

September, 2020



2020 Assigned Subjects:

September-Cars

October-Doors

November-Pathways

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Lebanon Camera Club

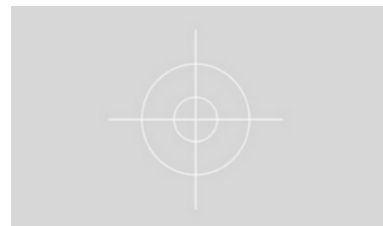
News

- September Zoom Meeting: Tuesday, 9/1/20 6:30 pm
- Mini-Program: Autofocus
- Digital Competition: Cars
- Image Critique: By Request

Photography Educational Series—Gray Card

What is a gray card—A gray card is exactly what it says it is. A card that is gray. More specifically, it is middle gray, or 18% gray. This number is important because 18% gray is what your camera's meter is trying to calculate when it meters to expose for a scene. This means if you put a grey card in front of your subject, and take a meter reading off it, you will get a correct exposure regardless of any tonal contrast in the scene.

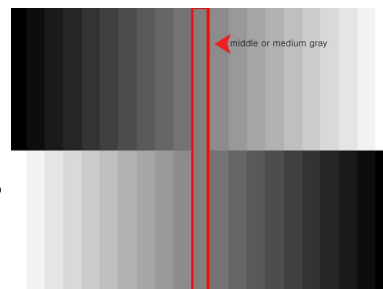
Additionally, when used in conjunction with a camera's custom white balance feature, you can manually set a perfect white balance for everything you photograph. This becomes especially important when you need to faithfully recreate colors in your images, whether that may be for commercial purposes or record shots.



To get started, the first thing you'll want to do is to set your camera to the spot metering mode. While this is not absolutely necessary, the fact that the camera will only be metering from a small section in the center of the frame will help a lot, especially in circumstances where you cannot fill the entire frame with the gray card. It will also save you a lot of time if you use manual mode.

With your metering mode changed, all that you have to do now, to take advantage of this technique, is put the gray card in your scene, point the centre of the frame at it, dial in the exposure your meter gives you and then just take the gray card away. Providing that the light doesn't change, you will now have an accurate exposure for any subsequent shots that you take in this setup.

Why does a gray card work? Essentially, the gray card works because of its lack of color. Gray is a neutral tone, and even though there are many different shades of gray, the gray used on a gray card is considered to be a





“There are no rules for good photographs, only good photographs”
- Ansel Adams

Gray Card cont'd.

“middle gray.” The middle gray hue makes it easy for the camera to understand a given lighting situation and prescribe the best solution.

Should I use a Gray Card or my camera's white balance presets?

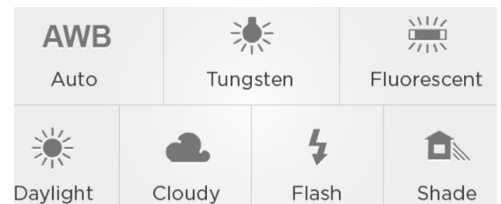
Both methods are effective means of achieving accurate color, as long as you know how to use them to your advantage. Modern DSLRs are equipped with a “gray card” system of their own. When you set your camera's white balance to AUTO, your camera fishes around in a scene for medium gray and applies the appropriate white balance preset that will create color balance.

For example, if you were taking a photograph in a room with tungsten bulbs, your camera would add cooler, bluer tones to the image in order to create that neutral medium gray. Another example can be seen in the images below, which were captured in natural sunlight. Based on the differing color temperatures of the images, you can see that setting the proper white balance is important for capturing accurate colors:

Hints—There are a few things you can do that will make this process easier and more accurate.

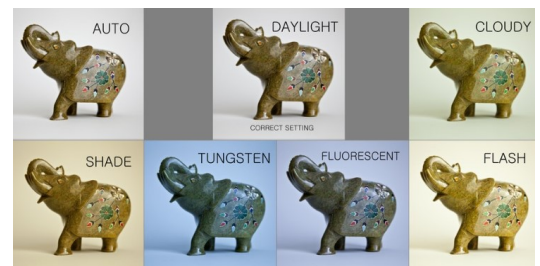
First, you should make sure that your subject remains in a similar position relative to the light source, from where you took your gray card reading. For example, if you're taking headshots outdoors and the sun is lighting your subject from the front; that is one exposure reading. If you turn your subject to the side, or completely around, that will affect your exposure and you will need to take another reading.

The second tip is when you're taking the exposure reading; fill the frame with the gray card as much as possible. This will help to ensure that your meter is only trying to expose for the card, and not anything around the edges.



