

# The Need For Editing

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# Introduction

These days, many people have a camera of some form at their disposal, and the number of images being taken and posted online is staggering. Phones come with cameras, computers have webcams, and point-and-shoot cameras have become so small that you can carry them in a shirt pocket or purse. The technology is becoming better, the megapixels is becoming larger, so that today's phones have better cameras than yesterday's first digital cameras.

It is arguable that anyone who shoots photos is a "photographer," but taking photos does not make someone an artist. There is an expression: the best tool in a dark room is the waste basket. Today, the large sizes of memory cards and staggering hard drive sizes give a seductive lure to keep all the photos taken. Unfortunately, this leads to "photographers" showing everything, unculled and unedited.

I consider myself a photographic artist. I take all the steps from understanding the equipment, researching a locale, composing the shot, image selection and scrutiny, then potent digital post production. Photography, as an art, takes a blend of talent, time, and money.

I can't tell you how many times I have taken photos at an event and have people expect me to send them all the images, straight from the camera. They don't realize that any image I release bears my name, and so I only release the best. It takes time to select and edit, sometimes 20 minutes to an hour for a single image. I may take 1,000 photos in a single morning only to release, and be satisfied with, three of them.

To that end, I want to show two before/after examples. The "before" image is basically right out of the camera<sup>†</sup>, and the "after" image is after I have spent time post processing. The first image took no less than 45 minutes to get everything the way I wanted. The second image took less time, but underwent considerably more alteration.

<sup>†</sup> I only shoot RAW, so Lightroom has interpreted the RAW data after the camera.

## Images

### **(1) — Portland And Mount Hood (Dec. 2011)**

Note how indistinct Mount Hood looks in the original image. Also how much more rich and detailed the city of Portland looks. The sky is more blue. Note how the foreground trees are less bright, thus bringing your attention to the city and mountain.

## **(2) — The Columbia River Gorge (Dec. 2011)**

The original image was drab due to rainy weather. I actually nearly tossed this image. I decided to run the image through a few digital presets within Lightroom, and this one jumped out at me. I literally said, "wow!" The preset increased the contrast considerably, reducing attention from the train, but bringing out the layers of mountains. I received a lot of compliments for this image, which is not bad considering I was moments away from tossing it.



















# Tone Garot Photography

Seeking art through a camera

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## About Tone Garot

For me, photography started as a means to chronicle and share my many and varied excursions including desert hiking, peak bagging, caving, and exploration of Mexico. For approximately a decade, I shot only point-and-shoot cameras, starting with film, then switching to digital. Although I did do some post-processing (cropping, auto-levels, sharpen edges), I never really took photography seriously until July 2010 when I bought my first DSLR.

Having a technical background, I rapidly learned the ins and outs of camera basics, lenses, exposure, tripods, etc. I also picked up post-processing quickly.

I spent a lot of time shooting and a lot of time post-processing, all the while experimenting and discovering a whole new world of possibilities. I soon realized that knowing how to use a camera isn't the same as knowing how to take a good photo. Many, if not most, of my best shots have an element of serendipity, even those taken in my home studio.

I am still learning and haven't chosen a particular adjective to describe what I do yet, i.e. I don't know if I want to be a travel photographer, product photographer, wedding photographer, or what. For me, this is a hobby, a pursuit, perhaps even a passion. I don't want to limit myself yet with adjectives.

