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

- - [LGK Photography Challenge #3](#)

(http://www.letsgokings.com/bbs/f15/lgk_photography_challenge_3_a-73481.html)

PuckMonkey

March 8th, 2008 12:35 AM

Coming in bits and pieces...

FBJ:

"Extooling" and "Flash Difuxxer" remind me that have have to get some tubes, like yesterday. Tight and crisp as usual, and good theme studies of the subject. The diffuser shot is especially nice the way the shadow edges graduate from corner to corner. • Nice creative way to get the theme in "Gin, No Tonix", and I love that you "enhanced" reality to get the color you wanted, but I have a feeling you have a better shot of this set-up that didn't make the cut because it wasn't as direct to the 'X' theme. I also like "Inxtruments", mostly because of your choice to go B/W with it. Your B/W images always show good tonal range, and I always get the sense that it wasn't just a simple conversion. The final images, as others have mentioned, do have that snapshot feel to them, and that's the burden you have hoisted upon yourself because of the high quality images you always put up.

OTTO VoN BLoTTo:

Again, nice stuff from OTTo. The first image in the "Xtolling Poles" set I think needs to be bumped by at least a stop and a half. There are some great textures and colors in there that are being sacrificed for a nice histogram. Compressing the tonal range a bit will force those textures out of the wood and the rusty metal (you were concerned about blowing out the highlights in the corners, weren't you?). There is so much to look at that I wouldn't care if the corners were all zeros. The second pic in that series is great. Great color. Love the twisted composition, and I love that you didn't worry about losing the shadow detail. The third one, well... Let me just say this. Photoshop is like a strippers boob-job: You will never hear me complain about it, but there a true admiration and appreciation for when it looks and feels natural. After seeing what you gave us in the previous images (particularly #2), you are now burdened with the curse of high expectations. • I love the "Goin' to work high" images. The yellow on blue is sweet. If anything, and this is a purely personal taste, the symmetry may be an issue on the first image. A different composition could really enhance the sense of dimension. Then again, maybe not. But possibly worth exploring. • And "cars cross" is another real good shot. Great in fact. Nice catch on the reflections yet still keep the theme in play. Good stuff again.

*** more tomorrow ***

ValleyFan

March 8th, 2008 11:50 AM

OK, lets try this again, sorry for the abbreviated version.

FBJ:

I really like the feel of dirty laundry. It is interesting though, I feel like I want to crop out a bit of the floor, but I like the X you have going on down there, but perhaps tighten it just slightly.

With the gin bottle, I'm not sure I'm feeling the amount of off centeredness. I feel it needs to be a bit more on or off center, but not quite where it is.

With Instruments, I like these instruments shots, but my eye is drawn to the X that is also happening in (what I think is) the VOR DME gauge, so if the image was framed so that was more toward the center of frame, and still keeping the X that is the negative space between the gauges.

Buckley is more what I was trying to get, but mine = FAIL ;)

Puckmonkey:

Love "X marks the spot"! Nice get.

I find the color temp in both Goon Boots and Paganini's Sonata for Kazoo in C minor to be a bit distracting. The green in the kazoo is suffering a bit due to the shift.

Like everyone has has, the incense is really cool, nice matting work.

I like your lighting for the screws, sort of a DIY lightbox without the lightbox.

X-Wing (Came West), Mother Nature as Basket Weaver, and "Has Anybody Seen My Brother?" are all great images. I think with X-Wing, it would be nice to see a little bit of the details in the feathers beneath (a little fill). A sort of PJ kind of guy once told me when he has to go out shooting in bright sun and he can't bring a reflector of fill flash, he wears a white shirt to act as an ad hoc reflector. I haven't really tried it, and it might not work in this situation, but it would be interesting to see.

This was the contrail shot that I was hoping to get throughout the weeks, but for some reason I never saw any when I was looking. The sky here does look a bit saturated to me though.

OVB:

I really like the first pole shot, and I like the sharpening that you have done. One thing I would suggest though is to mask of everything that you are not interested in sharpening (for instance the sky, and only leaving your edges), so you don't end up just sharpening the noise as well.

RinkRat:

I like the saturation that you have in the sky in your first shot, but I like the lighting in the second

Nice capture of a hummer! I also really like the netting shot, I think it is one of the strongest in your collection this week.

DRice:

Nice finding the Xs in the Kings Uni. Now lets see some more!

Love2Laugh:

I think the globe shot is the strongest of your set. It clearly shows a subject and guides the eye to it. I feel with the others, there isn't the same emphasis on a subject, and as a result, your eye tends to wander around the frame a bit more. If you can emphasize your subject through focus, lighting, or framing, I think it will help settle the eye.

Ruely:

I like the framing of CuJO Special Delivery. I think if you set your focus on the netting it would help the shot.

With the scarf and handbag, I would like to see the camera a bit lower, so it was more level with the scarf. That way it "elevates" the subject and it isn't just something we are looking down at. Nice scarf though ;)

MotherPuck:

Nice choice for the challenge. The lighting is also working for you to help accentuate the texture of the fabric. Now lets see some more!

BigJoe:

Very creative interpretation of the challenge. I would like to see a bit tighter crop, as I find the foreground objects a bit distracting. I think you could push you exposure a bit as well.

Blurker:

I feel the on camera flash is hurting you a bit here with the microphone shots, as it is flattening things out a bit.

