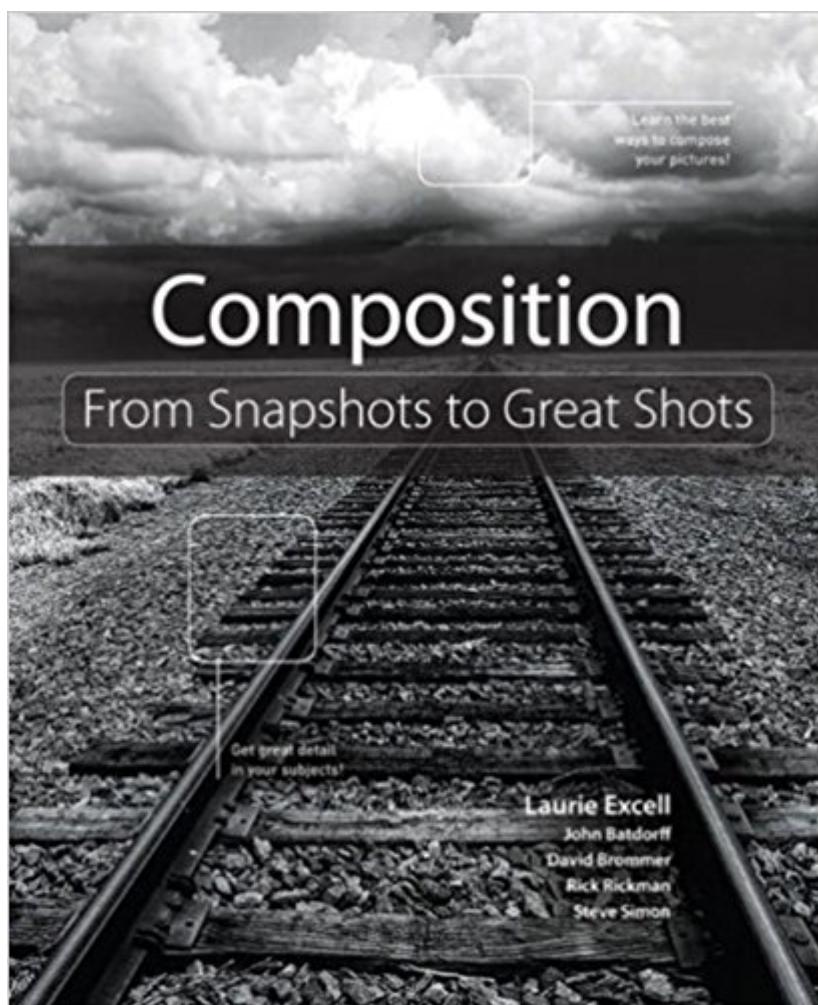


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# Composition: From Snapshots To Great Shots



## Synopsis

Now that youâ€™ve bought that amazing new DSLR, you need a book that goes beyond the camera manual to teach you how to take those great shots. One key element is compositionâ”the creative arrangement of components in the shot, and the way a viewerâ€™s eye travels through an image. With *Composition: From Snapshots to Great Shots*, author and photographer Laurie Excell starts with the basics of composition and explores how the elements of color, shape, angles, and contrast work to create compelling images. Contributing photographers, John Batdorff, David Brommer, Rick Rickman, and Steve Simon, provide unique perspectives on black and white, sports, art history, and other subjects related to composition. Beautifully illustrated with large, vibrant photos, this book teaches you how to take control of your photography to get the image you want every time you pick up the camera. Follow along with your friendly and knowledgeable guides, and you will learn about:

- Key camera features that affect composition, including the exposure triangle (ISO, aperture, and shutter speed)
- Shadow and light and how to direct the viewerâ€™s eye to your subject
- Lines and shapes that create visual paths to points of interest in your image
- The role of colorâ”using complementary or contrasting colorsâ”to add your own unique artistic expression
- Spatial relationship and placing your subject within the frame for portraits, action shots, or landscapes

