

COMPOSITION TIPS: PORTRAITS

SIMPLICITY

Keep the composition of your portraits simple so that your model becomes the true star of the photo. This idea extends to technique and gear. Try using a single lens (primes are great) and natural lighting. Don't overcomplicate things!



BLURRED BACKGROUNDS

Prime lenses are ideal for portraits as you can use the wider aperture settings to blur the background and eliminate distractions. An aperture setting of f2.8, used in the portrait below, is a good starting point for creating bokeh.



FRAMING

When making portraits outdoors look for natural frames to enhance the composition. In the photos below the models' faces were framed by a painted square (left) and the side of a white caravan (right).



BLACK & WHITE

Black and white is ideal for revealing character as you build rapport with your model, especially with portraits of men. Set your camera to Raw as it gives you the option of developing your portraits in both color and monochrome.

