

February 2022 Newsletter

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January PhotoShow Winners "Member's Choice"

1st Place – Gene Lentz



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APC ACTIVITIES

Next Meeting

Feb. 21, 2022 7:00pm—Zoom

Board Meeting

Feb. 7, 2022 7:00pm—Zoom

Programs

Feb. 21, 2022 Vinny Colucci
Wildlife & Birds

April 18, 2022 Bob Finley

June 20, 2022 Melissa McGaw

Aug. 18, 2022 Melissa Southern

Oct 17, 2022 Richard Schenck

PhotoShows

March 21, 2022 Bridges
May 16, 2022 Churches
July 18, 2022 Fences
Sept. 19, 2022 H₂O Reflections
Nov. 21, 2022 Abandoned Places

Field Trips

Jan.-Mar. 2022 Places of Worship

Exhibits

TBD

President's Comments—February 2022

By Keith O'Leary

Greetings! Can you believe we have had three consecutive weekends of winter weather? That may be unprecedented around here. I love snowy landscapes and afterwards when the sun comes out and shines on the fresh snow.

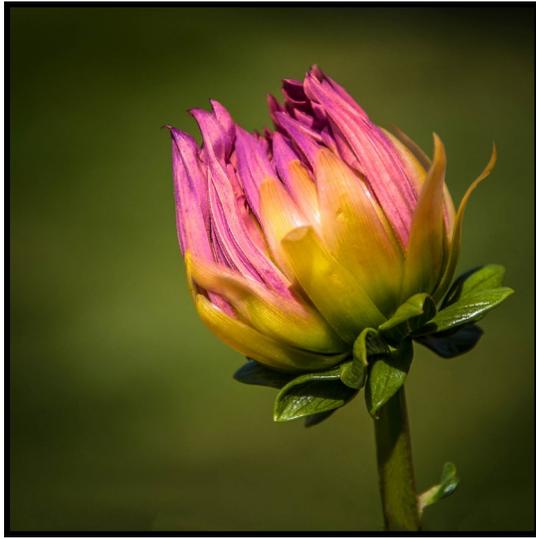
Some good photo opportunities for sure. I hope all are staying warm and well this season. Unfortunately, due to Omicron spikes, we have had to postpone our in-person meetings for the time being. Our

February meeting will again be via Zoom with hopes that we can regroup face to face in March. Stay tuned for updates. I encourage all to get out and take some creative photos for this quarter's personal field trip: 'Places of Worship'. Also, please take time to renew your membership today if you haven't already. Annual dues should be paid by the end of February. Stay safe and Happy Shooting!

APC BOARD

President	Keith O'Leary	Publicity	Carole Barnard
Vice President	Sam Lynch	Outings/Field Trips	Hugh Comfort
Secretary	George Siple	Membership	Len Barnard
Treasurer	Dianne Sellers	Web Master	Christie O'Leary
PhotoShow Chair	Tony Beasley	Past President	Scott Duvall
Exhibit Chair	Angela Bostek	Editor	Ray Munns

January 17th PhotoShow



2nd Place – Nancy Jacobus



3rd Place – David Hall



HM 1 – David Hall



HM 2 – Bob Finley



HM 3 – Sandra Whitesell

Dick Cicone, thank you for your time and effort in assembling and judging the APC January PhotoShow! Your valued comments and suggestions were very helpful in developing our photography skills. You did a great job. Also, thanks to Tony Beasley and his team for collecting the photo entries and making the PhotoShow possible.



WEBMASTER NOTES

2nd Year for Members' Gallery!

START picking out your photographs to share in the club's online gallery. We will accept submissions from March through April. Each member who submits photos will have a personal slideshow on the www.alamancephoto.com. We encourage ALL members to submit pictures for the club's website gallery and would like to see EVERYONE represented!

Note: If you have photos in the gallery now, you are welcome to submit 20 new images to replace the existing ones.

Keep watching for more information in next month's newsletter.

Looking forward to the 2022 gallery,

Christie O'Leary

Webmaster

Alamance Photography Club

2022 Dues

With the New Year of 2022 arrival, it brings forth Dues renewal time. Effective January 1st your 2022 APC dues are due! The good news is that they have not increased. They are still \$40.00 for an individual and \$60.00 for a family.

We also have a special rate for students—\$15.00.

For 2022, we have a new Treasurer, Dianne Sellers. Since we will be using Zoom for our February meeting, please mail your dues to:

[Dianne Sellers, 3853 Wesley Ct., Burlington, NC 27215](mailto:Dianne.Sellers@alamancephoto.com)

For dues unpaid by March 1st, members names will be removed from our Membership Roster.

