Better Cellphone Photos and how to Enter FGC Photography Show

TAKE, EDIT AND ENTER

FOR PHOTO SHOWS – START WITH HIGH RESOLUTION

In contrast to casual sharing of photos, which don't need high resolution, it is different when you print photos at 8x10 or larger size.

For these photos, set your in-phone camera to high resolution.

In Iphone, go to Settings/Camera/formats/Photo Mode, then choose between 12MP or 24 MP (24 is recommended– if your's doesn't go that high, choose the highest.24 MP is approximately 3MB, 12 MP is about 2MB.

In Android, open your camera app, look for Setting icon (gear icon) or Quick Controls icon (four dots), then choose Photo Size setting and choose one of the higher resolutions

Tips for taking better photos

- Steady hands to prevent blurring
  - Elbows in
  - Cellphone closer to body
  - Use a prop if necessary, like a table, wall, rail, rock, etc
  - Use volume button to take the photo
  - Cellphone **tripod** with remote shutter – very important for closeups or macros
  - Use self-timer –to avoid movement when you press the shutter

Focus manually

If you just point your iPhone camera at a scene and press the shutter button, the camera will decide which part of the scene to focus on.

This can leave your main subject blurry





Focus manually

To create the best possible image it's essential that the camera is focusing on your intended subject.



So rather than letting the smartphone decide what to focus on, you can set the focus point manually.



Focus - manual



Yellow box

Tap on the screen where you want the focus to be and the phone will automatically focus there.

Example: Here, to assure the main flower is in focus, tap on the large flower on the left-hand side.

More tips for taking better photos

- Get close
  - Fill the picture area with the subject you are photographing
  - Don't leave empty space unless its part of your composition
  - Do not rely on zoom or cropping – use your feet to get closer
  - Too much zoom or cropping will result in poor resolution
  - You don't have to capture the entire subject

