

Introduction

There are more photographs taken each day on mobile phones than all other camera types combined. Welcome to the era of instant, available, affordable mobile phone photography.

Ten years ago serious photographers ridiculed amateurs using mobile phones for photography. After all, mobile phones had sensors the size of a match head, 'bottle tops' for lenses and were considered little more than gimmicks to sell the mobile phone.

What a sea change we have experienced in the wonderful world of photography. Mobile phone images grace the covers of magazines, win competitions and are hung on the walls of art galleries. No other cameras are as 'instant' as mobiles, relegating the famous Polaroid era to horse and buggy status. Photographs taken in Cairo, Sydney or Paris can be sent to friends, pasted on social media or be on the editor's computer in less than ten seconds. However, the biggest single social influence of mobile phone photography is its growing acceptability in an era where many people value privacy and are somewhat 'camera shy'. The mobile phone is almost universally accepted in a positive light.

The *Mastering Mobile Phone Photography* workshop provides valuable yet simple tips on how to get the best possible quality from your phone camera using the basics of sharpness, lighting, exposure and design. The workshop is built around a series of practical fun exercises so you to learn to master your phone camera and improve your images. Follow these tips and your images will stand out from the rest.

A few of the photographs you take on your mobile phone will become 'keepers', special or memorable. Like any other photographs, it's important to download and back-up the special images as soon as possible.



DALE NEILL
photographer + educator



In many ways a mobile phone camera is the same as any other camera. It has a lens, aperture, shutter and a sensor. A memorable image will still be a memorable image regardless of whether it was taken on a DSLR, a large format camera, a point and shoot, Polaroid, box camera or mobile phone.

There are three basic requirements for a photograph to be deemed acceptable:

- *Sharpness*
- *Exposure*
- *Colour*

The secret to creating a really powerful image is something more:

- *Lighting*
- *Design*
- *Subject*
- *Uniqueness*



© Dale Neill 2013 - Dr Paul Bastian iPhone 4S 6.14am 1/40 @ f2.4, 64 ISO, f1 4.3mm, near Python Pool, Pilbara

Sixteen Tips for Mobile Phone Photography

1. How good are mobile phone images?

2. What makes a good mobile phone photo?

3. Which is the best mobile phone for photography?

4. Cleaning the lens

5. Making sharper images

6. Recognising good lighting

7. Flash – forget it!

8. Edit later – don't filter

9. Crop – don't zoom

10. Self-timer



© James Neill 2014 *The Entrance, NSW Samsung S4*

11. Close-ups and macro

12. Using the grids

13. Selecting useful apps

14. Practice with apps

15. Transmission and back-up

16. Privacy, copyright and practice

Social Media for Mobile Phones*

Social Media	Pros	Cons
Facebook	Images look great, easy to make albums, nearly everyone's on Facebook	So many people on Facebook that people have fatigue and don't look at it much
Instagram	Very image-friendly, can build a community, hashtags are useful	Only mobile-based, hard to play with off a phone
Pinterest	Very visual platform, Pinterest boards are a great way to organize images	Less community or interaction, landscape images get lost in format (portrait orientation better)
Twitter	Much more visual than it used to be, lots of interesting people there	Hard to say much in short tweet with image included (140 character limit)
LinkedIn	Useful for sharing photos with a professional purpose	Can take a little longer to build up connections
Snapchat	Very visual medium, good if you have a younger audience	Posts disappear - non-permanent platform

*info supplied by Amanda Kendle – Social Media consultant - www.AmandaKendle.com



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Projects

Project 1 - Portrait by available light, external

Choose a shady location and produce a head and shoulders portrait of your subject.

Tip: Avoid mergers

Project 2 - Architectural detail

Select a section of a building, e.g. a window, doorway, scrolls, limestone cornice.

Tip: Keep vertical lines vertical

Project 3 - Close-up

Prep: Shortest camera-subject distance.

Produce a series of three close-ups – some writing from a document, a watch or piece of jewellery and a body part.

Tip: Use your elbows and fingers to brace your camera

Project 4 - A glamorous Selfie

Stand in the open shade and look towards the sky. Hold camera at arm's length using a Russian tilt.

Tip: Wear sunnies and a hat

Project 5 - Use one of these apps to produce a special image

- Photosynth for a panorama
- Perfect 365 to improve skin
- Gridlens to combine two or more images
- Snapseed (excellent app but difficult to obtain)



© Dale Neill 2014 iPhone 4S,
1/220 @ f2.4, 64 ISO, f1 4.3mm

Project 6 - Advanced Low light environmental portrait

- Locate the self timer
- Locate the exposure control
- Find a place where your camera can free stand
- Compose an architectural interior with strong lines
- Do a test exposure. Check for sharpness and density
- Now set the self times and repeat image with you and one more person in the image.

Tip: If you want good lighting on faces, make sure the subject is looking at the light source

References

Harman, Doug The Digital Photography Handbook, Quercus, U.K. 2010 ISBN 978-1-84916-525-9

Kelby, Scott The Adobe Photoshop Books, New Riders

Camera Bag Companions - 6 titles: Digital SLR Exposure Tips, Digital SLR Color Photography, Canon D-SLR Shooting Tips, Nikon D-SLR Shooting Tips, Digital SLR Shooting Tips, Digital SLR Black & White, 2010
<http://www.allbookstores.com/Camera-Bag-Companions/series>

Better Photography magazine www.betterphotography.com

Capture commercial photography magazine www.yaffa.com.au

Australian Photography & Digital magazine www.yaffa.com.au

This magazine includes a 5 page buyer's guide in each issue, listing all digital cameras currently on the market.

Internet Reference for Technical Specifications on Digital Cameras www.dpreview.com

Labs

Fitzgerald Photo Imaging 350 Fitzgerald St, North Perth 6006 9328 3778

Mirage Photographic Laboratory 88 Hay St, Subiaco 6005 9388 9333

Churchill Film Services Railway Pde, Leederville 6006 9381 9756

Technical support

Camera Electronic www.cameraelectronic.com.au

230 Stirling St, Perth 9328 4405

Valentine's Camera House Fremantle www.camerahouse.com.au/fremantle

83 Market St, Fremantle 6160 9335 6464

Team Digital www.teamdigital.com.au

268 Lord St, Mt Lawley 9328 3377

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Dale specializes in individual or small group photography tuition. He also runs photographic workshops and tours in Australia and overseas for photographic enthusiasts. www.wildheart.com.au

Amanda Kendle Consulting Amanda works with writers, artists, photographers, bloggers and small business owners to help them optimize the use of blogs and social media to promote their work.

Amanda runs workshops and one-to-one coaching in Perth as well as online training.

Further details at www.amandakendle.com or email amanda@amandakendle.com

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