

THE “ESSENTIAL SKILLS” EVERY PHOTOGRAPHER NEEDS TO HAVE:

The following is a list of what are considered the essential skills that every enthusiast photographer should aspire to:

1. Be able to make a suitably exposed, sharp, and well framed image in a variety of situations: landscape, portraiture, nature, sports etc
2. Be able to manipulate aperture, shutter speed and camera/subject movement to achieve a desired or artistic effect. “The Holy Trinity”
3. Be able to use supplementary lighting when situations demand: reflectors, fixed lights, flash, diffusers, shades etc
4. Be familiar with the controls on their camera and be able to change important settings such as exposure, ISO, shutter speed, focussing (incl hyperfocal) in differing situations. “RTDM” *Read the Damn Manual!*
5. Understanding what are the practical limitations with their equipment in high ISO, hand holding (without shake) and difficult lighting.
6. Understanding the use of different lenses and settings for differing situations.
7. Understanding the fundamentals of RAW processing to a minimum standard.
8. Be able to prepare an image for display in either: web based gallery, club presentations book making and printing, including resizing and sharpening for display and differing aspect ratios.

9. Have an understanding of the fundamentals of composition, framing and camera position (viewpoint).
10. Have an understanding of the basics of colour and colour design.
11. Be able to catalogue and sort images into an accessible form, for image retrieval and processing (including possible sales).
12. Be able to evaluate and constructively comment on your own and other's images. Have a basic understanding of the principles of visual communication, "Studium" and "Punctum" plus the three levels of language we can use – pictorial (portrait), the Document (Map) and the terms we use to describe them. Des' evaluation template?
13. Understand why you press the shutter – what is it you want to record/capture and why? – **what is your idea or message?**
14. Feed your brain – seek inspiration and creative input from books, exhibitions, and other sources of creative input.

OPTIONAL SKILLS FOR ADVANCED WORKERS

15. Understanding advanced image processing to achieve a desired effect, including retouching and compositing, as necessary to achieve the desired outcome. Have an understanding of colour management.
16. Be able to make an exhibition quality print when required.