

DISCOVER THE LIGHT

PHOTOGRAPHY



What's in this Newsletter:

- ☑ Telling the Story of Light
- ☑ Gear Talk: Canon Rebel SL1
- ☑ Education: Tilt-Shift 101
- ☑ Tips & Tricks: Count your clicks
- ☑ Photo Challenge: Shoot 'Vertizontical'
- ☑ Workshops
- ☑ Links & Contacts

Telling the Story of Light

Our goal at Discover the Light Photography is to inspire photographers to step beyond the limits of their imagination and tell the story of light, transforming vision into art.

We accomplish this by providing:

- Field workshops and guided tours of unique, diverse and fun themes
- Educational and instructional opportunities
- Reviews, critiques and feedback of workshop results
- On-line tips and instruction
- Knowledge and photo sharing
- A Mentor-Student relationship for continued learning

This is the first newsletter published by Discover the Light Photography. Other than blatant self promotion, we want to provide useful information to all of our photography friends.

We sincerely hope that this is a valuable resource for you. If you have any suggestions or things you'd like us to address, please drop us a note (contact information on the last page of this newsletter).

GEAR TALK: Canon EOS Rebel SL1

by Gregg Kerber

I recently purchased the Canon Rebel SL1. The first question people ask me is “Why?” – after all, my current camera bodies include the Canon EOS-1 DX and the Canon EOS 5D Mark II. So why did I purchase the world’s smallest and lightest DSLR?

Size and weight. Some time ago I started using a CamRanger to shoot and control my cameras wirelessly through my iPhone. This includes shots taken very low to the ground and up high on a painter’s pole. The 1DX is far too heavy to mount on the pole and the 5DII is also a bit too portly. So the SL1 was just what the doctor ordered.

Cost. I was able to buy the SL1 body-only (rare for entry-level DSLRs). There were some great deals on the SL1 just before Christmas.

Travel. The SL1 will also make a great body to take as backup while traveling.

So what are my impressions so far?

In a nut shell, I really like this camera. Image quality is very good thanks to an 18MP CMOS APS-C sensor and DiGiC 5 processor. Noise levels at higher ISOs are low (ISO 100–12,800, expandable to



25,600). It has a big bright 3” hi-res screen.

Even though the SL1 has only 9 auto focus points, AF performance is quite good.

It has a touch screen which makes changes to certain settings a snap.

Drawbacks? Sure. Obviously the SL1 does not have all the bells and whistles of the 1DX or 5DII, but I didn’t expect it to. ISO values are in full stop increments (instead of 1/3rd) so ‘counting my clicks’ won’t work here (see *Tips & Tricks*). I use back-button focus on my other cameras and really miss that on the SL1. I wish it had an articulating screen like the other Rebel models, but I’m sure packaging made that impossible with a 3” screen.

Overall I would give the SL1 four stars (out of a possible five).

EDUCATION: Tilt-Shift 101

by Gregg Kerber

What are Tilt-Shift lenses?

These are lenses that tilt and/or shift allowing far more creative control than “normal” lenses.

Tilting a lens tilts the angle of the focal plane relative to the plane of the sensor. This allows extended depth of field or selective focus (depending on which direction you tilt the lens).

Shifting a lens moves the lens parallel to the plane of the sensor. This is used for perspective control (shifting a level camera up keeps vertical lines vertical). Shifting the lens up and down (or right and left) allows you to take multi-shot panoramas without moving the camera.



Tilt



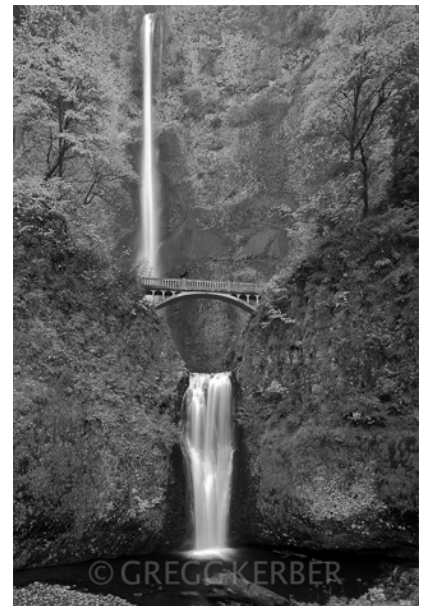
Shift



Level camera with lens tilted down for extended DoF (note how everything is in focus)



Camera pointing up (note how the upper falls is much smaller)



Level camera with lens shifted up making the upper falls look like it does in reality.

