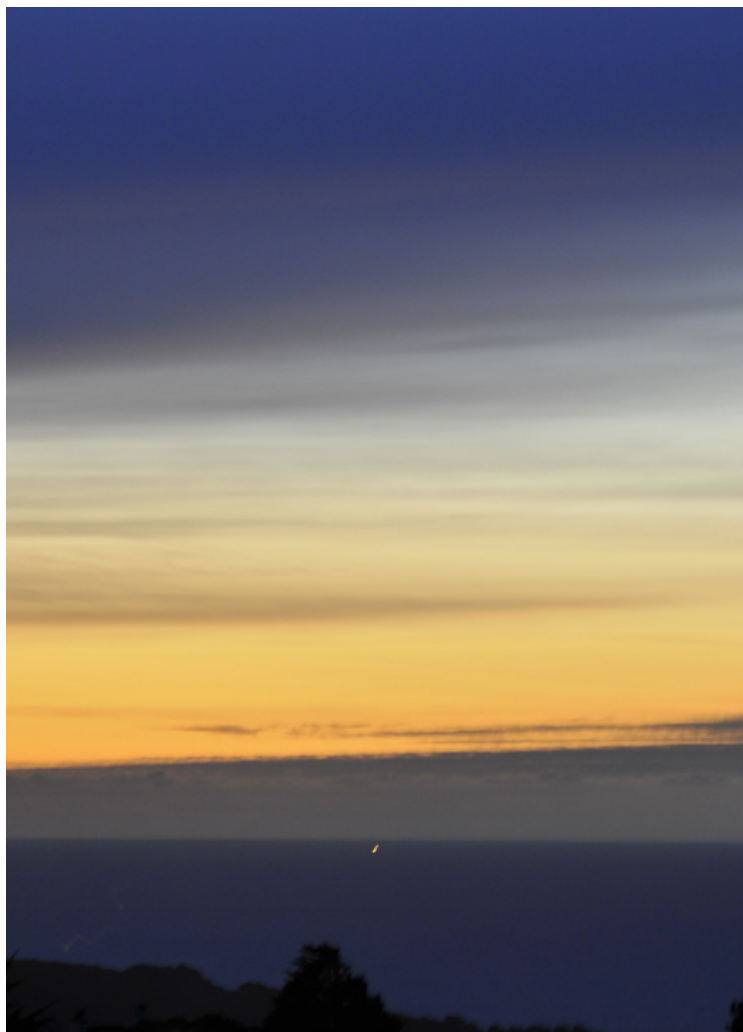


Beginner's Flash

Photo Tips & Techniques



By Mike Pasini

Beginner's Flash

By MIKE PASINI

Copyright © 2013 Michael Roy Pasini. All rights reserved.

Published by Michael Roy Pasini, 291 Ulloa St.,
San Francisco, CA 94127-1226

To order additional copies, visit:

<http://www.mikepasini.com>

While every precaution has been taken in the preparation of this book, the publisher and author assumes no responsibility for errors, omissions or dangers resulting from the use of the information contained in this book.

Many of the essays appearing in this book were first published by special arrangement in The Imaging Resource Digital Photography Newsletter. They appear in book form for the first time here.

Beginner's Flash

Photo Tips & Techniques

To anyone who, looking at a beautiful photograph,
thought, 'I could do that!' Here's how.

Contents

Beginner's Flash

Preface

Gear

Get a Grip	13
A Digital Perspective	15
Pen or Cloth	19
Surviving a Serial Number	21
Fixing a Bulging Battery Door	23
Buying a Bigger Card	25
Zoom Lenses 101	28
What '3x Zoom' Really Means	32
A New Digicam	34
Charging Both Batteries	39
The Lens Game	41
Another Bright Idea	45
Coupons in the Online Age	48
CIPA Battery Standards	50
Salvation for Popup Flash	53
Attaching a Wrist Strap	56

Piano Black Secret Revealed	58
A Cure for the Flopsies	60

Concepts

Getting the Goods	65
Aspect Ratios for ... Ventriloquists	68
A Quick Course on Resolution	71
A Lesson in Colorshese	73
What Is a Digital Image?	77
Three Essential Tips	82
Travel Lessons	84
How to Take a Portrait of a Flower	88
The File Association Game	90
About Images, Metadata and Databases	92
No Shoes	96
How a Computer Sees a Camera	98
Making Thank You Pictures	100
How to Find Your Photos	103
Last Minute Tips for	
Holiday Photo Cards	107
A Child's Guide to Photography	110
Scan, Don't Measure	113
Your First Lesson	115
How Not to Read a Manual	118

