

A close-up photograph of a woman with long brown hair playing a violin. She is wearing a light-colored, textured cardigan. The violin is a warm, reddish-brown color. The background is blurred, suggesting an outdoor setting. A white rectangular box with a thin black border is centered over the image, containing text.

Considerations for
EFFECTIVE
COMPOSITIONS

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You don't make a photograph just with a camera. You bring to the act of photography all the pictures you have seen, the books you have read, the music you have heard, the people you have loved.

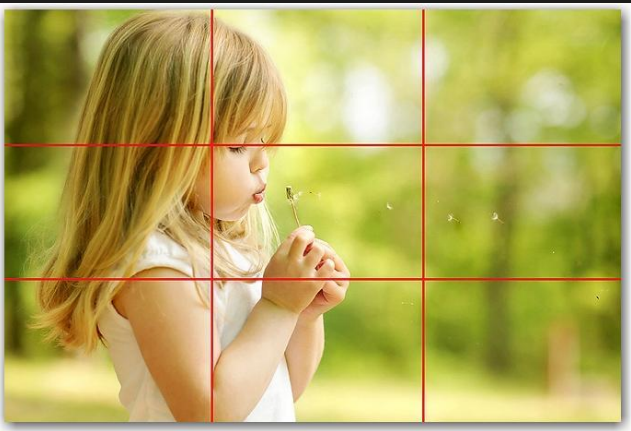
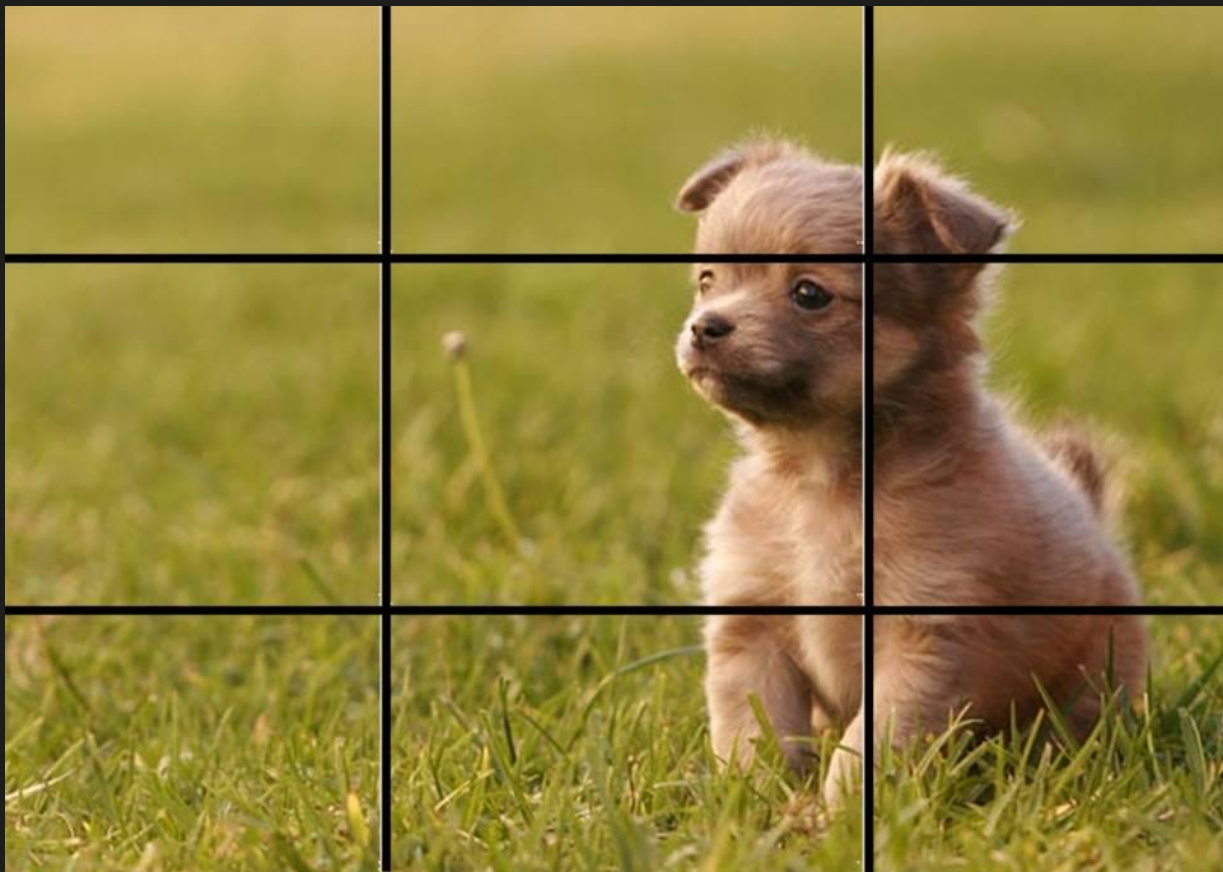
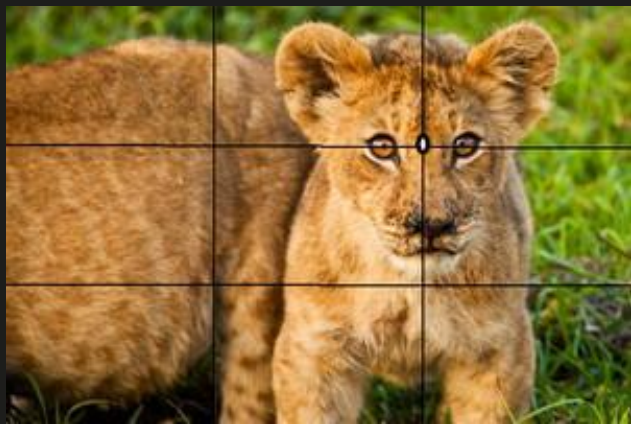
- Ansel Adams

