

# How To Take A Stunning Reference Photo

## *No matter what camera you use!*

**Here are some quick beginner tips to get you started:**

1. Do not use digital zoom (turn that option off).
2. Use natural light whenever possible (window light is preferable to direct sunlight).
3. Turn off the flash.
4. Use a tripod.
5. Take more photos than you will ever possibly need.
6. Evaluate the photos on your computer monitor (You can't see everything on the camera's tiny LCD screen).
7. Take several shots zoomed in close to the subject so you can see the details.

Note: Be sure to look at the show notes for podcast session #47  
[sharpenedartist.com/podcast/photos](http://sharpenedartist.com/podcast/photos)

### Using a Camera Phone

- ▣ Grab a tripod mount for your phone (<http://amzn.to/23vud9W>) usually under \$10.
- ▣ Don't just settle for the default camera app- install a better one.
- ▣ Practice taking in-focus photos and work on post editing.

### Using a Point-and-Shoot Camera

- ▣ Use a burst mode when possible at the highest jpeg setting possible.
- ▣ In addition to taking stills, video in 1080p and grab screenshots in post editing.

### Using a DSLR

- ▣ Shoot in manual mode and capture raw files to get the most of your images.
- ▣ Use the lowest setting possible for ISO range (ISO 100 if possible).
- ▣ Go with the lowest aperture size (larger opening) to get as much light as possible. If possible use an F2 lens.
- ▣ Use the highest shutter speed to reduce any blur. Test. Test. Test.