**iPhone Tips and some camera settings:**

1. **How not to miss a shot.**

Tired of powering your phone up, waiting for facial recognition to open your phone, then finding and clicking on the camera app? Just use your finger to swipe left on your home screen and the camera app opens automatically for you. Now you’re ready to shoot.

1. **Your iPhone has a real shutter button.**   
   Instead of pressing that big white dot at the bottom of your screen, you can use the volume control toggle on the side of your iPhone to trip the shutter. Volume up or volume down, they both work. If you need a fast sequence of shots you can go into your Settings controls and scroll down to your camera controls. From there look for “Use Volume Up for Burst” and turn it on. It shoots really fast (10 FPS or Frames Per Second), so it will fill your phone’s memory pretty quickly if you use it a lot. I generally keep this feature off unless I’m shooting a sporting event.
2. **How to get sharper photos.**

Clean your lenses! Keep a little microfiber cloth with you to polish your glasses, but more importantly to get the grease and dirt off your optics. Dirty lenses usually show themselves by producing soft, fuzzy, foggy photographs which probably aren’t what you were hoping for.

1. **Tips on focusing.**

The camera takes a guess as to what you want in focus, and it’s usually pretty good. However, as a photographer you want to make sure that your main subject is sharp. To do this just tap gently on the part of your photograph in focus and the camera will focus on that point and set the meter too. If you may want to recompose your photograph a little bit after focusing, touch and hold the spot you want in focus and the camera will lock the focus on that part of your image.

1. **Exposure compensation.**

If you want to darken or lighten your photograph before you take the shot, tap gently to lock on the auto focus. You’ll see a little sun icon pop up next to the focus lock box. Slide your finger up the screen to lighten the image, or down the screen to darken it. Click the shutter to capture the image.

1. **When to use the built in flash on your iPhone.**

Never.

The camera on your iPhone does such a great job at capturing images in low light that the flash always seems to ruin the shot. Give it a try and prove me wrong.

1. **Digital Zoom vs. Optical Zoom.**

The newer iPhones come with 2-3 different lenses through which we can shoot a photograph.

The iPhone 14 Pro that I use has three lenses and is built to give you a series of different focal lengths: 13mm Ultra-Wide, 24mm Main, X2 Telephoto-48mm and a X3 Telephoto of 77mm.

These will give you the sharpest images possible on your camera because they depend on the configuration of the lenses to make things appear either larger or smaller in the view screen. Digital zoom comes into play when you pinch or spread out your fingers on the screen to enlarge the subject. All this really does is to enlarge the pixels in your image and make the final product look a little soft and indistinct. If you need to make things larger or smaller that your lenses will allow, “zoom with your feet,” and just step near or farther away from your subject.

**8)** **Portrait mode.**

Portrait mode is a really exciting innovation that allows your iPhone to essentially mimic a shallow depth of field, much like a traditional DSLR will do. Zoom in while you’re in photo mode. Scroll over to Portrait mode and you’ll see a few things change on your screen. First you’ll notice a sphere with a box around it labeled “Natural Light.” Ignore this for a moment. Your subject should be sharp with the background soft, this highlights your subject against sometimes confusing backgrounds. This is perfect for portraits, but it also works extremely well for product photography, food photography, etc. Touch the screen where you want the area of sharpest focus to be. You’ll also notice a little circle in the top right corner of your screen that has an italic “*f”* in it. This suggests the F-stop on your camera. When you touch that circle you’ll see a scroll bar come up at the bottom of the screen with numbers on it that go up to 16. If you slide your finger along this scroll bar you’ll see the background of your image get blurrier or sharper.

**9) Portrait lighting effects.**

With a portrait open click on a portrait lighting mode (ie. Natural Light, Studio Light, etc.) and drag your finger across to see the different effects and what they will do to your photographs.

The slider bar at the bottom of the screen will increase or decrease the amount of effect.

1. **Camera position for portraits.**

Straight on at eye level is generally the most appropriate. Step back a pace or two so you aren’t in their space making them uncomfortable, it WILL show in their face.

1. **View outside of the frame.**

The camera crops what you see, but it actually captures more than what you see on your screen. Go to your settings app, scroll down to camera and then down to View Outside the Frame. Click it on.

1. **Panoramics**

Panoramics are super easy to do on an iPhone, MUCH easier than in the early days of photography. Select “Pano” from the menu, touch the shutter button and slowly rotate the camera in the direction of the arrow.   
Tips: move fairly slowly, keeping the camera vertical and the horizon in the same spot as you move.

Don’t go too long. I know we all want to show everyone 180 degrees of what we see, but frankly it’s way too much and results in a big, long photograph that’s really short and your viewers will be forced to zoom and scroll an awful lot to see what you wanted to show them. A much better idea is to shoot shorter panos that come close to only filling the frame when you rotate your iPhone to Landscape.

1. **Long Exposures using Live View.**

Click on Live View (little bullseye-looking icon at the top of your screen). Make your photograph of some moving image. In Live View, your iPhone uses a lot of photographs with a little AI thrown in to stitch the images together to give the appearance of motion blur. This is an amazing technique to use on waterfalls, moving water, traffic etc. After you take your photograph, go to the little Live View icon in the top left of your screen and click on it. Scroll down to Long Exposure, click on it and after a few seconds of rendering, you’ll see the magic that’s occurred. This is also where you can make little .gifs that will repeat or bounce back and forth etc.

1. **Ultra Wide Angle lens.**

For those of you who are fortunate enough to have an iPhone that has three lenses, one of them is an ultra-wide lens that’s 13mm, and to putt into perspective, their normal wide angle lens is 26mm. What does this mean to the iPhone photographer? It means that you can capture a much wider angle of view in your photos, or you can have fun doing some distortions too. Shoot from a low perspective to make a scene look grand and large. Get close to your subject to accentuate a feature and make it look massive.