Membership Corner

Len Barnard 336-270-3194

Have you checked out the programs for 2022? Your VP, Sam Lynch, has found some **TRULY** great Programs for your enjoyment and education. I have been on several photo outings with Vinny Colucci and or Melissa Southern—from Sunrises photo shoots at Grandfather Mountain to week long photography trips to Glacier National Park, Montana plus NC Zoo guided by either or both.

January 17th PhotoShow

After seeing our January 17th PhotoShow via Zoom, I felt I had to include a comment in the Monthly Membership Corner. **WE HIT A HOME RUN!!** Finding and getting Dick Cicone to be our Judge/Critiquer was absolutely great. Dick was one of the best judges we have had. His Judging and Critiquing was very educational and informative.

- Dick rated each image on a 9 point scale as shown.
- Then Dick gave his suggestion as to ways to improve the image.
- Then Dick supported his suggestions by actually demonstrating using his ideas.
- The results were astonishing—and left us speechless with the improvement.

A great way to start 2022!

Field Trips for 2022

- ◆ Winter (January-March) Personal Field Trip: **Places of Worship**
- ◆ Spring (April-June) Group Field Trip: **TBD**
- ◆ Summer (July-September) Personal Field Trip: **Rivers and Streams**
- ◆ Fall (October-December) Group Field Trip: **TBD**

February 21st Program

Photographing Wildlife and Birds in Flight with Mirrorless Cameras

Program Leader - Vinny Colucci



Biography: Presenter and award winning photographer Vinny Colucci has been an active photographer since 1979 and a shooting professional since 1995. He has photographed North Carolina to the west coast and north to the Canadian Rockies. Along with his wife Annette, Vinny conducts nature and wildlife photography workshops throughout the year.

Vinny is an active outdoorsman and a member of **Nikon's Professional Services** and **Wimberley Professional Services** and a **Singh-Ray Filter Ambassador & Technical Advisor**. Vinny is represented by Picture Stock. His images have appeared in multiple publications, including Nature Photographer Magazine, New Bern Travel Magazine, Microwave Journal, and various other publications. He has also authored and co-authored multiple books.

His speaking engagements have included Popular Photography Magazine, as well as presented at Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI), St. Augustine Photo & Birding Festival, Orlando Wetlands Festival, Crane Festival and multiple universities around the country.



Educate - Inspire – Entertain

www.escapetonaturephotography.com

www.vinnycolucci.com

2022-Q1 Personal Field Trip: **Places of Worship**

Hugh Comfort, Outings/Field Trips Coordinator

Tony Beasley, PhotoShow Chairman

With Covid concerns continuing, we are planning for 2022 quarterly field trips with a mix of personal and group field trips. Locations and times of the group field trips will be announced in the month prior to the trip at club meetings and in the newsletter.

For the first quarter of 2022 (January 1 - March 31), our locations will be Places of Worship. These may be traditional places of worship (churches, synagogues, mosques, etc.) as well as outdoor worship venues, and may be taken from outside or inside. (If taking inside photos, you should be sensitive to not disturb any activities going on and to observing any masking/covid requirements.) While the locations are fairly general, the time frame is not: all photos must be taken during the first quarter of 2022. A link to all submitted photos will be shared with the club on the first day of the month following quarter-end. Up to 5 field trip pictures may be submitted per member to share with the club. Based on participation, we may only share your top 3 or 4, so please number them in the order of your preference. See below for details.

Field Trip Photo Submission Details

Number of Entries:

One (1) to five (5) entries per member. Please indicate your preferred photo with the number 01, etc.

Size:

Due to the number of photos for this event, we ask, if you are able, to resize your photos to 1-2 MB if possible, but nevertheless not to exceed 20 MB.

Format:

.jpg

File Naming:

Please rename your photo submissions using the following format:

FirstName.LastName_nn, where nn is the number (01-05) indicating preference where lower numbers are more preferred than higher numbers.

Example: john.doe_01.jpg john.doe_02.jpg

Email:

Email Address: Send all images to apcphotoshow@gmail.com

Email Subject Line: Include the Field Trip "topic" and your name.

Example: Photos for Places of Worship Field Trip – John Doe

Entry Deadline:

Thursday, March 31, 2022.

A link to view all submissions will be emailed to members by Friday evening, April 1, 2022.

Please Note:

Pictures not taken in field trip time period (Jan-Mar, 2022) are subject to rejection as these should be recent photos taken specifically during these personal field trips timelines.

