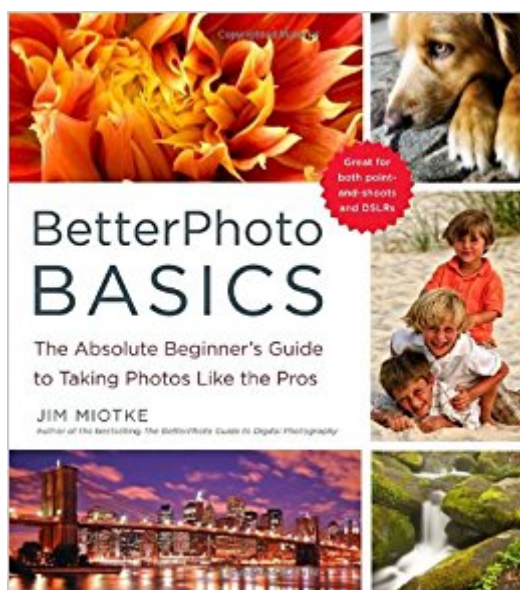


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# BetterPhoto Basics: The Absolute Beginner's Guide To Taking Photos Like A Pro



## Synopsis

Absolutely anyone can take better photos! If you can press a button, you can take great pictures. It's as simple as that. In *BetterPhoto Basics*, Jim Miotke, founder of the popular online photography school [BetterPhoto.com](http://BetterPhoto.com), shares tips and tricks to improve your photos right away, no matter what camera you're using. Too busy to read a book? No problem! Flip to any page for an instant tip to use right away! Learn to compose knockout shots, make the most of indoor and outdoor light, and photograph twenty popular subjects, from sunsets and flowers to a family portrait. Those who want to go further get tips on controlling exposure and the secrets behind ten advanced creative techniques. And everyone will appreciate Jim's breakdown of easy fixes to make in Photoshop. No matter what your level of experience, you'll be amazed how easy it is to start taking photos like the pros.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

JIM MIOTKE is a professional photographer and an online photo course instructor with [BetterPhoto.com](http://BetterPhoto.com), a resource for photographers that he founded and runs. He is the author of the bestselling *BetterPhoto Guide to Digital Photography*, *BetterPhoto Guide to Digital Nature Photography*, and *BetterPhoto Guide to Photographing Children*.

Here is my story: I bought a super Digital compact camera but I had no idea how to make it work. I

studied the whole manual to learn the dozens of controls available. Then I learnt how to modify the shutter speed, aperture, ISO...But the camera manual does not explain you what to achieve with these controls. I then gave a try to Mr Miotke book, which is basically written for guys like me: absolute beginners. I think the book covers most, if not all, the issues that a photographer should understand. Maybe not with a huge depth, but enough to give you an insight of the matter and then let you practice to master the issue. I like this approach. The book is of very good quality. I am happy that I read the book. Now it is time to practice.

This is a really great book for beginner and intermediate photographers. I am at the intermediate level and I have loved this book. I do not have a DSLR, I have a Canon PowerShot SX50 which is a point and shoot with DSLR options. I loved that this book did not assume a lot of pre-knowledge, he really explains things at a level I could understand and retain. Also, I loved it that for the photo challenges, he gives the settings for both a point-and-shoot and a DSLR. This has been a wonderful reference and it has already helped me improve my photography a great deal. I am working my way through the 20 photo assignments, which is really fun to complete each one and share the results with friends. Highly recommend!

I loved this book. It is well written and simple to understand, with great photo examples. He walks you through some basic steps and functions, and on to more advanced features on the camera and dabbles in photo editing. It's also full of tips. I have learned a LOT from this book and I would recommend it to any beginning digital photographer! In fact I'm going to be loaning it to my mom, who has just purchased a Canon Powershot SX520. Recommend, but only for beginners who want to start understanding what their camera is capable of and work into the intermediate level.

This is a uniquely excellent resource for anyone from beginner through intermediate photographer. Both my wife and I find ourselves returning to this book for inspiration and instruction. It is by far the most accessible and just plain enjoyable photography book I've ever owned. Starts with a short section on generic camera controls and operation (it is not, however, a detailed "buttons" manual). Section 2 covers composing, focus, and lighting with plenty of before and after picture comparisons. Section 3 has "assignments" to practice, including thought provoking example photos. The next several sections cover more detailed and advanced topics, explained clearly and well illustrated.

Summary You will most likely find this book useful if:- You are 100% beginner- You want to learn

how to improve your photos, regardless of the camera type or manufacturer (including P&S, DSLR, and even mobile-phone camera)- You need well written and easy to follow reference- you need some ideas and photography assignment that you can do for self-training You will most likely find this book less interesting if:- you are anything above beginner photographer- you want to learn in-depth about light and exposure- you are willing to spend time and effort to collect this information from online resources, provided that you know what (and where) to look. I received this book from couple of months back. It was, along with two other books, my first readings material in photography. I found this one much more useful than the other two titles. First, This book is for total beginners just like myself, and it assumes no prior knowledge or experience in photography. So if you know something about how to take photos, you probably won't like this one. The main focus of this book is to teach you the basic guidelines about photo composition. It provides more than 40 tips on how to make your photos look better (e.g. rule of thirds, lead space, simple backgrounds, focusing on one subject at a time...etc). Following those tips, you, and your audience if have any, will immediately notice improvement on your photos. The way those tips are presented is very logical and easy to follow. Although the writer doesn't mention this explicitly, you will notice at some point that the you can't follow all those rules at the same time and you have to select the ones that fit the situation. The book also introduces the reader to different types of photography and what they exactly refer to. Another good thing is that, unlike other books, it gives you two version of each example, the one that follows the guidelines, and the other one that doesn't so that you can compare and understand the impact you are making. Almost all examples in the book are for simple stuff that you can do your self (e.g. your kids by the pool, a nice building on your way home, a field trip in vacation...etc). You can clearly tell that the focus of the book is to teach you photography, rather than showing authors work. This is backed up by the author style in writing. He'll start by telling what he did at the beginning, just as if he is a beginner himself, but when he followed a certain guideline, he achieved better result. The only downside I found, is that you will grow up very quickly on the material. If you start to get this feeling, it of course means that the book did its job perfectly. However, it could have been better if the author included more advanced and challenging material for the readers who are ready to move to the next step. Overall, this is a great book for beginners and I highly recommend it

I love this book. The author doesn't spend too much time on any one topic, the photos are all full color, the paper and binding are top quality. I appreciate that his writing style is warm and friendly without being too folksy (I hate folksy jokes in how-to books...like the "For Dummies" books, for

example).He covers all the usual topics -- portraits, backlighting, exposure, etc) but in an accessible way. Some chapters only apply if you have a full DSLR, but it was easy to identify those chapters. I'm using a semi-manual point and shoot and I found all of the chapters helpful.An informative appendix lists the settings for every photo in the book, which is helpful when you're trying to figure out how a particular shot was done.I can't say enough good things about this book.

great

This is a great book. It explains things well so that a beginner can understand. It was a gift and I am very happy with it.

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