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- [Computers/Tech/Photo](http://www.letsgokings.com/bbs/f15/) (<http://www.letsgokings.com/bbs/f15/>)

- - [LGK Photography Challenge #2](#)

(http://www.letsgokings.com/bbs/f15/lgk_photography_challenge_2_a-72061.html)

ValleyFan

February 4th, 2008 08:21 AM

Added new pics to [my set](#). Feeling a bit under the weather this weekend, so there was minimal picture taking, but I managed to get something.

ValleyFan

February 4th, 2008 10:26 AM

OK, starting to recover from yesterday's Super Bowling, so a round of comments:

Blurker:

Really like the first shot of the board. The angle and the lighting are great, it makes for a very interesting image. My one suggestion for this image would be to crop out some of the headroom above the board. Perhaps cropping to a to a 1.85:1 aspect ratio? I also like the red circles image, I like the way it conveys the texture of the fabric. If I were going to comment on it, I would say I wish the focal plane were pushed slightly so that some part of one of the circles was tack sharp, right now it is pretty close to the left hand circle, but slightly in front. Nice shots.

RR:

Nice shots of the neon signs! I agree with OVB, they do have a nice feel to them. When you posted those shots from the Derby Dolls, I could help but think that they would be perfect for this challenge, so I'm glad to see that you included them, and the Doo Dah Parade is the epitome of color :)

FBJ:

I like the B+W conversions you are doing (the one of the dinosaurs is fantastic). With the one posted here, are you adding any noise to the image? All the others from that body are so clean, so with Puckmonkey talking about noise, I was wondering if you were adding some to this shot. I like it, either way, it adds some texture and feeling.

OVB:

The Tack Attack is fantastic! How did you get some of the shots that look like they are stuck into a mirror (shot #1)? Really great. I think that the color balance is the best on the tacks that are against a black background, the colors of the tacks really pop, where with the first two tack shot the color balance feels off, and the tacks aren't as saturated. The tacks into the newspaper are nice as well, but they also feel a little of color balance wise (the paper feels too warm). But I love the idea and concept of the shoot.

OTTO VoN BLoTTo

February 4th, 2008 12:51 PM

Thanks, ValleyFan. Actually the first two were tests to see if the concept worked (shooting up through glass, and with a mirror on top for some), and after hanging the black background and shooting lots, I made the amateur mistake of thinking they looked sweet (in the LCD review), breaking everything down, importing to the computer and finding that there were lots of problems. I wasn't happy with most (and the good ones were too similar to post), so decided to throw in the tests. One more shoot

and I probably coulda nailed it. Anyway, I have a p&s pic of the setup in case your interested.

But I was ready to move on to my next subject, and was pretty excited about it.... Until.....

Quote:

Originally Posted by **ValleyFan** (Post 1061993)
8 Second Stop Light:
http://i84.photobucket.com/albums/k3...80202_5462.jpg

NOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! :cbgb:

I may post mine anyway, as the shots are already taken. But you got exactly what I wanted and couldn't pull off: One 6 or 8 second exposure covering the 3-light progression. Had only a small time window yesterday (around noon), chased by the rain with the skies ultra-bright and glary. So had to take three separate shots--one of each light. Since I **finally** got my first copy of photoshop on Saturday from a friend, started cutting out the lights to put them onto one single image. I'm having fun with it--and it's going to look slightly different than yours--so hope you don't mind if I post it later in the week.

btw... your other new ones are well done, and look VERY cool. Everyone is posting good stuff, but you and FBJ, RR and PuckMonkey are definitely showing your experience.

ValleyFan

February 4th, 2008 01:08 PM

Quote:

Originally Posted by **OTTO VoN BLOTT** (Post 1067773)
I may post mine anyway, as the shots are already taken. --so hope you don't mind if I post it later in the week.

By all means, please do. I think FBJ was pretty on the money about duplicate subjects, it can be very informative and a good learning experience to be able to compare two peoples interpretation of the same subject.

FlyBoeingJets

February 4th, 2008 01:20 PM

Quote:

Originally Posted by **OTTO VoN BLOTT** (Post 1067773)
but you and FBJ, RR and PuckMonkey are definitely showing your experience.

Experience??

HAH!!!

Have I got YOU fooled or WHAT?!

The reality of it all is that I've only really been taking this photography thing seriously for a little over

a year. I personally feel I have a LONG way to go, especially in the creativity department, to come anywhere near some of the other images in these Challenges.

