

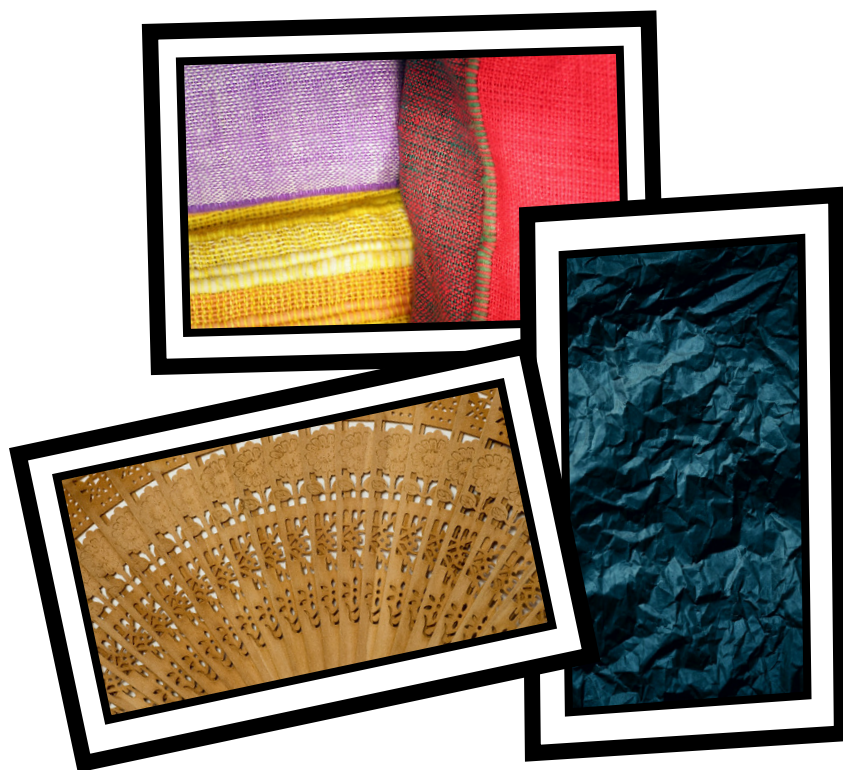
TEXTURES

BLUEPRINT

Photographing textures can be fun, challenging and even lucrative. One of the greatest things about textures is that they can be found all over our environment and don't require the acquisition of special props or models. Also, when done well, a photo of a texture can transform an ordinary scene into something visually beautiful.

Not every texture makes a good photograph but with time and practice you will develop an eye for what works and what doesn't. First, there has to be some depth which will allow for shadow. Shadows create the look of dimension, without which your texture will appear flat like a drawing. Also, there has to be an interesting or appealing pattern, decent composition, and sometimes beautiful colors.

You can even create your own textures and then photograph them. Some good examples of this might be crumpling up a piece of old stained paper, splashing some paint on a canvas, scratching designs into a piece of wood or artfully arranging a pile of leaves.



Examples of textures in photography

1 COMPOSITION

There are two approaches to using textures that can create more fascinating compositions. The approaches are combining multiple textures and breaking the pattern of a texture.



The first approach is to use two or more textures in the same image. However, the textures must be used in a way that strengthens both of them. The other option is to break the texture pattern. This is usually done by placing an object into the pattern. A single red flower in a field of clover is a good example of breaking a pattern.

TIP:

Utilize contrast to select a proper background for your texture shots. The background can be in contrast with the area of texture that's serving as the center of interest.

2 LIGHTING

Light is another very important consideration. A gray cloudy day is not the best for shooting textures since the image will often turn out flat and without dimension.



Bright sunlight is the best light for photographing textures outdoors, especially at either end of the day at sunrise or sunset, since it will create strong shadows and depth. Make sure to keep the sky out of the photograph since it will wash out the image. If you are indoors, try to use sunlight coming through a large window.

TIP:

An artificial off-camera light source is essential for creating dimension in your texture. You would need to place it off to the side of your texture to mimic indirect sunlight.

THE ESSENTIALS

3 POST PROCESSING

Don't be afraid to improve your images with post-processing in Photoshop. You can use the spot removal tool to remove undesirable imperfections, such as a piece of lint on fabric.



Some sharpening is often needed as well. It can be fun to experiment with changing colors, plumping up the vibrancy or saturation and even layering another texture on top with some transparency.

TIP:

Sometimes turning the image black and white can be highly effective as it can enhance texture and contrast.