

Panorama Shooting Tip Sheet

1. Plan Your Shot Sequence

When shooting photos for a panorama, you'll be taking up to twelve or more photos in a sequence. Do a 'dry run' while looking through the viewfinder to plan out how to arrange your shots.

2. Shoot From Left to Right

If you shoot from left to right, it will be easier to get your photos in the right order in the software.

3. Overlap the Photos

Your photos must overlap in order for the software to stitch them together. An overlap of 30-50% is recommended.

4. Keep the Camera Horizontal

As you rotate your camera, try to keep it as close to horizontal as possible — aim the middle of your viewfinder at the horizon line.

5. Use a Tripod if you Can

Using a tripod will give you the best results. But don't be afraid to shoot your panoramas hand-held. Just make sure you follow the rules for steady hand-held shooting.

6. Lock the Exposure

To avoid variations in exposure that cause changes of brightness along the seams where the photos join, set your camera to a manual exposure. Pan around the scene and lock the exposure at a setting in the middle of the range.

7. Lock the Focus

If your panorama includes objects that are both close and far away, try switching your camera from auto to manual focus, and using the same focus distance for all your shots.

8. Minimize Foreground Detail

Try to avoid having objects in your frame that are very close to the camera. Very close objects are more distorted by the lens which makes them harder for the software to match up.

9. Be Aware of Movement

Moving objects can cause problems when you come to stitch your photos together. Remember — it's movement in the overlap zone between shots that is critical.

10. Shoot a Blank Frame First

Shoot one blank frame at the start of each new sequence. Shoot with the lens cap on or with your hand over the lens. This will help keep your sequences organized when you're viewing them on the computer.

11. Turn the Camera

Turn your camera into the 'portrait' orientation, so the long edge of the picture is vertical. This will give you a 50% bigger vertical field of view.

12. Look for Opportunities

Some of my favorite panoramas have been quick, spur-of the moment shots that captured a great group scene. Going WIDE with two or three shots can really bring a big group scene to life! Keep your eyes open, and be ready!

Pre-Shooting Checklist

Follow these steps before shooting each panorama:

- Level your tripod and camera.
- Plan your shot sequence.
- Turn on the grid display.
- Lock the white balance.
- Lock the exposure.
- Shoot some test shots to check the exposure.
- Shoot a blank frame before each new sequence.

Hand-Held Shooting Rules

When shooting without a tripod, follow these 5 Golden Rules for the best results.

- Stand with feet apart.
- Hold camera firmly with 2 hands.
- Look through the viewfinder.
- Keep the camera horizontal.
- Try to rotate your body around the camera, don't rotate the camera around your body.

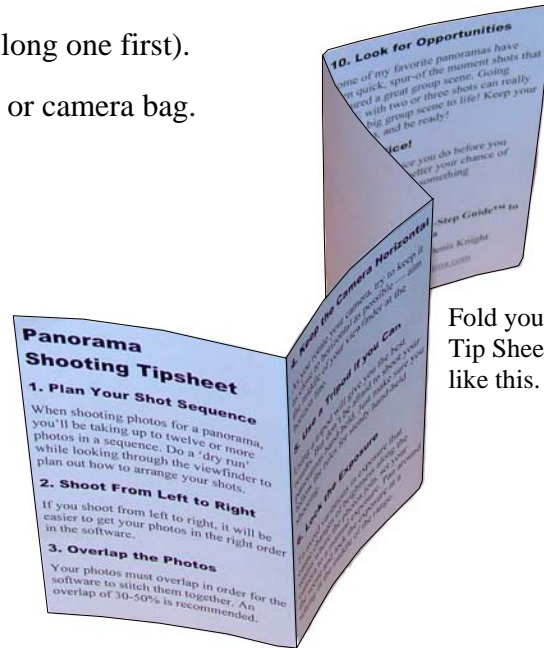
**The Absolute Step-by-Step Guide™ to
The Perfect Panorama**

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How to use your Tip Sheet

1. Print it out.
2. Cut along the solid lines.
3. Fold along the dotted lines (the long one first).
4. Keep it handy — in your wallet or camera bag.



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like this.