Close? Get closer for closeups or macros



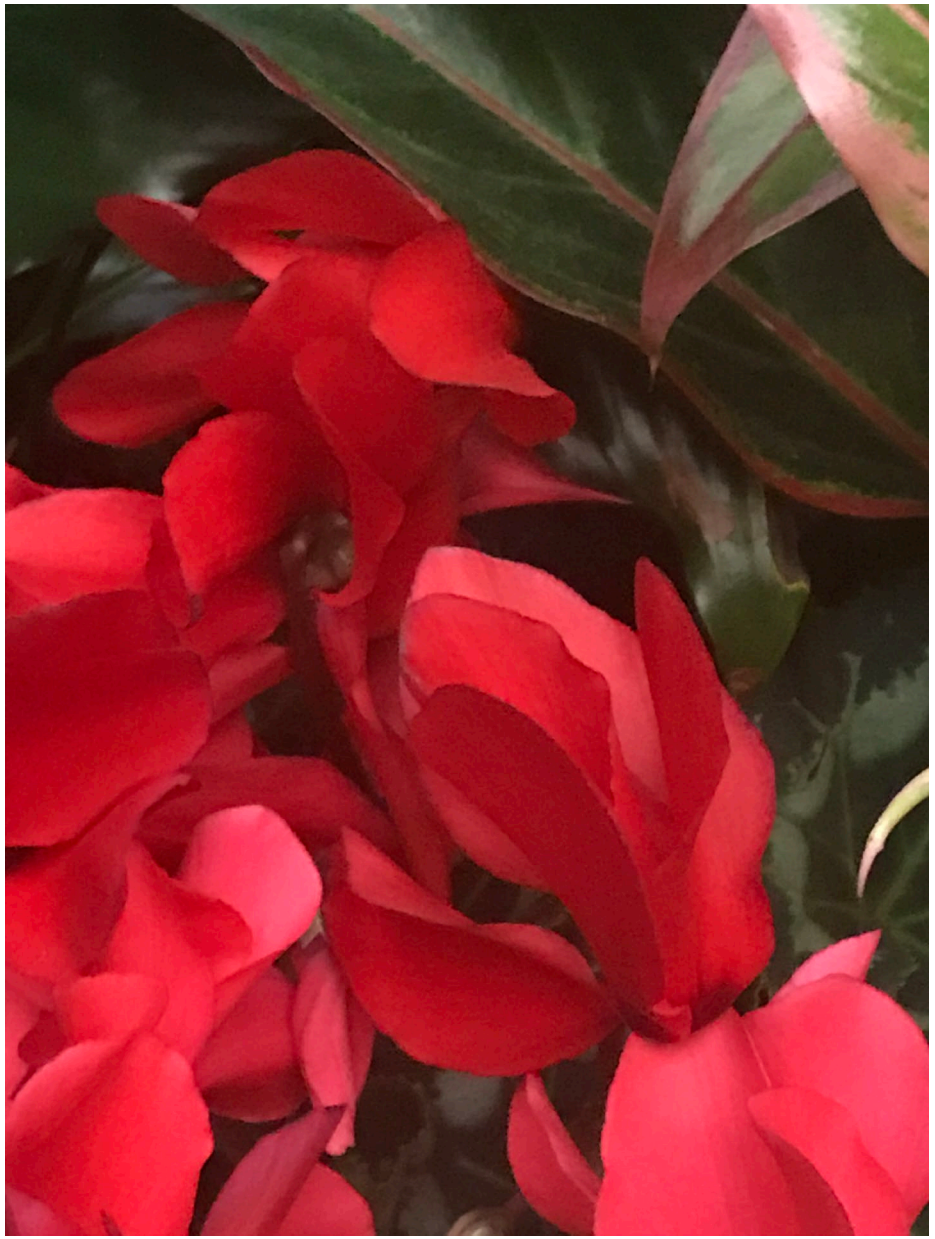












You don’t have to capture the entire subject – abstract shots are wonderful

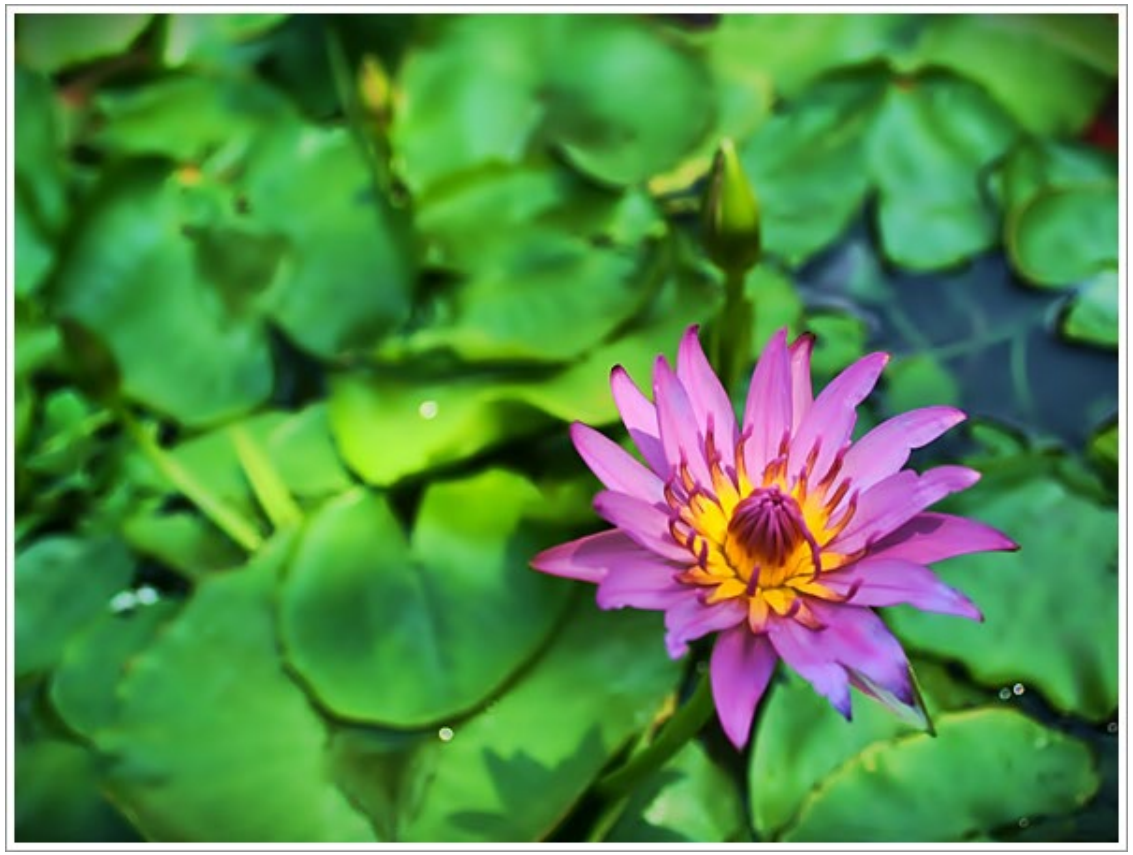
Try a different perspective





Get low and close





Look up



Look down



Consider lighting

Avoid backlighting



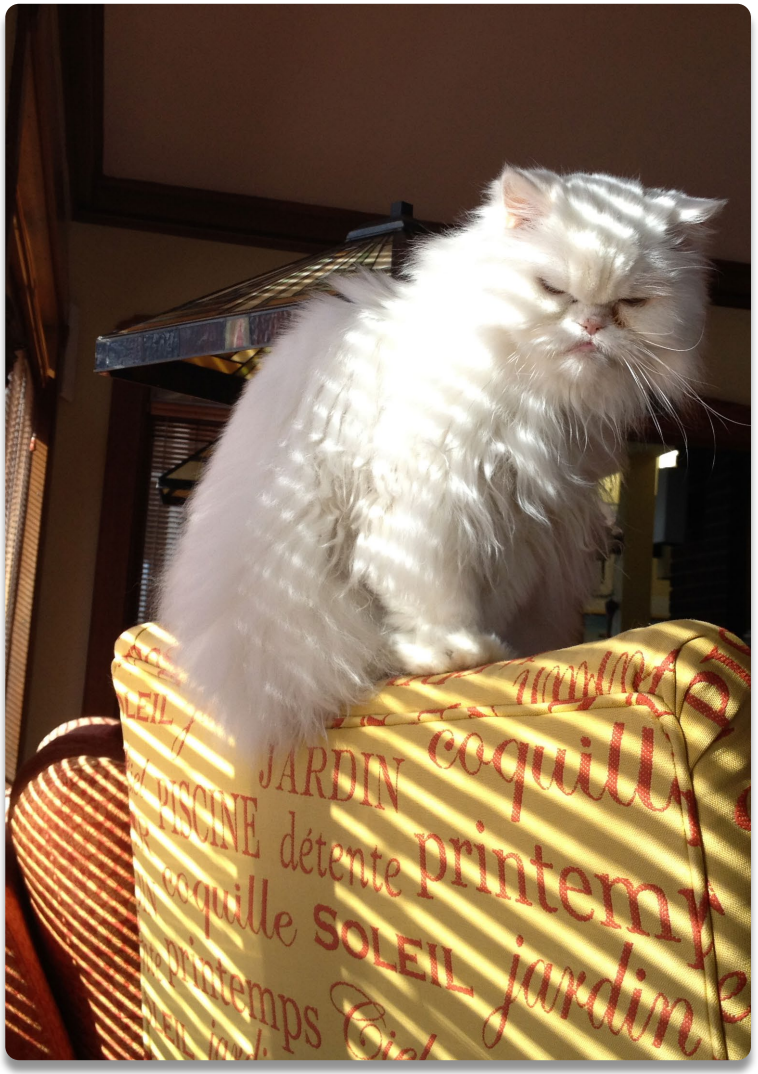
Find side or front lighting



Look around for lighting sources

Such as a nearby window

Or a lamp



Move around to find the best lighting





Use Flash Wisely

The general rule of cellphone flash is: Use it as little as possible.



The exception is Fill Flash

Set the phone’s flash mode to “on” to provide a "fill flash" to take shadows off a person's face





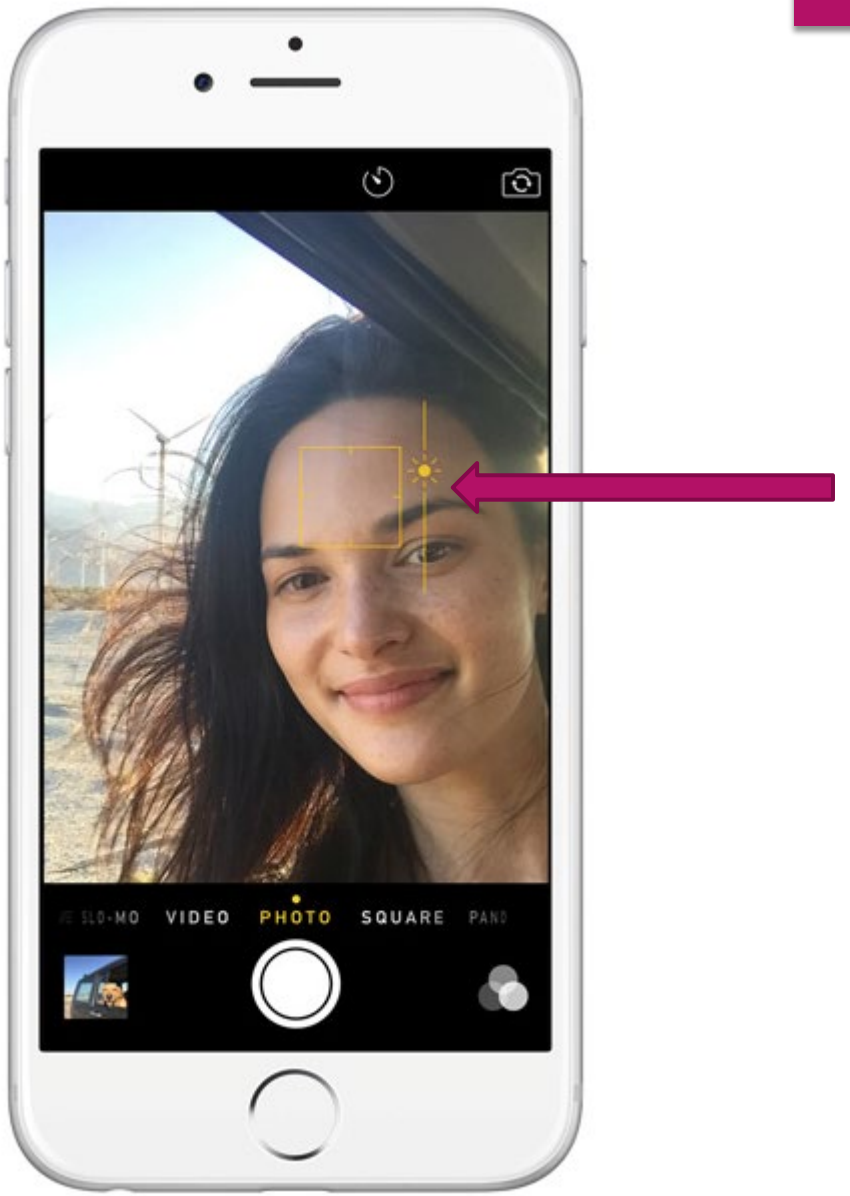
Adjust exposure manually





For Iphone:

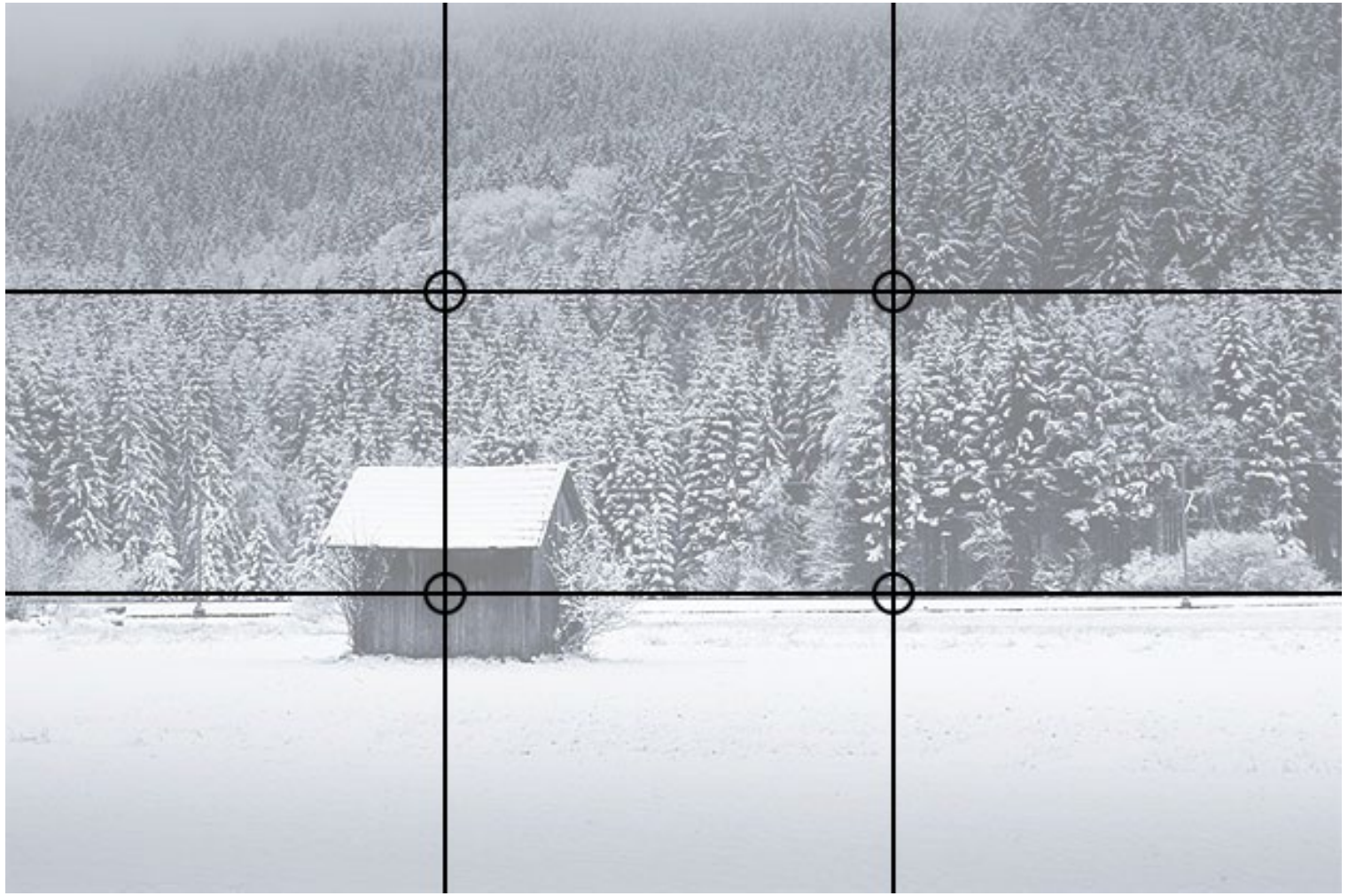
Tap on the subject to bring up the focus point. Tap and hold on the **exposure** button that appears next to it (it looks like the Sun). You'll now see a slider that allows you to **adjust** the **exposure**.



Composition: Rule of Thirds

The rule of thirds is one of the most useful composition techniques in photography. It can be used in all types of photography to produce images which are more engaging and better balanced.

To compose your photos according to the rule of thirds, imagine your photo divided into nine equal parts using two vertical lines and two horizontal lines – like an imaginary tic-tac-toe board



You position the important elements in your scene along the lines, or at the points where they meet.



Main idea: don’t center your subject

Using the Rule of Thirds with People



My pet peeve – too much empty space above heads – like this shot

With people or animals – don't put their heads in the middle of the photo – get rid of all that space above their heads by moving your camera.

The eyes are the main focal point; position them using the rule of thirds

Note the eyes at the middle – uninteresting



Here the eyes are in top 1/3rd



A single subject in the middle of the photo is less interesting than an offset subject





Centered subjects can look static, even when it's my daughter

Using the Rule of Thirds in Landscapes

- When it comes to **horizons**, our tendency is often to place it right in the middle of the photo
- This effectively splits the photo in half - 50% sky, 50% land (or ocean)



Using the Rule of Thirds in Landscapes

- But if you offset the horizon to the top or bottom third of the image, it usually will lead to a better composition.



