

Tips for Taking Good Pictures

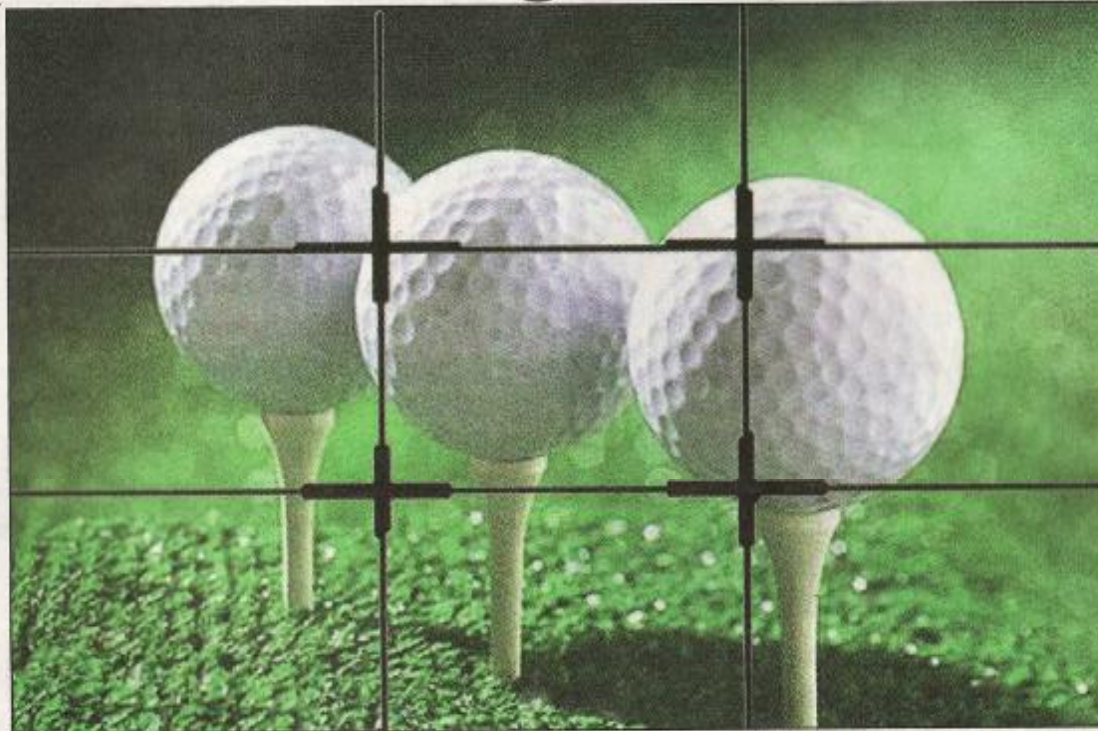


By
Stu Gershon

two rules I consider the most important tips for taking good pictures are "Shooting Wide" and "The Rule of Thirds." Regardless of what type of image manipulation programs you may use, these two rules can prevent you from spending hours on the computer to salvage a bad picture.

"Shooting Wide" is the term I use for taking too close to the subject of a photo. I like to keep my subjects one-third to one-sixth of the frame area. I became more aware of this when my son would e-mail me photos of my first granddaughter. He would get up close and try to fill the frame with her face and the photos kept coming out poorly.

There are two main reasons for this. First, when you are taking a shot of a person's face and you focus on the nose, if you are too close, the ears and other edges of the photo may come out distorted or out of focus. This is what is meant as "depth of



The Rule of Thirds

"field" in photography — the closer you are to a subject, the less the edges of the subject are in focus. This can be resolved by standing back from your subject, which will give you more depth of field and all of the subject will be in focus.

Secondly, if you are up close to your subject and you use flash, the photo will come out with hot spots — overly bright spots — and uneven lighting. If you

drop back a little way, the light has a chance to disperse and spread out more evenly in the photo.

Summing up Shooting Wide — When you look in the viewfinder, compose with your subject filling one-third to one-sixth of the frame, giving you more accurate focus and more even lighting. And, if you want a close up of your subject, you can always "zoom in" with the software.

Another tip for taking good photographs is called the "Rule of Thirds." This rule means break up (in your frame in your viewfinder) into nine equal parts, both horizontally and vertically, to provide you with nine imaginary boxes in your viewfinder. When you compose your picture, keep your subject (or subjects) at the intersections of these boxes. You might even want to use this rule to give you different perspectives of the photo or use these imaginary intersections to line up different elements of your photo (such as a person's eyes with one of the lines or taking your photograph of different elements of the photo in different sections or boxes). This will make your photos appear more fluid because your subjects will not simply be in the center of the photo, but slightly off to the

Stuart Gershon is known as "The Digital Doctor." He has given over 200 presentations at 57 different venues in Nassau County, New York. You can get more info and details on the schedule of his classes at: www.DigitalDocOnline.com. If you have any questions or suggestions for the Digital Doctor, please e-mail them to digitaldoc50@optonline.com.