

Session 6 - Tonight's Outline:

Lighting:

Direct, diffused, reflected.

Accessories

Camera Stores

Introduction to Photoshop

How to shoot a panoramic photo:



Panoramic photos can be wonderful shots and digital cameras can make producing these photos very easy. I have found that there are some simple rules you need to follow when setting up the shot to make the construction of the panoramic photo easy.

1. You will need a tripod. A tripod with level bubbles built in will especially help. To make the image stitching easy, the tripod needs to be level. Check to make sure that the camera is level and plum at both ends of the panorama you plan to photograph.
2. If you are using a zoom lens on the camera, zoom more to the telephoto side of the lens. I would suggest you set the lens at least at a 55mm focal length.
3. Set the white balance to a preset white balance. Do not use the Automatic White Balance (AWB) setting. Change the setting to one more appropriate for the scene. You will probably need to set the camera at Daylight to Light Overcast setting. If the camera is set at AWB, you might see a color shift from frame to frame in your panoramic shot.
4. The next important step is to set the camera on manual exposure. This will also assure there are fewer differences in tone and density from frame to frame. One thing you can do is take some test shots in one of your automatic modes, check the exposures, and then transfer the settings from the automatic mode shots to the manual settings on your camera.
5. Make sure you overlap each image as you pan the camera. I would also suggest you pan from left to right. It will take 8-9 separate photos to produce a 180 degree panoramic photo. I have some 360 degree panoramic photos that took 17-20 separate photos stitched together to form the panoramic shot

By pre-planning the shot, and following these simple steps, the time it takes in Photoshop to combine your images and do a little retouching around the seams will take very little computer time.