

PHOTO CHALLENGES

GET IN YOUR CAR AND GO SOMEWHERE CHALLENGE

If I not sure what you want to photograph, go to one of the following locations and play.

- Zoo
- Beach
- [Enchanted Forest](#)
- [Erna Nixon Park](#)
- [Turkey Creek Sanctuary](#)
- [Port Canaveral](#)
- [Gatorland](#) (Orlando)
- Downtown Melbourne, Downtown Eau Gallie, or Cocoa Village
- [McKee Botanical Garden](#)
- [Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden](#) (Miami)

DON'T MOVE CHALLENGE – LET THE WORLD COME TO YOU

This challenge allows your subject to come to you.

- Camera
- One Lens
- Timeframe: 30 minutes
 1. Find a place where the scene changes often.
 2. Sit down and get ready to take interesting photos.
 - Street Photography: fixed location of your camera.
 - Creative: move your camera around to find creative angles.

ONE SQUARE BLOCK CHALLENGE

This challenge limits the area where you can photograph.

- Camera
- Variety of Lenses
- One square block
 1. Look up, down, all around for the most interesting images.
 2. Use any combination of lenses and camera settings.
 3. Photograph only what is on your block. Do not photograph across the street with your zoom lens.

ONE-ARM LENGTH CHALLENGE

This challenge will fix the distance between you and your subject. You move to get your subject is in focus instead of zooming your lens.

- Camera
- Lens (50 mm or 100 mm) If you use a zoom lens, don't change the focal length while doing this assignment.
- One extended arm to measure distance
 1. Set the lens to manual focus.
 2. Pre-focus your lens approximately 3 feet away (arm's length.) You can use a wall or other fixed object to set your focus.
 3. Find interesting things to photograph.

ONE SUBJECT

This challenge will allow you to explore and discover aspects of your subject that others may not have been aware of.

- Take at least 10 photos of the same object.
- Make sure each photo is different in some way

ONE CAMERA ONE LENS

This challenge will limit the gear you use and allow you to reframe how you photograph a familiar subject.

- Choose a lens that you do not normally use. If it is a zoom lens, stay with one focal length. Ex: 50mm

ABSTRACT PHOTOGRAPHY

This challenge will force you to break out of your normal photography habits. Reject the idea that a photograph must always be of something recognizable. Instead, focus on color, shape, and texture.

- A macro lens can help with this challenge

COLOR

This challenge will limit the color scheme you use in a photograph.

- Choose a single hue (ex: yellow, red) or choose complementary or analogous colors.

Not sure what color to choose? Go to a paint store and randomly choosing a paint chip.

FLOWERS | PLANTS

- Different point-of-view
- Color vs Black and White
- Use Different Backgrounds
- Life Stages
- Formal Still Life

LEARN A NEW CAMERA FEATURE

- HDR
- Manual Mode Only
- Long Depth of Field Only
- Shallow Depth of Field Only
- Panning
- Freeze Motion
- Blur Motion
- Focus Stacking

Focus Bracketing [Focus Bracketing and Focus Stacking for Maximum Depth of Field \(photoworkout.com\)](#) – manual

- Camera
- Lens
- Tripod
- Editing Software: Photoshop CC or Helicon Focus

[FOCUS BRACKETING: Camera Settings, Blending Modes & More \(VIDEO\) | Shutterbug](#) – Auto focus bracketing

TRY NEW EQUIPMENT

- [Lensbaby](#)
- Infrared Camera
 - [Infrared Conversions, IR Modifications & Photography Tutorials | Life Pixel IR](#)
 - [Infrared Conversions :: Spencers Camera](#)
- Macro Extension Tube
- Neutral Density Filters
- Shoot Through Lenses
- Prisms

NEW TECHNIQUES

When experimenting, it is best to shoot in RAW, use a tripod, and a remote shutter release or self-timer feature.

Post Processing: Texture, Clarity and Dehaze are helpful to add contrast to the image. Use the HSL adjustments to control the intensity of each color.

ABSTRACT OIL AND WATER (DIGITAL TABLET AS BACKGROUND)

This project takes advantage of the refractive quality that both oil and bubbles have.

- Camera/Macro lens Manual Focus (can use extension tubes). Shallow depth of field
- Remote Shutter Release or self-timer
- Tripod
- iPad or other digital tablet (cover with clear cooking wrap)
- Colorful bright background
- Glass dish (no scratches or logo)
- Water
- Cooking Oil (olive, vegetable) – use about 2 tablespoons.
- Dish Soap
- 4 supports to elevate the dish from the tablet (approx. 4 – 5 inches). Soda cans will work.
- Glass cleaner
- Paper towel or a rag
- A spoon or eyedropper



Set-Up

1. Set up camera on tripod with tablet placed between tripod legs. Lens is facing towards the ground.
2. Place glass container on the supports and pour in the water (2 or more inches of water)
3. Place digital tablet under glass. Protect the tablet from getting wet.
4. Use eyedropper to add small amount of oil to the water.
5. Add a little dish soap to give the bubbles dimension.
6. Use a wide aperture so background will be blurry.
7. Make sure bubbles aren't moving before photographing

FROZEN FLOWERS

- Flowers
- Freezer
- Distilled Water
- Container
- Towel
- Camera/Macro Lens



Freezing Flowers

1. Fill container with a few centimeters of water.
2. Place flowers face down in container, place in freezer for a couple of hours.
3. Add a couple of centimeters of water to container. Do not add too much water because the ice below may thaw and release the flowers.
4. Return to freezer
5. Repeat steps 3 and 4. You can add as much water as needed.

Photographing Ice Sculpture

1. Remove frozen sculpture from container.
2. Position sculpture near a light source. Window light works well.

INTENTIONAL CAMERA MOVEMENT (ICM) AKA SHUTTER PAINTING

- Begin with a shutter speed around 1/15 sec. Adjust your other settings accordingly.
- Move your camera in different motions and vary the speed of your gestures.

[How to Use Intentional Camera Movement in Photography \(expertphotography.com\)](http://expertphotography.com)



PANOGRAPH PHOTO MONTAGE

[How to Create a Panography \(photographyblogger.net\)](http://photographyblogger.net)

Panography is “a photographic technique in which one picture is assembled from several overlapping photographs. Like shooting for a panoramic image, but you will use random angles when taking the series.



PHOTOGRAPHING GLASS OR REFLECTIVE OBJECT WITH COLORFUL BACKGROUND

REFLECTIVE OBJECT - SPOON

- Camera
- Tripod
- Clean and shiny spoon \ ice cream scoop
- Interesting design or pattern to reflect on spoon. You can use a paper background or a digital image from a laptop or iPad)
- Place Object on top of background and photograph from a low angle.



REFRACTED GLASSWARE WITH REFLECTIONS (DIGITAL BACKGROUND)

[Gerri Jones YouTube Video](#)

- Camera
- Lens approx. 105mm
- Tripod
- Remote Shutter Release or Camera Self Timer
- Monitor
- Black plexiglass (and support to position correctly the plexiglass to bottom of monitor)
- Interesting Stemware or lensball. Remove all dust and water spots.
- Digital Background (Google "free colorful background")
- Bottled Water (no bubbles)
- Place stemware in front of computer screen



Resources for Creative Photography

Facebook Group: [Photography Tricks Group](#)