

# LEFT TO RIGHT MOTION BLUEPRINT

Sometimes instead of freezing a moment, we'd like to show a certain movement. The storytelling element makes photographs showing motion much more interesting. Adding a slight blur of the action to your shot helps tell a story.

If a subject is moving from one side of your frame to the other, it's best to photograph them moving from the left side of the frame to the right side of the frame. The logic behind this is that in many countries we read from left to right and it simply feels natural. Our eyes are already used to moving from left to right within a frame.

If it's possible to capture the movement from left to right, rather than from right to left, go for it.

When applying the left to right rule in photography composition, it's also a good idea to consider the rule of space and the rule of thirds. Slowing down before shooting is always a good idea, because it gives time to consider everything and construct a better image.



Examples of left to right motion in photography

## 1 PANNING

To do this, we use our body to track the subject with our camera. By choosing the right shutter speed, the background becomes blurred, yet our moving subject remains in focus.



Unlike a shallow depth of field, the blurred background created by panning has a streaked motion feel to it. Your stance is critical when panning a shot as it's your body that is going to act like the fluid head on a video tripod. You need to stand fully upright, your feet a shoulder's width apart.

### TIP:

As the subject approaches, you need to match the rotation of your body to the speed of the subject.

## 2 SHUTTER SPEED

The best mode to use for capturing motion with a pan is to set your camera to shutter priority mode. Set a relatively slow shutter speed in relation to the speed of the subject.



The following can be used as starting points:

- High-speed subjects such as a racing car – 1/60 to 1/125s
- Moderate speed subjects such as cars on a city street – 1/15 – 1/30s
- Relatively slow subjects for example cyclists 1/4 – 1/15s

### TIP:

If you find your images are looking a little light or dark, you can use the exposure compensation dial to correct the exposure.

## THE ESSENTIALS

## 3 FOCUSING

While modern cameras are amazing, if your camera's auto-focus is a bit slow, you might need to focus manually on a predetermined position instead.



You have to watch the behaviour of your subject and determine the point where the motion looks best. Then you should manually prefocus the camera to that point. However, most autofocus systems these days are very accurate. You just need to set your autofocus to the right mode.

### TIP:

You should use continuous shooting (burst) mode - it will increase your chances of getting an excellent shot!