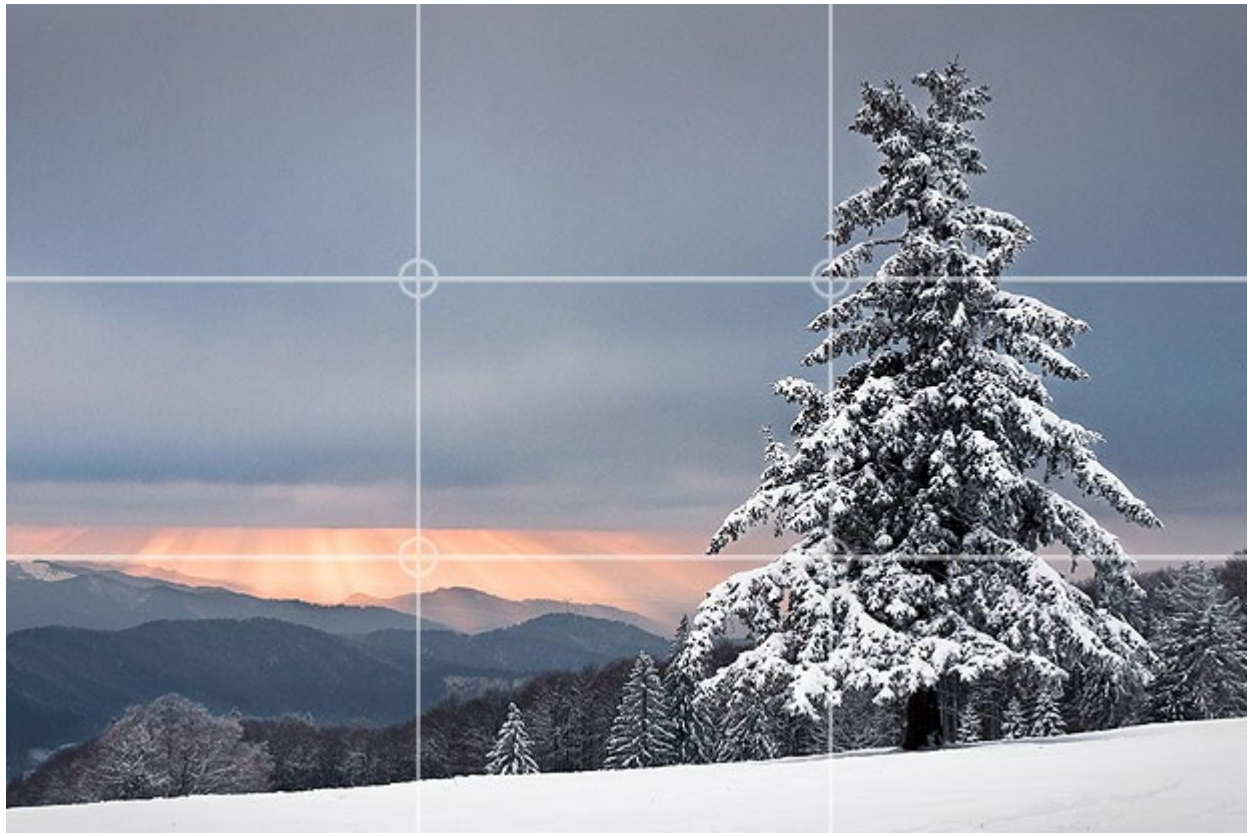
Using the Rule of Thirds in Landscapes

- Don't cut your photo in half with the sky -- as in this photo





Sky should be either 1/3rd or 2/3rds



Rule of Thirds with Flowers and Plants





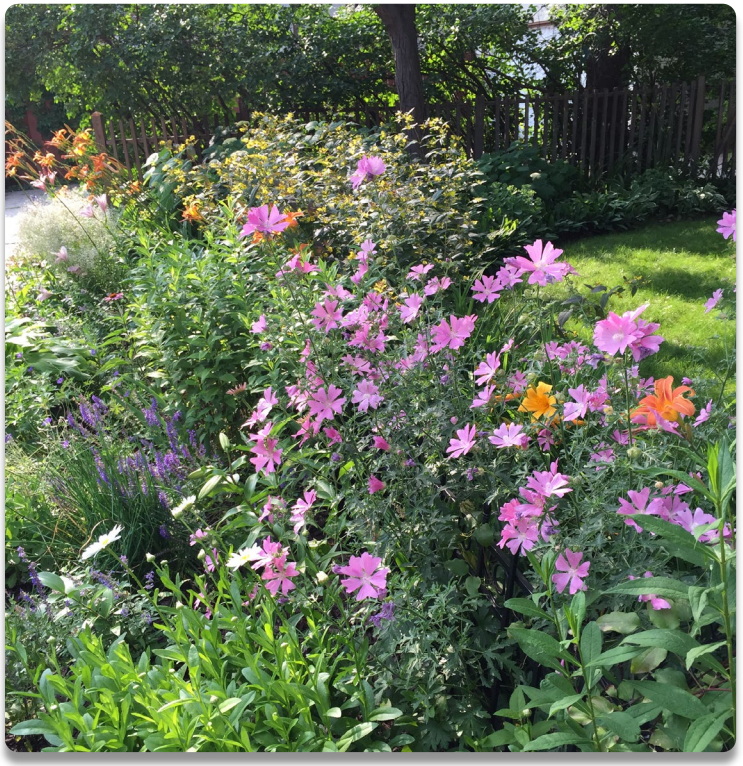
Centered flowers are very pretty

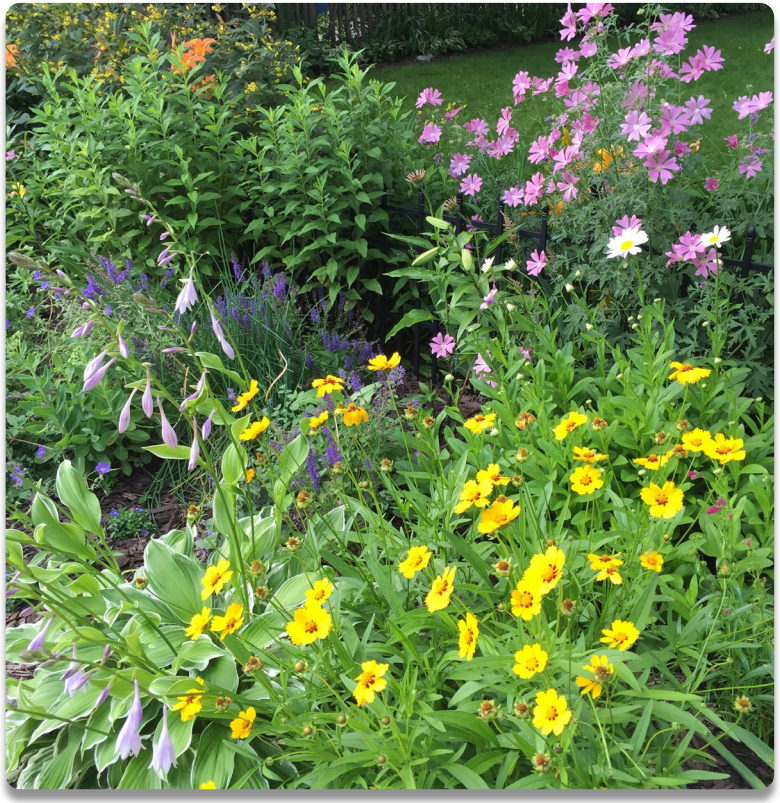


But more interesting offset



- Compare centered plant with offset plant





Refocus as you change your composition

- As you apply the rule of thirds and are repositioning your main subject, remember to manually focus on the subject, which no longer will be in the center of the screen.
- Just tap on the main subject



Every rule has its exceptions

More of a suggestion than a rule:

The rule of thirds is more a *suggestion* than a rule, but when you're first starting out it's a good idea to try to follow it whenever you can.

You may find situations where it's difficult to follow the rule of thirds, or times when you just think framing a subject in the center works for you. If you know *why* you're doing it -feel free!



