

Digital Photography Club of Annapolis Web Walk

Online Tips for Capturing Holiday
Photos

December 1, 2008

Robbie Mislevy



Better Photo's Top Ten Tips for Better Holiday Photos

<http://www.betterphoto.com/exploring/topten/holiday-photography-tips.asp>

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Top Ten Tips for Better Holiday Photos

The holidays make for fantastic photo opportunities. Even the least photographically-inclined reach for a camera to do the annual group portrait.

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Use these tips to make great photos of Christmas, Hanukkah, or the mid-winter holiday of your preference. This year, you'll come away from the holidays with the absolute best photographs you have ever created.

1

Compose Creatively and Move in Close
Whether you are photographing the symbolic subjects of the holidays or your friends and family, getting creative with your composition certainly cannot hurt. This means paying special attention to how you organize the various elements in each photo.

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Top Ten Tips for Better Holiday Photos

The holidays make for fantastic portrait.

Photo Sharing
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Use these tips to make great photos of the holidays with the absolute best results.

1

Compose Creative
Whether you are a professional or a hobbyist, you can create a composition that is truly unique and memorable.

Look for Reflections



Reflections in Rain Puddles
© Jim Miotke

One the quickest and easiest ways to add an artistic touch to your holiday photos is to **focus on capturing reflections** rather than the object itself.

Simply keep an eye out for interesting splashes of color, reflected from Christmas lights and other holiday decorations.

This is one time when rainy days are your friends - puddles in the street can be a perfect source of abstract images - photos that suggest the essence of the holidays without being direct and explicit.

You can also look for interesting shadows and other graphic elements. Or you can include out of focus Christmas lights, to give your photo an evocative, unique background.



Asphalt Abstract
© Heather McFarland




Holiday Cheer
© Heather McFarland

See Heather McFarland's previous contest winner - [Holiday Cheer](#) - for an excellent example of this technique.

Strobist-How to Photograph Christmas Lights


<http://strobist.blogspot.com/2006/12/how-to-photograph-christmas-lights.html>



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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2006

How to Photograph Christmas Lights



Here's a neat little lighting exercise that has nothing to do with off-camera flash.

When we talk about balancing light around here, it usually means balancing ambient with flash. But getting a good photo of holiday lights involves a different kind of light balancing: Continuous ambient with fading ambient.

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How to Photograph Christmas Lights



Here's a neat little exercise that has to do with off-camera flash.

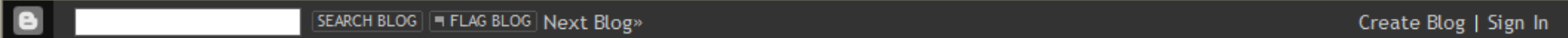
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Photo by Tray McCullough (see a larger version)

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2006

How to Photograph Christmas Lights

The problem with 98% of the photos of Christmas lights is that most people wait until way too late to start shooting. After it gets completely dark, you can either have the lights or the surroundings properly exposed. But not both.

Conversely, if you were to shoot the lights in the middle of the day, they would not show up at all. The trick is find the sweet spot (actually there is a whole range of sweet spots) where the ambient light and the Christmas lights balance.




Photo by Troy McCullough (see a larger version)

New York Institute of Photography: How to Take Great Photos of Holiday Lights

<http://www.nyip.com/ezone/holidays/holidaylights.html>



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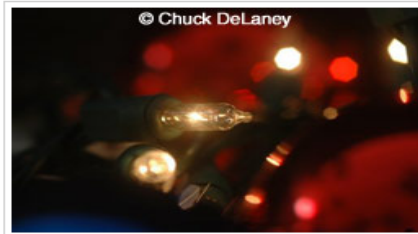
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Photo Tips, "How-to" Articles, and Opinion from the Pros.



How to Take Great Photos of Holiday Lights



There are some photographic subjects where it makes little difference whether you use a digital camera or a film-based model to capture the image. The colors and warm glow of holiday lights is not one of them. If you're not careful, you can run into trouble with a digital camera. All photographers interested in getting great holiday photos should read this article. Pay close attention to the special digital section written by NYI's digital expert Jim Barthman. While today's auto-everything cameras can do a lot of things following the wisdom of built-in programs, taking pictures of lights and candles is one area where you'll want to exercise some control.

At this time of year, many of the world's cultures and religions celebrate holidays that involve lights. While the use of lights and candles is often explained in terms of the rites of the particular culture, most scholars agree that the lights came first; the explanations followed. After all, since humans gained control of fire, light has been used to illuminate the darkness - especially, during the depths of winter - rather than curse it.

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of Holiday Lights

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It makes little difference whether you use a camera to capture the image. The colors and warm glow of the lights are not careful, you can run into trouble with a digital camera. Taking great holiday photos should read this article. This article was written by NYI's digital expert Jim Barthman. It covers a lot of things following the wisdom of built-in cameras. This is one area where you'll want to exercise

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© NYI Student Judy L. Smith



There's an answer. Many of today's point-and-shoot cameras both film and digital have a funny-looking setting that looks like this:

This setting tells the camera that you want the flash to fire (which will light your friend in the foreground), but that you also want the lens to stay open long enough to record the lights in the background. In fact, the symbol for this setting on many cameras is sort of a hieroglyph that tries to indicate "person at night in front of lights." Your solution to getting light on your friend's face and capturing the light display is to use this setting. The flash exposes the face. The long exposure captures the lights.