I do appreciate the thought, though. Thanks.

BTW, I was absolutely FLOORED by the thumbtacks! AMAZING composition. I want to know how it was done!

FlyBoeingJets

February 4th, 2008 01:27 PM

Quote:

Originally Posted by **ValleyFan** (Post 1067651)

FBJ:

I like the B+W conversions you are doing (the one of the dinosaurs is fantastic). With the one posted here, are you adding any noise to the image? All the others from that body are so clean, so with Puckmonkey talking about noise, I was wondering if you were adding some to this shot. I like it, either way, it adds some texture and feeling.

The black-and-white version of the dinosaur image ([here](#)) is the first HDR I've done where I actually liked the outcome. And I actually hated it before I converted it to black-and-white.

The "Flying Triangles" image was simply converted as-shot to black-and-white. The only thing I did after that was jack up the black-clipping and contrast to about the 50% level. The "grain" was just simply there (shot at ISO 640). Nothing added, post-prod wise.

Thanks for the compliments!

ValleyFan

February 4th, 2008 02:15 PM

Quote:

Originally Posted by **OTTO VoN BLoTTo** (Post 1067773)

Thanks, ValleyFan. Actually the first two were tests to see if the concept worked (shooting up through glass, and with a mirror on top for some)

Now knowing how you did it and looking at them again, that was very clever. Kudos on that set up!

rinkrat

February 4th, 2008 02:31 PM

Quote:

Originally Posted by **OTTO VoN BLoTTo** (Post 1067323)

And rinkrat, I LOVE the neon sign shots!! Awesome exposures! They evoke a certain feeling... and somehow I can't stop thinking of Charles Bukowski...

I always mean to take a picture of these cool signs and then they are gone before I actually get around to it (like the Flite Room near the LB Airport) So this "challenge" gave me the excuse to go

down there on and actually take pics of them. I guess I have a thing with signs... In fact, this reminds me that there is a cool DC Jets sign near the airport that I need to visit real soon.

PuckHead27

February 4th, 2008 02:51 PM

Hello everyone, I just got back from vacation. These weren't taken for the challenge, but I thought they might fit in.

<http://amdelrosario.smugmug.com/photos/251898127-L.jpg>

Edit: Cropped as per VF's suggestions...

<http://amdelrosario.smugmug.com/phot...942332-L-5.jpg>

http://amdelrosario.smugmug.com/phot..._mw2V9-L-1.jpg

<http://amdelrosario.smugmug.com/photos/250942265-L.jpg>

Edit: Slightly cropped in an attempt to find the visual center ;) as per PM's suggestion...

<http://amdelrosario.smugmug.com/phot...901471-L-2.jpg>

Edit: Cropped again using the "rule of thirds." THANKS PM!

<http://amdelrosario.smugmug.com/phot...933619-L-2.jpg>

<http://amdelrosario.smugmug.com/photos/250942281-L.jpg>

OK that one was a stretch.

<http://amdelrosario.smugmug.com/phot...942270-L-1.jpg>

OTTO VoN BLoTTo

February 5th, 2008 03:06 AM

Just posted my version of teh stoplight [here](#).

Quote:

Originally Posted by **PuckHead27** (Post 1067842)

Hello everyone, I just got back from vacation. These weren't taken for the challenge, but I thought they might fit in.

[center]<http://amdelrosario.smugmug.com/phot...942332-L-2.jpg>

Was this from Diamond Head lookout? Never been up there, but can't think of anyplace else. You can almost see our house.... *just* up the hill on the right. Hope you enjoyed yourselves out here... and really nice pics! REALLY dig the boat in front of the sunset.

Blurker

February 5th, 2008 08:40 AM

Puckhead, that boat/sunset shot is awesome. Did you do anything color wise, or was that straight

outta the camera?

Great shots.

ValleyFan

February 5th, 2008 10:52 AM

Yeah, the lighthouse and the sunset pics are both awesome. My one pet peeve with landscape shots (especially shots over water) just level out your horizon. Did you use a warming filter on there? Very nice shots.

PuckHead27

February 5th, 2008 06:03 PM

Quote:

Originally Posted by **OTTO VoN BLoTTo**

Was this from Diamond Head lookout? Never been up there, but can't think of anyplace else. You can almost see our house.... just up the hill on the right. Hope you enjoyed yourselves out here... and really nice pics! REALLY dig the boat in front of the sunset.