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RULE of THIRDS

- One of the main 'rules' in composition
- Stems from the theory that the eye naturally gravitates to intersection points when an image is split into thirds
- Applied when a subject signs with the 'third' guidelines and points of intersection, placing the horizon at the top or bottom line, allowing features to flow from section to section



Rule of Thirds Examples



BALANCE

- **Symmetrical** (formal)
 - One or more identical (or similar) elements are repeated on each side
- **Asymmetrical** (informal)
 - One or more dissimilar elements balance on each side
 - Balance elements based on size and/or quantity
 - More appealing and challenging
- **Radial**
 - The elements 'radiate' from the center in a circular way
 - Leads the eye to the focal point



Balance Examples

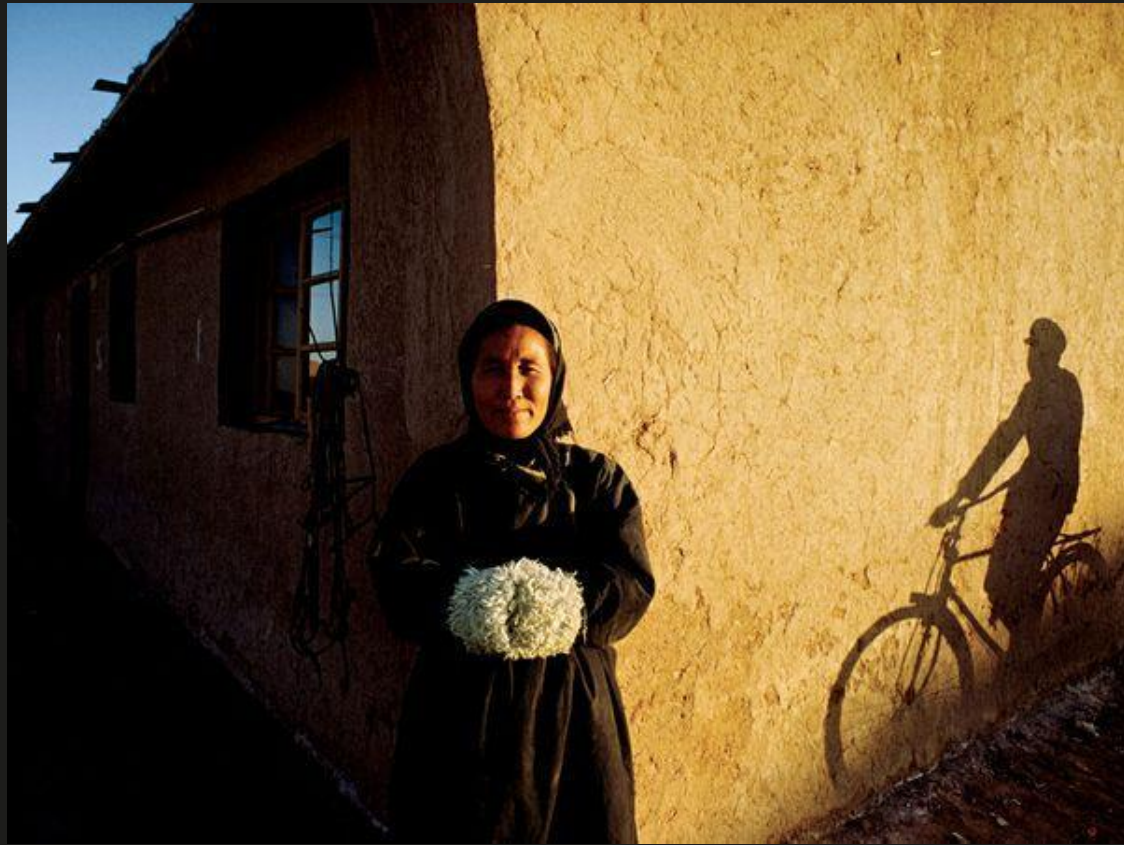


LEADING LINES

- The viewer's eye is attracted to lines that lead to the focal point or principal subject
- "Guides" the viewer's eye
- Line can be an edge, horizon, shape, path etc.



