

What Makes a Contest Photo a Winner



Presented by Ingrid Drozdak

Fox Valley Division, Midwest Region, NMRA

What Makes a Contest Photo a Winner

There are 5 things we look for in judging a photo or slide

- **Subject Matter**
- **Difficulty**
- **Composition**
- **Artistic Approach**
- **Finish and Technique**



What Makes a Contest Photo a Winner

Subject Matter:

The impact of the subject on the viewer.



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Difficulty:

Model subjects are more difficult than prototype subjects because it is harder to make models look like the "real thing".



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Difficulty:

Much of a photo's effect depends on being in the right place at the right time.



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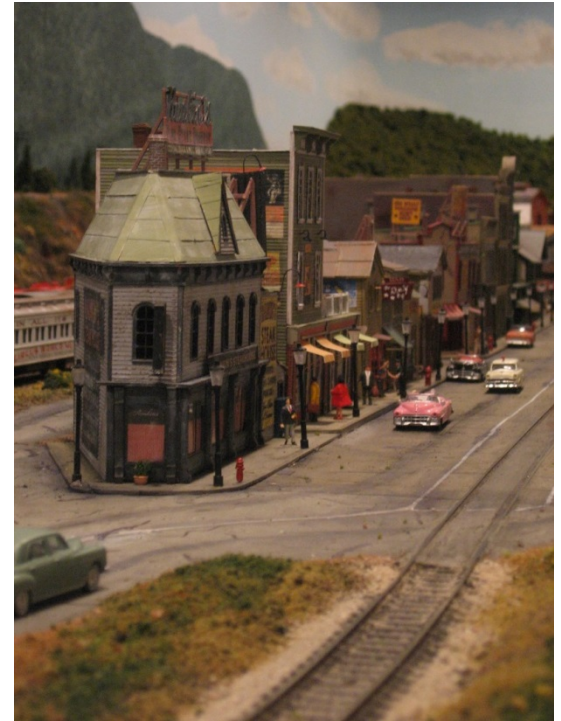


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Difficulty:

Where planning is obvious in the picture, consideration will be given to the effort expended.



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Composition:

The arrangement of forms within the picture should be pleasing to the eye.



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Composition:

Is the picture level?

Leaning left



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What Makes a Contest Photo a Winner

Composition:

Is the picture level?

Much better



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Composition:

Is it too much to one side?



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Composition:

Is it too much to one side?

Cropping the photo gives a better result.



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Artistic Approach:

A picture out of focus is not as good as one in focus unless the effect was obviously intended and does in fact enhance the final results.



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Artistic Approach:

Lighting of the subject for an artistic effect



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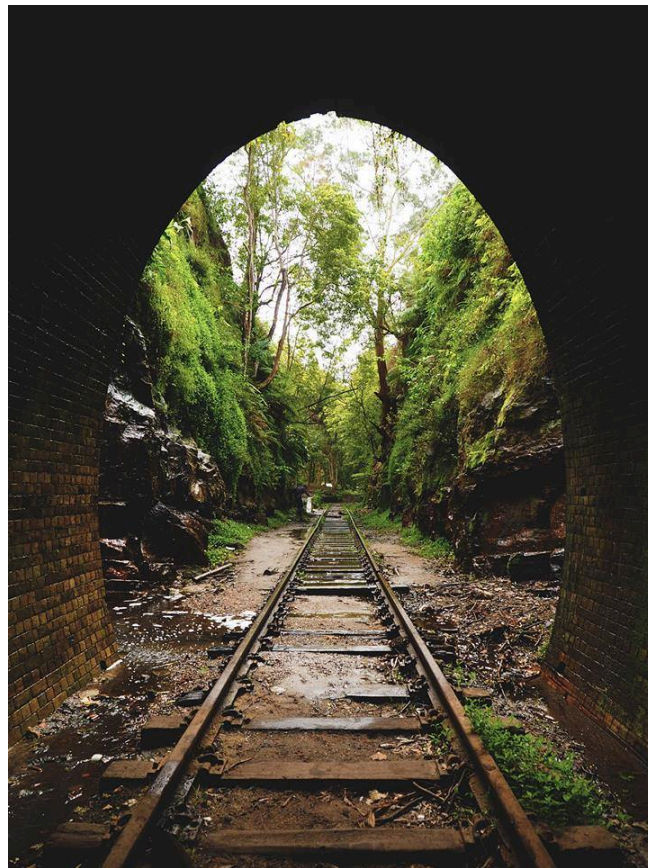