Member Winter Weather Photos (Jan. 2022)



Nancy Jacobus



Ken Sellers



Gary Gorby



Member Winter Weather Photos . . . continued



Greg Harkins



George Siple



Carole Barnard



Herbert House

Member Winter Weather Photos . . . continued



David Hall



Anna Trzonkowski



Bob Finley



Frost and Ice Photography Tips

By John Maxymuik

In previous articles we've considered photography tips using water as an ideal photo subject during warm seasons when it involves waves, waterscapes, waterfalls, reflections, abstracts, spray 'n splash, bubbles 'n foam, puddles, condensation, hail, mist and fog to help us out of the photo doldrums. Now, let's consider some of its cold season photo ops for doing that.



Photo by Paxson Woelber

Water is unique because it can be found in all three basic states: vapor, liquid and solid. In the cold seasons, when it can turn crystalline or solid, is when it can produce truly fascinating and amazing pictures. Here are some photography tips for that season:

Frost

Frost transforms things into artwork. On leaves and vegetation, subtle edge and vein patterns stand out boldly as intriguing designs. On window panes frost patterns can be fascinating. Again, it's mainly a matter of checking out your local weather forecast, knowing your surroundings, what to expect, and getting there with your camera before it melts!

Photo by Kasia



Frost and Ice Photography Tips . . . Continued

Ice

If there are puddles, or a pond or lake nearby, check out the edges when the water freezes. There will be ice captives—leaves and twigs—just below the surface encased in the ice, sometimes with air bubbles and patterns in the ice itself. Just be careful about thin ice and how far out on the ice you venture when taking such pictures!

Re-Freeze

Here is a special ice situation to look out for: it snows, then turns mild and rainy, then suddenly cold snaps. Check out the depressions and roadside ditches. The snow has been ‘sculptured’ by the melt and run-off, then encased (along with leaves, etc.) in the clear ice from the rain and cold snap, producing some very unusual subjects.

Tenacious Grace

Is there a lively stream or brook nearby, one which tumbles and bubbles over stones, rocks or fallen trees and branches, generating splash and spray? When the temperature drops well below freezing you’ll find a delicate embroidery-like ice (hence the name) forms on the edges of things from the spray.



Photo by Justin Fincher

Self-Assignments For Above Photography Tips

Choose the projects that interest you most. Follow the photography tips conscientiously. Re-shoot when you aren’t satisfied. Do it until you are satisfied. It’ll take all your patience and passion. Your skills and eye will improve with the practice. Shoot especially in early and late light. Use a tripod as much as possible. Edit your results relentlessly. Pin small samples on the wall for a few days to study before making final prints for wall art.

Frost and Ice Photography Tips . . . Continued

Frost

During winter cold-spells choose a window that faces the rising sun and place a humidifier in front of it. Open the inner window about $\frac{1}{4}$ " to let warm moist room air enter and contact the outer window to form Jack Frost on it. Take pictures as the sun rises and shines through the frost.

In late fall and early spring when the forecast predicts frost, get outside early and look for fallen leaves and grasses with frost on them. Take pictures.



*Photo by Ruth Hartnup; ISO 80, f/2.0,
1/100-second exposure*

Ice

When it's cold enough for ice to form, locate some large puddles or a pond and look for "ice captives" (leaves) just under the ice surface, and take pictures of them through the ice.

Re-freeze

When the weather does a snowfall, then a thaw with rain, then a re-freeze, get outside and check the depressions and roadside ditches for snow swirls under clear ice with leaves, etc., caught in it and take pictures.

Tenacious Grace

When the weather turns really cold, locate a nearby stream that briskly tumbles over rock piles and branch jams and you'll find 'Grace'. Find a pleasing section of it with water running by it and shoot with a slow shutter speed to blur the water in contrast to the sharply detailed ice.

12 Tips for Gorgeous Indoor Natural Light Photography

By Dena Haines

Feeling frustrated with indoor photography? Want to know how you can capture beautiful indoor photos with only natural light?

Working with natural light indoors can be tricky. So in this article, I'm going to share plenty of tips and tricks I use in my own photography. And I'll also share plenty of examples along the way – so that you can see my advice in action!

