

Hints for a better Car Picture

I do not by any stretch of the imagination consider myself an expert in the area of Photography. Even though I have taken many a picture of Cars, perfection has eluded me. I have however learned a few things along the way.

Equipment

One question that comes up is that of equipment. In this day and age most folks have an adequate camera in their Cell Phone. Its not the best possible camera but more than adequate to get that special shot. I had an instructor once that ask the question “What is the best Camera” and the answer was “the one you have with you”.

Environment

The most important and often overlooked factor in taking that special picture is **Lighting** . The type and direction of the light source will make or break your photo. Often we tend to gravitate toward that bright and sunny day, however those pictures will have a hard edge and shadows become an issue. If you must shoot in the brightness of the mid day sun, try to keep the light source behind you. Details often get lost in the shadows so try to keep them to a minimum. Try shooting on an overcast day or in what they term ”The Golden Hour” which is that hour around sunrise or sunset. The results may surprise you as the shadows disappear and the colors become more vibrant.

Composition

I see many a picture that could be improved just by **paying attention!** Is that my shadow or reflection that is in the picture? What is that in the background? Do I have unwanted or some form of ugliness in the frame? Closer is most often better as long as you don't cut out parts of your subject. Moving around to get various different views is always a plus, cars like people often have their better side. Pictures taken from a high angle are common however as you go lower in your sight angle the Car becomes more dominant.

Conclusion

Take a moment to look beyond your subject, consider the lighting, background and where you are positioned. Don't be afraid to take multiple shots from various positions.