



Overview

This assignment focuses on understanding the differences in stability between handheld and tripod photography. By experimenting with both techniques, you'll learn how to manage camera shake and achieve sharp images under various conditions.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the effects of handheld shooting on image sharpness and stability.
- Learn how to use a tripod effectively to enhance image quality.
- Compare the results of handheld versus tripod photography in various scenarios.

Related Reading

Before you start, read these related blog posts to deepen your understanding:

What Is Shutter Speed	What Is Shutter Speed	
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Before You Shoot

- Select a location with varied lighting conditions to test both techniques.
- Prepare your camera with a fixed ISO of 200.
- Gather a tripod and ensure it is in good working condition.
- Choose a variety of subjects that exhibit motion (e.g., people walking, flowing water).
- Familiarize yourself with your camera's aperture priority (A/Av) and shutter priority (S/Tv) modes.

Assignment Tasks

1. Take a series of five handheld photos of a moving subject using shutter priority mode at 1/500s with ISO 200 fixed. Compare the sharpness of each image.
2. Using a tripod, shoot five images of the same moving subject at 1/250s with ISO 200 fixed, comparing the results to your handheld shots.
3. Capture a set of five long exposure images (1/2s to 2s) of flowing water using a tripod in aperture priority mode at f/8 with ISO 200 fixed.
4. Shoot five portraits of a stationary subject using handheld technique at 1/125s with ISO 200 fixed to assess your ability to keep the subject sharp.
5. Using a tripod, capture five different angles of the same scene at f/4 in aperture priority mode with ISO 200 fixed, focusing on depth of field.
6. Take five handheld shots of a bustling street scene at 1/250s with ISO 200 fixed to test your stability against motion.

Stretch Tasks

- Create a time-lapse sequence of a sunset using a tripod, ensuring stability throughout the series of images.
- Experiment with low light conditions by shooting handheld with slower shutter speeds (1/60s or slower) to push your stability limits.



DO / DON'T

DO

- ✓ Do practice using both handheld and tripod techniques in various settings.
- ✓ Do check your camera settings before shooting to ensure you are in the correct mode.
- ✓ Do use a remote shutter release or timer to avoid camera shake when using a tripod.
- ✓ Do vary the aperture setting to explore different depths of field while keeping ISO 200 fixed.
- ✓ Do take notes on the shutter speeds used for each shot to analyze results later.

DON'T

- ✗ Don't shoot handheld at shutter speeds slower than the $1/(2 \times \text{focal length})$ rule without stabilizing techniques.
- ✗ Don't forget to check for stability issues with the tripod before taking long exposures.
- ✗ Don't mix the settings of handheld and tripod shots in the same series of images.
- ✗ Don't overlook the importance of composition when setting up your tripod.
- ✗ Don't rush your shots; take time to ensure stability and proper framing.

Reflection Questions

- How did your results differ between handheld and tripod shots, and what factors contributed to those differences?
- What challenges did you face while shooting handheld, and how did you overcome them?
- In what situations do you think a tripod is indispensable compared to shooting handheld?
- How did the use of different shutter speeds impact your ability to capture motion in your images?

Technical & Creative Focus

Technical:

- Use the $1/(2 \times \text{focal length})$ rule to determine minimum shutter speed for handheld shots.
- Adjust your aperture to achieve desired depth of field while keeping ISO fixed.
- Utilize a lens with image stabilization when shooting handheld, if available.
- Ensure your tripod is stable and level before taking long exposure shots.
- Experiment with different focal lengths to see how they affect stability.

Creative:

- Explore motion blur by using slower shutter speeds while handheld.
- Capture sharp images of moving subjects using a tripod to stabilize your camera.
- Create a series of images that showcase the difference in sharpness between handheld and tripod shooting.
- Experiment with angles and compositions when using a tripod to enhance creativity.
- Incorporate foreground elements while using a tripod to create depth.