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Artistic Approach:

Placement of the camera for an artistic effect.



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Placement of the camera for an artistic effect.



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What Makes a Contest Photo a Winner

Finishing and Technique:

- Exposure



Over Exposed

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Finishing and Technique:

- Exposure



Proper Exposure



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What Makes a Contest Photo a Winner

Finishing and Technique:

- Exposure



Photo is Backlit

Subject is
to dark

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Finishing and Technique:

- Color Balance



Unbalanced

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What Makes a Contest Photo a Winner

Finishing and Technique:

- Color Balance



Balanced

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Finishing and Technique:

- Is the Print Streaked?



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Finishing and Technique:

- Does it have spots?



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Finishing and Technique:

- Does it have any creases?



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What Makes a Contest Photo a Winner

The Final result as photographic excellence



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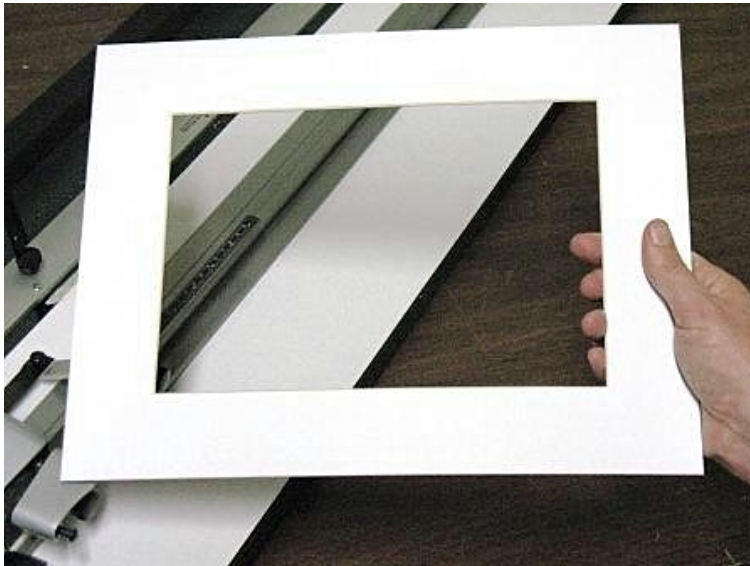


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Format Rules for Prints

- All prints **MUST** be on photo quality paper.
- All prints must be mounted or affixed to a matte board or heavy card stock.
- The mounting board dimensions shall not be less than 8 X 10 inches or exceed 11 X 14 inches.



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Format Rules for Prints

- Minimum size for the print shall be 5 x 7 inches.
- Maximum size for the print shall be 8 X 12 inches.
- In no instance shall the dimensions of a print exceed those of its mounting board.

