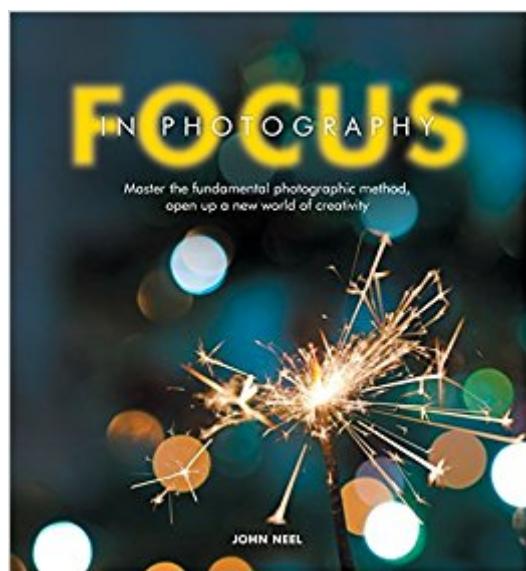


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# Focus In Photography: Master The Advanced Techniques That Will Change Your Photography Forever



## Synopsis

Focus is an important artistic tool, directing your viewers into and around your image, but a technical challenge too. In this book, the first serious treatent of the topic in the digital age, John Neel shows how a mastery of your lens will greatly enhance the quality and 'wow' factor of your photographs. Never losing sight of what real-life photographers need to know, Focus in Photography will let you master bokeh and other focus techniques, giving you a complete understanding of optics-and what actually happens to light within the camera in your hand. Richly illustrated with John's own amazing images, and drawing on his well-known authority in the field, it will be a valuable asset to students of photography, enthusiasts looking to refine their art, product photographers and commercial shooters alike.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"If John Neel's Focus in Photography sounds like it might be a little more philosophical than nuts and bolts tutorial, that may be because Neel has given a lot of thought to the subject. He's also spent a lot of time exploring the many facets of focusing an image so you get the nuts and bolts along with the philosophy behind them, too. That makes this one of the more surprisingly delightful photography reads we've enjoyed recently. We like Neel's consideration of the larger issues (why you might shoot a panorama and the different kinds of panorama you might shoot, for example) as well as the technical details (down to software

recommendations) of subjects like focus stacking. It isn't easy to marry those two discussions but Neel manages to do it very smoothly. He provides a general understanding of the concepts before he shows you how to use the gear to apply them in practice. You actually have the feeling of having learned something." - Mike Pasini - Photo Corners Impressive and unique., January 2017

**Focus In Photography: Master the advanced techniques that will change your photography forever (Paperback)**

This is brilliant, original, inspiring. But more important, it's chockablock loaded with useful, well presented suggestions. Doesn't get bogged down in explicative text either. Just flows. I write as someone who's been shooting, processing and post processing film and digital images for many decades. My standards are pretty high. This one is worth every penny and every minute of time. Kudos. - Picker

John Neel's work has been exhibited in public and private galleries and featured in magazines in the United States, Canada and Europe, and he has taught at the Rochester Institute of Technology, State University of New York, Nazareth College as well as Sheridan College in Ontario, Canada. He is the author of *Rethinking Digital Photography*, named a "Best of 2011" by Library Journal.

Location: Rochester, NY

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John Neel's *FOCUS in Photography* takes one of the basic principles of making good pictures and goes way beyond what you thought you know. This terrific book takes you on a journey into some very technical subjects (don't be fooled by the simple sounding title), but presents it in a way that anyone looking to make better photographs can understand. As a photographer for more than 40 years, I thought I knew how focus can be used creatively, but *FOCUS in Photography* has opened up new digital techniques I had no idea where possible. Get this book if you want to broaden your creative skills!

Very detailed book and I learned a lot of new techniques from this book.

good book

I am not a professional photographer by any means, but I started taking photos at age 8 with an ancient bellows-type film camera, rejoiced when one-hour photo processing arrived, and blissfully slid into the digital age with barely a look back. I've got four photography-related books on my desk right now (along with an old film camera, fully loaded, that I keep meaning to use but haven't). Here's what I look for in a photography book:<sup>\*</sup> Is it easy to understand? (you don't have to spend much time on photography forums to see that there's a certain contingent that likes to get very technical, but that's not me and probably not most readers...if it is you, lots of forums to keep you happy)<sup>\*</sup> Are the examples inspiring? Photography books that don't motivate me to pick up my camera and try the techniques myself probably aren't going to hold my interest.<sup>\*</sup> Am I learning something new? Focus in Photography nails all three. Bokeh has been the buzzword of the century, and you can't write a book on focus without mentioning it. Neel devotes a chapter to that topic, as well as discussing many other popular methods of playing with images. Trying to determine when to use a neutral density filter and when a polarizer? Fixed length lens vs zoom? And what is the Schemppflug Principle? He covers it all. One chapter, entitled Close-Up, will thrill anyone who likes to sit in the garden and take pictures of colorful bugs and flower stamen. It's followed by a chapter on focus stacking. Neel provides the clearest description I've seen, along with a discussion on the best software to use. I've tried focus stacking and it's way too much work for me, but it can help a creative photographer achieve stunning effects. Most unusual sections: one on DIY lenses and another on freelensing. Fun to read about though I'm probably not going to try either. After a lengthy explanation of panoramas, Neel goes into detail about software with names like Alien Skin Exposure X. Yes, Photoshop makes the list, but after reading the book, you're going to want to dabble with a few other tools. Lots of great photos plus technical explanations translated into simple diagrams make this one of the best books on photography I've read this year.

Focus in Photography, Master the Fundamental Photographic Method, Open a New World of Creativity is a beautifully produced coffee table-style book, although not as big as a typical coffee table book. Author John Neel reviews using focusing techniques in new and creative ways in the introduction of the book. The content then quickly shifts into more of a traditional book about digital photography, with less focus on focus and more about such topics as the importance of light, different types of bokeh, lenses, close-up photography, focus stacking, shooting panoramas, and post production software. This book is not aimed at a novice photographer; it is

meant, I think, more for the advanced amateur. "Focus in Photography" contains beautiful photographs, as well as a number of colorful and detailed charts, graphics, and illustrations that explain such things like how a tilt-shift lens works, using extension tubes, reversing lenses, using focus rails, and using a two-lens macro technique for close-up photography, focus stacking (to get those real good macro photos), and other topics. The final chapter of the book covers aspects of how post production software that can be used to achieve different results. While not exhaustive reviews of the software, or a step-by-step guide about how to use the software, the information is interesting. You don't have to necessarily start at the beginning of the book and read it through the way it is presenting, although the first chapter, on light, is correctly placed since light, and how a lens (and camera) see light, is the most important element of photography. Overall I am enjoying reading "Focus in Photography" and I enjoy just picking it up and reading a chapter. The book was not necessarily written for someone looking for instruction about how to get out of "Auto" or "P" mode, but for experienced photographers who are looking to take their skills to the next level.

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