

“How-to” Interesting Car Photos

Depth of Field explained..



F8, 1/25, ISO 200, FL 44mm



F2.8, 1/250, ISO 800, FL 17mm



F2.8, 1/40, ISO 800, FL 27mm

Depth of Field:

Do you want a shallow depth of field or a large depth of field?

Make sure the camera focuses on the area you want to be sharp.

Use a large f-stop (small lens opening) as possible for a large depth of field.

Use a small f-stop (large lens opening) as possible for a shallow depth of field.



F22, 1/25, ISO 200, FL 36mm



F2.8, 1/25, ISO 160, FL 50mm

Photos courtesy of Bob Harlan, Kansas 4-H Photo Committee Volunteer, Riley County

Depth of Field is a fancy way of saying:

How much of your picture is in focus and how much is blurry?

An easy way to remember:

- Small depth of field = main object is in focus, everything else is blurry
- Large depth of field = almost everything in the photo is in focus

Think of it like your eyes:

- When you look closely at your hand, the stuff behind it gets blurry = small depth of field
- When you look at a big scene, like a playground, everything looks clear = large depth of field

What controls it?

- Aperture - opening of the lens
- Distance - between you and the object your photographing
- Zoom - zooming in = more blur and zooming out = less blur

Kansas State University is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

K-STATE
Research and Extension



Vintage Car Details Lesson

What makes an old car interesting? Is it the whole car, or the little details?

Typically, it's the little details. **Try to photograph the stories hidden in the details!**

Some details may include:

- Shiny chrome bumper
- Hood ornament
- Worn leather seat
- Old dashboard gauges
- A headlight
- A car logo or badge
- Wheel or hubcap
- Something with bright color
- A handle or mirror
- A reflection
- Rust, wear or cracks

Think like a photographer - ask yourself:

- What makes this interesting?
- What story does this detail tell?
- Can I get closer or try a new angle?

Other tips:

- Don't photograph the whole car - photograph the details
- Take multiple shots of the same thing
- Move your feet, not your zoom
- Try something different every time you move your feet

Light:

- Best: soft light (morning/evening)
- Avoid harsh reflections when possible

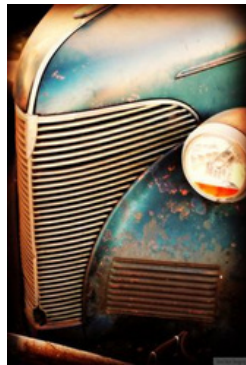


Photo courtesy of Barb Roehler

Composition:

- Fill the frame
- Try off-center shots
- Look for lines and curves



Photo courtesy of Heidi Patricola

Reflections:

- Watch yourself in the car - no selfies!
- Use reflections creatively



Stock photo

Angles:

- Don't just stand and shoot
- Try:
 - low angle
 - super close
 - side view

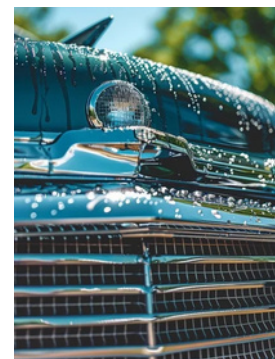


Stock photo, Dreamstime.com

Guided practice:

Photograph 5-10 details from ONE car before moving to another.

- Take multiple shots of the same detail.
- Move your feet instead of zooming in.
- Try at least 3 different angles per subject.
- What happens if you get closer?
- What happens if you go lower?
- What story does it tell?
- Can you try another way?



Free vintage photos; Stockcake.com

Great photos aren't accidents - they're choices!

Taking Car Detail Photos With Your Smart Phone

Big Idea: *Your phone is powerful - you just need to use it **on purpose!***

Best Phone Settings:

- ✔ Turn ON
 - Grid lines (helps with composition) - go to settings to toggle grid on
 - HDR (helps with bright chrome and shadows) for iPhone cameras 12 and up it's automatic
- ✘ Turn OFF
 - Flash (creates harsh reflections)
 - Digital Zoom (move your feet instead)

Tap, Hold, Adjust:

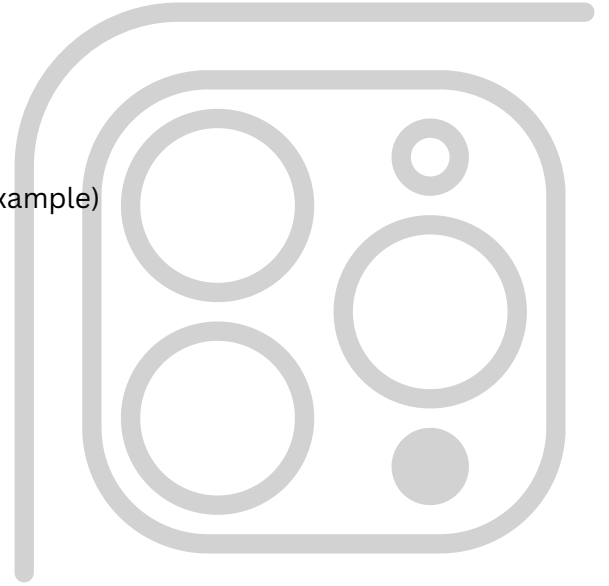
- ✔ Tap your subject (main focus of photo, a hood ornament for example)
- ✔ Hold to lock focus (if available)
- ✔ Slide your finger up/down to adjust brightness

Use portrait mode- great for isolating details like:

- ✔ Emblems
- ✔ Gear shifts
- ✔ Mirrors



Tip: Make sure the subject is sharp - portrait mode can blur the wrong thing.



Clean your lens (Seriously!):

- ✔ Your camera lens might just be dirty, not bad!
- ✔ You'd be surprised at how dirty a phone lens can get from fingerprints, sweaty hands or dust!



Tip: A quick wipe with cleaning cloth = sharper photos instantly.

Control Reflections (Phone Trick):

- ✔ Tilt the phone slightly
- ✔ Move your phone side to side
- ✔ Getting closer or farther away from your subject may help.

Burst mode for sharpness. For tricky shots:

- ✔ Hold the shutter button and take multiple shots quickly.
- ✔ Pick the sharpest one later