Yup, it was taken from Diamond Head lookout. It was a interesting little hike up there. We got rained on a couple of times and I had to use my windbreaker/jacket to cover my camera bag/backpack. I ended up all wet, but at least the Canon stayed dry. ;)

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Blurker**

Puckhead, that boat/sunset shot is awesome. Did you do anything color wise, or was that straight outta the camera?

Great shots.

Thanks! :) That was straight out of the camera, I used a circular polarizer.

Quote:

Originally Posted by **ValleyFan**

Yeah, the lighthouse and the sunset pics are both awesome. My one pet peeve with landscape shots (especially shots over water) just level out your horizon. Did you use a warming filter on there? Very nice shots.

Thanks VF.

Yeah, I see what you mean about the horizon. That's pretty basic and I can't believe I wasn't thinking about it. It's hard though when you're in awe of what you're seeing. You kind of let some things slip your mind and just shoot. I guess I need to shoot a lot more until that sort of thing becomes instinctual. Thanks for the advice. :good:

OTTO VoN BLoTTo

February 5th, 2008 06:34 PM

Oh crap. I kinda shot my wad a tad early then, anticipating the end of this theme. Guess I'll look

around a bit more. But as always, anxious to see all your interpretations.

And where the hell is nocturn? Throw us a bone, dude! I KNOW you've got something, right? Or just too busy still?

btw, FBJ and ValleyFan: since you were curious, I posted a pic of my sophisticated and highly technical tack set-up :grin: in my image post [here](#). And thanks again for the feedback.

ValleyFan

February 5th, 2008 08:21 PM

Quote:

Originally Posted by **PuckHead27** (Post 1068801)

Yeah, I see what you mean about the horizon. That's pretty basic and I can't believe I wasn't thinking about it. It's hard though when you're in awe of what you're seeing. You kind of let some things slip your mind and just shoot. I guess I need to shoot a lot more until that sort of thing becomes instinctual. Thanks for the advice. :good:

I do it all the time and that is why it is a pet peeve of mine :) It has very slowly gotten better for me though, making sure that it all looks good in the viewfinder. They sell focusing screens that have grids on them for this express purpose, though I have never gotten one (I am currently being seduced by a split prism screen, but because they are custom made for the 5D they are more than you would want to spend on a focus screen) Luckily enough, it is extremely easy to fix after the fact.

ValleyFan

February 5th, 2008 10:33 PM

Alright, so I am going to go back and try and give more rigorous critiques in hopes that will be a more useful bit of feed back (and I hope I will get some as well). Some times it stings, but you learn a lot more from someone saying "yeah, that doesn't work for me and here is why" rather than from the nice to get but not very helpful "great image!" I do think there are a lot of great images here, and I have been greatly impressed by many of them, but I wonder how much we are learning if none of the feedback is critical. And besides, according to FBJ's rules, you can't get your panties all in a bunch ;)

FBJ:

Quote:

Tribute To X-WingCameWest: Top O' The LGK Heap

http://gcalvin.com/files/primaries/_GCC1388small.jpg

This is actually a re-shoot of an image I captured a month or so ago.

See the original version [here](#).

Off-camera flash, tripod, black foam-core background, and a little tweaking of black levels and contrast in Lightroom.

While the reshoot is cleaner, I don't know if it works with this image. I liked the wood floor in the first one, the black background feels a little floaty to me. I liked the warmth that the floor provided, it worked nicely with the blocks. I may be off base with this, but I think blocks are inherently children's toys, a the little bit of disorder that was happening in the stack in the first shot reenforced that feeling.

Quote:

Wetro

http://gcalvin.com/files/primaries/_GCC1437small.jpg

Nikon 70-200 f/2.8, 2x teleconverter, monopod, galoshes.

I do like this shot. It depends on which screen I look at this on (so it might be a hardware problem on my side), but on my calibrated work screen, it feels over saturated to me, back off on the vibrance slider and I think you are there.

Quote:

Circles Of Color

http://gcalvin.com/files/primaries/_GCC1492small.jpg

Off-camera flash, 12mm extension tube.

I'm not even sure I like this shot, to be honest.

Others from this series of images are [here](#).

One thing that is missing from this shot that is in some of the closer ones is being able to see the tooth of the paper. I think that a slight compromise between the two might be nice, as the paper is half the subject, but not so tight on the crayons as you are in _GCC1498

Quote:

What Are The Odds??

http://gcalvin.com/files/primaries/_GCC1553small.jpg

I like what you are trying to do here, but for me I'm not sure there is enough "meat" in terms of objects in the focal area (just the top 1/4 of frame). I think if the portion in focus occupied just a bit more of frame, it would feel more visually satisfying, give my eyes a little more to chew on.

