

BETTER PEONY PHOTOGRAPHY

with Mark Stoltenberg

COMMON MISTAKES

1. Learn the gear you have. More expensive gear will not make you a better photographer.
2. Spend the time and money to learn the gear you have. Take some photography classes.
3. Learn photography basics. Especially, aperture priority.
4. Don't shoot on windy days.
5. Shoot only the best flowers.
6. Learn to properly expose your images.
7. Understand that LIGHT is everything! Wait for it.
8. Practice. Practice. Practice.

CAUSES OF BLURRY IMAGES

1. You moved, your camera moved
2. Focused incorrectly
3. Shutter speed is too slow
4. Poor technique
5. The wind
6. Not using a tripod

A note about tripods, you must turn off any lens stabilization.

TRIPODS WORTH YOUR MONEY

1. Vanguard Alta Pro 263AB 100 - Aluminum-Alloy Tripod Kit w/ Ball Head at @BHPHOTOVIDEO.COM \$150
2. Manfrotto MK190XPRO3-BHQ2 - Aluminum Tripod Kit with XPRO Ball Head at BHPHOTOVIDEO.COM \$270
3. Manfrotto MK055XPRO3-BHQ2 - Aluminum Tripod Kit with XPRO Ball Head at BHPHOTOVIDEO.COM \$295

Note: Cell phone tripod adapters – \$8 to \$30 - Joby, Vastar, MeFoto SideKick360

5 IN 1 REFLECTOR

Brands: Neewer or Fotodiox - Prices: \$10 - \$40 (Amazon) – 22 inch or 32inch are ideal

COMPOSITION

1. Where you put your subject matters.
2. Try not to put the subject in the dead middle of the image.
3. Remove the distractions.
4. Simplify.
5. Pay attention to the background.

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TO MACRO OR NOT TO MACRO

1. The closer you are to a flower, the less of the total flower is in focus. (math)
2. You can focus stack multiple images using a focus rail. (work)
3. Or you can stand further away and use a longer lens (200mm) and zoom in.

CAPTURING FLOWER COLLECTIONS

Use a repeatable process.

1. Clearly shoot the label before the images for each plant.
2. Then shoot an image which shows the full plant.
3. Then shoot the details of the plant.

CAPTURING YOUR GARDEN

1. Just as you plan and design your garden, create a plan to shoot it.
2. When will the best times to capture the best images from this season's garden be?
3. Capture the big views.
4. Then capture the details.

RECAP

1. Take sharp images. Use a tripod.
2. Pick a clear focus point.
3. Use the correct light.
4. Get closer to your subject.
5. Simplify your background.
6. Use good composition.
7. Tell your story and show the details.

PHOTOGRAPHY CLASSES

Photography Classes will be taught at my new studio in Maxwell, Iowa

Info at www.markstoltenbergphoto.com/classes

Classes begin in August

Subjects will include: Beginner, Macro, Night, Light Painting, Portrait, Lightroom, Fall, etc.

I also teach private and small group lessons. Email – mark@markstoltenbergphoto.com

THANK YOU!

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