

Moving On

It was the intention of this course to provide people with some experience of the basics of digital photography. Ten sessions is quite a lengthy course but even then, it is only just scratching the surface of the subject.

Deconstructing Photographs

Now that you have had a chance to try out some different techniques you should be able to recognise them being used in the photographs made by other people. If you see a picture that you like when you're flicking through a book or a magazine start to look at it with a more critical, photographer's eye. Where is the *light* coming from (the opposite direction to the shadows)? Is there a deep or a shallow *depth of field*? Has *motion* been blurred or frozen? From these questions you should be able to think about the shutter speed, aperture and lighting that you might use to recreate a similar image.



And how about flash? If it's a portrait then the catchlights in the model's eyes can tell you a lot about the setup used. If you look closely in this example, you can see that the model was lit by a flash unit in a silvered umbrella above her face and



the shadows below have been softened by using a white reflector at roughly chest height.

Groups

You may want to just take photographs purely for your own enjoyment, however, it is sometimes helpful to chat about photography and image making with other people if only just to get a different point of view. Camera clubs can be a good place to start but they don't appeal to everyone.

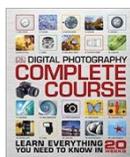
Joining the **Royal Photographic Society** will give you access to a wide range of resources and enable you to attend courses around the country run by professional photographers. Currently, membership costs £120 per year (with concessions for under 25s paying £55 and over 65s paying £90).

The RPS also supports a very good **Open University** course called *TG089 Digital Photography: creating and sharing better pictures*. The course currently costs £200.

Books

I'll admit it, I buy way too many books. But I have learned a lot about photography through reading about techniques and artists that appeal to me. Below is a list of some of the books that I have used and would recommend buying or ordering from the library.

All the details have been taken from the [amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk) website (current in December 2017).

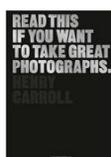


Digital Photography Complete Course

DK

This modular 20-week course guides you through every aspect of digital photography, using a combination of tutorials, step-by-step photo shoots, practical assignments and fun Q&As.

Demystify digital photography and build your photography skills with comprehensive guides on everything you need to know, from conveying movement and using natural light, to understanding exposure and mastering composition.



Read This If You Want to Take Great Photographs

Henry Carroll

It contains no graphs, no techie diagrams and no camera-club jargon. Instead, it inspires readers through iconic images and playful copy packed with hands-on tips. Split into five sections, the book covers composition, exposure, light, lenses, and the art of seeing.



Read This If You Want to Take Great Photographs of People

Henry Carroll

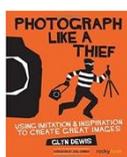
The book distills portrait photography into seven subject areas, including 'Composition', 'The Gaze' and 'The Street', and features beautiful, startling and inspirational photographs in each category. Readers are given practical insights into the ideas and techniques of a wide range of historical and contemporary masters so they can put it all into practice themselves.



Studio Anywhere

Nick Fancher

With photographer Nick Fancher as your guide, you'll learn how to get portfolio-ready photos while working in some of the most problematic scenarios imaginable. And, finally, he describes his Lightroom and Photoshop workflow so you can learn how to deftly navigate post-processing.



Photograph Like a Thief

Glyn Dewis

If you are striving to find your own style, one of the most powerful exercises you can practice is to find influence and inspiration in the work of those around you, and then emulate that work in an effort to define, shape, and grow your own photographic voice.



Why It Does Not Have to Be in Focus

Jackie Higgins

Choosing 100 key photographs with particular emphasis on the last twenty years she examines what inspired each photographer in the first place, and traces how the piece was executed.

Websites

There is an awful lot of information out there on the internet, but here are three websites that I regularly look at:

[Photography Life](#)

general articles on technique and equipment

[The Art of Photography](#)

a very good video blog with reviews, technique and projects

[Strobist](#)

a website all about flash photography