Quote:

Stars Upon Thars

http://gcalvin.com/files/primaries/_GCC1543small.jpg

I might just be a retard, but I have a hard time keeping focus on this image, my eye is pulled all over the frame, because there is so much happening on the periphery. Perhaps if you pushed in a bit, it might be a little more settling for the eye.

Quote:

Tile Mosaic

http://gcalvin.com/files/primaries/_GCC1566small.jpg

I think with this image, the fact that the frame of the tiles isn't square enough to frame to read as straight, and not skewed enough to read as intentionally skewed, it reads (to me) as a bit snapshotty, like you weren't concerned with framing.

Ruely:

I would say try to get the lighting off your camera as much as possible. Anything you can do to move you lighting away from the axis of your lens, the better. Tape a piece of tissue on there to increase the effective size, or just turn it off if you can. Learning to work without the onboard flash is a great skill to have. It is hard, but very worth the effort.

Big Joe:

I didn't see that you had new additions, you could always drop a new post letting us know to take a look so we don't miss any new ones you have. I'm not sure the new radio image is quite there yet. I am curious if it is just a discrepancy between your lenses, or if there is some difference between your lighting. For the brick shot, it feels to me that the subject should be the brick itself, yet the center of frame is mortar. Anything you can do to make that brick the hero brick would help. Center it, or perhaps shoot it at an angle with a wide aperture so you can isolate the brick with a narrow depth of field. With the dog, the bricks encroaching in the lower left feels a little distracting from me. A slightly tighter crop might help this a bit. I think seeing them in frame just a touch could be interesting, but perhaps not so much into frame. There also looks like there is a bit of motion blur on the shot.

OVB:

The crop is better, but I bet you could go even further, perhaps almost half the glass. Get the composition a bit off centered (but still balanced) so it doesn't feel quite so static.

Quote:

<http://i30.photobucket.com/albums/c3...v/tacks3-1.jpg>

I would actually like to see this inverted. I think one of the strongest things about the Tack Attack series is that you leave the viewer wondering how you did it, and this one might be a little more interesting the other way around.

Quote:

<http://i30.photobucket.com/albums/c3...v/tacks4-1.jpg>

I think this suffers a bit from the blacks being pushed a little too much. It almost feels like the pins have been cut and paste into the image. I think if you allowed a little more room for the darks in the image (don't push that black slider up so much), you might see the velvet / duvetyn, but that might make the image read as a little more believable that it is actually happening in camera.

Quote:

http://i30.photobucket.com/albums/c3...opligh_sm.jpg

You have already commented on this yourself, so I won't belabor the point, the time of day and the sun conditions make this shot difficult. Switching from the Away theme to the Woot theme, this shot works a little better (with the away theme, there is no boarder on the image as it blends into the background), but if you are going to the graphic look, perhaps you could give it a boarder, or some sort of matting to set the image off a little.

imamonsta:

Quote:

<http://www.vanitydesignstudios.com/p...ys/cricket.jpg>

The keystoneing that is happening with the case is a little distracting (the camera is a little low pointing up, so the sides of the case converge toward the top of frame). I think if you can't get the camera high enough (not enough tripod), then you might want to change your crop a bit so it isn't quite so distracting. As for the treatment of the image (the Lomo look), I think with this subject, it is close, but not quite a right on hit for me. I think if you were going this route, I might prefer to see the image posterized, or some treatment like that. As it is, the Lomo look is half way in between the two worlds, and not being one or the other, it is a little distracting for me.

Deuce:

Quote:

http://farm3.static.flickr.com/2089/...e5cd1923_b.jpg

I like the DIY lightbox, but in this case, the lighting feels a little too even. There isn't any directionality, I'm not saying there has to be a lot, but I would like to see either one side lit more than the other, or slightly more focused light so we get a little more shadow definition. Lightboxes are great because they make it easy to get great, soft, even light, but there downfall is that can result in a lighting situation that is a little bland.

_ = =o lxxl

Quote:

http://i11.photobucket.com/albums/a1...6/100_2061.jpg

I think with this image, I'm not given a strong subject to focus on, and so my eye tends to wander around the frame. For me, to get this image to work, I might try something like making all the field M&Ms one color, and the hero M&M different a different color, and perhaps size. Something like that, something that will cue us to think "this is what I want to look at" and have something that our eye can settle on.

