



**4 TIPS TO SHOOT
LIKE A
PROFESSIONAL
PHOTOGRAPHER**



4 TIPS TO SHOOT LIKE A PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER



So, do you want to be a professional photographer or you just want to get better results with the camera you have? Than following the steps below will not only give you more confidence in your photography but lead to much better images. I can not stress enough the importance of practicing photography.

The more you shoot the better you will be come. I know it may sound far fetched but you will start to see the images and settings in your mind before the photos ever present themselves. The four tips below are going to set you on the path to capturing the images you always envisioned.

LET'S GET STARTED

1. Cover up your LCD screen with an index card and some tape so you can avoid seeing your settings or the images you capture. The challenge here is that it forces you to use your light meter to determine your settings. Limit yourself to 36 shots, just like we used to do with film, when we were limited to the amount of frames per roll. Only when you're done shooting, either at the end of your photo shoot or when you reach 36 images, should you sit down and review the results. You can learn so much just from waiting until the end to review your results, even if your shots are not to your liking. Imagine how you will feel when the majority of your images are keepers and you didn't rely on looking at the LCD screen after every shot.



2. Don't be afraid to learn from other photographers. There is nothing better than being able to pick a professional photographer's brain. If you find one who is willing to share their knowledge, you stand to learn a lot! I am not saying you should only look for professionals, either. Look for other photographers with similar skill sets as yourself and start a photo club. Just from the discussions and photo excursions you plan, you will continue to grow as a photographer. When you are in a group of photographers all of your focus is around photography therefore you start to think like a photographer.



If you do not know any other photographers you can always learn from photo books. I am not talking about educational books I am talking about studying other photographers work. Seeing what some of the greatest photographers in history have captured will start the gears turning in your mind and lead you to capturing better images.

3. See the world around you and capture it with whatever camera you have, or just capture it with your mind. When you start to see images around you and try to figure out their settings, you are learning. I walk around and try to guess what the settings would be for the room I am in, along with what lenses I would use. Training yourself to see the world that is around you will allow you to get your settings correct when you do have a camera. As I said, capture the world with whatever camera you have. No matter if it's in a cell phone or a top-of-the-line DSLR, a great image is a great image, no matter how it's captured. (see the bonus tip for how to get your exposure right in three shots or less)



4. This one always seems to get some feathers ruffled; I personally do not crop my work, and have not since my high school teacher said "crop in the camera, not in the darkroom." This made instant sense to me. He preached that getting it right in the camera not only saves you time in the darkroom and at post-processing, but it saves your image quality. The same loss of quality occurs with film as it does with digital images when you crop. I say, challenge yourself not to crop. Go on a photo shoot and every time you say to yourself, "I will crop this in Post," take a few steps closer or change to the proper lens to capture that image.

It may be hard at first to get into this mentality but I guarantee your confidence level will skyrocket when you realize you don't have to crop in post.

My suggestion is to try all of these out over the next month. If you keep practicing and thinking like a photographer you will start capturing images like the pros.



BONUS TIP

Lets play the guessing game with our settings. Yes, I am telling you to guess your settings without using the auto mode. I am pretty confident that most of you will be able to get the proper exposure in three shots or less.

Walk into any situation with your camera in manual, set the ISO, Shutter Speed and Aperture based on what you think the settings should be. Take one picture and preview it right on the back of your camera. Sure it may not be anywhere close but this gives you a starting point to determine what the proper exposure should be.

Now the key to getting the proper exposure in three shots is to not change all of your settings. Just change either your ISO, Shutter Speed or Aperture and take another image. The reason you only change one of the settings is for trial and error. If you were to change all three settings you will end up getting way to frustrated. Take a deep breath, change one at a time until your exposure is almost spot on.

When you are first starting out take as many photos as you need. Over time you will have to take less and less until you are able to capture the proper exposure in only three shots.