



photography

Monte
Nagler

Eliminate the camera shakes — use a tripod

A good tripod is a valuable piece of photographic hardware that should be in every photographer's equipment inventory. Without it, many photographic opportunities will be forsaken, many exciting shots missed.

What do you look for when buying a tripod? First and foremost — quality. Don't skimp in your purchase. You have a good camera — get a good tripod to match.

Buy one that will support more weight than it is intended to hold. An extra strong tripod will lessen the chance of a blurred shot in a heavy wind.

Most tripods are constructed of metals such as aluminum. These are fine because they are lightweight and are easily folded for storage and traveling. Usually a maximum extension of four to five feet is sufficient and will handle most tasks.

When it's not fully extended, keep the thinnest, lowest legs retracted for greater stability. Also, to increase sturdiness, always place one of the tripod legs pointed forward under the lens.

Two kinds of tripod heads are available. The most common has separate handles for panning and tilting. A second kind contains a single screw that unlocks a ball joint to permit turns and tilts in any direction. Which is best for you is a matter of personal preference. There are many times you'll need to use a tripod. A general rule is that you should use a tripod when the shutter speed you'll be using is slower than the reciprocal of the focal length of the lens.

For example, the nearest shutter speed to your normal 50mm lens is 1/60 second. This means that you can hand hold your camera at speeds of 1/60 second or faster. If lighting conditions demand a speed of 1/30 second or slower, better get out your tripod.

When using your 200 mm. lens it's OK to hand hold at 1/250 second but with any speed slower, you'll need that tripod.

Many long telephoto lenses have their own tripod sockets for better balance, so check yours out before mounting the camera to the tripod.

When else will a tripod come in handy? Night shots. Beautiful photographs are obtained after dark not only of street scenes and store windows but also of floodlit buildings and monuments. More details will be forthcoming in a story devoted exclusively to night photography.

ANOTHER USE of tripods is in obtaining photographs that intentionally show motion.

It's common to "freeze" flowing water in a stream with a fast shutter speed, but what if that same stream was shot with a full two second exposure on a tripod? You'll get a totally different result with the water appearing as a soft blur and giving a feeling of movement and mood to the photograph.

Try it sometime. Of course, you will require a very small aperture setting and perhaps neutral density filters to accomplish this.

One other reminder: A cable release goes hand-in-hand with a tripod. Always use one every time you take a picture on your tripod.

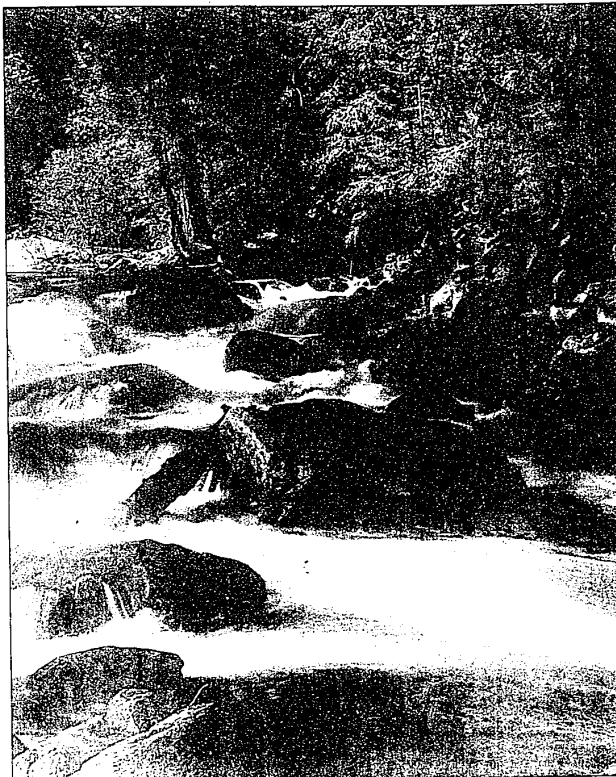
What if you're out shooting and a situation arises where you should use a tripod but you've left it home?

Try to improvise by tucking your elbows in and bracing yourself against a wall or tree. Or rest the camera on a fence or your car hood and use the self-timer.

Better still, keep your tripod handy at all times. Keep ready to get a steady.

1980 by Monte Nagler. The writer is an area businessman and president of the Greater Detroit Camera Clubs Council.

His exhibit is at the Halsted Gallery, Birmingham, until Sept. 6.



Instead of "freezing" drops of water in mid-air with a fast shutter speed, Monte Nagler mounted his camera on a tripod and used a slow speed to give a feeling of motion to the waters of this rocky stream.

Here are fishing tips for vacationers

For many vacationers, the opportunity to fish in a different location will be one of the reasons they travel.

For others, fishing may not be a major attraction, yet they would like to participate if they could. Here are some tips which will enable you to take along some tackle and have time to fish when you arrive.

1. Write for information about the type of fishing

available. Don't fish for everything. Limit angling to one or two species.

2. Inquire about boat and motor rentals. A boat improves your chances of catching fish.

3. Be selective with tackle. Take only what is needed for the type of fishing you'll do. Plan on buying some local lures.

4. Pack tackle carefully. Protect rods with a stout case, or take along multi-piece travel rods.

5. Plan to allow time for fishing. Keep your schedule flexible to take advantage of local conditions.

6. Encourage your family to fish. If they don't fish, plan something for them while you do.

7. Talk to local anglers. Often, one will invite you to join him. At the least, you'll learn what lures to use and perhaps where to go for best action.

8. Consider a guide, especially if time is limited.

Jazz greats give concerts

A special assembly of the top names in Detroit jazz is being brought together by WDIV-TV for a series of free outdoor concerts.

The series continues when the Wayne State University Jazz Lab Band, Go 4 Jazz Quintet and Ursula Walker perform from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday in

the Prudential Town Center "Sun Bowl" in Southfield.

The forthcoming concert is in cooperation with the City of Southfield.

The next concert will be presented, with the same artists, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Aug. 12 in the Livonia Civic Center Plaza, in cooperation with the Livonia Arts Commission.



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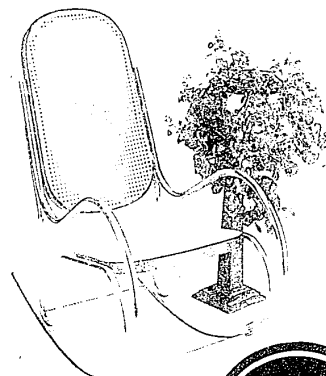
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