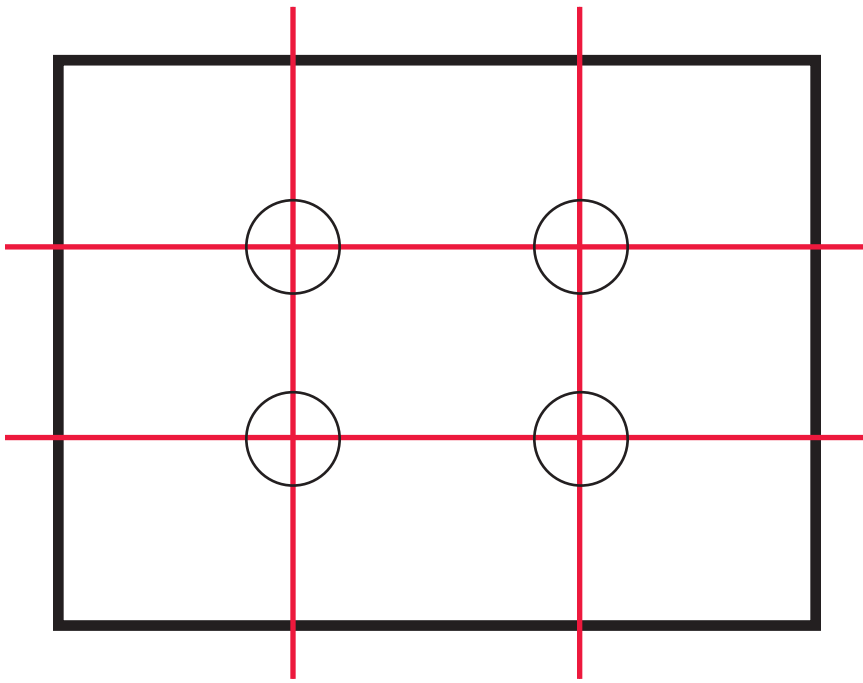


Rules of Composition in Photography

Composition is the arrangement of objects or people within the photograph.

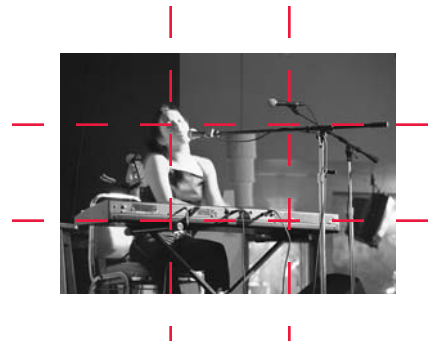
The Rule Of Thirds: The rule of thirds is probably the most popular and easy to use rules of composition. The basic idea behind the rule of thirds is that the image is divided into thirds, both horizontally and vertically. Placing the subject or subjects of a photo on one of these lines will cause your picture to appear more dynamic and interesting to the viewer.



Try to place your subject on or near one of the intersections created by the lines that divide your image into thirds.



The face of the singer, as well as the microphone and keyboard, all closely follow the dividing lines, creating a pleasing image.

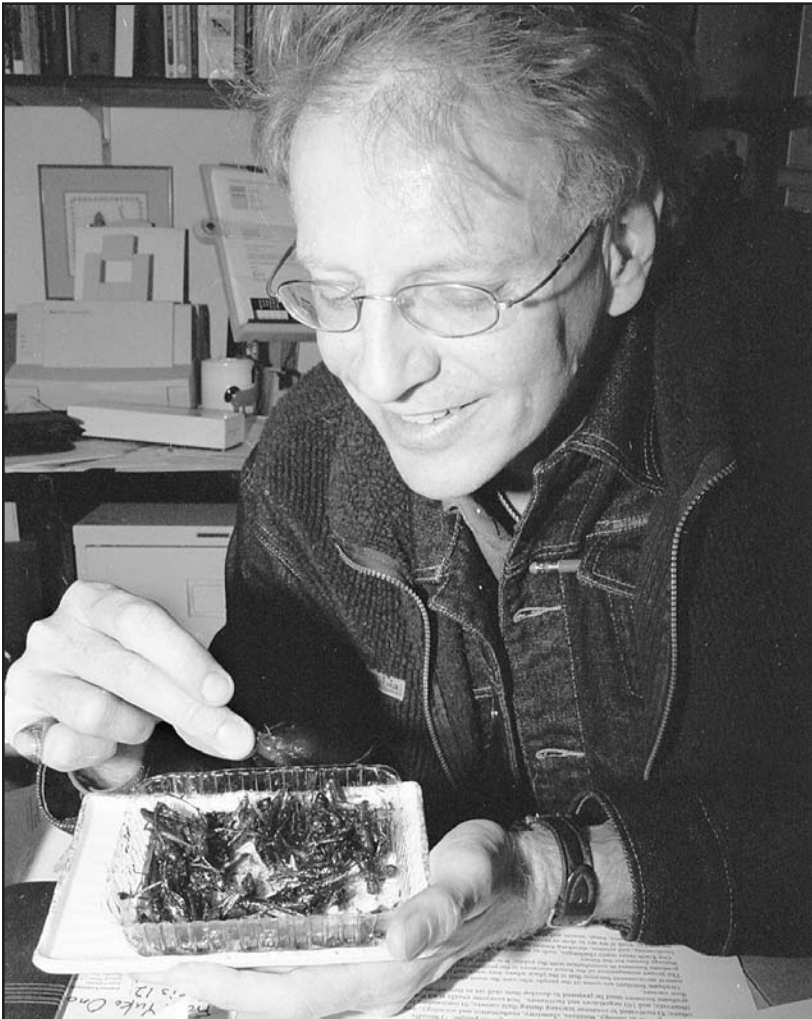


more examples of the Rule Of Thirds:



**Get up Close:
(Point of Interest)**

By moving in close to your subject you eliminate potentially distracting backgrounds, adding impact to your photograph.



This photo of a professor who turns crickets and other bugs into tasty snacks is given added impact by moving right in and almost eliminating the cluttered office in the background.

This from seems almost ready to jump out of the photograph. There are virtually no distracting details in this composition.



more examples of getting in close:



Change the Angle: (Viewpoint)

Beginning photographers tend to take all of their shots from a normal standing position. Move the camera around by crouching on the floor or standing on a chair in order to create more interest in your photograph. The LCD display on a digital camera offers an excellent opportunity to preview your image and move the camera around to find the most interesting angle.



more changing the angle:



Remove the Clutter: (Simplicity)

Pay close attention to the whole image, and not just the subject. Avoid objects that seem to merge into your subject. The background should complement rather than distract from your image.



As funny as this photo may be, it actually illustrates the idea of clearing the background of clutter quite well. In the left image, the tree, which is actually quite far away, seems to sprout from the mans head. Simply moving him to a different locating allows for a much better image.

more removing the clutter:



Balance:

A balanced photograph contains elements that complement each other through size and placement. Notice how the two birds and their reflections seem to give this photograph an even, balanced feel.



If all else fails: Use a picture of a Baby. (or an animal)



People love pictures of babies. It is a proven fact that a newspaper will sell more copies if they have a picture of a baby or an animal on the front! This picture has virtually no compositional merits, but it works because the baby is cute. Unfortunately, every picture does not have a baby or a puppy in it, so it is important that we learn to use the rules of composition to compensate.