Puckmonkey:

Quote:

<http://www.cindrome.com/LGKPHOTO/pri...ackyard-Is.jpg>

With this image, with the shutter open for so long, there is no way you are going to be able hide the background, so I think if you found one that worked a bit better with the image, it would help you out. In other words, make sure that the background is something you want back there, not just what happens to be there.

Quote:

<http://www.cindrome.com/LGKPHOTO/pri...rs-attacks.jpg>

I think with this one, because you are forced to shoot through the mesh on the microwave, you want to have it work for you as much as possible. I feel for me, if the camera were square to the mesh, the pattern that the mesh makes would be square to frame, and therefore might be more interesting as

part of the image, instead of distracting from it.

Blurker:

I do like the first image in your set, the lighting is great, and I think with the right crop it could be really strong.

Quote:

http://farm3.static.flickr.com/2168/...87a31579_b.jpg

I think with this one, it a little too between being a straight on view, and being a perspective view like the first image. I also feel that in this one, the LEDs are the brightest thing in frame, so my eye is drawn to them, yet they are just slightly out of focus. I think if you want that 1st or 2nd knob to be the focal point, you need to narrow your depth of field a bit to highlight that area. As it is right now, my eye is a little lost in that image

rinkrat:

Quote:

http://www.letsgokings.com/images/custom/3636_club.jpg

I like the sign shot, but I think with this one, the focus on the 36 36 Club sign could be reinforced a bit if the depth of field were slightly narrower. As it is right now, you were shooting f/2.8 on that shot, so you are already wide open, but you are shooting at 17mm, so the sign is already past the hyperfocal distance of the lens at that zoom, and everything is in focus. If it were possible to step back, zoom in a bit, that might help to throw some of the foreground and background out of focus a bit, and with the stepping back and zooming in, that might get the Euclid street sign out of frame.

PuckHead27:

Quote:

<http://amdelrosario.smugmug.com/phot...942332-L-2.jpg>

Landscape shots in this weather are hard, because they often end up being low contrast due to all the atmosphere. Beyond doing some photomagic in something like Photoshop, I think a simple crop might help here. If you cropped off the top of the image, where the background is fading to gray, you still get a lot of the rainbow, and retain the high contrast portion at the bottom of the image.

Quote:

<http://amdelrosario.smugmug.com/photos/250942265-L.jpg>

The colors in this are great, but I think that the viewing angle is disadvantages for the lighthouse, as it makes it feel probably shorter than it is. Of course this might not help you at all because this might have been the only place you could get a shot of the lighthouse, but if at all possible, try and get that camera low so something like a lighthouse looks nice and big.

Again, I hope no one gets offended by these crits, I have just been hoping for someone to come down on me, as I think the best way to learn is to see the mistakes that you have made so you can work on correcting them in the future. I'm also just one person, so in the end my opinion doesn't really matter. If the image looks like the way you wanted it, that is all that really matters. There are fantastic images here, and my hope here is that with a little crit here and there they can get even better.

Unruely35

February 6th, 2008 08:19 AM

Don't hurt me, ValleyFan... I [Added More](#). Be gentle. <3

Blurker

February 6th, 2008 11:30 PM

I've added a couple to my original post, [here](#).

Quote:

Originally Posted by **ValleyFan** (Post 1061993)

Red, green, yellow

http://i84.photobucket.com/albums/k3...80127_5343.jpg

I like this concept. Although the size of the limes relative to the lemons and the nectarines throws me off a bit. I'd maybe try cropping that one tighter to get it a bit closer to the other two. Also, the single stem coming off the left lemon really distracts me.

Quote:

Originally Posted by **ValleyFan** (Post 1061993)

Red Kitchen bowl:

http://i84.photobucket.com/albums/k3...80202_5413.jpg

I LOVE these types of shots. This one is nice, but the specks of ? on the right side are really taking away from the image.

Quote:

Originally Posted by **ValleyFan** (Post 1061993)

5 South:

http://i84.photobucket.com/albums/k3...0202_5465a.jpg

I like this shot as well. I feel like the buildings and such in the upper left are hurting the effect. If you were able to crop out most of the lights and still keep the some of the starting point of the road, I think it would help.

All times are GMT -8. The time now is 09:34 AM.

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