



Special effect Photography

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Special Effect Photography

Special effect photography has become far more accessible to the average photographer due to technology. Many of the techniques that required a large investment in equipment only a few years ago, can now be replicated using a photo editing software on a home computer.” How do you start learning these techniques?

You need to narrow down what you’re trying to learn or achieve in your photos. Below are some suggestions regarding more popular special effects photography techniques that you can start with the world of special effects photography is not outside the reach of the amateur With a lot of photo experimentation in right e hands of anyone who has a camera, a computer, patience and the willingness to learn something new.

What Exactly Are Photo Special Effects?

When it comes to photography, the term “special effects “covers a very wide range of photography effects. The very nature of modifying image that has been captured by a camera, a Raw or jpg mage any ordinary photo could be used to for a special effect as it is not a 100% accurate representation of what the human eye saw at the time). Any image is interpreted by the creator –

The purposes of this article, is going to restrict some of the more popular effects that people understand. We will look at light painting, tilt shift photography, HDR photography, Lomography and infrared photography.

Light Painting

Of all special effects photography techniques, the one that is probably the most instantly accessible to the average photographer is light painting. It's probably also the technique with the most potential to create a wide range of image styles and take you from the ordinary to spectacular quickly.

Tilt Shift Photography

Tilt shift photography produces images that look almost like miniature model scenes by altering depth of field and perspective. When you first see tilt shift images, you could be thinking that you are looking at a scene from a model railway.

This special effect does require some special gear because you need to control where your lens' "imaging circle" interacts with your camera's sensor,

HDR Photography

HDR or High Dynamic Range photography produces remarkably striking and colorful images that enjoyed massive popularity for a few years. More recently, the bright and saturated HDR fad tended to fall away in its original form to be replaced with slightly more subdued efforts that still use HDR as their basis, but reign in the over saturated effects of the 2008-2013 era.

At its most basic, the effect involves shooting multiple production. This literally allows a higher dynamic range in the shots at different exposures and then combining all of those images in posted result than a single photograph is capable of.

Infrared Photography

With traditional infrared photography, the film or image sensor had to be sensitive in infrared light. The human eye is only sensitive to light on the visible light spectrum (between 400nm and 700nm) whereas infrared records light between 700nm and 900nm that is not usually visible to humans

The effects in photography can be quite striking.

It is also possible to achieve the infrared photography effect using only post production

Special effect photography doesn't stop with the techniques Listed above Once your camera is in place, you are free to apply light into your photographs in any number of creative ways. The use of simple light painting tools (pen lights, flashlights, cell phones, decorative lights, sparklers, etc) can be used to 'etch' light patterns into your finished photo.

Light can be applied free-form in the air to form abstract shapes and figures, or light can be 'painted' onto surfaces. The results will be almost impossible to duplicate, making the image a truly vast playground for creativity. The achieved results are limited only by your imagination and willingness to experiment.

A very unique aspect of the creation process is the idea of subject invisibility. you as the 'painter' can be completely invisible to the camera. In a room absent of light, the only light the camera will record is that which it sees from your light painting tools. For safety reasons do not point the light painting tools at yourself, you will remain completely invisible to your camera throughout the light painting process.

Slightly more advanced – mixing a burst of flash with a subject creating light trails

In spite of the requirement for manual mode, no previous experience with this mode is required to get started and explore. Some standard settings to get you started:

- Manual mode on your camera,
- camera on tripod
- ISO 100 or 200 (as low as your camera will go)
- f/8 aperture
- shutter speed of ten to twenty seconds
- Room should be completely dark when exposure begins
- a remote shutter release is handy to have but not absolutely essential

With the lights on, pre-focus on the subject you wish to paint. Once focus is achieved, disengage auto focus. This is essential to prevent the camera from attempting to focus when you turn the lights out and begin the exposure.

When you turn the lights out, begin your exposure by pressing the shutter button or employing a 2 or 10 second timer delay. Then, when the shutter opens, paint your subject with light using whatever patterns or methods you like.

