



Camera

When using a camera it is important to remember that the subject is performing not the camera – steady shots allow you to concentrate on the subject a tripod is one of the most important pieces of equipment in a camera kit. If you don't have a tripod you become limited in how you can shoot. Shooting with a telephoto lens requires the camera to be rock solid to produce a steady shot and if done hand held can result in "hose piping". Set up your camera, choose your shot and stick to it. It is better to have a lot of steady shots with the subject entering and leaving the frame than one continuous shot that moves all around "hose piping" and zooms in and out "tromboning". Ok sometimes it works but it's pretty hard to get right.

When setting up a shot you should check before hitting record:

- Framing
- Focus
- White balance
- Iris

The key to a good shot is framing, focus, white balance and iris.

Framing

Basic Types of Shot

BCU big close up



CU close up



MS medium shot

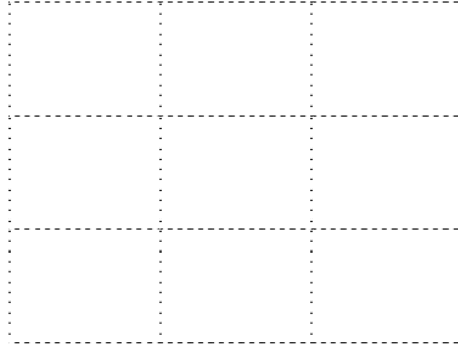


WS wide shot



The rule of thirds

The rule of thirds can be seen in every film or video programme made as well as classical art. It is a guideline rather than a rule that can help you decide whether or not to break it.



If we divide a TV screen into thirds we can use the lines as guides to framing a shot.



Note how the eyes fall on the top horizontal third. The subject is framed on the left vertical third to allow looking room across the screen and giving a more natural image.

Look at the different types of shot and see how they relate to the thirds grid.

No matter what the size or angle of a shot the rule of thirds applies. When a shot comprises of more than one subject it is necessary to try and compromise there positions giving one subject more importance.

Focus

Focus is vital in a good shot. If a shot is out of focus it cannot be fixed on a computer.

When setting your focus on a shot the easiest thing to do is zoom in as tight as you can on the subject you wish to film, set your focus and iris then frame the shot.

By zooming in you reduce the “depth of field” and make it easier to focus.

Depth of field

The depth of field refers to the area in front or behind subject that is in focus.

In figure 1 the shot was taken from quite a distance and was zoomed in note how the background is out of focus on a zoomed in (tight) shot. In the wide shot the lens is zoomed out to its maximum and the depth of field increases figure 2.

Fig 1



Out of focus	In focus	Out of focus
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Fig 2



Out of focus	In focus	Out of focus
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If you understand depth of field you can use it to set up a feeling to your shots keeping backgrounds/foregrounds out of focus while you concentrate on the subject.

Auto focus

Most domestic cameras have an auto focus setting, which can be quite sophisticated but has its flaws. Auto focus will usually try and seek for something to focus on which causes it to keep going in and out of focus.

White Balance

A camera is a machine and therefore it needs the correct information to work. We have to tell a camera what the colour white is for every environment we are in. Below is an example of correct and incorrect white balance.



This is caused by the different light temperatures between indoors and outdoors. In the shots above the one on the left is set for inside but there is a lot of natural light from the windows after a re white balance on a sheet of paper the result is more natural.

Iris

The iris refers to how much light is let into the lens or the “exposure” of the image it works much the same way as your eye letting in more light to compensate for low light and closing it down in bright conditions. Setting you iris can be done by eye o by using a light meter to determine the level of light on a subject – this is measured in f-stops.

Under



Correct



Over



Exposure can be use to great effect and you can choose to expose certain objects o the whole picture at the correct/incorrect level.