The good news: Editing

TURN A NOT SO GOOD PHOTO INTO A WORK OF ART





Cropping

AN EASY WAY TO IMPROVE THE COMPOSITION OF A PHOTO

Crop out unnecessary space



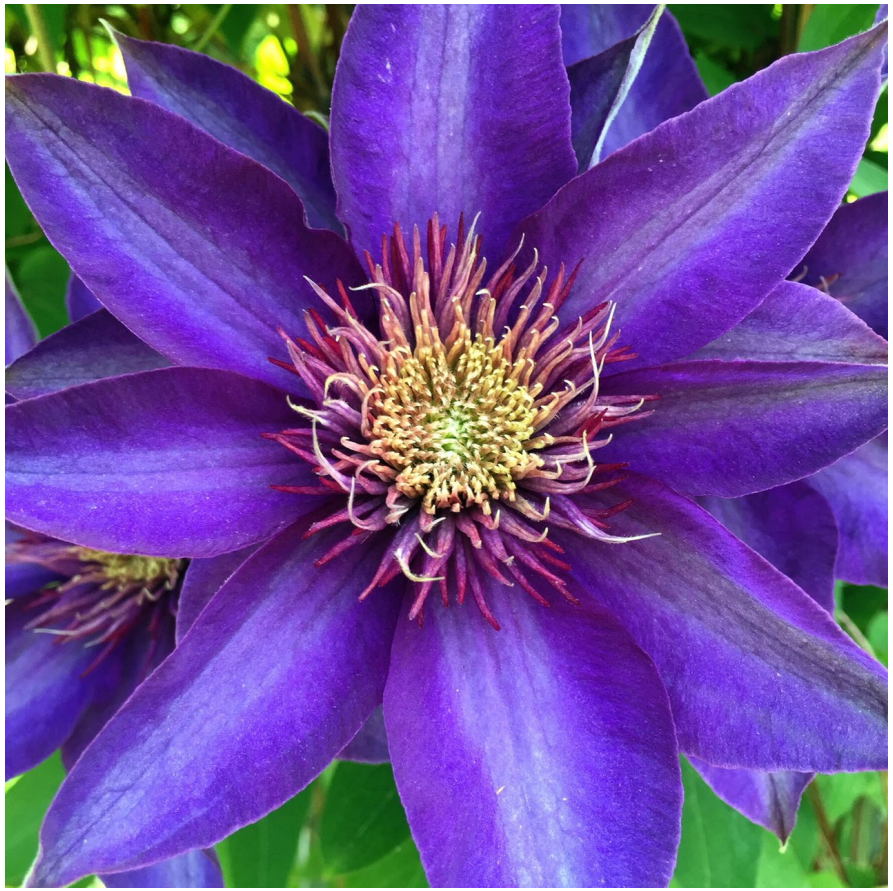


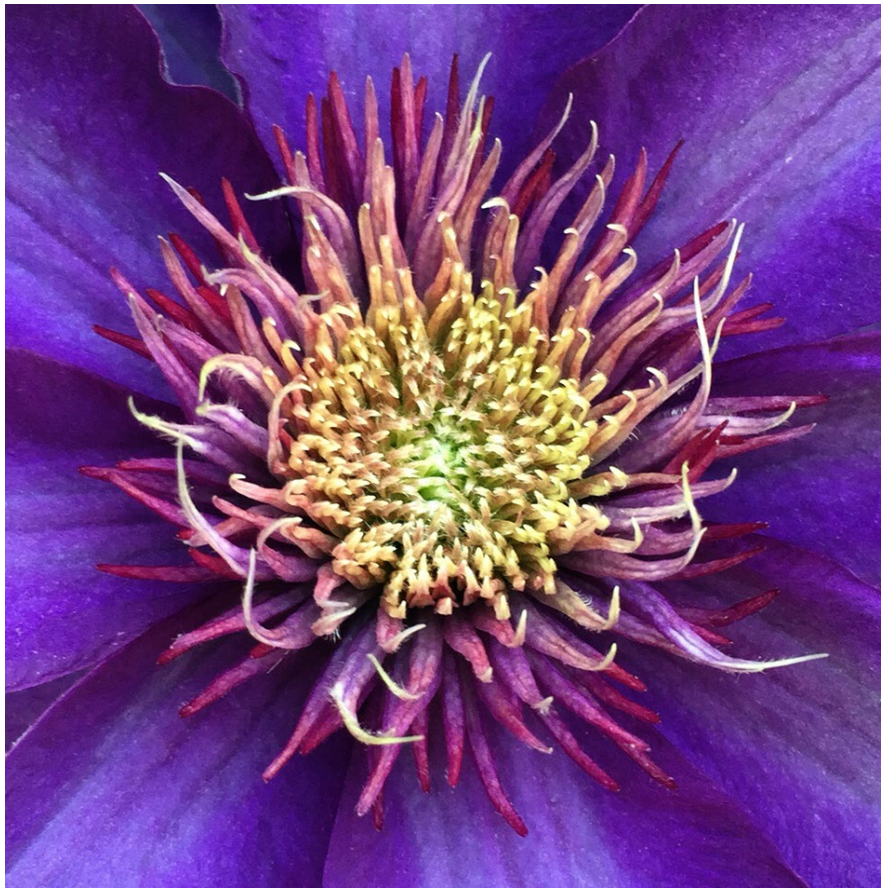
Crop out annoyances





Crop for more detail









Crop to rule of thirds

Improve exposure





Brighten dark photos





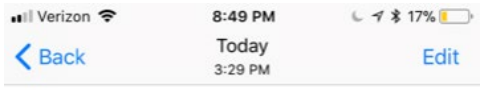
Lighten shadows





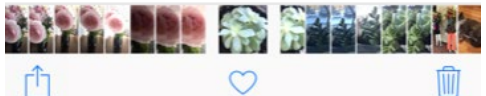
Color edits

Saturate or desaturate





Original







So how do we do this?

Editing from your Iphone

Tap to open the photo you want to edit

Tap **Edit**
Or on some models, the icon that looks like 3 sliders 



Editing from your Iphone

A set of buttons appears along the bottom of the screen.

You're now in editing mode.



