



# *In Camera*

*The Newsletter of the Hawkesbury Camera Club Inc.*

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## WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

September 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>WORKSHOP</b> Close-up & Macro
September 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>COMPETITION</b> Movement
September 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>PRESENTATION</b> Members Portfolios with Jim Crew

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Winter is now behind us and spring is here. The misty mornings and winter sunsets are on their way out, while the flowers are beginning to bloom again and the birds are returning. Our photographic subjects are also changing with the seasons, so those of us who like our spring flowers, our summer landscapes and seascapes can now become more active again.

Our programme for September will keep us all as busy as we want or wish to be. We kick off with the first meeting being a presentation on close up & macro photography, it is always interesting to stop and have a closer look at the smaller things in our world that we would normally just walk straight by. Our second meeting is a comp on "Movement" and our third and final meeting for the month will be the presentation night for all those members who have been building their portfolios. Jim Crew will again be back for that night to see our finished work, that he has been guiding us through over recent months.

Over the last month or so, I have had my nose in a book titled "The Digital SLR Expert Landscapes" (Essential advice from top pros). This book is the result of work by five different professional landscape photographers and they each cover one area of landscape photography: Controlling Exposure; Understanding Light; Composing Landscape Images; Landscape Locations and Landscapes in Black & White. A very good source of information and I am keen to get out there into some of our great nearby areas and make some good images for myself. I will be letting people where I am hoping to go & when, so if you would like to join me on these day trips keep your ears to the ground and your eyes on your emails.

*Ian Cambourne*

**ARTICLES from PictureCorrect****WHAT IS ISO**

Have you ever been browsing through your camera's menu and noticed something called ISO and just ignored it because you didn't know what it was for? Well, in this article we will explain what ISO is and how to use it to your benefit when taking pictures.



"The jumper" captured by Ornela Pagani

ISO is a rating number that indicates how sensitive your camera's image sensor is to the available light. Just in case you didn't know, the image sensor is the device in your camera that gathers the light from a scene when you are taking a picture. Every digital camera has an image sensor and the image sensor is what has replaced film for producing photographic images.

ISO ratings are expressed in numbers such as ISO 100 or ISO 800. When your camera is set to a higher ISO number like ISO 800, less light will be required to obtain a correctly exposed image than when the camera is set to ISO 100.

In short, changing the ISO setting on your camera increases or decreases the image sensor's sensitivity and light gathering ability. (by the way, ISO stands for International Standards Organization).

How does the ISO setting affect your everyday photography? The ISO setting is directly related to your camera's shutter speed and aperture setting as far as making properly exposed images. The following is an example of a situation when you might need to change your camera ISO setting to get a correctly exposed picture.

Let's say you are trying to take a picture in a low light situation and your camera is set to ISO 100. Let's also assume that using the camera flash is not allowed or it cannot cover the scene being photographed.

Your pictures are coming out too dark because there is not enough light reaching the image sensor. No problem! Try changing the camera ISO setting to ISO 400 or maybe ISO 800 or higher. This will increase the image sensor sensitivity and there is a good chance that you will be able to get a properly exposed image at the higher ISO setting.

The aforementioned example only used changing the ISO setting to resolve the exposure problem. However, the next example involves changing the ISO setting as well as the shutter speed. (Note: compact cameras without manual settings for the camera lens aperture and shutter speed won't be able to use the next example. Manual adjustments to the shutter speed and camera lens aperture are generally able to be made with digital single lens reflex cameras).



Photo captured by Keith Willette

Here is another situation when you might need to change your ISO setting. Once again, let's assume your camera is set at ISO 100. This time your images are properly exposed with a shutter speed of 1/60 second and with your aperture open to its widest setting at f 3.5.

However, the subject you are photographing is moving cars and at the shutter speed of 1/60 second, the images are coming out blurred. (they are blurred because the shutter speed is too slow). The obvious solution might seem to be changing the shutter speed to something faster

like 1/250 second. Unfortunately, changing the shutter speed to 1/250 decreases the amount of light reaching the image sensor and makes the image too dark. Also, as previously mentioned, the aperture is at its widest setting and can't be set to allow any extra light to reach the image sensor.

Once again, the solution is to change the ISO setting. Increasing the ISO setting from ISO 100 to ISO 400 will make the image sensor more sensitive to light. You can then increase the shutter speed to 1/250 which will probably be fast enough to eliminate the blur in the picture while making a correctly exposed picture.

As you can see, the ISO, shutter speed, and aperture setting work together to make correctly exposed pictures. So don't forget about changing the ISO setting if you are having a difficult time finding the right exposure values.

While increasing the ISO setting can help you get some shots that you might have otherwise missed out on, there is a down side to using very high ISO number settings. That down side is called digital camera "noise". This noise is what appears as little discolored specks in the image. Digital camera noise is much more noticeable when higher ISO numbers like ISO 1600 or more are used. The digital camera noise is also more noticeable in darker areas of the image than in the lighter areas.



