

Common Problems

If you're finding that your images are not coming out as you intended use this guide as a way to start researching how you can improve your shots

Images too dark

Use exposure compensation, adjust aperture towards f2, decrease shutter speed, increase ISO

Blurry photos

Increase your shutter speed, adjust aperture closer to f8, use a tripod, switch on autofocus, bring your elbows in

Dull or poor colour

Adjust your white balance, shoot in RAW, push the vibrancy or saturation

Grainy and noisy shots

Lower your ISO, use a tripod + slower shutter speed, use 'noise reduction' processing

Flares, glares or overly reflective surfaces

Use a lens hood to reduce glare and get a polarising filter when shooting through water/ glass/ plastics

Sky too bright

Change your metering mode, use an ND filter, use bracketing and compose in post

Bendy buildings, stretched people

Step back from your subjects, use a higher focal length lens

Blurred sporting images

Use burst mode, pan with the movement, use a very fast shutter speed

Dull skin tones

Use colour curves in your editing app, avoid white balance sliders

Horizons aren't straight

Hold your camera more steadily, use the LCD horizon display, use a tripod with spirit level, 'straighten horizon' in processing

COMMON MISTAKES

Over-thinking things

If you're spending more time thinking about your shots than you are taking them, you're losing valuable time getting material. Some times it's best to just start shooting in order to get in to the mood of things

Not being in the middle of it

A common problem with street shooters is a fear of getting in to the thick of it. Learn to conquer your fears, get up closer and be confident creating images

Worrying about gear

There's endless magazines, blogs, videos and adverts continually pushing the latest gear. The the ability to take great shots with ANY set up is the true mark of a skilled photographer

Carrying too much

Carrying too much can cause back and shoulder injuries, increases your chances of loss or breakage, will slow you down and tire you faster. Learn to streamline your setup

Not using the viewfinder

With modern cameras there's a tendency to use the back screen all the time. It's a bad habit to develop and if you find yourself doing it, try to stop

Not prepping properly

Being fully prepared before you go out takes practice. Create your own checklists for all the shoots you do and run through them well before you even leave to go out

Rushing or being impatient

Many new photographers suffer from rushing everything without taking the time to compose, focus or capture everything properly. If you want to improve your skills, try slowing down

Over editing

Editing tools are easier to use with more filters, effects and pre-sets so it's easy to rely on them as a crutch. Get it right in camera as much as you can and you'll find your shots are more authentic

Shooting infrequently

The more you shoot, the better you will become. It sounds obvious but a big thing that holds so many people back is making an excuse as to why they haven't shot anything in days, weeks or months