Iphone editing modes

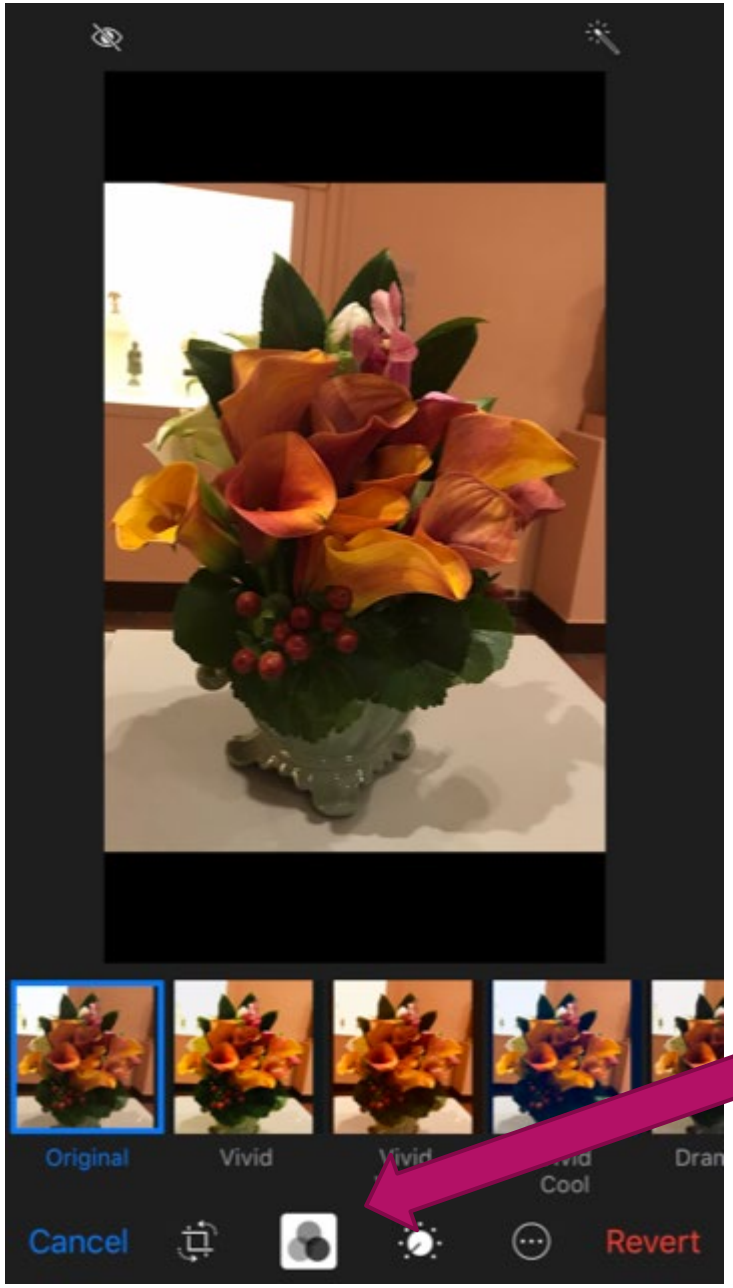
Auto Enhance

Crop and Straighten

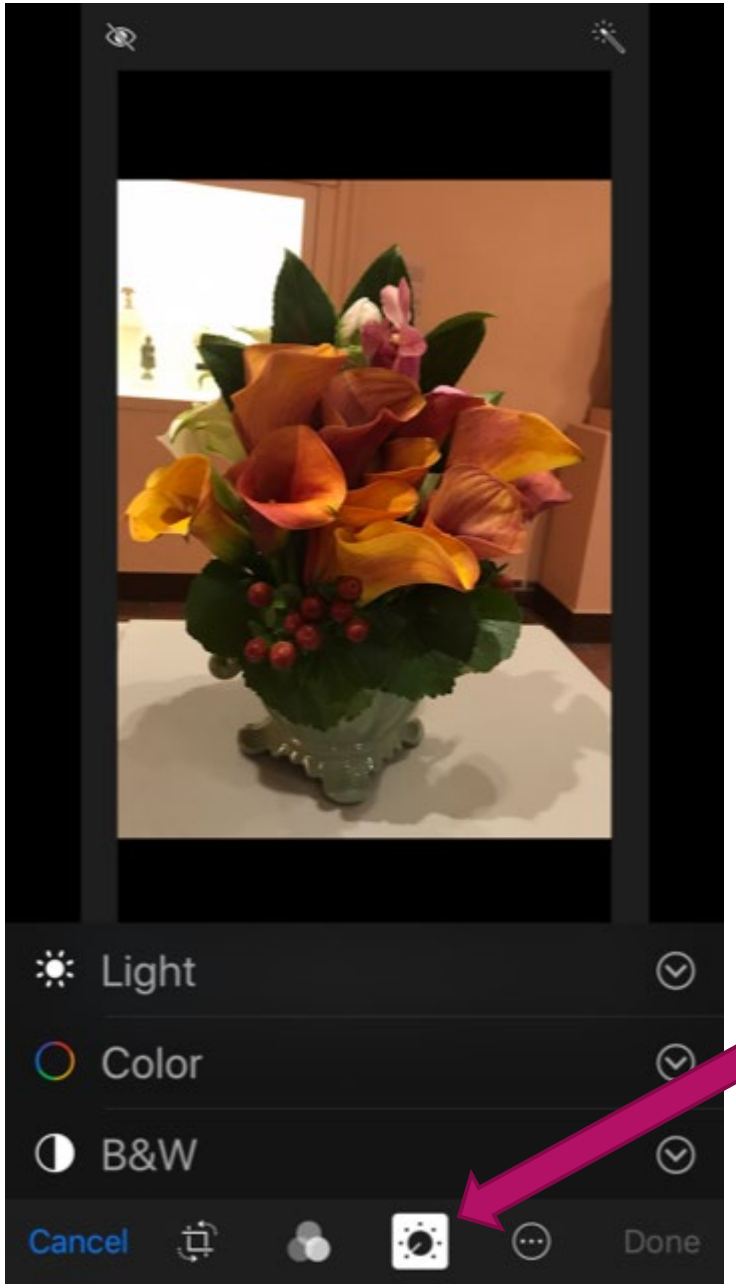


Crop and straighten



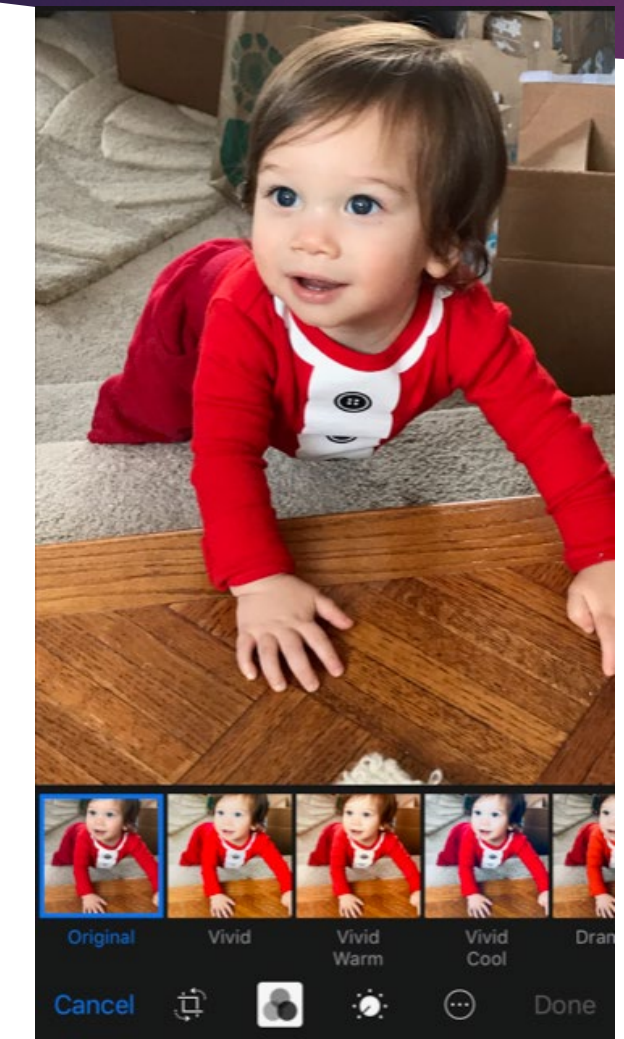


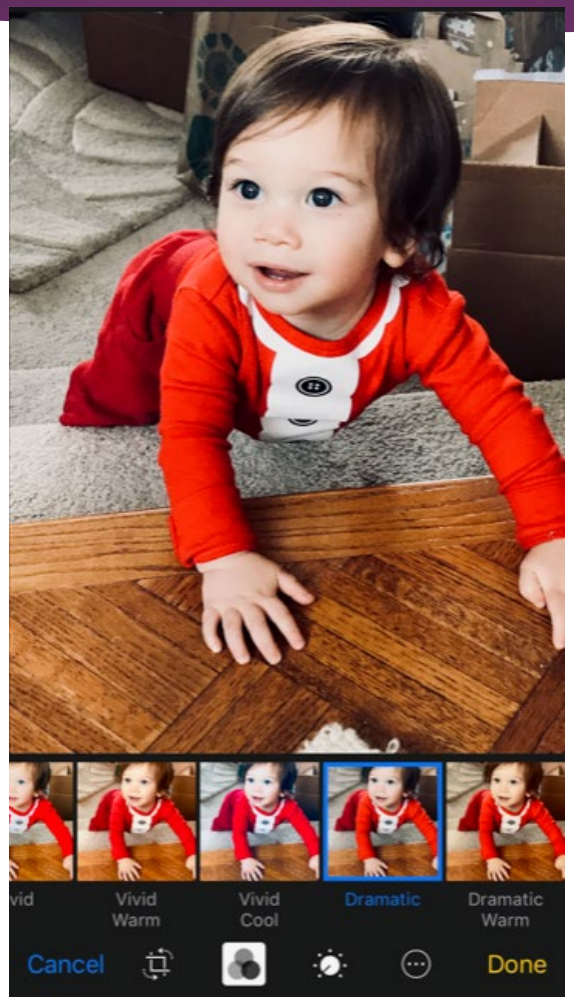
Filters

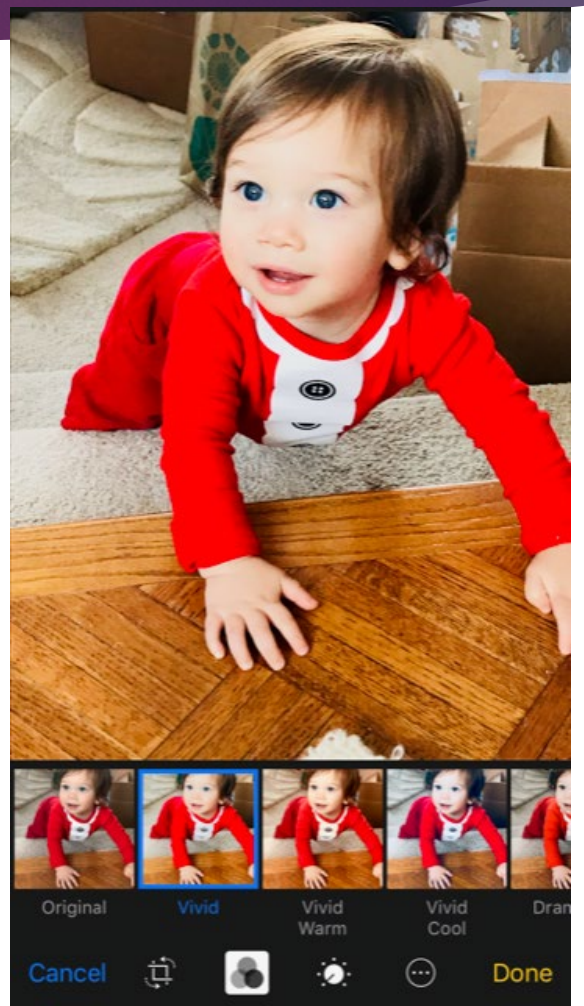


Light
Color
Black and White

Filters

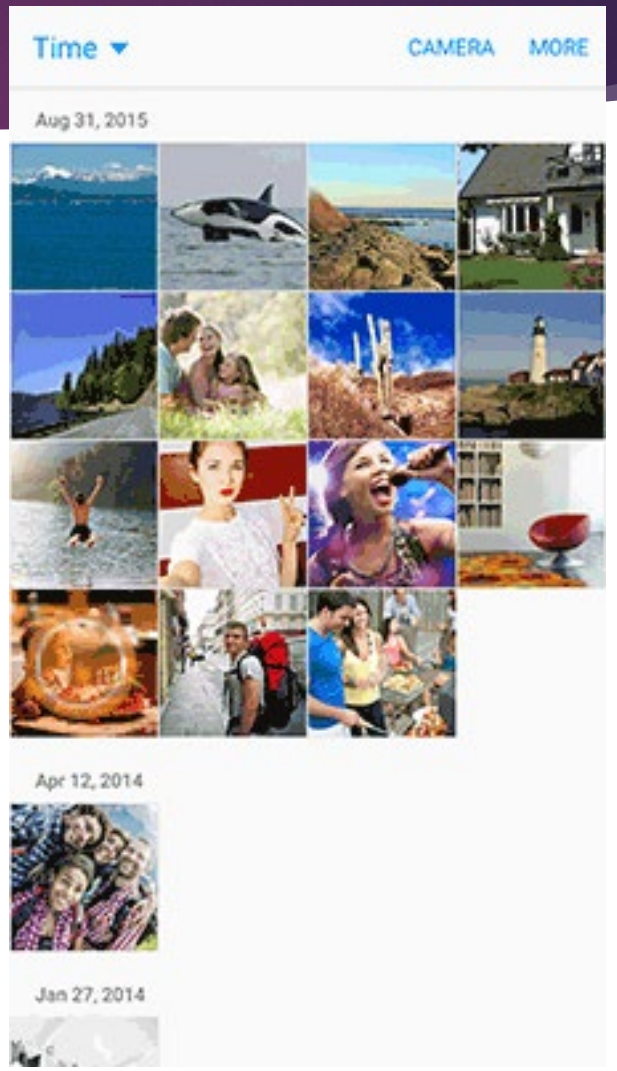

Original
Vivid
Vivid Warm
Vivid Cool
Cancel
Done


Vivid Warm
Vivid Cool
Dramatic
Dramatic Warm
Cancel
Done

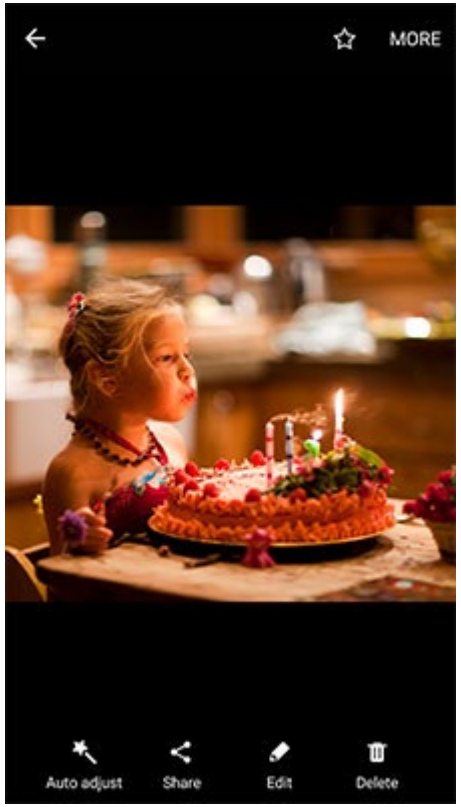

Original
Vivid
Vivid Warm
Vivid Cool
Cancel
Done

Editing from Your Android

- 1. From the Home screen, touch **Apps**.
- 2. Touch **Gallery**.
- 3. Find and touch the thumbnail of the photo you want to edit.



4. Display the options for the photo by touching the screen.
Touch **Edit**



5. Choose an editing option at the bottom of the screen:



Edits on Android

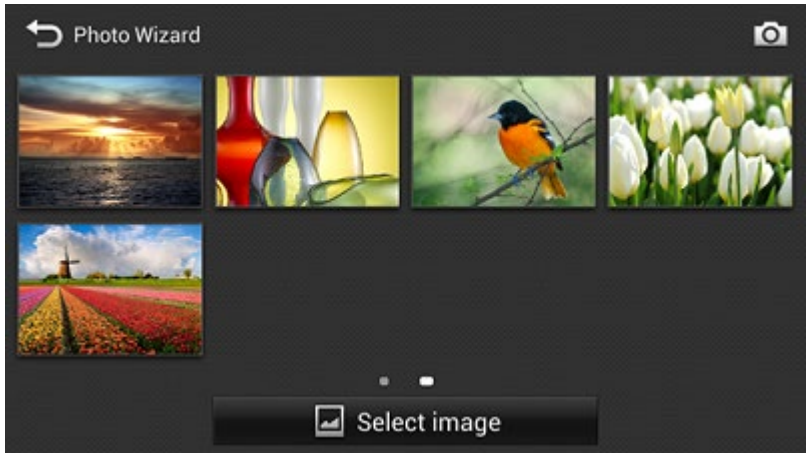
•Adjustment: Rotate, flip, crop, or change the size ratio of the photo.
•Tone: Adjust the brightness, contrast, saturation, hue, or temperature of the photo.
•Effects: Add a filter effect to the photo. Swipe to the left to see the full range of effects available.
•Drawing: Touch Pen to select from a variety of instruments to draw on the photo.
•Add image: Apply another photo to the one you are editing.
6. Touch **UNDO** to remove edits, **REDO** to add edits back.