"panning shot" captured by Steve

Also, compact digital cameras with smaller image sensors will produce more noise in an image than Digital SLR cameras with larger image sensors.

However, don't be afraid to increase your ISO to a high number if that is the only way you can get the best exposure. It is always better to get the shot with a little noise in it instead of not taking the shot altogether. Otherwise try shooting at lower ISO numbers for much crisper and clearer pictures.

*About the Author:*

Keith Jones writes for <http://easybasicphotography.com>. A site geared towards beginners through serious amateurs who want to learn a little more about basic digital photography.

<http://www.picturecorrect.com>

### Street Photography Cheat Sheet For Your Travels

If you are new to street photography, or even if you're not, remembering settings, nailing the composition, getting idea inspirations, and just getting motivated to get over the fear of doing it can feel daunting. To help make it easier, here's a cheat sheet full of reminders and setting information to print and take with you, whether you're traveling or just exploring your hometown.



"Bike Messenger NYC" captured by James Maher.

### What to Look For

- **Tell stories** – Find details that hint at a larger meaning.
- **Emotion** – When capturing people, seek out expressive faces, hands, and postures. Also, try to capture images that will invoke a feeling in the viewer.
- **Think about how a photograph will age.** That storefront window or outfit may seem standard now, but could become much more interesting in 20 years.
- **Make photo essays** about areas or ideas that you know well.
- **Capture unique people.** Everyone you see is unique in some way. Figure out why and try to capture that.
- **Don't only photograph people.** Capture interesting scenes that say something.
- **Street portraiture.** Find an interesting background and then stop an interesting person for a portrait in front of it.

## Design and Composition

- **Quality and Direction of Light**
  - -Seek out interesting and dynamic light. Is the main light source in front of you, behind you, above you?
- **Colours**
  - -Seek out scenes with interesting colours that complement each other.
- **Lines.**
  - -Are your lines straight?
  - -Diagonal Lines can add energy and can lead a viewer's eyes into a scene.
  - -How will the eyes move around through the scene
- **Corners.**
  - -What is in each corner of the image? Corners play a large part in creating balance.
- **Create relationships** between two or more people or things.
- **Balance.**
  - -Does your photo feel balanced? Is that necessary?



"Untitled" captured by Chua Chwee Lye.

## React

- **Notice people from further away.**
  - This will give you more time to get in position and create a good composition.
- **Go someplace crowded.**
  - If you are especially nervous, crowded areas are the easiest places to try street photography.
- **Choose a spot and wait for people to come to you**
  - Choose an interesting background or area ahead of time and wait for people to enter it.
- **Use exposure compensation.** It's the fastest way to brighten or darken a scene.
- **Don't walk too fast.**
  - It is nearly impossible to observe, walk fast, and capture things all at the same time.
- **Patience.**
  - Waiting an extra couple of minutes can be the difference between a mediocre image and a once in a lifetime photograph.

- **Smile!**
  - If someone notices you taking their picture, smile at them. You will be surprised how often they will smile back.



"Untitled" captured by Yasser Zohdy.

## Settings

To achieve maximum sharpness:

- **Shutter Speed**
  - -Scenes without moving people or objects: 1/focal length (i.e. with a 50mm lens, at minimum, you would want to be at least at 1/50th of a second.)
  - Scenes with moving people or objects: 1/320th ideal (1/160th minimum).
- **Aperture**
  - -Use a small aperture (large number) for a larger range of sharpness (large depth of field).
  - -Using F16 will give you significantly more depth of field than F5.6.
- **High ISO**
  - -Using a higher ISO (800/1600/3200 depending on lighting conditions) can allow you to use a higher f/stop.
- **Use a Wide-Angle or Normal Lens (28, 35 or 50mm)**
  - -The wider the focal length the greater the depth of field.
- **Zone Focus (pre-focusing / hyperfocal distance)**
  - -Turn your camera to manual focusing, set the distance to 10 feet away (or the distance you prefer) with a small aperture, and capture people when they are that distance from your camera. Takes practice to do well.

There are a few other considerations you may want to keep in mind such as setting your camera on shutter priority mode. Manual is good for consistent lighting situations, but is tough to alter constantly in changing light environments. Also, remember that blur isn't necessarily bad. Photograph moving people at slower shutter speeds – 1/40th to 1/60th – to create a slight blur. It can look fantastic, especially in black and white.

## TRIVIA

During the 1850's manufacturers began to diversify making fancy models of cameras such as pistol-shaped cameras. This is perhaps where the notion of "shooting" a photo comes from.

As early as 1845 the Bourquin camera (Paris) had a "birdie" to distract sitters during exposures that could take up to 5 minutes.

Paul Hulbert

## A QUOTE

*"We close our eyes and can recall little, but a camera glances for a fraction of a second yet retains every detail."*

*Tom Ang*

By Paul Hulbert

## Newsletter Contributions

To the Newsletter Editor-Marian Paap – [newslettereditor@hawkesburycameraclub.com.au](mailto:newslettereditor@hawkesburycameraclub.com.au)

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