TIPS & TRICKS: Count your clicks

by Gregg Kerber

One thing I strongly believe in is knowing your camera controls. Knowing your controls inside and out allows you to focus on the task at hand – taking beautiful photos – instead of thinking about “Where’s that *<fill in the blank>* button?”.

So what does this have to do with ‘counting clicks’? No, I’m not talking about shutter clicks. Whenever you change aperture, shutter speed, or ISO, you are turning a dial to select a new value. These dials have ‘clicks’ corresponding to each increment.

The best way to describe this is with an example:

I often shoot in Manual mode. Let’s say the camera is set at ISO 100, f/5.6, and 1/100s. My exposure is spot on, but I want greater depth of field. To do that I would want to change a smaller aperture (like f/11). But that would result in an under-exposed image if I don’t change shutter speed or ISO. I like the shutter speed so I will need to change ISO. But what ISO would give me the equivalent exposure? Sure, I could take the time to figure out the ISO setting. Let’s see – going to f/5.6 from f/11 is how many stops? Going from f/5.6 to f/8 is one stop and then to f/11 in another stop – so two full stops. OK, so what is the ISO value two stops above 100? That would be $100 > 200 > 400$. Not too bad since it was full stop increments. But what if I want to go to f/14 instead of f/11? How many stops is that? Now I’m dealing with 1/3rd increments – so lets to the steps – f/5.6, f/6.3, f/7.1, f/8 ...OK, now I’m lost (turns out it’s 2-2/3rds stops in case you were wondering). There is an easier way – MUCH easier. All I need to know is my camera controls. Specifically which direction the dial turns to increase or decrease an exposure setting.

Let’s use the same 2-2/3rds stop example. I start by changing aperture to f/14. As I turn the corresponding dial I counting the clicks. f/5.6 > f/6.3 (1 click) > f/7.1 (2 clicks) > f/8 (3 clicks) > f/9 (4 clicks) > f/10 (5 clicks) > f/11 (6 clicks) > f/13 (7 clicks) > f/14 (8 clicks). Now all I have to do is change ISO in the opposite exposure direction (f/5.6 to f/14 lets in less light, so I need to change ISO the other way to compensate). Press the ISO button and turn the dial eight clicks. I don’t even have to watch the numbers as long as I’m turning the dial in the right direction. Now I have an equivalent exposure (ISO 640, f/14, 1/100s).

PHOTO CHALLENGE: Shoot “Vertizontical”

text by Gregg Kerber
images by Craig Clark

When faced with a composition shot in a horizontal format, shoot it vertical too. Do the same for a vertical composition – shoot it horizontal as well. You might be surprised with the result.

So get out and shoot ‘Vertizontical’.



WORKSHOPS

Portland Bridges

April 26, 2014

Join us on a guided photographic journey visiting several of these bridges from unique perspectives.

Please go here for more information: [link](#)

Wallowa Wanderlust

May 2 – 7, 2014

Discover one of the hidden treasures in Oregon through your camera lens. We will spend 4 glorious days and nights in NE Oregon exploring, learning and immersing yourself in photography.

Please go here for more information: [link](#)

Wonders of the Sea

June 13 – 15, 2014

Immerse yourself in photography while experiencing a unique and rare opportunity to photograph sea creatures in their natural environment during the lowest tide of the year.

Please go here for more information: [link](#)

Lava Lands

June 27 – 29, 2014

Central Oregon is rich in diversity. Immense lava flows. Spectacular mountain views. Amazing sunrises and sunsets. Light pollution free views of the stars. What more could a photographer ask for?

Please go here for more information: [link](#)

Journey Through Time

September 12–14, 2014

We will experience unmatched photographic opportunities made from 50 million years of Oregon history where fossils lie abundant on the landscape and the Old West happened just yesterday.

Please go here for more information: [link](#)

Hidden Oregon

October 24 – 26, 2014

Oregon offers a virtual wealth of beauty and amazement...much of which is not known to exist...even by seasoned Oregon residents. Come reap the benefits of our travels, research and exploration by joining us on a journey to some of these "hidden" gems.

Please go here for more information: [link](#)

Links & Contacts

Discover the Light Photography website: [link](#)

Discover the Light Photography Facebook page: [link](#)

Gregg Kerber's galleries: [image galleries](#) | [workshop galleries](#)

Craig Clarks galleries: [image galleries](#) | [workshop galleries](#)

Contact Gregg Kerber and Craig Clark: [link](#)

For more information on tilt-shift lenses, please visit these blog posts: [link](#)