7. Touch **SAVE** when you are finished. Edited photos are saved in the **Photo editor** album.

Editing with Samsung Galaxy

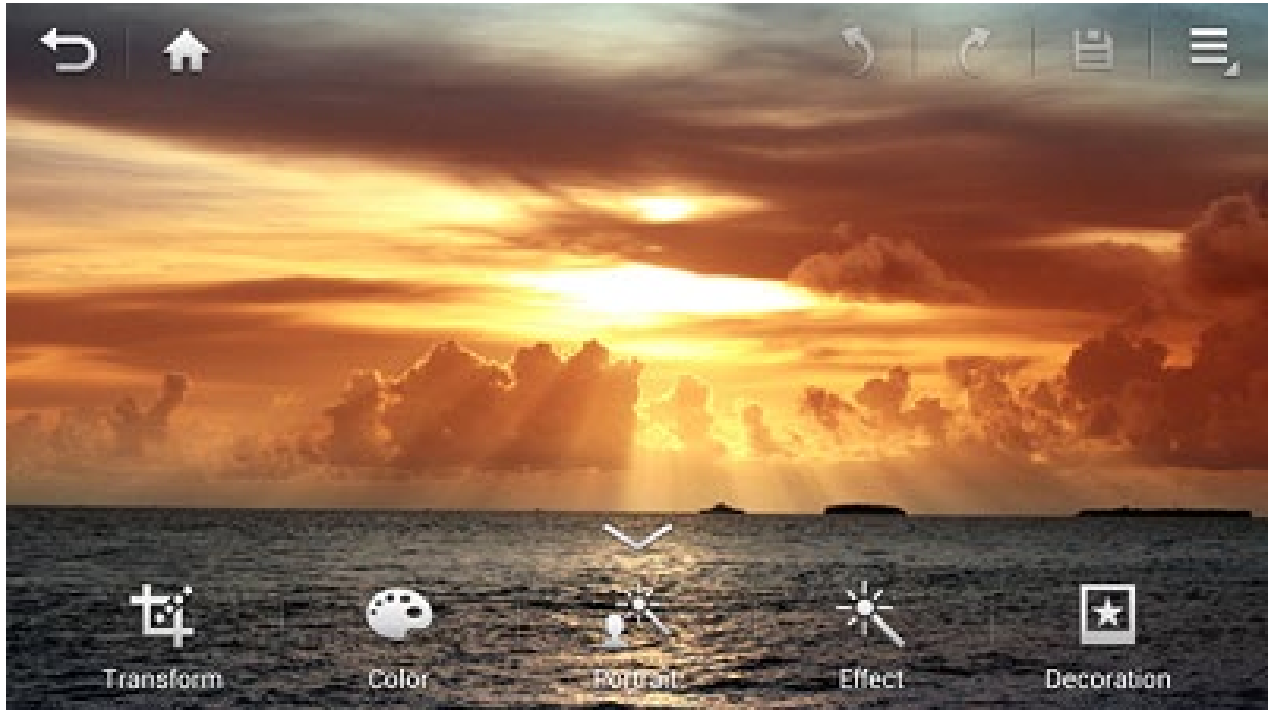
The Photo Wizard app provides basic editing functions for pictures you take with your Samsung Galaxy Camera. Along with basic image tuning like brightness, contrast, and color, it also provides a wide variety of picture editing effects.

Access the Photo Wizard
From the Home screen, touch Apps > Photo Wizard . You can also open the app when viewing any photo by touching the Menu > Edit > Photo Wizard.

Touch a recent photo to edit it, touch **Select image** to edit a photo in your Gallery



The picture will load into the **Photo Wizard**



Undo: Undo the last edit action.	**Redo: Redo the last edit action that was undone.**
Save: Save the changes to the photo.	Transform: Resize, rotate, or crop the image.
Color: Adjust the Saturation, Contrast, or Brightness of a photo. You can also make it grayscale.	Portrait: Access several common photo edits. Red eye removal, Smart lighten, Airbrush face, and Out-of-focus.
Effect: Add various effects to your photo.	Decoration: Add decorations, like frames, stickers (clip art), or drawings to the pictur



Use Auto Enhance on iPhone

Auto-enhance will instantly improve your picture's exposure, contrast, saturation, and other qualities. It's the fastest way to make your photo even more amazing.