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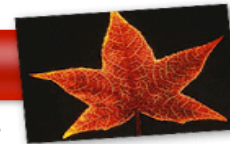


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of Holiday Lights



© Chuck DeLaney



© NYI Graduate Melvyn Wolk

faces.

Mel Wolk's sensitive photo of two boys with a Menorah on the last night of Hanukkah combines light from the nine candles with some sort of overhead room lighting, or bounce from a flash (probably off the ceiling) that gives clear illumination to the boy's faces and garb. How do we know that the lighting is not just from the candles themselves? One clue is that the lighting is not as warm as the first photo we looked at. Candle light is rich in reds and oranges, which we don't see here on their

Kris Krug Audio: Tips on How to Take Better Holiday Pictures

<http://www.kriskrug.com/2007/12/19/audio-tips-on-how-to-take-better-holiday-pictures/>



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December 19, 2007

AUDIO: Tips on How to Take Better Holiday Pictures



A couple weeks ago I was a guest on CBC's *On The Coast* talking about photography and how to take better family photos over the holidays. It was a fun interview with JJ Lee who is a fashion and design columnist for CBC Radio One. Every Monday you can hear JJ On The Coast. OTC airs between 3-6 PM on AM 690 in Vancouver. JJ also writes for the Georgia Straight about fashion.

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Dan Sieradski / April 2006

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Kris Krug Audio: Tips on How to Take Better Holiday Pictures

<http://www.kriskrug.com/2007/12/19/audio-tips-on-how-to-take-better-holiday-pictures/>

The image is a screenshot of a website with a green and white color scheme. At the top, a green banner contains the text "CREATIVITY, CHANGE, CULTURE, & COMMUNICATION" and "Kris Krug Dot Com". Below this, the left sidebar features a bio: "I'm a photographer, technologist and author based in Vancouver. This is my blog it's the hub for my digital life. Enjoy and please subscribe to my RSS feed." followed by a "FEEDBURNER" button and a list of links: "Photography", "Social Software", "About kk+", "What is RSS?", "WTF is Web 2.0?", "Contact Me", and "Recent Posts: Social Media Training for Journalists at CBC". The main content area has a "Recent Photos" section with four small image thumbnails and links to "My Flickr Photo Sets", "MyPhotostream", "My Favorites", and "MyProfile". Below this is a date separator "December 19, 2007" and a post titled "AUDIO: Tips on How to Take Better Pictures". The post includes a photo of a man in a white jacket holding a camera and a snippet of text: "A couple weeks ago CBC's On The Coast photography and how family photos over a fun interview with fashion and design Radio One. Every Mon". An audio player overlay is positioned on the right side of the page, containing the text "Listen to the segment here..." and "Kris Krug, fashion photographer Vancouver by Design with JJ Lee (c) JJ Lee 2007". The audio player interface includes a play button, a progress bar, and a "Google Video" logo.

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Kris Krug, fashion photographer
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Kris Krug, fashion photographer
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PhotoJoJo – How to Photograph the Holidays from Around the Web

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How to Photograph the Holidays — From Around the Web



You've decked the halls with miles of tiny bulbs. Your front lawn is a gleaming monument to electric lighting. Even the neighbors have taken to wearing sunglasses 24/7.

It's the Christmas wonderland of your dreams... now if only you could get a good picture of it.

Photographing holiday lights is no easy task.

Luckily, we've had the Photojojo elves round up the best tips and guides to taking successful Holiday photos. Call it our gift to you... now go make [Clark W. Griswold](#) proud.





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The Photojojo elves have come back with what we think are the best guides and tips for photographing the holidays — and all the lights and yuletide that come along with them. Here we go...




[Christmas Lights Photography Video Tutorial](#)

From Patrick Kunzer, night photo editor at the Daily Herald

This quick video is a great way to get started. Our favorite tip? All those Christmas lights are tungsten-balanced, so set your camera's white-balance's to tungsten for ten-times-better photos.



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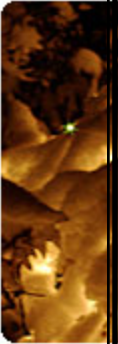
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[20 Christmas Light Photos - With a Twist](#)

From the Digital Photography School

Well, we suppose wrapping people in Christmas lights and taking photos of them is one way to spread the holiday cheer. :)



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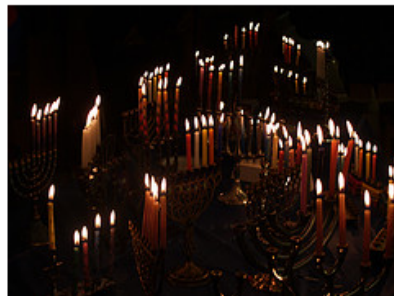
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Taken on [December 28, 2005](#), uploaded [December 28, 2005](#)

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See [more of Thomas Hawk's photos](#), or visit his [profile](#).



Hanukkah fourth night candles by [drurydrama](#)

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