Leading Lines Examples



Leading Lines Examples



PATTERN & REPETITION

- **Repetitive Pattern**
 - Fills the frame and feels MASSIVE
- **Breaking the Pattern**
 - Disrupts the flow of a pattern
 - Natural or manipulated
 - Contrasting: colours, shapes etc.
- **Repetition**
 - Repeated use of shape, colour, or other element not in uniform (like a deliberate pattern)
 - Grabs viewer's attention



Pattern Examples



Repetition Examples



VIEWPOINT

- Point of View
- Unique angle or perspective
- Capture a subject/character's POV



Viewpoint Examples



DEPTH

- **Foreground**
 - Appears closest
- **Middleground**
 - Links Fore and Back
 - Size varies
- **Background**
 - Furthest
- Scale of each correlates to their dominance
- Foreground usually more dominant because it appears larger (not always the case)



Depth Examples

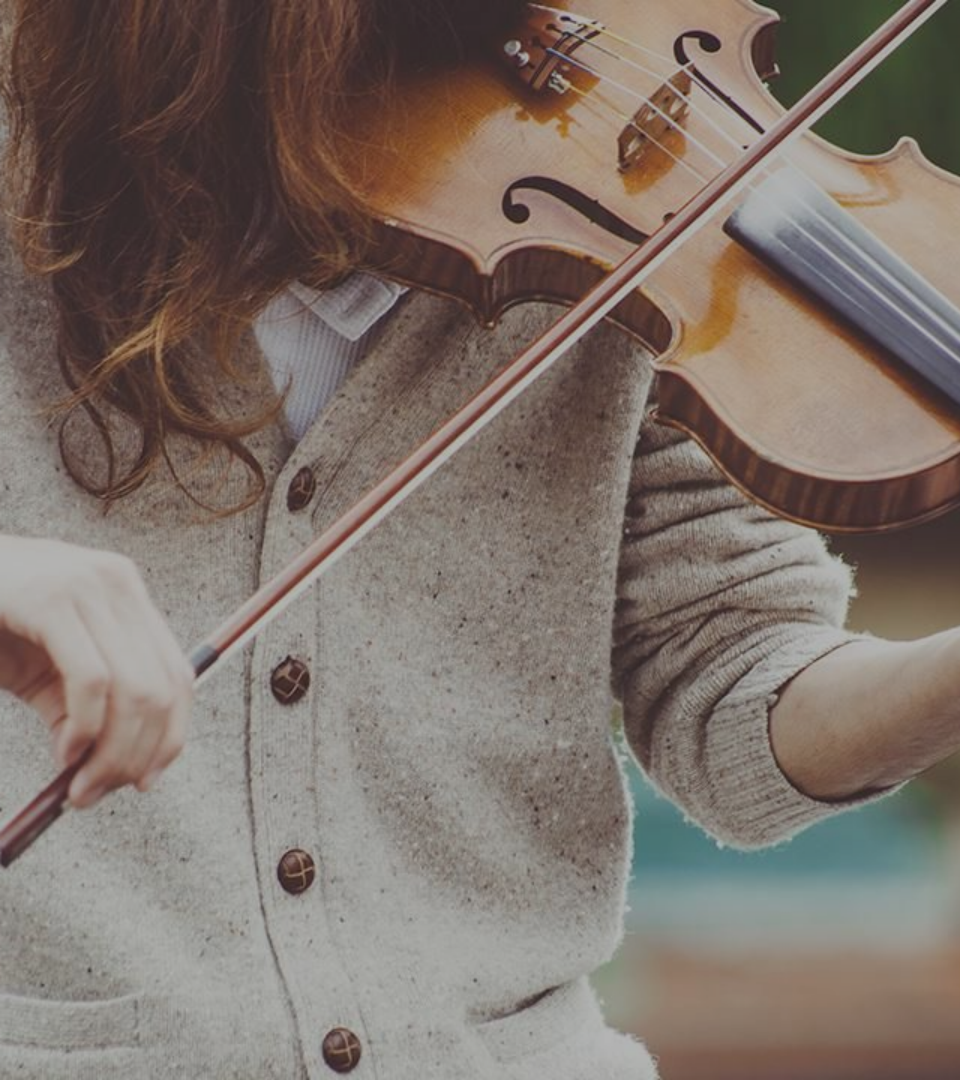


FRAMING

- Position and perspective of the viewer (you, with a camera)
- Your position impacts your audience's perception of the main subject (aesthetics and meaning)
- Helps the viewer focus on the framed object (you're in control)
- Adds depth and interest