White balance—Although the basic white balance settings in cameras can be pretty good, they do tend to struggle at times. For example, tungsten bulbs can vary greatly in color temperature, depending on their quality and power output. This may lead to the basic tungsten setting on your camera failing to give you an accurate representation of colors.

There are two ways to use a gray card to set your white balance. The first is to use it to set your camera's custom white balance. The second method will allow you to use Lightroom to set a white balance for your images after they have been taken. You can also use Adobe Camera Raw (inside Photoshop) if you don't have Lightroom.



In-camera custom white balance—The technique described here is for Canon users. If you use Nikon, Sony, or any other brand, you will need to consult your

Cont'd

Gray Card cont'd.

manual for instructions on setting a custom white balance.

Step 1: Take a photo of your gray card, ensuring that it fills the frame entirely. Try to make sure that it is flat in the frame and that it is lit evenly, and in the same way as your subject.
Step 2: Open the camera's menu and find the option labeled "Custom White Balance" (or Custom WB). Press the select button and choose the photo of your gray card. Press select again and you have set your custom white balance. Set the camera's white balance to use the new custom setting and start taking photos.

If something in your scene changes, such as the lighting, just repeat the steps above and all of your images should have an accurate white balance.

How Do I Correct White Balance in Photoshop and Lightroom?

While capturing accurate colors in the camera will save you post-processing time, Photoshop is more than capable of helping you to correct colors that may not have translated well. The process is relatively simple. Open a test image that contains your gray card in Photoshop and create a Levels Adjustment Layer. You will find three eyedroppers stacked next to the Levels histogram. Select the middle eyedropper and click on the gray card. Photoshop will automatically adjust the image's color levels for you. If you need to apply those settings to other images taken in the same lighting conditions, click the drop-down menu in the top-right corner of the Levels column and select "Save Levels Preset." Name and save the preset and then open up your other file(s) for editing. For each image, find the "Load Levels Preset" from the Levels column's drop-down menu and select your saved preset file to apply it.

To accomplish this in Lightroom, simply select the White Balance eyedropper tool in the Basic menu of the Develop Module and click on the gray card. Next, highlight all of the images that you want to color correct and click the "Sync" button in the lower right corner of the screen. Check "White Balance," click "Synchronize," and watch the magic unfold.

Summary

All of the techniques outlined here are simple, and not very time consuming, yet the amount of extra control they give you over your camera makes a gray card one of the most cost effective accessories in any camera bag.

Source: <https://digital-photography-school.com/how-to-use-a-gray-card-to-get-more-accurate-exposures-and-color/> and <https://www.pixelz.com/blog/need-accurate-color-let-grey-cards-white-balancing-come-rescue/>



"Taking pictures is savoring life intensely every hundredth of a second"

- Marc Riboud



Photo Contests

- **Rennen Photography**
2020 Contest
<https://photocontest-guru.com>
- **Great American Photo Contest Monthly**
Baby Photo
www.greatamericanphotocontest.com

Various Photo Contests (Many Different Topics)

- <https://www.photocontestinsider.com/>
- <http://www.voubs.com>
- [Www.viewbug.com/photo-contests](http://www.viewbug.com/photo-contests)
- [Www.photocrowd.com/photo-competition](http://www.photocrowd.com/photo-competition)
- <https://www.outdoorphotographer.com/photo-contests/>
- <http://www.photocrowd.com>
- www.life-framer.com/
- <https://www.fanartreview.com>

Landscape and Nature Forum Photography Challenge—monthly theme and critique: https://www.facebook.com/groups/creativeraw/?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=March%20Photo%20Challenge%3A%20Color%20in%20Nature&utm_campaign=Facebook%20Group%20Contest

[utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=March%20Photo%20Challenge%3A%20Color%20in%20Nature&utm_campaign=Facebook%20Group%20Contest](https://www.facebook.com/groups/creativeraw/?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=March%20Photo%20Challenge%3A%20Color%20in%20Nature&utm_campaign=Facebook%20Group%20Contest)

Photo Opportunities

Kipona Festival—Harrisburg—
9/5=9/7 <http://harrisburgpa.gov/kipona/>

Golden Age Flying Circus 8/31—
Grimes Airfield
www.goldenageair.org—cancelled

Hawk Mountain 9/7
Vulture Awareness Day
www.hawkmountain.org

York Fair—cancelled
Haycreek Festival 9/12-9/13
www.haycreek.org

Denver Fair— cancelled 9/10=9/14
www.thedenverfair.com-cancelled

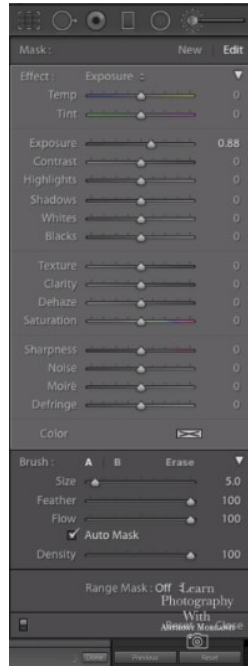
Fall Farm Days 9/19-9/20
Schaefferstown
www.hsimuseum.org

