

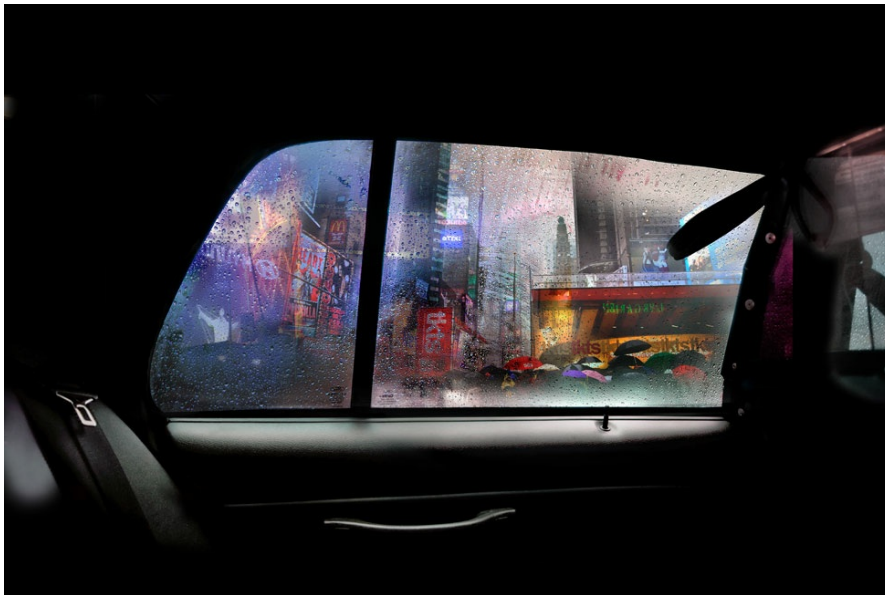
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Nikon | LEARN & EXPLORE

BEGINNER

Making Pictures in the Rain

Featuring REED HOFFMANN, LAYNE KENNEDY, ED MASTERSON & RANDY ZIEGLER



© Ed Masterson

D3, AF-S VR Zoom-NIKKOR 24-120mm f/3.5-5.6G IF-ED, 1/40 second, f/4.5, ISO 500, aperture priority, Matrix metering.

There are perfectly good reasons why people don't like to take pictures when it's raining. It's messy; you have to work to keep yourself and your equipment dry. But, with a little planning and the right gear, it can be well worth the effort.

Probably the best tool for working in the rain is a good roof. Look for picnic shelters at parks, porches with overhangs, anything that lets you be outside without getting wet. Or, get an umbrella. Look for size and strength. Small ones are easy to carry, but large ones withstand more wind and rain. Perhaps the best compromise is a collapsible golf umbrella; large coverage in a reasonably compact size. Now it's time to talk about the kinds of photos you can make.

The light will usually be flat, so forget about bright colors. You'll be working with a muted palette, which can be a nice change of pace. Rain can give you images that

have a dreamy, soft look to them, but that doesn't mean there's *no* color. Greens in particular can look lush and beautiful when wet. If you want more contrast, or "punch" in a scene, try the Vivid Picture Control setting (found in the Shooting Menu options on your Nikon digital camera). That will add some contrast and saturation.

“ Once you've taken
the time to go shoot
in the rain, you'll
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© Randy Ziegler

D300, AF Zoom-Nikkor 70-300mm f/4-5.6G,
1/80 second, f/7.1, ISO 500, aperture priority,
Matrix metering, +0.7EV

Raindrops also make great subjects. There are a couple of keys to shooting them. For one thing, they both pass and reflect light, so they photograph best against a dark or colorful background. One easy way to shoot them is from inside your house, focusing on the ones on the window glass. If you have a telephoto, you may find that it makes them look larger at closest focus than a normal or wide-angle lens. A macro or micro lens is designed for close focus and will allow you to get much, much closer. If you have a compact (point-and-shoot) camera, then turn on its close-focus capability (usually with a button on the back that has a flower icon). You can also shoot raindrops on car windows, or even through the wet glass, for an interesting look, but please, park the car first!

And keep an eye out for other people in the rain. Having a person in the picture can make it more interesting. People with umbrellas or people with animals can add to the quiet mood of a rainy photo and create an instant focal point to draw the viewer's attention.

Foggy scenes can be just as interesting as those in the rain. Heavy fog may conceal all but the closest of subjects to the camera, while fog that isn't as thick

may reveal more to the image than just the main subject. When a subject is relatively close to you, the fog acts as separation between the subject and its background, making the subject stand out more. Look for different ways you can utilize the fog to alter the mood of an image or create an image that seems more monochromatic than colorful.

Once you've taken the time to go shoot in the rain, you'll discover that a whole new world of images is waiting for you.



© Randy Ziegler

Taking photos in foggy weather can be as creative as shooting in the rain. When a subject is relatively close to you, the fog can act as separation between the subject and its background, making the subject stand out more. This is the case with this photo of a horse. D2X, AF-S NIKKOR 70-200mm f/2.8G ED VR II, 1/250 second, f/4, ISO 200, Aperture priority, Matrix metering.

Featuring

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