

RULE OF THIRDS

One of the easiest ways to make your photos more appealing is to follow the “rule of thirds” for composition. Now that you know how to **change your focal point** that won't be a problem.

The human eye is naturally drawn to the top, bottom, right, or left third of a picture. Take a look around at some of the most famous paintings, the odds are they use the rule of thirds. Use the Mona Lisa as an example. Her eyes are in the top third of the photo. Imagine how boring that painting would have been if her eyes were in the dead center of the painting.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Mona_Lisa.jpg

It is very interesting that television and movies use this rule as well. That makes sense, since it is all a form of photography. Have you ever noticed that when you are watching a show and they are showing a conversation between two people but only one person is on the screen at a time, they are in the right or left third??

Several post-processing (PP) programs such as Photoshop and Lightroom have a grid that can be displayed over your photo to check your composition. This is also very useful when cropping.


Ideally, you want the eyes to be where the vertical and horizontal line join. It's easier said than done sometimes.

Horizontal/Landscape photos:

You want your subject's eyes or focus to be in the right or left third.





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Vertical/Portrait photos:

You want your subject's eyes or focus is in the top or bottom third.







Another thing to keep in mind is that your subject is “looking into the frame”. You want there to be empty space for your subject to look at. Same thing applies if your subject is moving. You want to give them room to “go”.

Looking into the frame:





Looking out of the frame: Do not do.



Leaving room to “go”



Please remember that if you take a photo and the subject isn't looking into the frame or isn't in a third of a picture, that doesn't mean you have to trash it. Some of the pictures aren't technically correct and they are breaking the rules.

Grab your camera and start practicing.