

In Camera Double Exposure by Fred Tullock

Double Exposure – Camera Settings

- 1) To enable double (Multiple) exposure with Nikon Cameras:
 - a. Menu button > Photo Shooting Menu > Multiple Exposure >
 - i. ON (series)
 1. Stays on until you go back to this menu to turn it OFF. (Remember to turn it off!)
 - ii. ON (single photo)
 1. After one double exposure image, multiple exposure turns itself off.
 - b. Menu button > Photo Shooting Menu > Multiple Exposure > Number of shots > 2
 - i. Once set, this setting will stay where you left it.
 - c. Menu button > Photo Shooting Menu > Multiple Exposure > Auto gain > On
 - i. Once set, this setting will stay where you left it.
 - ii. Adjusts (reduces) the two exposures to prevent over exposure.
- 2) Other camera manufactures will have similar settings, but are named differently.
- 3) When you review the image, nothing in the filename or EXIF data tells you that it was a double exposure. You have to remember, or figure out which images are double exposures.
- 4) Theoretically it shouldn't matter which of the two exposures you take first, but Jan has seen different results, so experiment!

Double Exposure – One Subject: Dreamy effect, Faint glow or blur around sharp image

- 1) Making the exposures
 - a. Exposure 1: Subject is focused sharply.
 - i. Use small enough aperture so entire subject is sharp.
 - b. Exposure 2: Same framing, but manual adjust focus so subject is out of focus, and appears slightly larger.
 - i. This requires shutting off auto-focus, unless you use back-button focus.
 - ii. Change aperture to wide open (small f number) to insure entire subject is equally out of focus. Using aperture priority mode will compensate exposure via faster shutter speed.
- 2) Notes
 - a. Works best using a tripod.
 - b. My Nikon camera does not allow changing ISO between the two exposures.
 - c. Result: ethereal image of subject.
- 3) Who invented this technique?
 - a. Per Wikipedia: Orton (photography) History: The original technique invented by Michael Orton was to overlay two or more images of an identical scene with very different exposures on slide film. One image is sharply focused and the others are very out of focus. Orton has also experimented with similar techniques, substituting one of the images in the composition for one of a different subject, such as a texture layer, or combining a multi-colored image and a monotone one.
 - b. Freeman Patterson is sometimes credited with inventing it. Possibly they independently developed it.

Double Exposure – Two Different Subjects

- 1) Choosing a pair of subjects
 - a. One could be a texture to appear consistently over entire frame
 - i. Textures are everywhere: Concrete, stone, gravestones, rust, pebbles, wall paper, lace, printing or plaque, sheet music, stucco or other wall textures, plant leaves.
 - b. The other could be a main subject.
 - i. Check the image to see if the two images block or interfere with each other, and try again with different framing or size of one or both subjects.
 - c. Both images could be main subjects, such as hands over a face.

- 2) Making the exposures
 - a. Exposure 1: If it is the main subject
 - i. Expose normally.
 - ii. Use small enough aperture so entire subject is sharp.
 - b. Exposure 2: If it will be a texture, after the shot, check to see if it overpowers the main subject
 - i. If the texture overpowers the main subject, use exposure compensation $-1/3$ or $-2/3$ until you achieve the desired transparency.

Double Exposure – Advanced technique

- 1) Can use the outline of one subject, to define the shape of the second image.
 - a. The outline subject is shot with bright white background.
 - i. Using a white sky as the background, is one way to find a clean bright background.
 - ii. Shoot with the subject itself in low light for silhouette, which will not show any detail of the subject through the second subject.
 - iii. Or shoot with some light on one side of subject to show details of that side through the second exposure. You can vary the light, or the exposure to adjust transparency.
 - b. The second exposure will fill in the outline shape of the first subject.
 - i. Trees, leaves or flowers often work well.