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## FOCUS ON PHOTOGRAPHY

## 'Square eyeballs' give new photo angle

Have you ever looked through a photography book or magazine and marveled at the strength and impact of the photographs? Ever been to a photographs exhibit and wished you could take similar sixtures that would be similar pictures that would earn you rave reviews?

Chances are the photographers you're admiring are using a very simple technique that I call "looking through square eyeballs.

Our peripheral vision is expansive and we're always looking at a vast world. We tend to see the whole and in so doing, we miss many photographic opportunities that are right in front of

But by training yourself to "look

through square eyeballs," new and excit-ing possibilities will open up for you.

The best way to begin is to use a viewing mask. Cut a "window" about two by

three inches out of a piece of cardboard and

begin to view things through it. You can also use a discarded slide mount or simply look through the rectangle formed when you place together the thumbs and forefingers of both hands. You'll frequently see professional photographers use this method to help them view their subjects.

to help them view their subjects.

Looking through "square eyeballs" will isolate subject matter from the surroundings. You'll be truly amazed at what you'll see. Even familiar surroundings will offer you photographic possibilities you never knew were there.

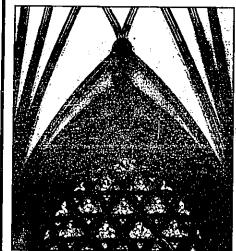
You may see, for example, the unusual pattern of brickwork under the window ledge embraced by a sprig of ivy that you won't see as a potential pic-ture because you're always looking at the whole house.

Looking through square eyeballs allowed me to see the beauty and intimacy and striking texture of just a small portion of the dome in the Wells Cathedral in western England. Remember, an intimate photograph such as this can convey the beauty and grandeur of the whole.

No matter if you use a simple point-and-shoot or a more sophisticated camera, getting into the good habit of look-ing through square eyeballs will open up new and exciting photo opportuni-

ties for you.

Monte Nagler is a fine art photogramonte ragger is a fine art photogra-pher 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.



Angelic angle: Looking through "square eyeballs' enabled Monte Nagler to see just a portion of the dome of Eng-land's Wells Cathedral, As you can see, the picture has impact and stopping power.

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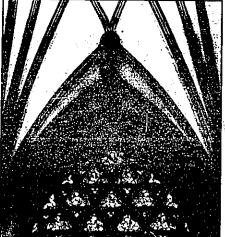
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