And once youâ€™ve got the shot, show it off! Join the bookâ€™s Flickr group, share your photos, and discuss how you use your camera to get great shots at [flickr.com/groups/composition\\_fromsnapshottogreatshots](http://flickr.com/groups/composition_fromsnapshottogreatshots).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Let me start with the positive. This book is excellent in that it provides many photographic examples of the concepts discussed. Not just generally, but specifically. It seems that every paragraph or two there's a photo illustrating the point being made. I have read dozens of photography books, and I don't think any of them come even close to this one in that regard. So kudos are definitely deserved! However, I was disappointed with the book overall. Which is not to say it is horrible. It's not. It's fine. But only fine, not great. The biggest problem with the book is that I can't really tell who the intended audience is. The information is so basic and thin that it has to be intended for beginners. But then why does he start with a chapter on the gear he uses? He doesn't really describe the thought process that should go into gear selection; he just tells you what he uses. What good is that for a beginner? It comes across as no better than showing off. For a more advanced person, this might be helpful. But the rest of the book is much too basic. I guess I think this book might be useful for someone who is not a complete beginner. If this is your third, fourth, or fifth book on photography, it might be useful. It can reinforce things you've learned elsewhere, and actually helps by providing so many examples. But true beginners should hold off on this, and more experienced persons should probably pass. BTW, the chapters written by David Brommer and Steve Simon are excellent. I would read other books written by them! And, as to Simon, I have.)

Somewhat disjointed thought flow in places, but I could live with that. Some good pointers, especially for beginning and intermediate skill levels. Some of the information was a repetition of information found in other From Snapshots... books. The photography was excellent. The points being discussed were called out in the photos, making the information much clearer. The biggest issue, in my opinion, is the horrible formatting, especially on Kindle readers running on tablets and PCs. Page breaks caused captions to appear on one page and the photograph on the next. The caption text was larger - yes, larger - than the body text. This is a book for visually sophisticated

users. The least the publishers could do is ensure that such amateurish page layout is corrected before publication. While I realize that the book may have been published from a content management system, this sort of 'default formatting' can be addressed with proper post-production review and correction. Also, there were missing pages. Errors such as this seriously detract from the value of this book. I can only hope the hardcopy is much better.

This book holds a very rare record. In my 53 years, I have only thrown two books in the bin after reading only a few chapters. This is one of them. If you're looking for a guide to photographic/artistic composition, then this really isn't for you. If you're looking for a book on general photography (which is what the title should be), there are better books out there. The first chapter is nothing more than a brag-fest about the wonderful cameras the author owns that we mere mortals won't have a hope of buying. I started to add up the cost of the equipment he owns. I stopped counting at \$30,000USD. Yes he takes nice nature photographs, and yes you need a rugged camera (or two), but you don't need to spend that kind of money to get a good setup. He makes no mention of the equipment that say, a wedding photographer, or a portrait photographer might need. I skipped ahead looking for something on composition. Waaaaay into the book at Chapter 8, I started to find some reasonable information, but not a lot. He could have reduced this book to just 50 pages (from it's 250 page length) and honestly titled it "Composition". I read exactly three chapters (half of Ch. 1, Ch. 8, Ch. 9 and half of Ch. 10) then threw it in the bin. In short - don't bother with this book. You can do much better. Buy a good art book and you'll learn about composition.

Beautiful photographs that demonstrate basic compositional suggestions and "rules." Definitely a good book to add to your Photography and Art arsenal.

I'm a beginner in digital SLR photography and this book has been most helpful for me. It gives easy to follow explanations to the various techniques and then assigns photography assignments to practice these skills. The skills and techniques the author discusses are supported with photos which really help clarify what is being discussed. It starts off with the fundamentals to understanding photography and carries you through more advance skills and techniques. A good instructional book for beginners. The book arrived quickly and I highly recommend it.

Title should be "How to Take Great Pictures in Exotic Locations with \$10,000 of Gear." Laurie knows her stuff and the pictures, and explanations of them, are very good. However, if you think

you're going to get the same results in more mundane places, like the places people actually live, with a D3200 and a kit lens, you are mistaken.

This book was recently required as a text for an art photography class. As a traveler, I was greatfull the book was available in e-book format. I felt that all of the information and photos were valuable. The quality of the photo examples in the e-book wasa great surprise, as the grey scale was very detailed and complete.I would recommend this book, and the e-book version, highly.

Photography is a creative intellectual enterprise. It is "mind over matter" and it does matter. This is a very useful and insightful book on getting to quality exposures by considering up front the various elements in the about-to-be picture and how to manipulate the image to get them all right.

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