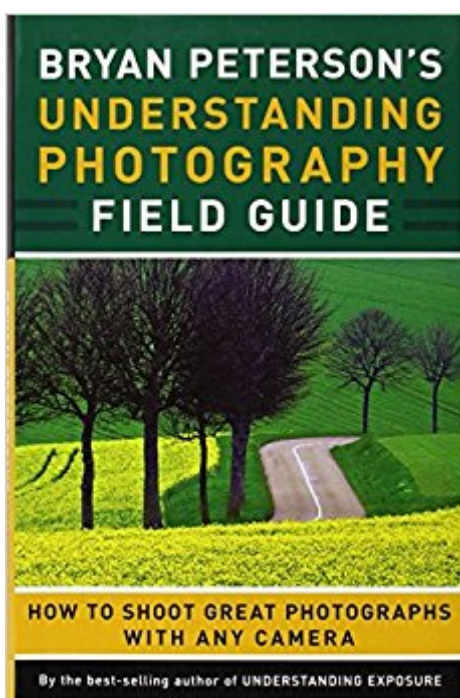


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# Bryan Peterson's Understanding Photography Field Guide: How To Shoot Great Photographs With Any Camera



## Synopsis

Everything you need to know in one take-anywhere field guide! This all-in-one guide from renowned photographer, instructor, and author Bryan Peterson will help you take better photos anytime, anywhere with any camera. Want to finally understand exposure? Interested in learning to "see" and composing your images more creatively? Ready to master the magic of light?

It's all here, the techniques every amateur photographer needs to take better nature, landscape, people, and close-up photos. You'll even get creative techniques, like making "rain" and capturing "ghosts," and practical advice on gear, equipment, and postprocessing software. Filled with Bryan's inspirational photographs, this is the one essential guide for every camera bag.

## Book Information

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Video > Digital Photography

## Customer Reviews

BRYAN PETERSON is a professional photographer, an internationally known instructor, and the best-selling author of *Understanding Exposure*, *Understanding Shutter Speed*, *Learning to See Creatively*, *Understanding Digital Photography*, and *Beyond Portraiture*. In addition, he is the founder of the online photography school *The Perfect Picture School of Photography* ([www.ppsop.com](http://www.ppsop.com)). He lives in Chicago.

I have owned many photography books over the years and Bryan Peterson's "Understanding

Photography Field Guide" will be the book I pack with me from here on out. The book is organized into the 11 chapters detailed below and each chapter is organized into smaller sections which help you seek out the specific topics you want to review.

- 1) A Few Digital Basics - Chapter topics range from file format and shooting in RAW to a gem of a section on white balance that explained better in 2 pages how this setting can really improve my photos than anything else I have come across in the past.
- 2) Exposure - Topics in this chapter include exposure explanations, the photographic triangle, creative exposures, and more. Bryan is a master at de-mystifying exposure and you will improve your photography with this chapter.
- 3) Aperture - This chapter does much more than just explain the effects of proper aperture settings, Bryan teaches you how aperture helps you tell the story you intend to with the photo.
- 4) Shutter Speed & ISO - This chapter offered one of the best explanations of how ISO effects your photos I have found since being introduced to digital photography and I find the section on "motion in low light" to be very good. Bryan also explained the relationship between aperture and shutter speeds in an easy to understand and apply in the field format.
- 5) Learning To See - This chapter covers a lot of ground on lenses and selecting the right lens for the right shot. Advice sections such as "shooting up" and "looking down" are helpful if you are looking for new ways to shoot but the photos included throughout the book are the best way to get new ideas for framing your shots.
- 6) Designing A Striking Image - This chapter is the largest in the book and covers more than I can go into. Suffice it to say that this chapter is all about composition, choosing your subject, getting creative, etc. These kinds of chapters have always been inspiring to me because the photos are amazing and Bryan does not let you down here. If you aren't motivated to get up and grab your camera after reading these sections you should probably put it down for good.
- 7) The Importance Of Light - This chapter covers a lot of ground from the best light, to low light, to backlight, etc. I found the material on exposure settings for various light conditions helpful and I was surprised that HDR exposure was covered in the detail it was...though not enough to start shooting HDR in my opinion. It seems as though you would still want to buy an HDR book to get into that in earnest.
- 8) Close-Up Photography - This chapter is a pretty good introduction to macro and it did answer many questions I have had. I have been flirting with getting more into macro and this chapter has helped me get just a little bit closer to making the investment.
- 9) Photographing People - This chapter is really about being a more professional, courteous photographer when people are the subject. This is the smallest chapter at just 7 pages and Bryan uses most of them to play armchair psychologist at getting people to like you taking their picture so you can get the best photos possible.
- 10) Unconventional Techniques - This chapter covers various "tricks of the trade" such as "making rain" or unusual ways to mount your camera and it will only really be useful on a lazy

