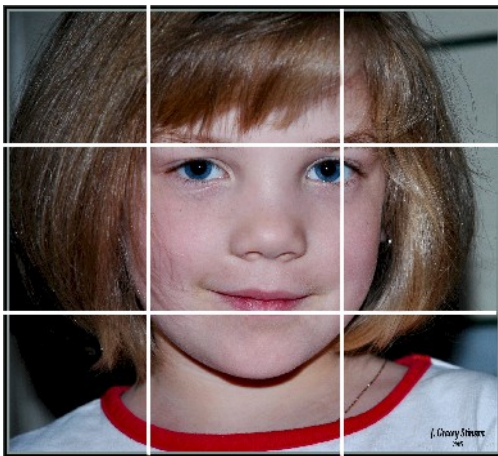


# PHOTOGRAPHY BASICS

## Start with the Basics

The first thing to start thinking about with respect to creating a good image is composition. While it might seem "too basic" I have found there are many people who aren't aware of the many forms of composition.

Everyone who has learned anything in photography is aware of the Rule of Thirds – sometimes called the golden mean. This rule places the interest at the areas of intersection on a 9-grid pattern overlaying the image or filling one of the grid areas.



Each of the above examples execute this rule in a slightly different way: The first has the main focal point of the image framed within the the central square, while the second has the focal point at intersections of the lower grid area.

## The Triangle

Most digital cameras take photos in a rectangular shape, longer in one direction than in the other. You can use this rectangle to help give your image more impact by using a triangular composition. Compose your photo so that the focal point forms a triangle – from one point in the rectangle to two points on opposing sides.

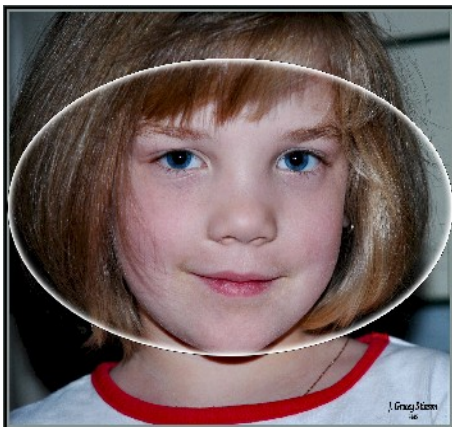
In the first example you'll note too that each of the resulting spaces outside the triangluar area that is your focus of interest are also triangular.



A triangular composition can also be used by breaking your image frame into three areas with the focus being at an intersection of those three areas, as shown by the second example.

### **The Circular Composition**

This is one of the compositional rules that can be difficult to execute well unless you know one of the finer points to doing so – the circular composition is generally very effective for closeup, macro and abstract imaging. For all of these types of images you usually get fairly close to the subject. That doesn't mean you can't still use one of the other rules, but in filling the frame with a photo like a rose, or daisy, the circular composition can be a good choice. Circular, in this case, can also take the form of an oval, or ellipse.



When the subject is right for it, the circular composition can give your photo the an intensity of focus.

The examples above show an oval composition and a circular composition. But, you'll note that the example with the oval is also the same image used as an example for the rule of thirds. Yes – in many cases that a well composed image often incorporates more than one of the compositional rules.

### Using Rhythm in Composition

Using rhythm correctly can give your image the illusion of movement, and help to draw the eye. Rhythm can be repeated shapes or actual motion, like capturing the streaming lights of a moving car. Shapes and line can lead the eye towards an area of focus, or simply help to keep the viewer focused on what is being represented, like this:



Rhythm can also be found in repetition of objects, such as a row of wine glasses or other objects:



There are a number of other compositional rules – like leading lines, and negative space, for instance. For the moment, these few are enough to get your started.

### **The assignment is simple enough:**

- 1) **The Rule of Thirds** – use any subject and compose an image based on the rule of thirds.
- 2) **The Triangle** – create a triangular composition using a tall subject.
- 3) **The Circle** – using this rule, create an abstract image with impact.
- 4) **Rhythm** – create an image using multiples of the same subject to create rhythm or repetition (for example, you could use 5 or 6 of the same wineglass, or a dozen marbles or so forth).