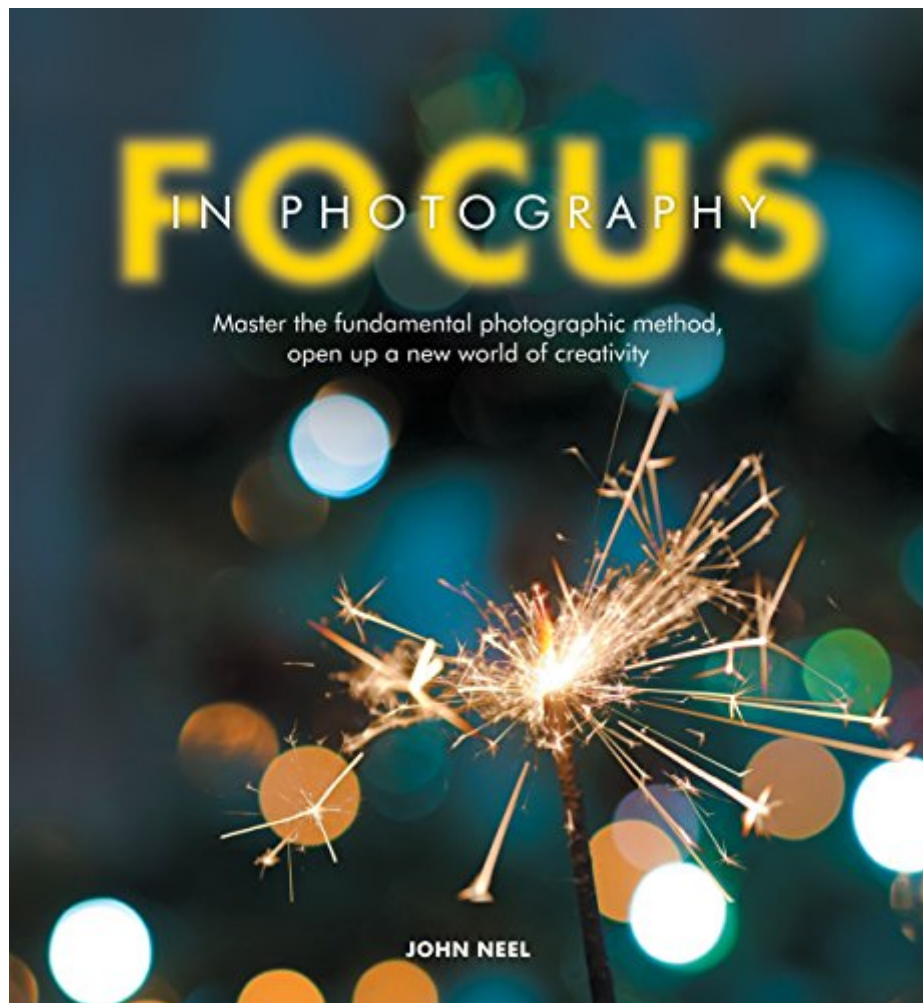




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# **Focus In Photography: Understand The Fundamentals, Explore The Creative, Take Beautiful Photos**



## Synopsis

Focus is an often overlooked but powerful creative tool for photographers, made all the more powerful and accessible in the digital era. In his latest book John Neel takes you into an exploration of advanced focus that will greatly enhance your skill as a photographer. These pages will show you everything, from high-end techniques to create infinite focus, through to using it as an artistic tool, directing your viewer's eye around your photographic composition. Undoubtedly the most in-depth coverage of this fundamental aspect of photography you'll find anywhere, this book will be a valuable asset for any student, enthusiast looking for a new creative angle, commercial product photographer, or online traders.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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.

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 were 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:

- \* 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)
- \* 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.
- \* 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 Schempflug 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 stamens. 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 or 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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