‘Travel’ Photos	122
Quoting a Reply	125
Sensor Size, Image Size, File Size, Oh My	127

Settings

The Half-Pressed Button	133
Cooking with the Self-Timer	134
Diopters	136
Auto Off	138
Shooting a Dandelion Without Blowing It	140
Who Set Harry on Auto Flash?	143
Time Remaining	145
Shutter Sound Effects	148
The Dual Nature of Your Self-Timer	150
Blurring the Shot	152
Two Useless Features	155
A Setting for Extended Battery Life	158
A Shortcut to Set the Time	161
The PASM Way Through the Woods	162
How to Turn Off Your Flash	166
Locking Focus & Exposure	168
Deep Thoughts on Depth of Field	172

Shooting

It Doesn't Have to Be Dark	181
Snapping Shady Characters	183
Seeing the World Through One Eye	184
The Rule of Thirds	186
Title Shots	188
Pan for Gold	190
Make a Wish	192
A Star-Spangled Paparazzo	194
Use Your Thumb!	197
Point and Shoot? Not Always	200
Mirror, Mirror	202
Rock Steady Without a Tripod	204
The Blue, Blue Sky	207
Tell Me a Story	210
The Ups and Downs of Composing	212
Beginner's Luck	214
Make Vacation Shots a Snap	216
Four Tips for Portraits	219
Use a Sun Pole	222
O Panorama!	224
Kitchen Table Copying	228

A Bright Idea for Bright Backgrounds	230
Quick Tips for Shooting in Auto	232
A River of Images	234
Two Kinds of Blurry	236
Two Tips for Shooting a Scenic	239
A Trick of the Portrait Trade	241
A dSLR Safari in the Living Room	243
The Diagonal Shot	247
When Your Flowers Are Too Red	249
Catching the Kids	254
How to Capture a Smile	256
Camera Position	259
Lighting Like a Pro	262
Two and a Half Tips for Fireworks	264
Depositing Checks With a Photo	266
Shooting Rouault	269

Editing

Emailing Pictures	275
Bigger Than Life	277
Do Not Delete	279
Spotting Elvis	281
The Old Email Issue	284
Digital Captioning	286

White Conceals, Black Reveals	288
Resizing an Image	290
Improving Phone Photos	293
Learning to Crop	295

Printing

Count Quarters	301
Creating a Printer Template	302
The Two-Cornered Frame	306
The PictBridge Shortcut	308
Bluetooth Printing	311
Using Small Paper	314
Low Tech Print Display	317
Buying Ink Cartridges	320
Photo Printing Checklist	323
Printing Envelopes	330
The Shadow Box Solution	332
Choosing a Default Photo Paper	335

Troubleshooting

Test Your Color Vision Online	341
When All Else Fails	343
Getting a Charge Out of Your Batteries	345
Clean Your Lens	348

Unerasing Lost Images	350
Reset All	353
How to Lose Your Images	356
Care & Feeding	359
The Hard Way	361
Updating a Kodak Printer Dock	364
Timeline for a Lifetime Warranty	368
Healthcare for Mice	371
When Are You Out of Ink?	374
When Your Canon Fires an ERR99	376
Preventing Zoom Error	379
Death of a Memory Card	382
No Memory Card!	385

Preface

It may seem silly to ‘preface’ pieces written over the course of 13 years, which by now should need no introduction. But disguised as a book, they could use some excuse.

They appear (after some debate) in the chronological order in which the subjects occurred to me and I wrote them down. But they are grouped into topics.

So you can dig through a particular subject like an archeologist, from the most recent to the oldest, or live them out like a contemporary from the oldest to the most recent. And if a particular topic interrupts the adventure, you can just use your PDF reader’s search function to zip right to it.

That’s the excuse, but reading through them we find they remain surprisingly valuable in principle even when the particulars are dated. Just multiply the numbers by four for the newer pieces, eight for the others, to make them sound contemporary.

Their main virtue may be historical. But we like to think they can still amuse. Enjoy!



