

History and Rules of Composition in Photography

- * Golden Section/Rectangle
 - * Golden Spiral and Golden Triangle
 - * Rule of Thirds
 - * Aspect Ratio and Orientation
 - * Filling the Frame and Subject Placement
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- A mathematical formula that has been found that creates proportions that are most beautiful and pleasing to the eye
- The golden rectangle has the same proportions as a 35mm film frame
- Made with the irrational number PHI (1.618)
- If you flip the rectangle you will get a tic-tac-toe grid within the rectangle (the rule of thirds)
- Subject on one of the 4 intersecting lines is more interesting
- Helps keep us from putting our subject in the center of the frame... boring!

Golden Section/Rectangle

Golden Spiral

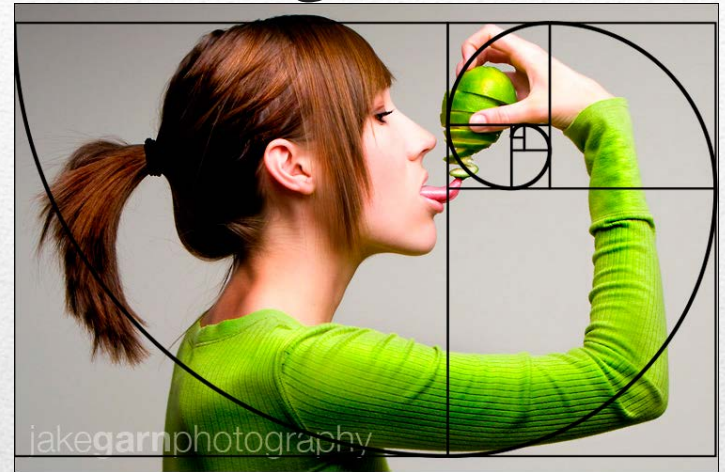
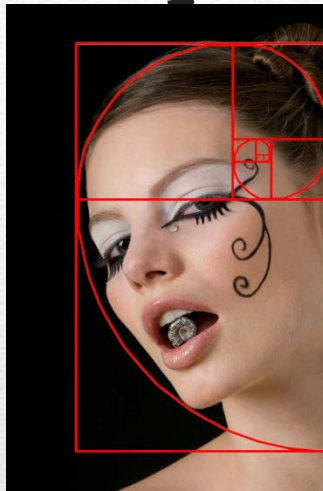
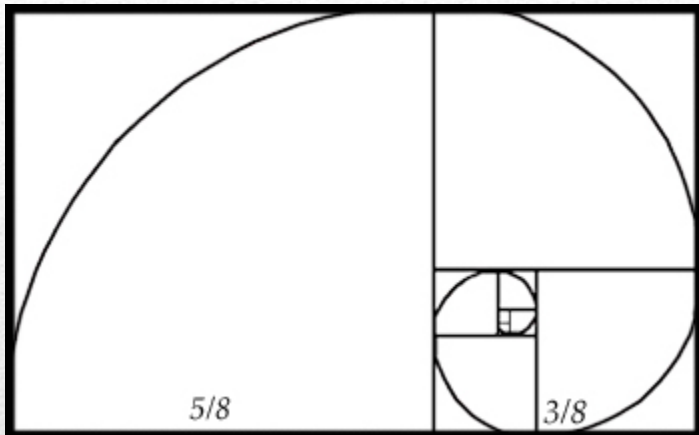
- Connects key points with a smooth curve much like the chambered nautilus
- Only an approximate fit, exact placement is not important
- Use when taking photos of circular forms

