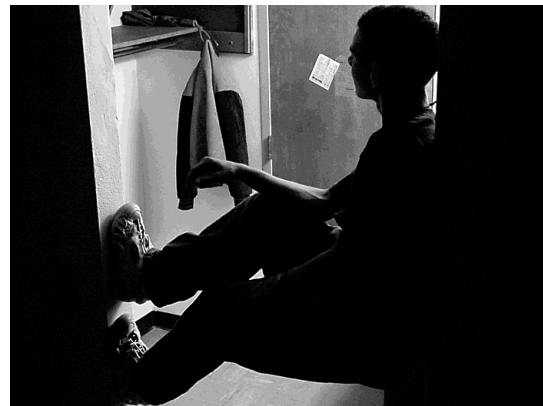
Jackie Leapheart 2003

Natural Light Photography

Learning when it is better to turn the flash "Off".

Photography, traditional or digital, is all about capturing light.

Develop an eye for "interesting light" and for "problem lighting".



Brian Beute 2003

Hold on Tight!

Properly holding your camera helps to minimize camera shake which can cause blurred images. Support your camera with both hands, allowing the weight of the camera to be supported by your bottom hand under the lens.

Remember that you should never hand-hold your camera at shutter speeds lower than 1/60 and when using longer lenses you need to use higher shutter speeds to reduce the camera movement.



Photoshop Fixes - Using Photoshop to Improve Images

- Use Levels to check the histogram and make necessary adjustments
- Try using the Channel Mixer (Black & White in CS3) to customize your grayscale conversions
- Use Shadow/Highlights to lighten shadow areas and improve the image
- Use the Unsharp Masking Filter to Sharpen Your Images (Amount 100, Radius 1, Threshold 1)



Lissy Anger 2002

Make Interesting Images!

Don't count on Photoshop to make your images interesting.



Krissy Guzak 2003



Michelle Kosner 2003