1. **Built-in self-timer mode.**

Click on the chevron at the top-center of your screen and a row of icons will come up near the bottom of your screen. Click on the one that looks like a little timer and it will allow you either a three or a ten second delay before automatically firing the shutter.

You can also use your Apple Watch to trip the shutter to take your shot.   
Another way to trip a shutter remotely is to use a remote shutter button that often come with selfie sticks and tripods these days. Hey connect with your iPhone via a Bluetooth connection.

1. **Food photography.**

When you’re shooting food, or really anything from directly above (artwork comes to mind) Apple has made it easy for you to hold your iPhone exactly horizontal. In the middle if the screen you’ll see two floating crosses, simply get the crosses to align and your photo will be exactly horizontal.

1. **When to avoid using a wide-angle lens.**

Anytime you want to make a flattering portrait, avoid using either of the wide-angle choices. Wide angle lenses tend to exaggerate features or things nearest the iPhone making them much larger. If you want a funny portrait, by all means use a wide angle, butt for a more serious and sensitive portrait, step back and use a telephoto option.

1. **Shoot in RAW.**

The newer iPhones, from the 12Pro and later offer you the ability to shoot in RAW format. By default, iPhones capture images in their propriety HEIC (High Efficiency Image Compression) format. This compresses the images you capture better than JPEG. However, since this is proprietary compression-type, it isn’t a universally accepted or used as much as JPEGs are. To switch back and forth between the two, go to Settings > Camera > Formats. Selecting High Efficiency will set your files to HEIC, whereas selecting Most Compatible will set your files to JPEG. Turning on ProRAW & Resolution Control will give you access to saving images in RAW at 12 MP or Raw Max which gives you a whopping 48MP file. I would only use this if I knew that I would have to crop in a lot or if the image required the most detail possible. Shooting RAW will make your file sizes a lot larger and eat up your memory pretty quickly.

1. **Grid Lines option.**

Grid lines are guiding lines that are superimposed onto your screen over what you’ll be photographing. These lines help you keep your verticals and horizontals square within the frame. Just as importantly, these lines also help the photographer with subject placement using the “Rule of Thirds” by suggesting that the subject be placed on the tension point where the lines cross. Placing the subject in the center of the frame (called “bullseyeing”) generally results in a somewhat stagnant final product.

1. **Apple Photo App.**

Crop Tool-

Open an image, click on Edit and the crop tool icon will be at the bottom of the screen. Here you can flip horizontally, rotate, or change converging lines and perspective in your image. You can also change the shape to various aspect ratios, including square. I do most of my cropping in “Freeform” so I’m not constrained by my phone telling me what shape to make my image. When you’re done, hit the “Done” button.

Auto Button-

Looks like a little magic wand. Click on it and it will make things look better via AI. What you might miss is the little slider just below that will allow you to adjust the strength of the magic wand.

Filters-

These are post-capture filters that will give you your choice of “Instagrammy-looks” to your photograph. Click on the three rings at the bottom of the screen in Edit mode and scroll through until you see one that you like.

Regular, manual image adjustment-

If you’re used to working in Photoshop or Lightroom, here’s where many of the basic global control adjustments can be accessed. Just past the Magic Wand, as you scroll to the right, you’ll see controls to adjust Contrast, Brilliance, Exposure, Sharpness, Color Temp… and many others.

Before and after and undo options-

While you’re editing, if you want to see the changes you’ve made from the original image, just tap the screen once and it will show you where you started. Tap the screen a second time and it will restore your changes. To remove only the last change while editing, click on the back arrow in the upper left corner of the screen. If toy want to get rid of all changes permanently, click on the Cancel button in the lower left-hand corner.

Time saving editing across multiple images-

Face it, we seldom take only one photo, usually we do several at the same place within a few minutes of each other. To save time with your editing, do one of those images and save the actions or changes that you made, in the edit mode after you’ve made the changes go to the top right corner of the screen and click on the three dots. A prompt will pop up asking if you want to Copy Edits. Go to another photo that you want to copy those edits to, go back to those three dots, click, it will ask you if you want to Paste Edits. Boom. Done!

Good places for info online:

<https://patchoguearts.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Smartphone-photography-Course-1-Reference-Doc.pdf>

<http://www.olinlee.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Smartphone-Photography-Guide.pdf>

<https://www.adobe.com/creativecloud/photography/discover/smartphone-photography.html>

<https://www.theschoolofphotography.com/tutorials/how-to-take-good-photos-with-a-phone>

<https://iphonephotographyschool.com/mobile-photography-tips/>

<https://www.mhklibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Smartphone-Photography.pdf>

<https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/static/img/smartphone-photography-eclipse/Photographing_the_Eclipse_with_your_Smartphone.pdf>

\*\*\* <https://summer.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/syllabi/2023-04/ARTSTUDI%20173S%20Syllabus%20Summer%202022.pdf>

<https://alison.com/course/mobile-photography>

<https://expertphotography.com/best-photo-apps-iphone/>

<https://www.pcmag.com/picks/best-mobile-photo-editing-apps>

<https://www.bhphotovideo.com/explora/photography/news/8-tips-from-mobile-photography-experts-plus-their-favorite-apps?BI=572&gad_source=1&gclid=EAIaIQobChMI2u64kvHCgwMVPyCtBh24xQjVEAMYASAAEgJJ_PD_BwE>

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**Hans Klemmer & Prairie Street Studios**

**Elgin, IL 60120**