

S-CURVES

BLUEPRINT

While the rule of thirds is among the most common building blocks in composition, the S-curve is also one to be on the lookout for.

The S-curve can lead into or out of a scene, start at the bottom or side, but fundamentally it will roughly shape the letter S and either define the photograph or split the composition into two sections.

The human eye tends to follow lines and hence, incorporating lines or curves in photographic compositions can be a great way to keep the viewers engaged by creating powerful images. S curve can be applied as a compositional tool in any genre of photography.

S-curves don't need to be used only as separators or dividers, they can also be utilized as the focal point of the photo. S-curves can be easily found in various urban landscapes, because winding roads always form curves.

These S-curves of winding roads can look truly spectacular at night because of traffic, so they represent a great subject for night photography and long exposure photography.



Examples of s-curves in photography

1 C AND S CURVES

Curves come in different shapes but the two to remember and use are the C and S-curves.



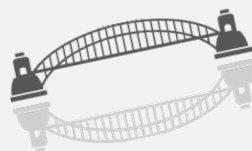
Using curves in photography can add softness and natural feel to the photo. C-curve is the simplest curve you can use and it adds dynamism to the photo without being too obvious. Just like the S-curve, you can use it as a main compositional technique or support other techniques with it. One great way you can use a C-curve is by placing the curve around your subject.

TIP:

S-curves take longer to follow so are more likely to engage the viewer of an image than a C-curve.

2 REFLECTIONS

Reflections of curves are a good way to create circular patterns in a photo, so you should consider using such reflections to make your compositions even stronger.



S-curves are visible in almost all types of photography, including even portraits. The key is to look for and exploit these soft, flowing lines and their reflections and create interesting geometric compositions that rely on repetition and rhythm of curved lines. You can combine reflections of C and S-curves for more interesting results.

TIP:

Bodies of water are your best friends when it comes to capturing reflections!

3 THE ESSENTIALS

3 LENS

Don't forget that the lens you choose will determine the shape of S-curves in your images.



You don't have to capture the entire curve in your photograph - you can make your shots more abstract or more mysterious by framing the curves you find in urban landscapes in an unusual way. If you have a zoom lens, feel free to experiment with zooming in and out.

TIP:

The use of telephoto lens will produce a compressed, flatter curve. The opposite is true for wide-angle lenses.