

FRAME WITHIN A FRAME

BLUEPRINT

Framing in photography is the technique of drawing attention to the subject of your image by blocking other parts of the image with something in the scene.

The beauty of incorporating a frame within a frame is that it can be virtually anything you want - a doorway or window, a cave or tunnel, or even foliage, clouds, or areas of light and shadow.

There are two great things you can achieve by using frame within a frame in your photographs.

First, you're giving the photo some context, which can be important for storytelling. Second, by using frames you're giving your image a sense of depth and layers. Framing a shot generally puts something in the foreground which adds an extra dimension to the shot.

There are countless options for creating a frame within a frame if you're shooting outdoors. You can use objects such as trees, stones and fences to create an interesting frame for the scene you want to shoot.



Examples of frame within a frame in photography

1 SHAPES

The shape of the frame you use to emphasize your main subject should be carefully chosen.



Depending on your subject, you can choose a soft or sharp frame, open or closed frame. This will also help you in storytelling. If you use frame within a frame technique in portraiture, make sure that both shape of your frame and its color match your subject. Frame within a frame is a wonderful way to make portraits more creative and it works perfectly even with closeup shots.

TIP:

Feel free to experiment - you can use irregular shapes or even incomplete frames to make your subject stand out!

2 INTRIGUING VIEW

Sometimes it's what you can't see in an image that draws you into it as much as what you can see in it.



While you can use framing to emphasize your subject, you can also hide a part of your subject with the frame and make the image more mysterious. For instance, if you're shooting a portrait and if you're using a tree as a frame, show only a half of your subject's face - the other half can be hidden behind the tree. This will lead to more playful and less conventional portraits.

TIP:

Clever framing will leave those viewing your image wondering a little or imagining what is behind your frame.

3 THE ESSENTIALS

3 LINES

Lines can add even more interest to an image by guiding the viewer's eyes through the frame.



If you decide to combine these two compositional rules, frame within a frame and leading lines, you can create extremely bold compositions in landscape photography and portraiture. The lines can be part of the frame or your subject - both options are possible and worth trying out!

TIP:

You can use different types of lines within the frame to direct the viewer's attention toward the main focal point.