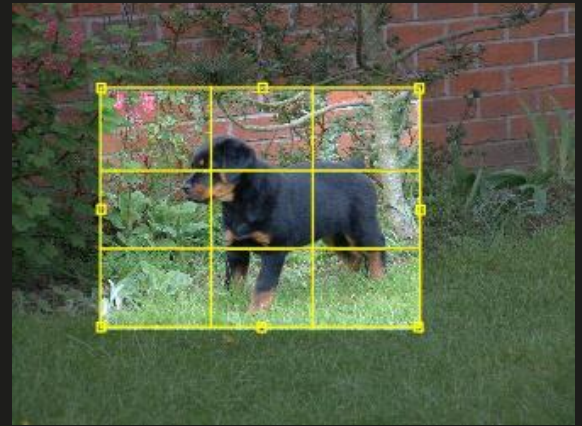
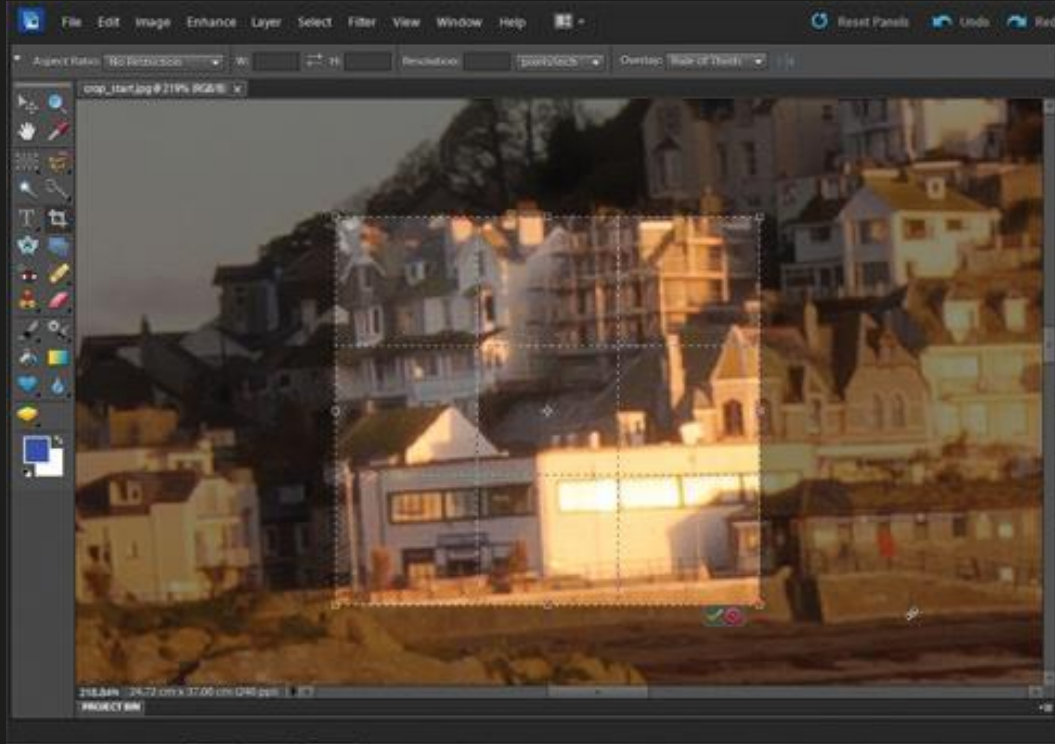


Framing Examples



CROPPING

- Removing outer parts of the image
- Helps improve framing, composition, and accentuates the subject matter
- Never change the aspect ratio
- Do your best to crop *while* taking photos (higher quality)
- Portrait, Landscape, Square 1:1



Cropping Examples

A pair of hands is shown from a top-down perspective, gently cupping a small pile of fresh blueberries. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color. A dark, semi-transparent rectangular overlay is centered over the image, containing white text. The text is arranged in two lines: the first line is in a smaller, all-caps sans-serif font, and the second line is in a much larger, bold, all-caps sans-serif font.

APPLY THESE CONSIDERATIONS TO YOUR

PHOTOGRAPHS