

Smartphone Photos

Tips on how to take the best photos possible

Composition:

Horizontal

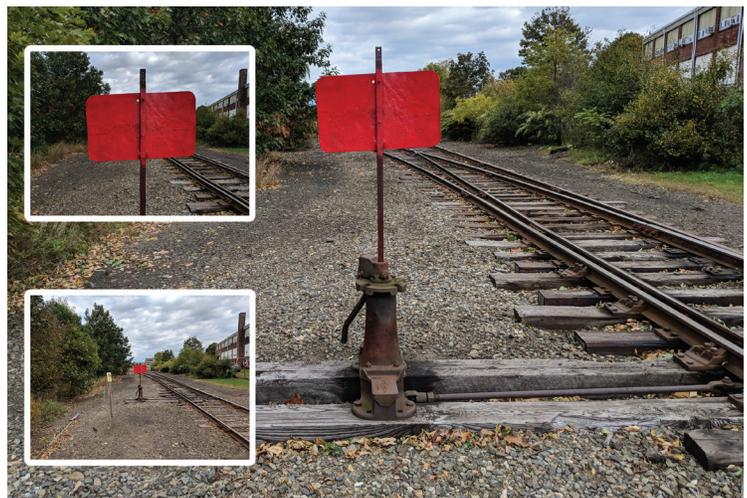
First and foremost, ALWAYS HOLD YOUR PHONE HORIZONTAL when taking photographs. Whether on screen, in print or in a large format setting, photos are almost always displayed horizontally, so it only makes sense to take them the same way.

Think in thirds

When composing a photo, especially photos that show an entire structure/project, think about separating the picture into thirds. In this example, the foreground (grass) takes up a third of the photo, the subject (parking garage) takes up a third and the background (sky) takes up a third.



The same rule applies to the left, right and center thirds of a photograph, too. The trees are in the left third, the subject (red sign) is in the middle third, and the tracks are in the right third. The inserts show similar photos of the same subject that are composed poorly. The top insert is too close, and the bottom insert is too far away.



Smartphone Photo Tips (con't.)



Exposure

The most important part of taking a good photo is to make sure the exposure is set correctly. Without getting too technical, exposure is the amount of light that reaches your camera sensor, and it is a crucial part of how bright or dark your pictures appear. Smartphone cameras automatically set the exposure so that the brightest part in the frame is in focus and clear. When taking photos outside, this results in a high level of contrast between the sky and objects that are not in direct light. Fortunately, setting the exposure on smartphone cameras is easy. **Simply tap the part of the photo you want to be in focus/well lit** and the camera will automatically adjust. The example below is actually two photos laid over each other. The right side of the image is the default settings. The sky is a crisp blue, but the building and all of the foreground is dark and lacks detail. On the left side, the building was tapped on the smartphone screen to set the exposure and allow more light in. The sky is a bit washed out, but you can see much more detail in the building.



Send us some photos

Send photos to submissions@nhhba.com, or navigate to our website and click the “Submit Photo” button on the bottom of the home page. If we use your photo we’ll give your business a shoutout!