Be aware that light is an additive element. That is, if you repeat brush strokes of light across the same surface multiple times, that area will become brighter and brighter. If painting a subject that is white, caution must be used to ensure that you don't overdo it and create blown out

Special Photographic effects

There are hundreds of great camera effects that you can explore as a photographer. Many of them are well-known, but others are more obscure and less-commonly used.

A is for Abstract

Abstract is creative photography and making the world look more abstract. Shooting in

- black and white
- zoom in to include just a small part of the scene in front of you. The viewer sees familiar subjects in a fresh way,

tips: Look for patterns and bright colors, and then crop in close so for isolation.'

B is for Bulb

The B (or bulb) setting can only be accessed in Manual (M) exposure mode. It allows you to set super-long exposures lasting seconds – or even minutes. The shutter keeps open for as long as you keep the trigger pressed down. the tripod during the long exposure.

Equipment A camera remote or cable release and a tripod

tips: Use shutter speeds at f/11, ISO100.

C is for Contre-jour

Contre-jour is French for 'against daylight', and is used to take images directly into the main source of light: if you expose for the bright background the subject will be 'underexposed', and may even be a silhouette,; if you expose for the subject, the background will be overexposed, and will produce a rim-light around the subject,

tips: When shooting at sunrise and sunset, beware of different shapes that will make an interesting silhouette.

Silhouettes make for very graphic images, emphasizing line and shape at the expense of texture and detail.'

D is for Dutch Tilt

Dutch tilt is simply changing the angle at which a photograph is taken. Tilting your camera is an effective way of making images look more dramatic:

- in motor sports, the track appears steeper and more exciting;
- in portraiture, a it can create tension and help bring portraits to life.

tips: Think about how much to tilt your camera, considering what elements to leave in and leave out. When there are horizontal lines in your shots, try angling your DSLR in order that they run diagonally corner to corner'

E is for Edgerton

Harold Edgerton is the pioneer of electronic flash and high-speed photography. Thanks to his work, it is possible to freeze subjects using a burst of flash. A flash controls the amount of light it emits by how long it lasts. Allowing you to capture water droplets and milk splashes with relative ease; the difficulty is in the timing. The same technique can freeze a speeding bullet

Equipment Hot shoe flash with off-camera sync cable. Lots of spare batteries!

tips: Set up the scene so that the drips are constant, with the exposure and focus set manually.

F is for Fisheye

A fisheye is a specialist wide-angle lens that produces a distorted image with an extreme angle of view. There are two types of fisheye lens:

- full-field fisheyes fill the whole frame with an image that bows out at the edges;
- circular fisheyes are more extreme – giving a round, central image with a 180° angle of view.

Equipment 4.5mm f/2.8 EX DC HSM Circular Fisheye,

tips: Use center-weighted or spot metering when using a circular fisheye – and take great care not to scratch the lens.

G is for Grain

In the days before digital, 'grain' was the term used to describe the granular clumps in the film emulsion. In digital photography, it describes the visible electronic noise in the picture. Grain increases with ISO, , it can be used creatively to convey mood or exaggerate textures. It's especially effective when trying to mimic the look of grainy black-and-white prints.

tips: Use a high ISO and try reproduce- black and white. Photos

H is for HSS

High-speed sync or HSS refers to the shutter speed at which a flash will work – or sync – with your camera. If high-speed sync isn't set, flash units will only work successfully at shutter speeds up to 1/200 sec

Equipment A flash with high-speed sync (HSS) feature.

tips: an aperture of f/4 at ISO100 with a shutter speed of 1/1000 sec. add a burst of fill-flash to soften shadows set HSS to make the flash sync successfully at a shutter speed of 1/1000 sec.

I is for Intervalometer

Shooting a subject at regular intervals allows you to show you how it changes over time. It is a great technique to make a series of shots that shows a plant growing – or to show something rotting away with age!

Equipment cable release

J is for Joiner

The joiner effect has become a lot easier to do in the Photoshop, as each image can be stretched and cloned so that you can't see the joins.– shooting the scene in bits,

tips: get a decent amount of overlap between each shot. '

K is for Kaleidoscope

A kaleidoscope uses mirrors to create a colored pattern from simple subjects. To create a similar effect with your camera, make a tube using a sheet of silver card or mirror plastic that fits over the front element of your lens. Now point it at a colored subject and see the color spread out.