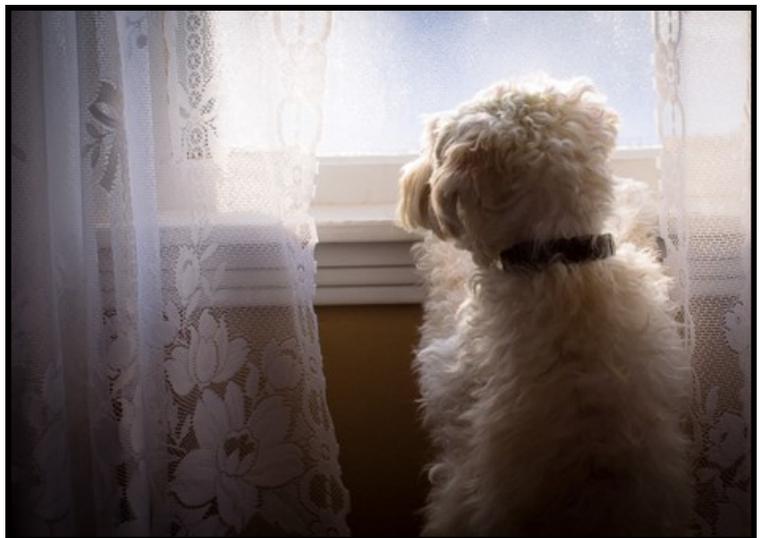


1. It's all about the windows

Indoor photography comes with a significant problem:

A lack of light. And without light, you can't get beautiful, well-exposed photos.

So what do you do? Some photographers turn to artificial lighting, such as studio strobes and flashes. But I prefer to keep things natural, which is why I look for light coming through windows, and I use it to illuminate my subject.



12 Tips for Gorgeous Indoor Natural Light Photography . . . Continued

In fact, as soon as you've chosen a subject, walk around your indoor space. Think about the quality of light that the different windows provide; does it flood the room softly? Does it beam in, bouncing off the walls and floors? How would it look when illuminating your subject?

Soft light will add a soft glow, and harsh light will give a dramatic or moody look.

Also recognize that the color of light changes throughout the day. Light looks warm at sunrise, cool at midday, and warm at sunset.

Once you know indoor lighting well, you'll be able to use it to achieve the perfect effects.

2. Turn off the lights

Natural light doesn't like competition.

Specifically, natural light doesn't like electric lights, which cause two problems:

- Electric lights cast unexpected shadows and will interfere with the directionality of your main window light.
- Electric lights produce warmer or cooler illumination, which contrasts with the color of the natural light.

In particular, skin tones can look odd when artificial and natural light start to mix.

The easiest way to fix this?

Just turn off all electric lights! That way, you can keep your colors looking natural while focusing on a single light source.

3. Shoot in Aperture Priority mode

In Aperture Priority mode, you choose the aperture while your camera chooses the shutter speed. This gives you flexibility over your exposure without stepping over into the Wild West of Manual mode.

Aperture Priority is generally marked with an AV or an A, as shown below:



12 Tips for Gorgeous Indoor Natural Light Photography . . . Continued

So what settings should you dial in for the best indoor natural light photography?

I'd recommend starting with a wide-open aperture to let in lots of light. Choose a low f-number such as f/2.8 or f/1.8 to keep your exposure nice and bright.

Plus, when you use a wide aperture, your depth of field will be shallow. So your subject will stay in focus while your background is left soft and blurry. This adds a beautiful effect to portrait, nature, and product shots.



Note that, for portraits, an aperture of around f/5.6 or f/6.3 will keep the entire face in focus (though this will depend on your focal length and your distance from the subject). Focus on your subject's eyes for best results.

Also, shoot in RAW. A RAW file will give you a lot more to work with when editing – so you can enhance your indoor photos for stunning results.

4. Choose your white balance in advance

Some photographers like to select their white balance during post-processing (so they'll leave their camera set to Auto White Balance when shooting).

But while this can work, it's often easier to get the white balance right before taking a photo (plus, it'll save you lots of time during editing).

So take your camera off Auto White Balance. Observe the light and consider which white balance preset works best for your situation.

For instance, I generally use Daylight for indoor portrait photography, though you might also pick Cloudy for a warmer look. And the other white balance presets can work, too, depending on the effect you're after.

Honestly, I'd recommend you try several different white balance settings when first starting out – that way, you can determine which looks you like and which looks you'd prefer to avoid.

12 Tips for Gorgeous Indoor Natural Light Photography . . . Continued

(Always bear in mind, however, that the white balance results will change depending on the quality of the light. Applying a Cloudy white balance to a shot lit by cloudy light will give a neutral look, while applying a Cloudy white balance to a shot lit by warm evening light will actually enhance the warm effect.)