weekend day when you can't find anything else to do or photograph. Fun info here but basically a bonus chapter. 11) Useful Tools - Here is the chapter that every photo book has and it basically feeds the gear addiction...tripods, filters, and more...It is impossible to get into all of the details that you will find in this book, and at 400 pages you will not be short of info to learn from and grow as a photographer. A couple other comments about the book itself...it is very high quality with good, heavy, high gloss paper that make the photos really pop off the pages. The book is very well built too and I can see that it will last for many years to come being lugged around in my camera bag and on trips. Also, this has to be the most compact and small 400 page book I have ever seen which is great because I do want to carry it with me when I go. And the photos...they are simply spectacular. I have found myself just flipping through the pages to look at the photos and that can be just as instructive as the text in my opinion. Bryan has selected excellent examples to demonstrate his topics/lessons and all of the photo captions have detail about the photo's exposure settings which I like because it helps reinforce the lessons being taught. I do not think anyone will be disappointed with this book and unless you are a seasoned pro already you will learn and grow as a photographer when you read and re-read this book's thorough chapters.

Understanding Exposure 4th edition is one of Bryan's best books of all time in my opinion.

Understanding Photography 6 or 7 years older and packed with information in a smaller Field Guide format. I think both are worth owning (I bought the Field Guide used) and they are the kind of books I wanted to read all the way through and will likely reread, you can't go wrong with this book.

As the title indicates, this is a great book covering a range of topics on photography. If you haven't read any of Peterson's books, this is 5 stars. However, if you have read his other books - particularly Understanding Exposure, Understanding Shutter Speed, chapters of this book are almost identical, though not as deep, as those books, and you'll probably be a little disappointed if you were looking for new material. Same pictures, examples, and information - which is why I am only giving this 4 stars. It really should be a "compilation of/best of" Peterson's photo books. It is intended as a "field guide" and if you want something to carry around, this does cover most of the important topics and techniques - though it isn't exactly pocket-sized.

I probably have 100+ books on photography. Some I have read cover to cover, some I have read in bits and pieces and some I have just viewed the images. I have to be honest and tell you I have not finished this book. The book is a gem. I have been shooting for 50+ years and I keep learning new

things from this book. If I owned one book on photography, this would be it.

If you'd like to improve your photography skills, this book is for you. Bryan's book is not just another photography mechanics book, it's about capturing the OMG moment. It's about creativity which resides at the intersection of inventiveness, imagination, inspiration, and perception. He freely admits that no camera can be an artist, that is up to the photographer. This book gives you numerous avenues to become that artisan of imagery. Written in a way that is easily understandable, and with exercises to hone your skills, it presents more ways for you to get the most out of your camera. Highly recommended!

Others have covered the details describing this book so I won't bother - except to say I agree. For me, this book has been an inspiration and an awakening of both latent and forgotten skills. (I'm an old guy.) I should mention that this book is limited to outdoor still photography. It contains no instruction for studio portrait photography or commercial product photography. But Bryan Peterson is a truly gifted teacher/author. This book is intended as simply an outdoor field guide - a do as you read book. I'm so impressed that I ordered two more of Peterson's books. They'll be available next month: the 3rd Edition of his "Understanding Exposure" and his "Beyond Portraiture." With study (and daily picture making) my photographs are really improving. I would recommend this book to anyone seriously interested in improving their photographs.

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