Equipment A macro lens pattern. A sheet of shiny, silver corrugated plastic or silver foil. wrap

tips: If the front element of your lens is recessed, roll up the tube so it fits in the recess. This creates a better center circle for the effect.

L is for Lens

Find the 'sweet spot' of focus then gradually blur out everything around that area. Allow the Lens to move the sweet spot of focus around the frame, . This gives an out-of-focus area that looks more like radial or motion blur than the affects you can achieve with aperture and depth of field.

Equipment: Composer

tips: A tripod can help to steady your hand and maintain strong focus, even on moving subjects.

M is for Mock moonlight

Mock moonlight' or 'day for night' is an old television effect to give an impression of night without the expense. A daylight scene is shot using filters to give a strong blue tone. To do this with a DSLR, set the white balance to Tungsten, under-expose by -2.

Equipment a blue-colored 'cool down' filter.

tips: For more a more realistic high-contrast night effect, shoot into the light. The sun can even be made to look like a full moon, if it is very low in the sky.

N is for Neutral Density

A Neutral Density or ND filter limits the light reaching your DSLR's sensor, enabling you to obtain slower shutter speeds to capture motion-blur effects – ideal when shooting in broad daylight at your narrowest available aperture results in shutter speeds too fast to capture a sense of movement.

You'll need a tripod.

tips: Set shutter speed to 1 sec for slight movement or 10 secs for increased movement. A remote camera release will help you avoid camera shake

O is for overexposure

It may seem strange that you are taking overexposed shots on purpose, If used correctly you can end up with dreamy images

tips: It's important to select the right angle to the subject that lends itself to being over-exposed; look for light tones and shoot when the sun is low in the sky. Shoot in Av (Aperture Priority) mode and use exposure compensation +1 or +2 stops exposure to brighten up your results. Shooting well-lit scenes or straight into the sun will enhance this effect.

P is for Panning

Panning is a method of capturing a sense of movement by tracking a subject with a slow shutter speed as it moves past you.

Equipment Monopod

tips: Set a slow shutter speed of 1/40-1/100 sec., pivoting in a smooth 180° arc, shooting continuously as your subjects whizz past.

A monopod can help produce smoother results.'

Q is for QuickTime

A QuickTime Virtual Reality movie is a way of combining multiple images to create a seamless 360° panorama that can be toggled left or right to provide a virtual tour of a scene. They are popular with museums.

Equipment QuickTime player and movie creation software

tips: You need to shoot a series of images that can be merged seamlessly to produce a two-dimensional panorama. use a tripod, keep your camera level for every shot and overlap images by at least 30%.

R is for Rim light

Rim light illuminates a subject from behind, bringing out the detail in hidden areas.

Equipment If shooting in a studio, use a single modeling light.

tips: To avoid lens flare and lower contrast, rim lighting should be used behind the subject, slightly higher than the camera. It helps if your subject is blocking the light entirely, but you can use a shade to assist.

S is for Slow-sync flash

Shooting with flash is often used to freeze movement, but can also be used to capture motion blur if used with a slower shutter speed by freeze-framing your subject while the longer exposure gives them a ghostly trail.

Equipment Flash, tripod.

Tips depending on how fast your subject is moving, adjust your aperture for an even exposure.

T is for Tilt-shift

Tilt-shift lenses are used in architecture photography of tall buildings without converging verticals. Used creatively, they can be used to selectively focus on a very narrow portion of a scene,

Equipment Tilt shift lenses

tips: Get high up and set an extreme degree of horizontal tilt. Use a wide aperture so the foreground and background are out of focus.

U is for UV

UV lamps or 'dark lights' are popular in nightclubs, to make white clothes and other objects glow in the dark. This effect can be captured with your DSLR. The output from these lights is low, set your ISO to 1000, and use a tripod,

Equipment two UV dark lights or black-light bulbs.

tips: It can be hard to predict which materials show up best in UV light. White fibers work well –experiment to get the desired result

V is for Vaseline

An old-fashioned, rather crude way of producing softer shots was to coat the end of a lens with Vaseline or petroleum jelly. It was popular with portrait photographers years gone by to create softness around the subject

A Jar of Vaseline and a filter.

tips: Do not rub Vaseline onto you lens! First attach a UV or skylight filter, then use a tissue to smoothly apply a thin film over the filter, leaving a clear area in the middle.'

