

Total time:
4-6 hours



Difficulty Level: Advanced
beginner to intermediate

Skill Points:

- Identifying patterns
- Learning the difference between patterns and repetition
- Using interrupts within a pattern and identifying emerging patterns

THE SECRET OF PATTERNS



There is confusion among photographers regarding the **art definition** of pattern and repetition. Here are the definitions...

Repetition refers to similar objects, or shapes, that appear repeatedly in a composition. **Pattern** is a combination of similar objects, or shapes, repeated in a **regular arrangement** within a composition. It's a very fine line between the two.

KEY LESSON: Pattern is important because it touches upon another key function of the human mind, and that is rhythm. An irregular pattern can have an irregular rhythm. A visually regular pattern, with an interrupt, is the musical equivalent to a crescendo. It garners immediate attention.



Birds in Flight: Is this pattern or repetition? Re-read the definitions. This is repetition. The image does not match the definition of pattern.

Green House: This is pattern. Pattern is a combination of objects, or shapes, repeated in a regular arrangement within a composition. What is the difference between this image and the birds? The birds do not have a regular arrangement.

Biker Hands : This is a use of pattern. The represented objects aren't exactly the same, but similar. The rings are regularly arranged within the composition. The tattoos are mirrored on both sides. This image definitely has a rhythm through pattern. The thumbs in the pockets break the rhythm, creating a pseudo-crescendo.

Peeling Paint: Does this represent a pattern? It does. We have similar shapes in an organized arrangement. It's important to note that a pattern doesn't need to have a lot of objects. Three objects can establish a pattern.



South Korea stairs: Learning to anticipate patterns, as they develop, is a key skill to your growth as a photographer. Practice watching multiple elements in motion, and then seeing the pattern develop before it actually forms.



ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

- 1- Organize a photo shoot where you will go in search of patterns. Set a goal as to how many you will find and photograph.
 - Find and photograph a pattern that has only three elements (think of peeling paint).
 - Find and photograph several patterns that have multiple elements. Make sure they appear in a regular arrangement, or you are creating a repetition.
 - Try watching a pattern develop, and then creating the shot just as it does... (think of South Korea stairs).
- 2- Print your photos, so that you can examine them as a group.

HOW DID YOU DO?

- Did you meet your goal for finding the number of patterns? Did you use different subjects and objects?
- After reviewing your results in print, do you think that all of your attempts meet the definition of a pattern and not simply repetition?



SWEET!

Here's a few more photography goodies for you:

DON'T MISS OUT: Limited Time Daily Free Bonuses Expire 11:59pm EST!

Top pick for you
↙

Action Cards™ Set

READY TO GO! ACTION CARDS
STRETCH GOALS: LITHO FILM EFFECT

65 beautifully designed & printable project sheets that will give you over 200 photography assignments.

[Learn more →](#)

FREE Photography eBooks

Free access to our library of 250+ downloadable (pdf) tutorials on everything you can imagine.

[Learn more →](#)

Snap Cards™ Essentials Set

20 beautifully designed, printable photography cheat sheets that you can take with you anywhere!

[Learn more →](#)

What is Your #1 Photography Killer?

Take this 30 second quiz to find out the #1 thing holding your photography back.

[Take quiz →](#)



Want quick photography tips? Check out our friends at DailyPhotoTips.com they'll send you 1 solid photography tip to your inbox, 5 days a week. So you can start your day right, with actionable tips to help you on your creative journey. [Subscribe now →](#) (free for a limited time)

[...Click here to see 27+ more of our most popular programs](#)

More on the next page



Hey there!

Let's get real for a minute... Learning photography can be super challenging! But we're here to help you every step of the way!

Here are 3 of our most useful (*and FREE!*) photography resources—

1. Take this [30 Second Quiz](#) to find the #1 thing holding your photography back.
2. Download these [3 Free Photography Cheat Sheets](#) to help you understand the basics.
3. Access our [Free Photography eBook Library](#), with 250+ downloadable (.pdf) tutorials on Photo Fundamentals, Post-Processing, Composition, Low-light, and much more!

Always remember: Momentum is the key to exploring and developing your creative talents...

So get out there and take some more pictures!



We're so glad you're here!

Photzy.com is an online photography school with over 200,000 students from 180 countries.

Founded in 2012, our focus has always been simple, practical tips and tutorials, for beginners. No matter where your current skill level is, we'd like to help you explore your unique creative side, through photography.

"At Photzy, we believe EVERYONE is creative, and that photography is the best way to explore and share your creative side with the world."

Go to photzy.com for more
photography tutorials and inspiration.