

# Rule of Thirds

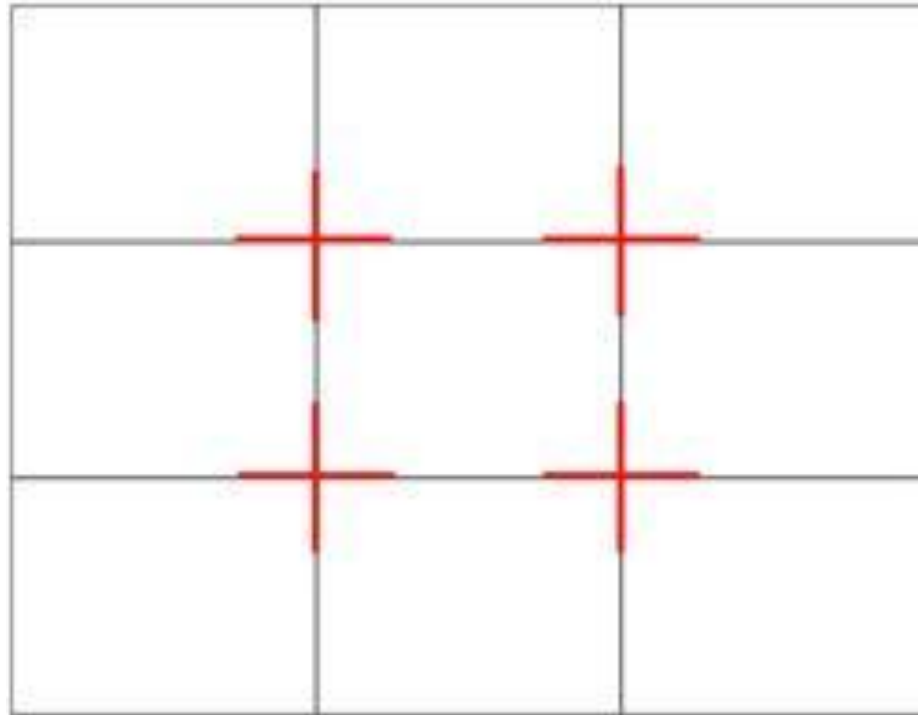


# Composition:

- The arrangement of the elements (subject or other objects) in a scene or photo.
- A composition that conveys the photographer's or videographer's intended meaning is an effective one.
- One that doesn't or one that confuses the viewer is not.
- Your goal as a photographer or videographer is usually to grab the attention of the viewer and communicate an idea, or share an experience. The shots that do this best are usually the ones that present the subject in a clear and uncluttered way.
- When the organization of a picture's visual elements enables the viewer to grasp what you wanted to communicate, good design or composition has been achieved.

## **The Rule of Thirds**

- Perhaps the most well known principle of photographic composition is the '**Rule of Thirds**'.
- The principle behind the rule of thirds is to imagine breaking an image down into thirds (both horizontally and vertically) so that you have 9 parts. As follows.

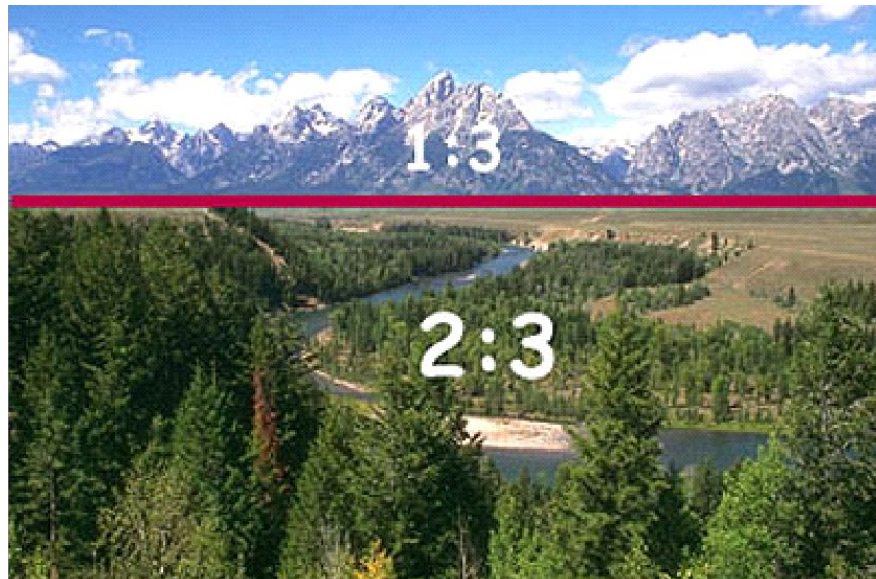
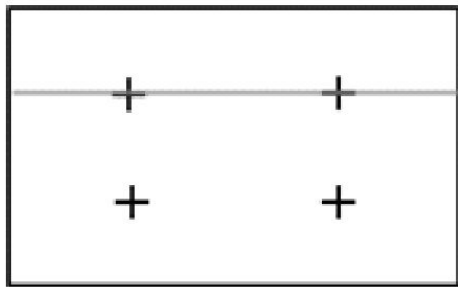


# The Rule of Thirds

The basic philosophy behind it is to avoid a symmetric composition, which is usually pretty boring, because the view is centered.