Golden Triangle

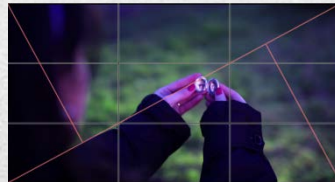
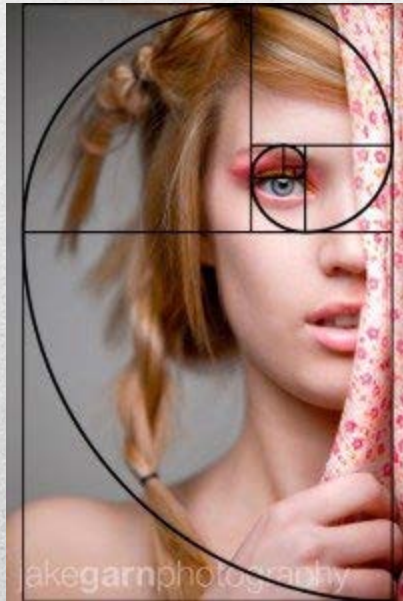
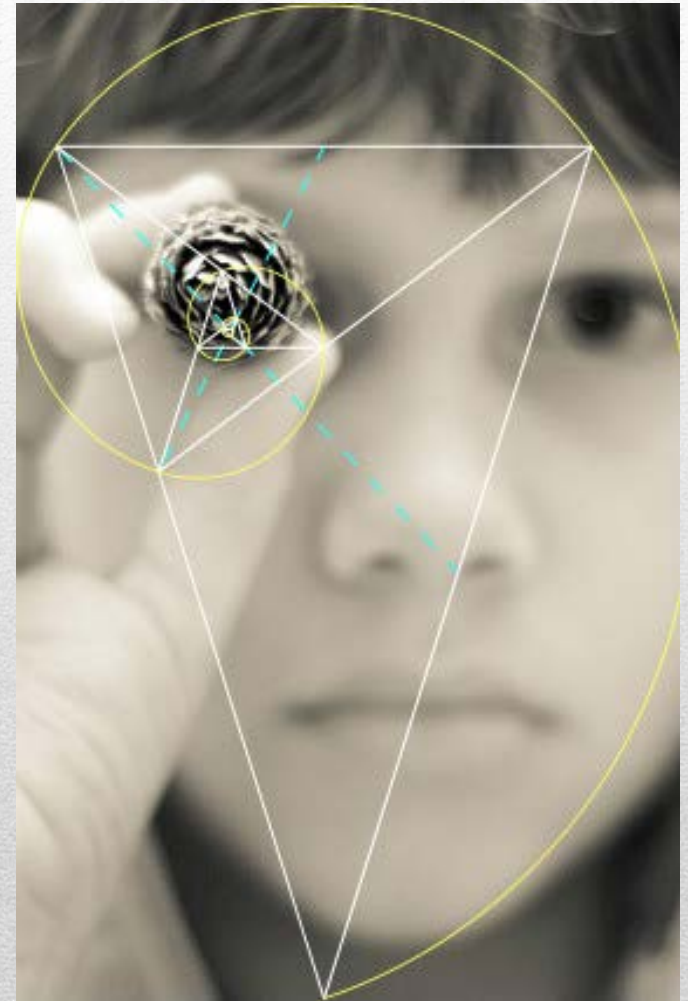
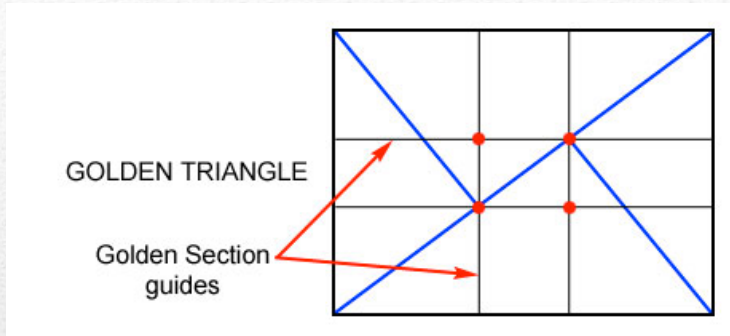
- Use when taking pictures characterized by diagonal lines

