

# Trip the self-timer for pleasing vacation shots



This picture of Monte Nagler and his new bride, Mickey, was taken on their Hawaiian honeymoon with the aid of a self-timer. The frame was filled and there is just enough foliage to give the flavor of the tropics.

photography  
**Monte Nagler**

Did you get back from Yosemite last summer only to discover that in the shot that friendly stranger took of you and your companion in front of Yosemite Falls your head was chopped off and the falls are at a hard-to-believe 45-degree angle?

Or did you just return from Europe to find that the trusty tour guide had the shakes and all of the pictures of the two of you in front of the famous landmarks are blurry?

Lesson to be learned? You can't always trust your tour guide or that eager-to-help stranger to get the shots you want.

Solution? Take the pictures yourself with that important, but seldom used feature on your camera, the self-timer.

You'll need a tripod or solid ledge to do the trick. (Don't think you'll have to travel with a cumbersome tripod just

for self-timer shots, you should have one with you anyway).

MOUNT YOUR camera on the tripod and place your companion(s) in the viewfinder. A vertical composition usually works best. Be sure to allow room in the picture for yourself, and if you're taller, leave plenty of space at the top so that you don't lose your head in the final result.

As always, check your background to include subjects you want and eliminate things you don't. That distant mountain range makes a fine backdrop so make sure your aperture is small enough to capture it in the depth-of-field. If you want to zero-in on just the two of you, use a wide aperture to blur an unwanted background.

Once your composition and exposure are all set, you're ready to go. Set your

self-timer, trip the shutter and start moving into position. You'll normally have 10 seconds to get yourself situated. Count down the seconds silently so that you'll know just when to savor that big smile across your face. You'll hear and see the shutter trip so you'll

know when the shot is over. Don't trust your photography to the potential errors and miscalculations of a stranger. Proper use of your camera's self-timer will guarantee you'll have the shots you want.  
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## Contest offered

Energy conservation is the theme of the Farmington Hills Energy Committee poster contest for secondary school students.

Cash prizes up to \$75 will be awarded to top three entries in each of two age groups: senior high and middle school.

Entries will be judged on how well they encourage energy conservation. The entry deadline is Friday, Feb. 28. Deliver entries to the Department of Special Services, Farmington Hills Municipal Building, 31555 11 Mile. Posters will be publicly displayed.



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"SWEETHEART BASKET" ... A dozen Sweetheart Roses and Baby's Breath in a wicker basket ... **\$26.50**

"HEART FLOWER MUG" ... A white ceramic Coffee Mug with pink heart-shaped flower design arranged with Mini Carnations, Sweetheart Roses, Pompons, Baby's Breath and pink & white Hearts ... **\$22.50**

"LOVELY BEAR ROSE VASE" ... A cute plush Bear holding a stuffed red Beinh Heart around a Bud Vase of Red Roses ... **\$12.95 to \$21.95**

"VIOLET HEART PLANTER" ... A beautiful Violet Plant in a white ceramic Double Heart Container with a Double Heart Pick ... **\$13.95**

"HALF AND HALF" ... One half dozen Roses with Baby's Breath in a glass vase and one half pound box of assorted Chocolates ... **\$32.50**

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