And remember:

If all else fails, you can always adjust your white balance while editing.

5. Use a light-catching backdrop

Remember how I said that indoor settings tend to lack light?

That's why you'll need to maximize existing light. And a simple way to do this is with a reflective backdrop.

Specifically, a white backdrop will help catch the light and bounce it back onto your subject. At the right is the type of set-up I'm talking about.



The white material helps cradle the light around the flowers shown at the left.



And creating a simple light-catching backdrop isn't hard, either. The one featured in the above photo was made with a freestanding collapsible clothes rack and a long piece of white material.

(It's very easy to set up and very easy to move around!)

12 Tips for Gorgeous Indoor Natural Light Photography . . . Continued

6. Use a light box

A light box will create a similar effect as a reflective backdrop, but it will help control the light even more.

In fact, you can construct a light box with lots of cloth – but instead of putting it behind your subject, wrap it all around. At the right is a makeshift light box I used for this food still life.



And here's the final image.

7. Use a reflector

A reflector bounces light back toward your subject.

And it's a great way to keep your entire subject nicely lit.

For the shots here, I set up a backdrop and positioned my daughter so that her left side faced the window. She held a reflector in her right hand, which helped lighten the shadows.



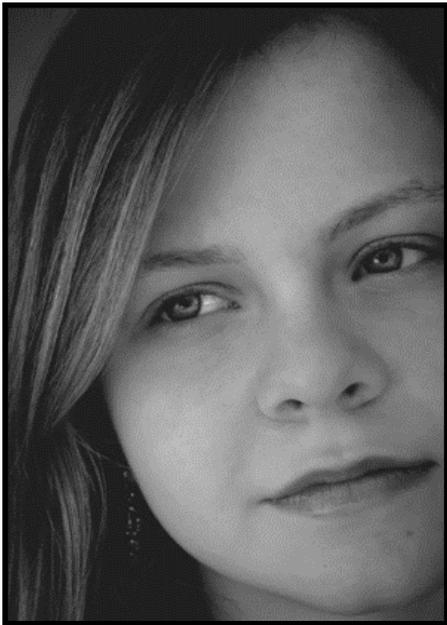
And here's a behind-the-scenes photo.

12 Tips for Gorgeous Indoor Natural Light Photography . . . Continued

8. Use a mirror

A mirror is another great way to control natural light. Simply hang a mirror in the window; I used a large suction cup with a hook to hang the mirror pictured to the right.

Then have your model look in the mirror. As you take your shot, make sure your reflection doesn't appear. (It can take some patience to get the angles and reflections under control, but it's worth it.)



I used a small handheld mirror for this shot. A larger mirror would require less cropping.

9. Tidy up

There are often things lying around the house, especially if you have kids. And this clutter can be distracting in a photograph. It's worth taking a couple minutes to tidy up before you start shooting.

In fact, a backdrop can serve a double purpose here: it can control light, while also covering up all the background clutter! It can help make a small space more workable.

For most of the photos in this article, I pushed our sofa and table into the middle of the living room, then I set up in front of our largest window. Without the backdrop, this location would look far too busy.

12 Tips for Gorgeous Indoor Natural Light Photography . . . Continued

10. Place your subject close to the window

Earlier in this article, I talked about the importance of windows when doing indoor photography.

But it's not enough to just use windows. You also need to carefully position your subject.

Specifically, place your subject a foot or two away from the light source. That way, you'll make use of the natural light, and you'll also avoid the harsh contrast that comes from being too close to the window.

One more tip—Experiment with lighting effects. Try backlighting, side lighting, and front lighting (just have your model face in different directions and follow them with your camera!).

11. Use the curtains

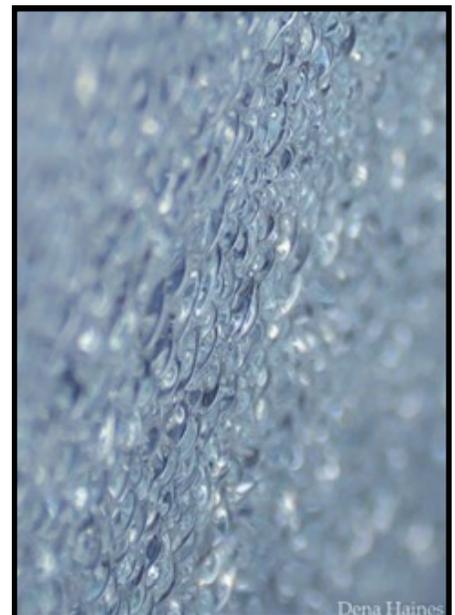
If the light is harsh, you'll get unpleasant shadows and contrasty subjects – unless you can diffuse it!