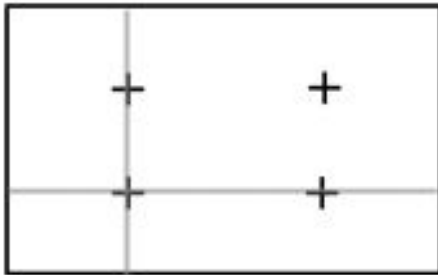
To counteract symmetry the "Rule of the Thirds" can follow two concepts:

First we can divide the image into two distinctive areas which cover 1:3 and 2:3 of the size of the picture.



# The Rule of Thirds

The second possible application is directly based on the crossing points of the Golden Mean. E.g. Let's assume that we have a landscape that is pretty charming but lacks a major feature or interesting geometric structure. The resulting image is a boring picture of an empty landscape. So what can we do here? Try to find an object, which provides a contrast to the otherwise “mountainous” surrounding, and place it at one of these crossing points. This object is an anchor for the first look and invites a further observation of the scene.



# The Rule of Thirds



- As you can see it is fairly simple to implement.
- Good places to put things (as shown here) are a third of the way up and third of the way in from the left.
- Using the Rule of Thirds helps produce nicely balanced easy on the eye pictures.



## The Rule of Thirds



Just as it's usually best to place horizons off center, it's also best to place verticals off center. For instance, in the picture on the left, the subject is centered, but on the right, the photographer got a more effective photograph by simply changing the viewpoint.

## The Rule of Thirds



The above photo of a silhouetted person is composed following the Rule of Thirds. Notice that the person's face is positioned in the frame where the lines cross, and the horizon is positioned in the upper-third section along the top horizontal line. Also of note is that the person is looking "into" the photo rather than towards the outer edge; this arrangement gives a more visually balanced composition.



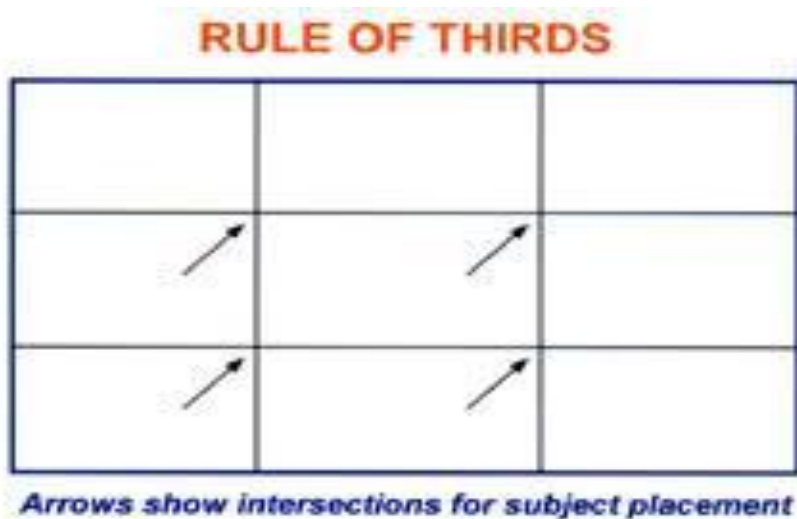
# The Rule of Thirds



- In this subway shot, the most important person is the woman in the third on the left of the image.
- She could be the main character of a video, or she could be about to do something important that will influence the story.

# The Rule of Thirds

- It has been repeatedly shown that by placing objects where the lines intersect, a pleasing and balanced arrangement often results, whether the composition is horizontal or vertical.
- When an image's center of interest is placed at one of these intersections, balance in the picture can often be achieved by placing a secondary object (known as a "counterpoint") at the opposing intersection.



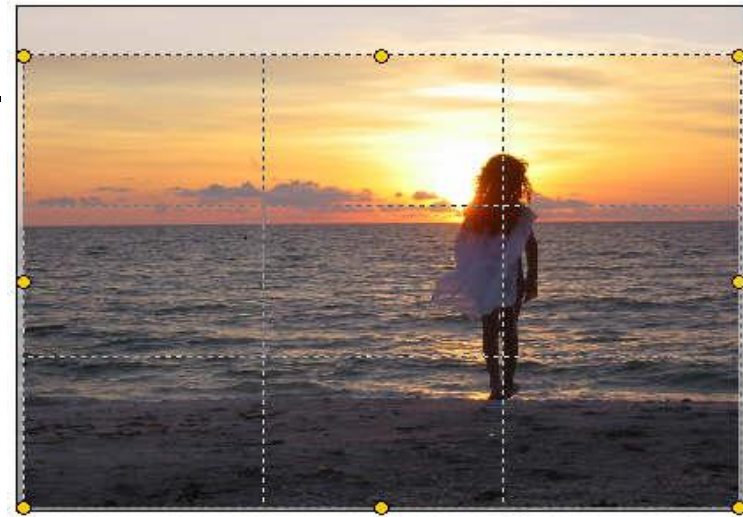
- Avoid placing your subject in that center square, and you have followed the rule of thirds.

# **The Rule of Thirds**

- After having said all that the "Rule of Thirds" is not a rule at all; it's a guideline.
- It is intended to help you when you are uncertain as to the placement of elements in a scene when you are framing the picture. By ignoring the rule, you may still have a great picture, depending on the content of the image and how well its elements are balanced.
- For example, if you want your viewer to ignore all other parts of your composition, then place your center of interest smack in the middle, like a bull's eye.
- The important thing is to note the reasons for object placement in your images. Knowing why you do something and what effect it will have leads to good composition.



## The Rule of Thirds



I hope that you now can be totally comfortable when you are taking a picture or capturing footage.

Thanks for  
watching