Southern Lancaster County Fair—cancelled
www.solancofair.com 9/18-9/20-cancelled

Bloomsburg Fair—cancelled 9/20-9/28
www.bloomsburgfair.com-cancelled

Photo Editing Features of the Month

The **Dodge** tool and the **Burn** tool lighten or darken areas of the image. These tools are based on a traditional darkroom technique for regulating exposure on specific areas of a print. **Photographers** hold back light to lighten an area on the print (**dodging**) or increase the exposure to darken areas on a print (**burning**).



Video demonstration on Dodge and Burn: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AP1Q_W8vG4g&feature=youtu.be

Product of the Month-GoPro Cameras

Just in case you want to skateboard, windsurf, or mountain bike, here are some videos on the GoPro action cameras! Pricing ranges from \$200 to \$500.

How to use a GoPro: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTuWmejOJZk>

Evaluation of GoPro8 vs. GoPro7: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ARS3SPVW768>

Workshops and Tours

Apogee Photo Magazine

For more information log on to

http://www.apogeephoto.com/photography_workshops.shtml

Wildlife and Nature Travel

www.wildlifeandnaturetravel.com

Art Wolfe Photography Workshops

www.artwolfeworkshops.com

Don Smith Photography

www.donsmithphotography.com

Brenda Tharp

www.brendatharp.com/

M&M Photo Tours

<http://www.mmphototours.com/>

Arizona Highway Photo Workshops

<http://www.friendsofhighways.com/>

John Shaw 2-Day Nature & Digital Photography Seminar

<http://www.photosafaris.com/>

Jack Graham Photography

<http://jackgrahamphoto.com/>

Rocky Mountain Reflections

www.rockymtnrefl.com/photographyworkshops.html

Slonina Photography—Explore Wild America

<http://www.sphotography.com>

Darwin Wiggett Tours & Workshops

<http://oopoomoo.com/workshopsandtours/>

Outdoor Photo Workshops

<http://www.outdoorphotoworkshops.com>

Photo Workshop Adventures

www.photoworkshopadventures.com

Michael Francis Photo Shoots

www.michaelfrancisphoto.com

Osprey Photo Workshops & Tours

www.ospreyphoto.com

Tom Dwyer Tours & Workshops

www.tomdwyerphoto.com

Horizon Photography Workshops

www.horizonworkshops.com

Below is a link of online pdf files from past monthly meeting presentations:

<http://www.bellallum.kotay.net/public/program/LebanonCameraClub/>

2020 Officers

President: Paul Hess
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Treasurer: Joni Bonus O'Ship
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Program: Keith Kotay
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Newsletter: Connie Fullenlove
connief922@gmail.com

Competition: Melodie Bechtel,
melodiebee@gmail.com

Community Affairs: Bill Sypher,
sypher1@comcast.net

Meetings are the first Tuesday of each month!

If you would like to do a program on anything digital related or know someone who would, please let us know.

Or

If you have something of interest for our members, please email them to the Newsletter Editor, Connie at lebanoncamera@gmail.com.

**MONTHLY
MEETING**
Be Connected. Be Heard. Be Informed.

Everyone is invited to attend our regular monthly meetings.

Unless otherwise noted we meet the first Tuesday at 6:30PM in St. Stephen's Christian Fellowship Church, 1100 Hunter Chase Lane, Lebanon PA.

Directions: From Rt 72 N of Lebanon where N 12th St becomes Jonestown Road at the McDonalds, follow Jonestown Road north past the Turkey Hill. Jonestown

Road will become Sandhill Road. Keep on Sandhill road until it branches to the left into Grace Avenue. Church is on the left 3/10 of a mile from the split *before* you pass Youth for Christ and Fisher Bus..

The club is a member of the Photographic Society of American (PSA).

Cancellation or last minute changes of events will normally be sent to members via email and broadcast on radio station WLBR, AM 1270.

Only members may enter competitions. Dues are \$25 per year and include the newsletter and monthly meeting minutes.

Digital Competition entries are due at least one day prior to the scheduled competition.

Competition Committee will keep winning Print entries for the end of year competition unless the member requests return of entries before then. In that case, the member would be responsible for re-submitting them for the end of year competition.

Products and services of interest to photographers are presented as a service without review or endorsement.

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Dates and times of events may change. Please check local listings.