So here's what I recommend. Use curtains or blinds! If you have translucent curtains, let them cover the window completely. If your curtains are opaque, consider closing them partway, then let the light feather onto your subject.

Alternatively, if your curtains aren't suitable for diffusing the light, you could hang a piece of diffusive material over your curtain rods.

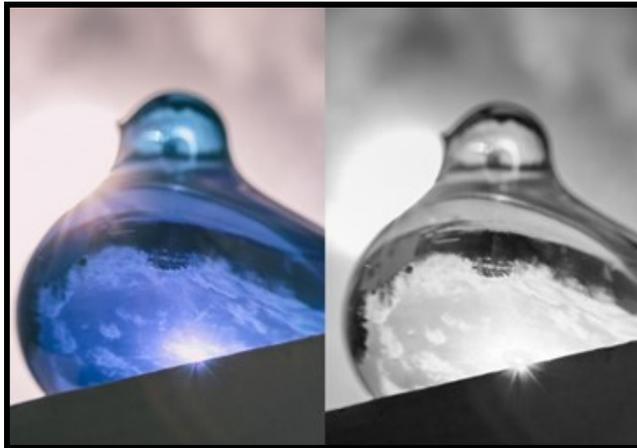
12. Shoot reflective objects

Natural light can turn the most common thing (like the moisture on the window pictured here) into something beautiful.



12 Tips for Gorgeous Indoor Natural Light Photography . . . Continued

Personally, I think reflective objects look gorgeous when hit by sunlight. Here are just a few examples:



So have fun playing around with reflective objects and natural light. The light will create all sorts of interesting reflections, and it'll even glisten off shiny objects.

Indoor natural light photography: You've got to love it!

It's easy to love indoor natural light photography.

The setup is inexpensive, portable, and easy to use, plus you can create beautiful photos no matter the weather or time of day.

Don't forget to have fun and let that inner beauty shine through!



Tips for Taking Better Still Life Photos

Mario Schembri

Still life photographs don't require photographers to travel to exotic places — not even to venture outside the comfort of their homes. In fact, not even a studio is required. This is one branch of photography in which anybody can participate.



*Photo by Stephanie Klasen; ISO 800, f/4.0,
1/60-second exposure*

No special equipment is needed. Attention to detail and preparation are, however, a must.

Below are some essential tips to make your still life photography a success:

1. Unlike traditional film, we can take as many shots as we want, as it doesn't cost us any money. So it's best to take a lot of shots to find the best white balance and exposure settings.
2. Close cropping is beautiful and effective. Get close and fill the frame. There will be less to crop later and your shots retain maximum resolution and quality. Getting your framing right will save you time later.

*Photo by Takuma Nakagawa; ISO 100,
f/11.0, 1.6-second exposure*



Tips for Taking Better Still Life Photos . . . Continued

3. Your source of lighting should preferably be to one side. If light comes from the front, your images will look flat.



Photo by Lisa Sabater-Mozo

4. Keep your eyes open for an interesting subject. Try the garage, the garden, the kitchen, and even the bathroom. When you're by the seaside or strolling through the countryside, you may come across potential subjects. Be always on the look out.

Photo by gerlos; ISO 100, f/80, 1/60-second exposure



5. In order to avoid shadows falling on the background, make sure that the subject is not too close to the backdrop. Sometimes if the backdrop is lit separately, you'll get a better effect.

6. Buy some colored gels. The effect on your images is stunning.

Tips for Taking Better Still Life Photos . . . Continued

7. There is one piece of equipment that is a must for still life photography — a tripod. This obviously costs money, but it's the only way you can get razor-sharp results. You can also leave the camera unattended on the tripod while you arrange the subject being photographed, and if you're taking photos with available light, the tripod helps in steadying the camera.

8. Research and plan ahead, especially if you intend to transform your images later in Photoshop, as this will affect framing and exposure.



Photo by Stewart Baird; ISO 100, f/1.8, 1/400-second exposure

9. Anyone can make a simple lightbox inexpensively. Find a cardboard box, cut windows out of the sides, and cover them with tissue paper or thin white fabric to diffuse the light. Put your subject inside the lightbox for soft, diffused light that reduces shadows.

Keep in mind that it doesn't take much to transform an ordinary photo into a great image. Keep on taking photos. Experiment and tweak to your heart's delight, and you will soon have a stunning still life on your hands.