

# So, You Want to be a Better Photographer?

Pattern and Texture



Pattern and texture are wonderful visual elements. They add depth and interest to your photos.

Pattern can consist of lines, shapes, or any other repeated element- but I want you to get creative! A yard of polka dot fabric or a brick wall is pattern, sure. But it is much less compelling than a bunch of feet and ankles in line for a roller coaster, a child's face popping out of a ball pit, or mug handles stacked in neat rows at your favorite diner. Consider repeating lines or colors in the real world, then use them to fill your picture plane! As always, consider your composition- be aware of how each object or line fills your frame and make choices to ensure the best composition.



[Here, this floral composition is simple but interesting. Look for design elements we've learned as they repeat and become a pattern: we see *line* in each separate row of flowers, *color* repeated in each row, and *texture* from the petals and leaves themselves. See how many elements can come together to form pattern in a photograph?]

Texture can be found almost anywhere- the more details you look at, the more opportunities you'll find. Peeling paint can create an interesting composition filled with visual texture. Wrinkles in skin can also be compelling. Remember: You want texture in sharp focus- the viewer should want to reach out and touch your subject. So be mindful of your composition and be aware of the ways your texture can fill the picture plane.

Learning to take great photos really begins when you learn how to observe and really see the world around you. Train your eyes to look for small details and remember to take a lot of images. Improving any skill always begins with repeating it often. Happy shooting!