I love the rope on cleat shot! There is a great tonality that is happening with the rope. I bet you could push the contrast just a touch more to bring that out a little more.

Watti:

I really like the man hole cover. With the food, I think if you could increase the size of your light source, that would give the seductive "I want to eat that" feel to it. Try bouncing your flash off a reflector or a wall to increase its size, or move the light source closer to the subject to increase its relative size. This will also help fill in some of your shadows a bit so they don't clip to black.

HockeyNut:

Cute cat! It is a little hard to decipher however. If you could introduce a little more light, I think it would help you out a lot. Let's see some more!

ImA1032:

Nice find of X, but imagine there are a lot more at a speedway :)

DeaderFan:

I really like the beach series! Of the set, X Kids is great, it conveys a wonderful feeling. The Yosemite series are fantastic as well, although don't convey the X challenge quite as strongly. I like the first stand of trees, morning ice, and half dome is fantastic!

PITA:

I like POS car, but I think I would like to push in a bit more so we could see some of the detail on the ice crystals.

As for the bells, I like the upshot, because it is something you don't see all the time. I would like to see the focus right on the confluence of the X.

With To Honor, photographing black uniforms / tuxes (any dark woolish type fabric) is a real challenge, as it is very easy to lose detail in the shadows of the fabric (just ask any wedding photog who has to get the details in the black tux and the white dress). If you push your exposure a bit, that will help retain the details in the darkest blacks.

HeShootsNScores:

Nice shots. With metals, they only give direct reflections, so the size of you light source which the metal is reflecting becomes very important. The other nice thing with metals is that because there isn't any diffuse reflections, you can flood your scene with diffuse light, and the metal won't reflect it to the camera if the light source is itself is not reflecting back to camera, which makes balancing the brightness of your direct reflections and the surrounding fill light a little easier to manage.

What I am trying to say is that the light on the spoon handle looks great because there is some texture on the handle that is diffusing the light a bit and reflecting to camera, which is giving a nice soft light look. With the head of the spoon where the metal is smooth, it is only reflecting direct light, so we see a very small light source. if you placed a sheet of something between the light and the spoon, that would help to increase the size of the light source.

empire:

The plasma cutter has some great potential, I think the on camera flash is hurting you a bit. There is some great lighting and colors that are happening from the cutter, but the flash is dampening that bit.

With the dome, looks good, but slightly underexposed.

empire

March 8th, 2008 01:03 PM

Thanks PM.

I tried different angles and lights on the plasma, this one got the best red glow without being washed out. The fire is unpredictable and moving too fast but I'm going to cut some much thicker material in a couple of weeks.

BIG JOE

March 8th, 2008 03:17 PM

Quote:

Originally Posted by **ValleyFan** (Post 1097933)

BigJoe:

Very creative interpretation of the challenge. I would like to see a bit tighter crop, as I find the foreground objects a bit distracting. I think you could push you exposure a bit as well.

I'm not sure what the exposure was cuz I used the full auto and flash function. Wasn't trying to get artsy in a dark cramped attic.

FlyBoeingJets

March 8th, 2008 08:10 PM

Okay. This Challenge is toast.

(/waits for the collective "PHEW!! IT'S ABOUT FRICKIN' TIME!!")

The participant whom I thought best illustrated the theme of Photo Challenge #3 with their images is [Watti](#).

All hail Watti!

The pics he submitted for X (Without "X") were just what I was after, theme wise. He saw some X's in some amazing things and gave us some amazing images that really illustrated the theme perfectly, in my opinion.

So Watti gets to choose the next Challenge theme! Fantastic job, Watti!

What will Watti's choice for our next Challenge be!?!?!?

Tune in again soon for LGK Photography Challenge #4!!

Watti

March 9th, 2008 07:41 AM

Quote:

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:woot:kc: :woot:

I'll get back to FBJ with an idea for Challenge #4 later on today, and I also still need to provide what feedback I can for everybody. Hopefully I'll get around to that tonight, too.

ImA1032

March 9th, 2008 09:41 AM

Quote:

Originally Posted by **ValleyFan** (Post 1097933)

ImA1032:

Nice find of X, but imagine there are a lot more at a speedway :)

Oh I have no doubt there were plenty of Xs at the speedway. (Including an X-girlfriend LOL)

I wasn't even looking for them but while shooting pictures of the truck race, it dawned on me as the race approached half way that he'd display the crossed flags. It was more tongue in cheek and spur of the moment than anything.

rinkrat

March 9th, 2008 10:37 AM

I have been learning quite a few things through the experimentation required for these challenges. I've been able to use the techniques in my everyday shooting (like at Tip-a-King) to make things more interesting. The challenges started just after I got a new camera and lenses, so it's really helping me master all of the settings. They need to become second nature and that's happening real fast.

It's easy for me to take pictures of SOMETHING like an event like practice, derby dolls, tip-a-king etc, but it's another kettle of fish to be creative and find pictures out there in the world. This challenge makes us stay aware of our surroundings and opportunities for CREATIVE photography. It makes it worthwhile since our whole group are very clever, which keeps everyone on thir toes.

Great stuff.

OTTO VoN BLoTTo

March 9th, 2008 05:46 PM

Great job Watti! Really nice shots, and I agree with FBJ that you hit the theme dead on.

Looking forward to the next challenge....and hoping work eases up so I can focus on what's REALLY important. :3smile:

All times are GMT -7. The time now is 08:31 PM.

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