



# PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY

**PART 2**

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# TOPICS

- Colour and black and white
- Silhouette
- Props
- Tips
- Assignments



# 1. COLOUR AND BLACK AND WHITE

## *Colour pictures:*

A way to be creative is to use a combination of colours in your picture that go well with each other. Like the props you use, your subject's clothes, the background, etc. Colours help create a certain mood. So, how do we pick colours that go well with each other?



**Colour theory:** it is the technique of combining colours that look good together.

To see which colours go best together, we use the colour wheel.

**Colour wheel:** it consists of primary, secondary and tertiary colours.

**Primary colours:** red, blue and yellow.

**Secondary colours:** by mixing two primary colours, we get a secondary colour. Example: red + yellow = orange (a secondary colour).

**Tertiary colours:** they are formed by mixing a primary colour and a secondary colour. For example:  
blue (primary colour) + green (secondary colour) = blue-green (tertiary colour).

The next slide has a colour wheel for reference.





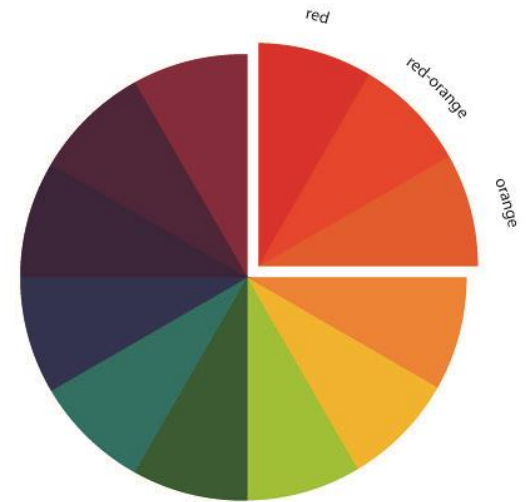
How do we know which two colours from the colour wheel go best together?

This is where we use the help of colour schemes.

Here are two of them (there are more, but these are the basic ones):

- **Complimentary colours:** they are colours which are across from each other on the colour wheel. For example: Blue-green and red-orange, purple and yellow, etc.
- **Analogous colours:** they are any three colours which are located next to each other on the colour wheel. For example: red, red-orange and orange.

Example of analogous colours





By using these colour schemes, we can plan out the colour combinations we want to use. Here is an example:

Complimentary colours: red-purple and yellow green



## *Black and white pictures:*

We go for colour images when colour is a key element in the message or story we are trying to tell through the picture. For example, a photo of a person enjoying a mango, a person holding a bouquet of flowers and so on.

### *When do we take black and white images then?*

- When you want to emphasize on the textures, contrast, tone, shape, light and other details. When you remove colour, the emphasis shifts to these elements.
- When you don't want certain distractions that come with colour.
- Taking in black and white also emphasizes emotion. The viewer may feel a stronger connection with the subject. There's better focus on the features of the person.





- Black and white helps with composition. When the elements in the picture are black and white and do not have colour, they are easily related to each other. If there's colour, it is hard to merge different elements together as the colours will separate them. This is a very creative way to take pictures.
- *Timelessness*. Black and white pictures have a timeless quality in them. They DO NOT give a sense of time- when the picture taken, at what time, etc.



## IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER:

- It is not compulsory to create black and white pictures. If you want the mentioned outcomes, you can go for it. Even then, if it's not your style, you don't have to do it. The same goes for colour. As you shoot and practice, over time, if you think colour is not your style and only black and white is, then that's ok too. And of course, you can always do both.
- It is better to shoot your pictures in colour and then decide, while editing, if you want the colours to remain or create a black and white picture. If you directly shoot in black and white, it limits the possibility of choosing between colour and black and white.



## 2. SILHOUETTE

A silhouette is an outline of a person or an object. You can just see an outline of the person filled in black and the background is as it is. Here's an example:



## *How do we click silhouettes?*

- Compose the picture in a way that there is light in the background, but no light on the subject thereby revealing the subject's features.
- Before clicking a silhouette, remember to turn off the flash on the subject. If there's light on the subject it destroys the purpose of a silhouette.
- You can place your subject in front of the sky, a plain background or anywhere where the source of light is not in between the camera and the subject. For example, if you place the subject in front of a plain background, make sure there is light behind, highlighting the background and not the subject.



- If you are clicking pictures of more than one person, make sure they are separated in a way that you can distinguish between them. If, for example, one person is leaning on another person, their bodies touching, you may not be able to distinguish between them and there won't be a clear silhouette.
- Settings: set your exposure accordingly. Lower it to get a desirable outcome. A higher shutter speed is helpful as well.
- If needed, you can adjust the shadows, etc, in the post production stage- editing.



## 4. PROPS

In simple terms, props are objects that you can use while clicking pictures of your subject. We use them to invoke interest or give context to the picture.

*Here are some props that you can use:*

- Fairy lights
- Plants
- Fruits (great prop for colour schemes, very creative)
- Specs/ goggles
- A phone/ camera
- Fake flowers
- Mirror

The video shows how you can use some of these props.

Look around you, see what objects you can use. DO NOT limit yourself to the options I gave you. There's obviously more.







## 5. TIPS

- Clean your camera lens regularly.
- You can take self portraits as well! Rest the phone on something so it stays stable, turn the timer on and pose!
- Don't limit yourself to one style. Try everything to see what you like
- Use grid for a more balanced shot.
- Experiment with different props, angles and perspectives.
- If your phone has a portrait mode, shoot pictures on it too.
- We taught you on lightroom to show you how to use the manual settings. But of course, you can use your regular camera app as well.
- Look for inspiration on pinterest, magazines, anywhere!



- Practice regularly, it really, really helps. As you shoot more and more, you will learn more and more.
- Use light in the best way possible and check the focus before you begin.
- Make your subject feel at ease. Don't stress or make them conscious.
- Shoot in manual mode.
- Be stable while clicking to avoid shaky images.
- Experiment with flash as well.
- You can refer to these PPTs when you're shooting on your camera as well and not just your mobile.
- Break the rules- it's not a must to follow them. If you think composing your picture a certain way looks good, go for it.
- You don't have to compose and click your pictures like I did. You can try out however you want. I only put the pictures I have clicked as examples of the respective topics.
- Have fun!



# ASSIGNMENTS

Hey, guys! You've reached the end of your lesson on portrait photography. Hope you enjoyed it.

Here are two assignments for you. Please submit them by THURSDAY.

**Assignment 1:** Choose ONE of the following topics under composition-

- leave out negative space,
- perspectives and angles,
- fill the frame with your subject.

Click ONE picture relating to any ONE of the above.

**Assignment 2:** Click a black and white picture.

AND

Click another picture (color picture) following either of the colour schemes: complementary colour scheme or analogous colour scheme.

You can contact me if you have any doubts.

Have fun!