

Barn trance: A polarizing filter enabled Monte Nagler to effectively darken the sky to achieve maximum dramatic effect in this shot of most unusual barn. By the way, that's the famous artist Raphael

Polarizing filter is a must for photographer



**MONTÉ
NAGLER**

A polarizing filter is a must in your list of photographic equipment. Few photo accessories can add impact to your shots like a polarizer and I strongly recommend that every serious photographer have one. An investment of \$15 to \$20 will put this exciting filter on your lens.

Polarizers do a number of things that are useful to a photographer: (1) darken blue skies, (2) remove reflections from non-metallic surfaces, (3) penetrate haze and (4) increase color saturation.

Before touching on these uses, let's discuss how a polarizing filter works.

When a light ray hits a non-metallic surface such as glass or water, part of it is reflected completely in one direction. This is called "polarized light." Light from a blue sky is polarized because it is reflected off particles in the atmosphere. A polarizer filter consists of two pieces of glass that rotate relative to one another. When the rotation is 90 degrees, the polarizer will block the "polarized light" in the sky. Because less light now reaches the film, the result in the final picture will be a darker blue sky.

A polarizer filter works for both color and black and white film. To obtain the maximum darkening effect, try to take pictures at a right angle to the sun. And in black and white, use a polarizer in combination with a red filter to produce a completely black sky. Further, because you look through the lens of your SLR camera, you can see the darkening

effect happening as you rotate your polarizer. Remember, a polarizer won't darken an overcast sky.

A polarizing filter will reduce reflections on non-metallic surfaces. Unwanted reflections on a lake or disturbing glare in a store window are good examples. The degree of control on removing reflections depends upon the camera-to-subject angle and the amount of rotation of the filter. Often, an unwanted reflection can be completely eliminated. As in darkening the sky, what you see is what you'll get with your SLR camera. You can actually see the reflections being eliminated.

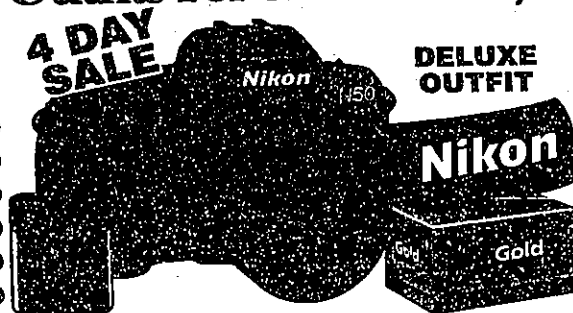
Color saturation can be increased with a polarizer. To begin with, there are two types of light reflected by most surfaces: specular and diffuse. Specular reflections are neutral (no color) and tend to dilute the diffuse reflections (those that give objects their color). A polarizer will absorb the specular reflections, allowing the diffuse, colored light through to the film. The result is an increase in color saturation.

As with most filters, be aware that a polarizer has a filter factor. In this case, an increase in exposure of about two stops is required. But because your SLR has through-the-lens metering, the exposure adjustment is automatically taken care of so you will be better able to concentrate on improving your photography.

Monte Nagler is a fine art photographer based in Farmington Hills. You can leave him a message by dialing (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then his mailbox number, 1873. His fax number is (810) 644-1314.

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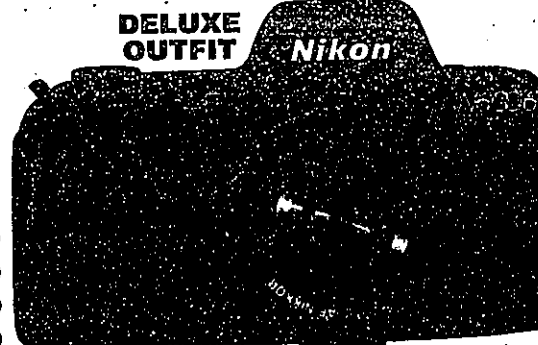


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