W is for Writing with light

By using a slow shutter speed in low-light conditions, it's possible to capture light trails from almost any light source, be it car headlamps or bright fireworks. Writing with light is a little less spontaneous however, and involves using a Light source " to draw an image or write a sentence during the long exposure.

Equipment A sturdy tripod and a bright light source

tips: The best backdrop for light writing is a blank wall, or a dark night sky. Make sure that your light source is facing the camera then draw, write, or run in front of your background to create different trails.

X is for X-polarisation

Cross-polarization is a way of turning the invisible stress patterns in pieces of transparent plastic into a visible patterns. Use a polarized light source, then photograph the plastic through a polarizing filter.

Equipment A lightbox makes a great light source. Polarize the light by laying polarizing film over it

You'll also need a circular polarizing filter.

tips: when using a polarizing filter, you need to rotate it to get the best effect.

Y is for Yellow filter

With black-and-white film, color filters were used to dictate how different colors in the scene were converted ensuring the result wasn't a wash of dull mid tones. The Monochrome Picture Style you find on most cameras lets you create the filter effect. Choosing the Yellow Filter Effect option darkens skies and makes white clouds stand out, while producing natural-looking results.

tips: Shoot in RAW, then you still get a colour image to use for more precise mono conversion during editing, if necessary.'

Z is for Zoomburst

Twisting your zoom as you're taking a photo produces an explosive rush of color, drawing the viewer into your image with clever use of blur to create a sense of movement.

Equipment A standard zoom lens a tripod

tips: Look for colorful subjects, such as flower beds. Set a slow shutter speed, around 1/4 to 1/15 sec, focus on the central subject and start zooming out just before pressing the shutter button, zooming smoothly throughout the entire exposure.

8 Unique Photoshop Actions for Special Effects

When you want your photographs to focus on design and special effects, or to stand out and look unique, then use the Photoshop tools.

1. Geometric Haze 2

Geometric Haze 2 n is a great way to transform your images into a scene layered with complex geometric shapes. An effect that is used in sci-fi movies, this action will add atmosphere and interest to your images.

2. Aquarium

Plunge your images into the watery depths with the Aquarium Underwater Photoshop Action. Easily add or change elements and colours with the action folders, including fish, a submarine and more!

3. Anaglyph / Glitch

Glitch effects and anaglyphs this download for Adobe Photoshop lets you achieve the effect easily with a still image.

4. Lo-Fi Photo Action

Achieve a trendy, vintage photo special effect from any of your photographs with the Lo-Fi Photo Action for Photoshop. It's easy to customise, change the adjustment layers and choose from a selection of 10 light leak effects.

5. Fervent

Create super cool photographic manipulations to turn your images into works of art, with the Fervent Photoshop Action. Smoke, light effects, clouds and colour grading will give your photographs the wow factor.

6. Liquidum — Transparent Painting

Transform your photograph into a highly detailed, transparent object with Liquidum. There are 20 pre-sets to choose from and all the graphic elements are fully editable.

7. Chalk Generator

Chalk Generator is a fun action for Photoshop that produces a chalk writing special effect.

8. Piratum — Map Art

Piratum turns your photographs into vintage artwork. With a highly detailed result

Photography is an art, but sometimes it's fun to mix the mediums and add cool art effects to the photos.

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Bio

My name is David Wright.

I have many years experience writing procedures on how to test high tech electronic equipment. Re wrote technical manuals so that the average person could understand them.

Set up numerous training programs to train Junior techs.

My documenting skills are excellent paying attention to details satisfying the toughest ISO auditors.

I have enhanced my writing skills by successfully completing a course in Writing for Children's literature.

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I have had a Camera in my Hand since 1965 Gone pro In 1999

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I am now at a point in life I would like to share my knowledge with the world and the best way I know how is by Print either electronically or Hard copy paper.

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