

Total time:
4-6 hours



Difficulty Level: Challenging

Skill Points:

- Creating a composition with only a few elements
- Using negative space, shape, and colors
- Simplification

CREATING TRUE MINIMALIST PHOTOGRAPHY



PHOTZY.COM

Minimalism is a genre of art that emphasizes extreme simplification of form by the use of basic shapes and monochromatic palettes of primary colors, objectivity, and an anonymity of style. It's also sometimes referred to as 'Reductionism'.

KEY LESSON: Your Minimalist photo should contain a liberal use of negative space. It should also be a very simplistic composition that makes use of one to four colors- often times one is a primary color. Shape and repetition are common in Minimalist artwork.

EQUIPMENT

Camera

Any camera including a smartphone camera

Lens + Lens hood

Any lens

Post-processing software

Highly suggested

There are no set rules on how to set up your camera. Due to the creative nature of Minimalism.

SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



A



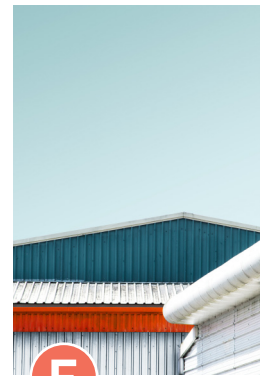
B



C



D



E



ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

1- Study the sample photographs:

- A-** Minimalism is a fantastic genre when you wish to go beyond a 'beginning photographer's' eye. It requires no special equipment. It only requires that you open your mind to negative space, simple shapes, and minimal colors or tones.
 - B-** Minimalism is a very subjective art form- much like abstract. We won't go so far as to say that a photographer should not create Minimalism in post-production. However, as you learn the art, begin by creating the Minimalistic representation in-camera.
 - C-** The very best examples of Minimalism convey a message or a mood. Minimalist photography is all about simplification. It typically uses one subject, and an excessive use of negative space.
 - D-** Begin your exploration of Minimalism using a simple solid color background, a one or two-color scheme for the entire image, and a few simple shapes.
 - E-** As you begin to become comfortable with the idea of composing in a Minimalist fashion, you can then begin to include other composition elements such as spot color, focal points, and leading lines. However, an ample amount of negative space is almost always included.
- 2-** Begin the 1st half of your shoot by organizing Minimalist shots with chosen objects and backgrounds (think of pictures A & D). For the 2nd half of your shoot go out and find Minimalist compositions that already exist (think of pictures C & E).
- 3-** Explore your chosen subjects carefully: study negative space, shape, and color. The key, to this Action Assignment, is to change your visual perception of composition and subject matter.

HOW DID YOU DO?

- Does your shot have a pleasing composition? Is your subject primarily composed of color and shape?
- Did you make liberal use of negative space? Did you simplify?

READY! SET! GO! ACTION CARDS - GENRE: MINIMALISM