

## BACKYARD EXERCISES + DRILLS

Purposely shoot in Manual mode **out of focus**. Yep! Make everything blurry. **Create 5 images** based solely upon the colors and patterns that are pleasing to you.

### 1. **Two-Part DOF Exercise:**

- Shoot **5 images** with the lowest aperture you have. Try it from a distance, then up close and note the difference. It'll be different with every lens.
- Pick the distance you like best, then create 5 more images, as a series.

2. Find a **shape** you like and create **5 unique images** with it. Try different light, angles, perspectives, as well as horizontal and vertical orientations.

3. Find a cool **pattern** you like and create **5 unique images** with it. Try different light, angles, perspectives, as well as horizontal and vertical orientations.

4. Make **10 images** that feature a **juxtaposition**. Meaning: position objects in your composition either side by side or near enough to one another, that your composition compares, contrasts or generally creates an interesting effect with them.

5. Shoot a series of **5-10 images** in a **color theme**. That is, where a single color is the predominant feature.

6. Got **film simulations**? Pick 2 and shoot **3 images** each.

7. Make **3 images** of the same subject, each with a different **aspect ratio** in your camera.

8. Make **3 images** of the same subject, using a different **light source/quality** for each.

- Backlight
- Silhouette
- Side light
- Overhead wash
- Soft ambient (like a cloudy day, or cloudy after a rain)

9. Make a study of **5 images** of a subject that inspires you, using a **close, mid-range and far distance** perspective.

*(Range = close to far)*

10. Make a study of **5 images** of a subject that inspires you, using a **tight, mid and wide range**.

*(Range = narrow to wide)*

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11. Make a study of **10 images** of a subject that inspires you, **looking up at it, looking down at it, looking at eye level.**
  - If you did the above by keeping the camera more or less in the same place (which is fine)... do it again, this time move the camera ALOT MORE. Move it up, down, level. Think of as many spacial variations as you can.
12. Make a series of **5 images** of the same subject, **turning the camera** in different ways that you would normally. It must make sense... but be off-axis from your normal point of view.
13. **Try any of the above using different lenses** and compare the results.
14. Create **5 different images** with a **"frame within frame"** feature to it. A meadow framed with trees, a colorful wall framed with a doorway, etc.
15. Using the **widest lens** you have, create a series of **10 purposely distorted images**. Distortion occurs the more you tilt a wide angle lens, so look up at trees, at buildings, getting on the ground and look up at a field of flowers. Try this in both landscape and vertical perspectives!
16. **Spend a week** looking for/noticing **converging lines** and making interesting compositions around them.

### MAKE YOUR OWN EXERCISES AROUND THESE QUALITIES:

Light · Patterns · Shapes · Lines · Converging lines · Perspective · Silhouette · Negative Space · Gesture  
Movement · Depth of Field · Soft focus · Bokeh · Out of focus · Shooting in the wind · Abstracts ·  
Motion blur · Juxtaposition · Entire book of images · Wide to narrow · Shallow to deep ·  
Change settings w/o looking down · Aspect ratios · Landscape + vertical

# CHEAT SHEET

Here's a handy CHEAT SHEET full of ideas for developing your "selective vision" skills. Pick one or two you'd like to work on - and implement it in your Daily Practice.

Use my exercises + drills approach to model from - or make up your own!

Light  
Patterns  
Shapes  
Lines  
Perspective  
Silhouette  
Negative Space  
Gesture  
Movement  
Depth of Field  
Soft focus  
Bokeh  
Out of focus  
Shooting in the wind  
Abstracts  
Motion blur  
Juxtaposition  
Entire book of images  
Wide to narrow  
Shallow to deep  
Change settings w/o looking down  
Aspect ratios  
Landscape + vertical  
God rays  
Starbursts  
Lens flares