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Format Rules for Prints

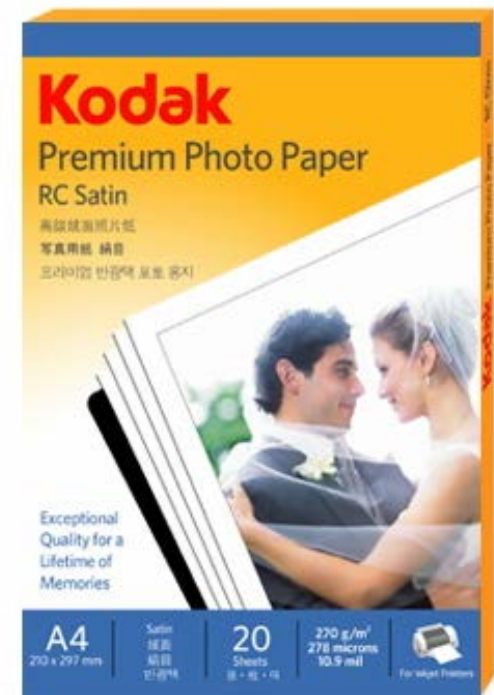
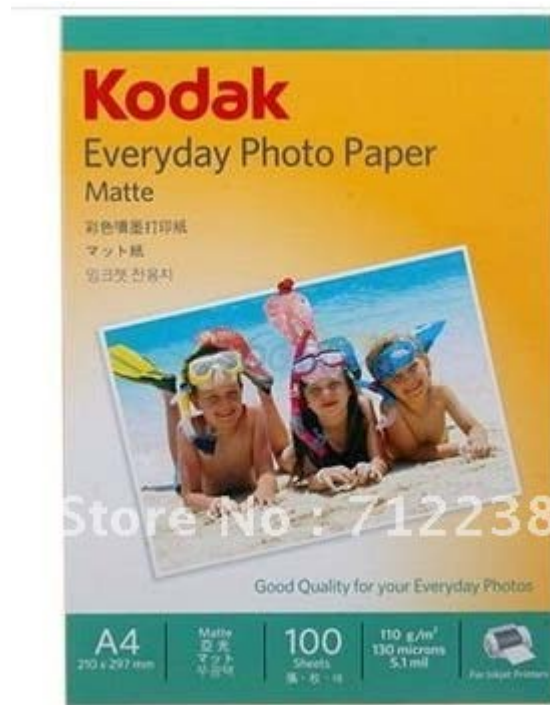
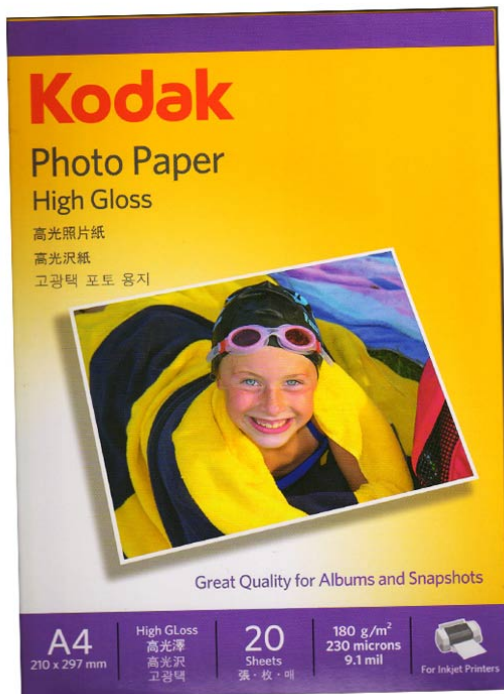
- Photo Folders are NOT considered mounts for prints.



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Format Rules for Digital Prints

- All digital prints **MUST** be on photo quality paper and adhere to the same rules as prints.



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Format Rules for Slides

- All slides are to be mounted in the standard size of 2 x 2 inches.



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Format Rules for Slides

- Large formatted slides may be entered if the entrant provides projection equipment for these slides.



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Identification:

- All entries should have all identification on the BACK of the mount board.
- The photographer's name and other identifying marks must be removed or covered if on the front (viewing) side of the slide or mount board (will not result in points off).

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Just One More Thing:

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Just One More Thing:

Any photo receiving "Best of Show" or "1st Place" at a Regional Convention cannot be re-entered in any subsequent MWR or Division contest.



- BUT it may be entered at the National Contest.
- All non-placing entries may be re-entered again at the regional level.
- Any photos which win any award cannot be re-entered at the Division level.
- Winning "slides" cannot be re-entered as "prints".
- Any photo receiving an award at the National Contest is no longer eligible for competition at any level.

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The End

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