

SPG Photographic Panels Competition

A photographic panel for our competition will consist of 3 images. These can be mounted on a single mount or 3 separate ones up to a maximum of 40cm by 50cm each.

Images within a panel must work together as a set, they can tell a story, be images of the same item taken in different seasons for example, or a model in different outfits or in varying locations. The images have to have a relationship in some way to each other.

The Images will be displayed in a row so each one needs to indicate the order of display i.e. A, B and C or Left, Centre and Right.

Why a Panel?

A lot of Panels tell a story. This is best described as where one image could not tell the whole story. For example it could be the progression of a child growing up, so the images could have been taken over a long period of time. Storytelling panels are quite popular. A lot of photographers also use a panel to show different aspects of a subject. It could for instance be a Car. You may show it in pristine condition as per the selling brochures, but then show some details, such as the badge, lights etc. You may opt to show it at night, or moving, the options are only limited by your imagination. You will find it best to have an idea for a panel and roughly sketch out how you will see it together. You can then set about getting the images you require. Post processing can help in balancing things like exposure and cropping etc. Often you may decide to do a panel on the spur of the moment, e.g. the situation you are in can sometimes be hard to capture all aspects with just one image. In such situations you need to think 'Panel' and get creative.

Many things need to be considered when working on a panel; these are just food for thought;

- Relationship of the images.
- Does it tell a story?
- Do the images work together?
- Is the exposure similar across all the images (or massively different of course?)
- Are they all printed on the same paper?

- Has the post processing 'style', 'plug-in' been applied to all the images?
- Are they all mounted in the same format (borders/mount colour/window/flush etc)?
- Diagonals work better pointing into the centre of the panel.
- Portraits work better facing into the panel.
- Try vignetting the very outside corners of each image (e.g. the top right corner on the top right image, bottom left corner of the bottom left image etc).
- Don't have images that are too similar.
- Landscape and Portrait formats can be mixed but the Panel needs to be balanced.
- The use of leading lines, diagonals etc is to keep the interest within the panel and to prevent the viewer's eye wandering off at a tangent.
- Consider flipping/rotating images during processing to get angles/faces pointing the right way. Use all the tools you have in your box to help achieve impact and balance.
- Keep images the same size if possible; it's easier to view in this way.
- There will always be a weak image in a panel, it's unavoidable.

And finally, remember these are just guidelines, not rules, and are meant to be broken should the panel improve by so doing.

Additional Rules

Only current, fully paid up members may enter the competitions.

Chemically produced photographs and Digital Images (inkjet and other print types) are acceptable in all SPG organised competitions.

The copyright of every element, of all pictures entered, must belong to the photographer.

Images created solely in the computer are not acceptable. Images should contain elements of 'light' recorded image.

All entries should be titled and named indicating the order they should be displayed (A, B, C.)

There are 4 sections. Colour, Monochrome, Creative and Nature and you may enter up to 3 panels in each section.

There are awards for both Novice and Advanced sections.