

# How Do I...

## Tips and Tricks for Shooting and Sharing

By now you and your digital camera have become fast friends and are working together to make great images. But like the art of cooking, and life, there's always more to learn.

This chapter is more conversational than the previous two. The earlier sections of the book were designed for quick reference—to use while standing on the battlefield of photography and trying to survive. (“Quick, should I turn the flash on or off for my daughter’s outdoor birthday party?” Answer: Flash on.)

But now the discussion becomes more free-flowing—like a conversation between two photographers trying to decide the best approach for a given situation. The topics in this chapter focus on both shooting and sharing pictures—what good is a great shot if you can’t get it in front of others?

So, grab a fresh memory card, a charged set of batteries, and prepare for the next stage of your journey.

## Shooting Tips and Tricks— How Do I...

How do I...? That’s the question in photography, isn’t it? Most of the time you know what you want to do: capture that sunset, take a pretty portrait, preserve the memory of that monument. The trick is to make the camera see it the way you do.

That’s what you’re going to learn here: the “how to” of photography. Not every situation is covered in this chapter, but if

you master these techniques, there won't be too many pictures that get by your camera.

And when your friends mutter out loud something like, "How do I shoot that object inside the glass case?" You can reply, "Oh, that's easy. Just put the edge of the lens barrel against the glass to minimize reflections, then turn off the flash."

## Take Great Outdoor Portraits

When most folks think of portrait photography, they envision studio lighting, canvas backdrops, and a camera perched upon a tripod. But many photographers don't have access to lavish professional studios, and honestly, it's not necessary for dynamite portraits.

### PRO TIP

Figure 3-1 illustrates that you don't need an expensive photo studio to take pleasing outdoor portraits. After a little experimentation, a high camera angle was used to minimize distracting background elements. The model was positioned so the sun was on her back to create a rim lighting effect on the hair and shoulders. Then fill flash was added for even exposure on the face.

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All you really need is a willing subject, a decent outdoor setting (preferably with trees), and your digital camera. Then you can be on your way to creating outstanding images.

First, start with the two magic rules for great outdoor portraits are:

**Get close.** The tighter you frame the shot, the more impact it will have. Extend your zoom lens and move your feet to create more powerful images. Once you've moved in close, and have shot a series of images, get closer and shoot again.

**Use fill flash.** Turning on the flash outdoors is a trick that wedding photographers have been using for years. If you really want to impress your subjects, position them in the