Golden Spiral & Golden Triangle

Golden Section/Spiral/Triangle



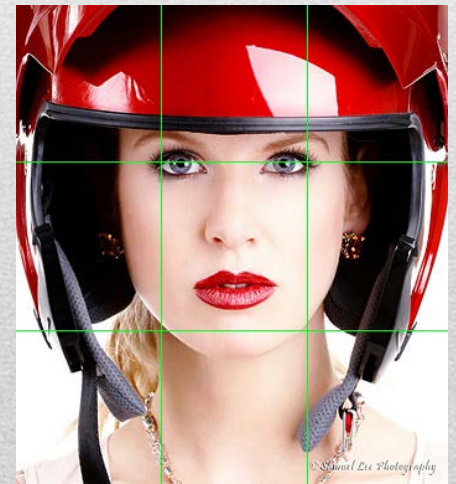
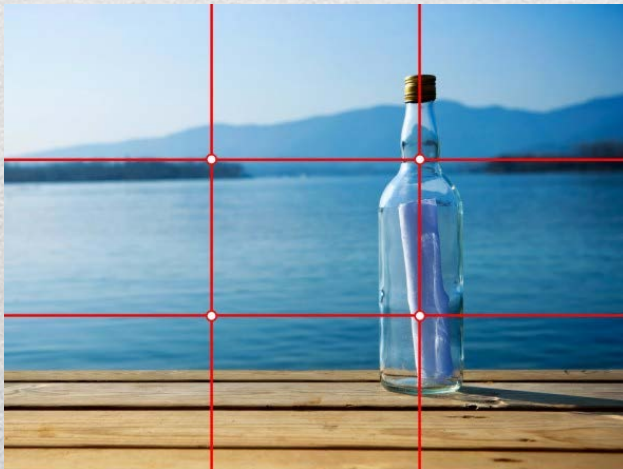
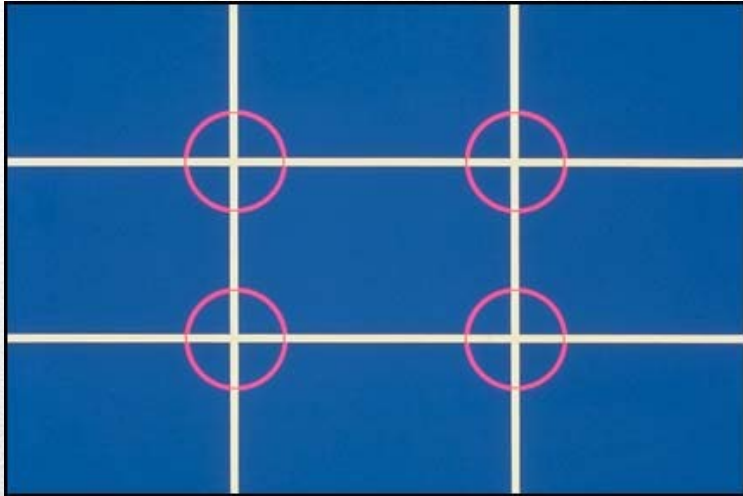
Golden Section/Spiral/Triangle



- Is an extension of the Golden Section
- Helps to break the monotony and symmetry of the rectangle frame
- Draw a grid dividing the frame into thirds both horizontally and vertically, creating 9 parts
- Place key elements at the intersections
- Or along the lines
- DO NOT place your subject in the center of the frame it can divide your frame into two equal parts which is creates a less dynamic composition
- Can be edited later to use the Rule of Thirds

Rule of Thirds

Rule of Thirds



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Aspect Ratio

- Is the size and shape of the picture frame
- The output of your photograph is important to your composition
- Square means it is the same size on both sides

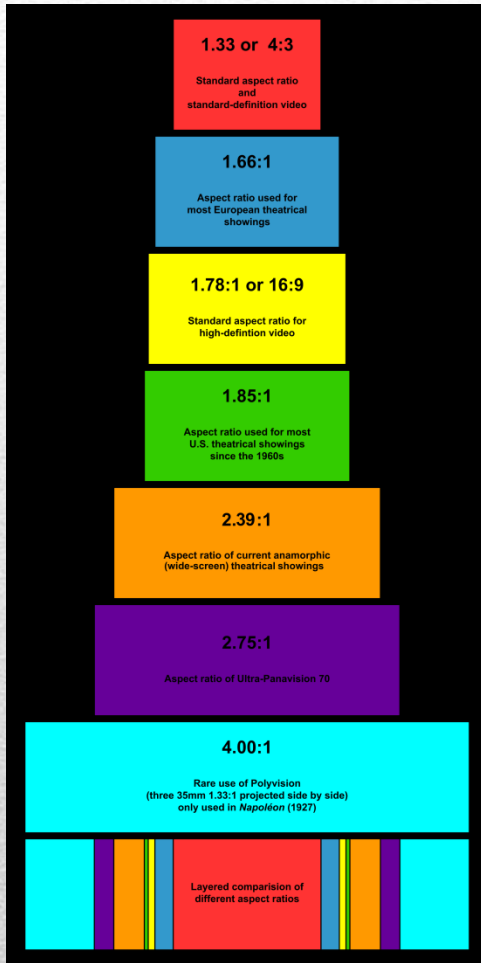


Orientation

- Landscape orientation is more horizontal... it is wider than it is tall
- Portrait orientation is more vertical... it is taller than it is wide
- The human eye and camera are both naturally landscape orientation
- Some scenes lend themselves to both orientations... so try both

Aspect Ratio and Orientation

Aspect Ratio and Orientation



- Fill the frame
- Get Close
 - Use your feet and/or your zoom
- The eye naturally goes to the center of the photo
- Our eyes look for danger in our peripheral vision
 - We find them more interesting than those in the center
- We are trained to find things in front less interesting
- SIMPLIFY
- Keep in mind cropping that may come later

Filling the Frame and Subject Placement

Filling the Frame & Subject Placement