Auto Enhance

Before



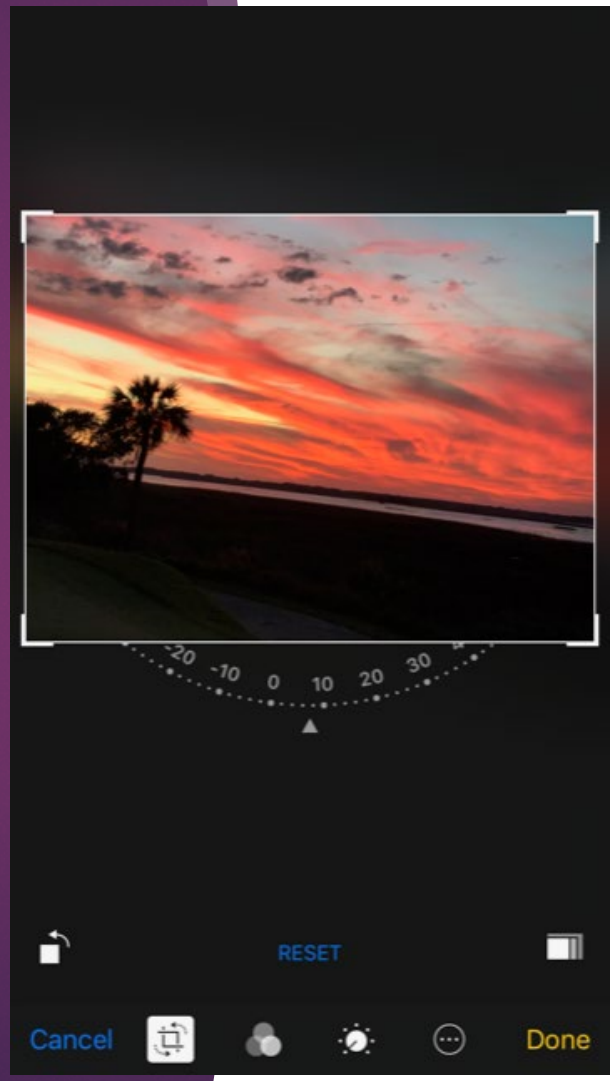


Click on yellow wand

After auto enhance

Straighten

Either with auto-enhance or crop tool





Cropping

Tap on cropping tool

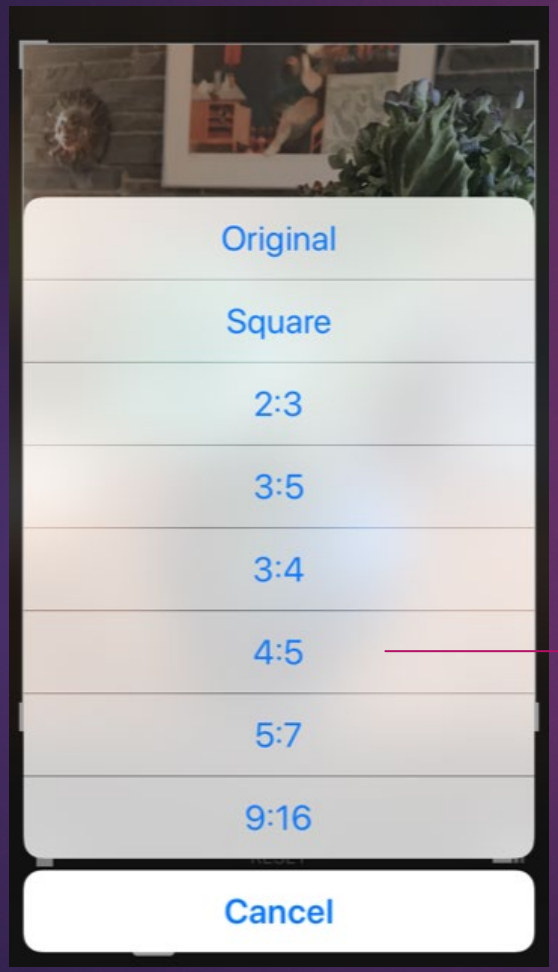




Drag one or more corners to zoom in

Tap to get specific size or shape

Tap on desired aspect ratio



These ratios are called **Aspect ratios**

For 8x10 photos, use 4:5 (for landscape orientation) or 5:4 for portrait orientation)

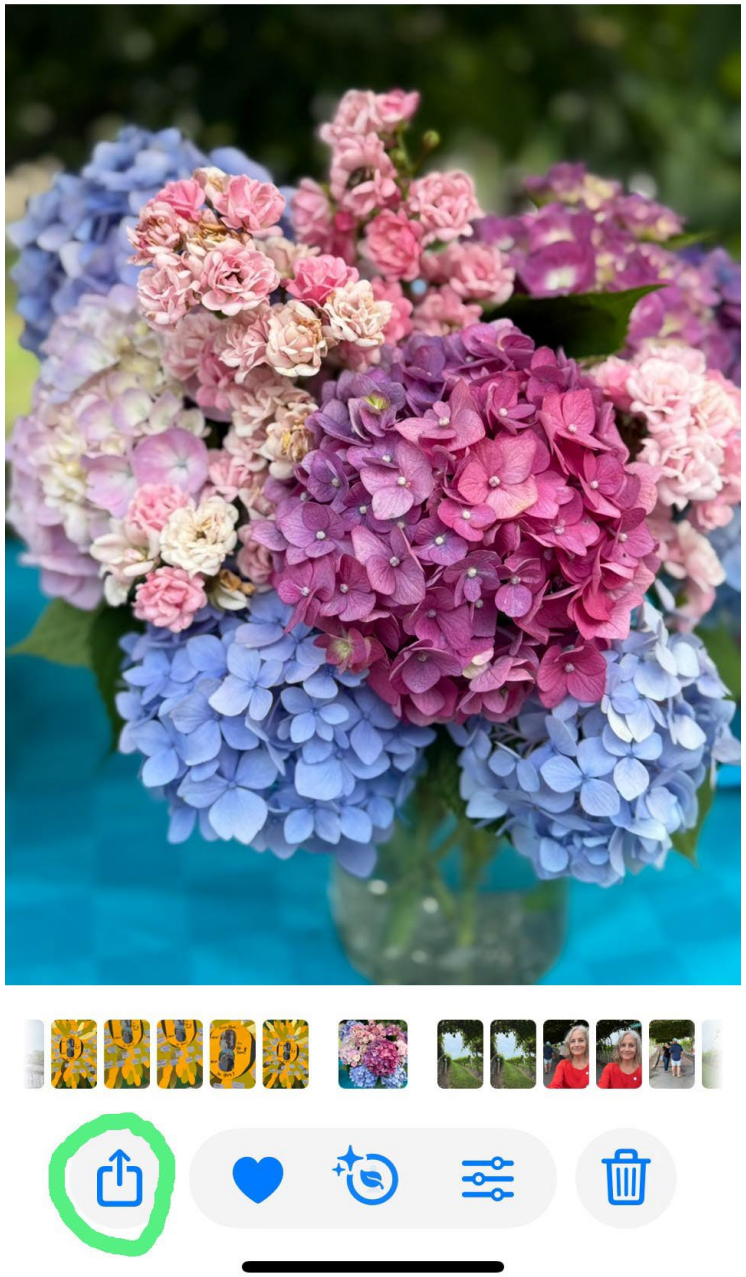
To crop or straighten on Android

Tap the Adjustment icon



Sharing

WHY KEEP IT TO YOURSELF?



Share with Iphone

CHOOSE A PICTURE

TAP ON THE ICON THAT LOOKS LIKE A BOX WITH AN UPWARD ARROW

TAP EMAIL OR GMAIL TO SEND BY EMAIL TO FGCFITZLAW@GMAIL.COM

Share with Android

- TAP ON THE SHARE ICON AT BOTTOM OF SCREEN (3 POINTS JOINED BY TWO LINES)
- THIS WILL OPEN THE SHARING OPTIONS MENU
- SELECT HOW YOU WANT TO SHARE THE PHOTO

To share multiple photos, tap and hold on one photo until the check boxes appear on all the photos. Check the boxes of the photos you want to share and then tap the share icon

- For more on sharing photos with Android:
  - https://www.techbout.com/share-single-multiple-photos-android-phone-12902/
  - https://www.digitaltrends.com/mobile/how-to-share-photos-on-android/

Workflow:

Start with taking your best images possible – take multiple shots

Duplicate your image and work with either the duplicate or the original

In the crop function, choose the correct aspect ratio (for 8x10, use 4:5 or 5:4)

Then Drag the corners and move the selection around to find what you like

Tune and edit to adjust lighting and shadows, contrast, color (saturation, tint, warmth)

Save all your work

Send to fgcfitzlaw@gmail.com

