

KeyMac Journal

Volume 9 Number 6

June, 2005

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mike Wall

Last month Bob discussed several of the Mac magazines that are available, including *macHOME* which is the one I subscribe to. Their June issue has a particularly good series of questions and answers, consisting of the 25 the magazine is most frequently asked. If you sometimes find yourself frustrated, or want to learn something new, I highly recommend this magazine. *macHOME* is written at a level with which I think most of our members would feel comfortable.

I know a number of us burn CDs and/or DVDs. You may have learned how to design customized jewel box inserts with titles and artwork which can give a very professional look to the finished product. However, until recently putting something on the disc itself to identify it has been an iffy proposition; you could write on it with a magic marker—kind of amateurish looking—or you could use one of the labelers and software to create an adhesive label. These can be problematic, possibly causing vibration and jamming problems; some car CD/DVD players specifically warn against inserting discs with adhesive labels.

Thanks to Epson, a solution is now available. For some months they have been selling a line of printers which have the ability to print directly on to a CD/DVD disc. The lowest price model is regularly available for \$100 but when Office Depot recently had it for \$50 after rebate, I purchased one. It does an excellent job of printing on to discs and is easy to use, and I'm delighted with it. However, this is not a job one needs to do every day. I was thinking that if there is sufficient interest I might consider selling the printer to the Club for what I paid (the sale is now over) so that it could be available for members to borrow. If there is interest in this idea let me know and I would then discuss with the other officers whether this would be an appropriate use of Club funds. □



MONTHLY PROGRAMS

JUNE 21: Bobby Morrison, the Apple representative at CompUSA, will discuss the program iSight, iChat and Internet telephony. Bobby will set up a demo of the video conference using iSight.

JULY: VACATION TIME—No meeting

AUGUST 16: Possible trip to the Apple Store in Atlanta.

QUOTES OF THE MONTH

"The problems with computers is that they do what you tell them."

"Computers do not solve problems, they execute solutions."
Laurent Gasser

MASTHEAD

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance May 31, 2005	\$1227.52
New Member	35.00
Interest	.54
Refreshments (6 months)	<u>-31.40</u>
Balance as of June 7, 2005	\$1231.66

macHOME HOT TIPS

MAKING A TEMPLATE: It's very easy to make any document a template with OS X. Open any application and set up a document the way you want it. Save the document and then close it. Go to the Finder, click the file and choose File>Get Info. Check the Stationary Pad box and then close the window. The next time you double-click this document, a copy of it will be created and opened. So you can go ahead and enter information into it and save it normally; the original template will remain unaltered.

MIRROR PRINTING: To put a reverse or mirror image on an iron-on-transfer sheet, you can do it by finding the mirror mode option within the print window for your printer. Epson, for example, has the option within a subsection for Print Settings.

Choose File>Print. You'll see three pop-up menus at the top of the print window. Choose Print Settings from the third pop-up menu, and you'll see a series of Epson-specific printer options. Select Mirror Image and then click Print. The image will then be printed in reverse. HP, Canon and Lexmark printers should have a similar option. □



From Behind the Lens

Gladys Calhoun

TIPS FOR TAKING BETTER PICTURES

(continued from the May issue of the Journal)

Tip 6: Place Your Subject

To hold the attention of the viewer, give your pictures a bold and dramatic arrangement. Avoid putting your subject directly in the center of the picture unless you are striving for a formal arrangement in which the subject firmly commands attention.

Rule of thirds: In candid pictures of people, it is often wise to follow the traditional rule of thirds. Imagine a pair of lines dividing the picture into thirds horizontally and a second pair dividing it into thirds vertically. Place the most important visual element—usually the face (or eyes in a close-up)—on one of the points where the lines intersect.

Open space: When a person moves across your camera's field of view, the final image usually has much more impact when the subject is off-center. Leave the open space in the direction in which the subject is headed. Similarly, if a subject is looking off to the side, it's best to leave more space in that direction.

Backgrounds: Indoors or outdoors, a plain background will focus attention on your subject instead of a dozen other things. Indoors, avoid distracting furniture, toys, patterned wallpaper, and bright lamps. Outdoors, don't let tree limbs, utility poles, wires, signs, and other people distract attention from your center of interest.

Point of view: As you compose your picture in the camera viewfinder, think about what you want to include, other than your subject, that will make the picture better. Simply changing your point of view can dramatically alter the mood of a picture.

Eye level: Shooting at eye level, either head on or at an angle, is usually best for most people pictures. It's the way we most often look at the world, so it conveys realism. Too low an angle in a close-up exaggerates the size of the nose, mouth, and chin. Too high an angle, often the problem in photographing children and seated subjects, exaggerates the size of the head compared to the rest of the body. When you photograph children, you may need to kneel or even sit on the ground.

High and low angles: At times, however, you will want to use a different angle to create a certain effect. For example, in a full-length portrait, an eye-level view makes a subject look shorter. A picture taken from a squatting position more accurately indicates height and can lend an aura of authority and power. Even a high angle, which is generally unflattering, can sometimes add drama or eliminate a distracting background.

Close-ups: Close-ups convey a feeling of intimacy and focus attention on your subject. More distant views tend to emphasize the foreground and include too much that is confusing and distracting to the viewer.

As you look through the viewfinder and move toward your subject to fill the frame, notice how you eliminate things that don't add to the picture. Even though you can crop your picture later, it is usually better to crop carefully when you take the picture

Tip 7: Move it from the Middle

As recommended in Tip 6, center-stage is a great place for a performer to be but is not the best place for your subject. To bring your picture to life by moving your subject away from the middle of your picture, you need to lock the focus, if you have an auto-focus camera, in order to create a sharp image.

If you don't want a blurred picture, you will need to first lock the focus with the subject in the middle and then recompose the picture so the subject is away from the middle (see Tip 8).

Watch the horizon: Just as an off-center subject is usually best, so is an off-center—and straight—horizon line. Avoid cutting your picture in half by placing the

horizon in the middle of the picture. To accent spaciousness, keep the horizon low in the picture. To suggest closeness, position the horizon high in the picture.

Tip 8: Lock the Focus

Understanding auto focus: If you look through the viewfinder of your digital camera, chances are there will be a circle or crosshair in the center. These types of markings indicate that your camera uses auto focus.

Auto focus determines distance by measuring the time it takes for sound waves or infrared light to reflect off your subject and back to your camera. Once the calculation is made, the camera sets the focus for the lens. In most cases, the camera works faster than you could to focus your subject. This frees you up to concentrate on composing and capturing your image.

In general, viewfinders on digital point-and-shoot cameras do not "see" the subject exactly as it will be captured. This is due to parallax, the difference between what you see through the camera's viewfinder and what the camera lens "sees." Problems with parallax increase when you use your camera's close-up mode.

Some digital cameras will include etched lines in the viewfinder to help keep your subject framed correctly. If your camera does not include the etched lines but does have a display screen (LCD), use it to compose and take a picture of your subject in close-up mode. Remember that when you use the LCD viewfinder, the camera's batteries will drain faster than when using the optical viewfinder.

Lock the focus: Usually you can do this in three steps. First, center the subject and press and hold the shutter button halfway down. Second, reposition your camera (while still holding the shutter button) so the subject is away from the center. And third, finish by pressing the shutter button all the way down to take the picture

Delays in auto focus: Delays in auto focus cameras can occur when an object between you and your subject confuses your camera on where to focus. If you are photographing a large group of people, the camera may have difficulty determining where the correct focus should be placed. In both instances point your camera at the main area of interest and press the shutter button halfway down to lock the focus. Press the shutter button all the way down to capture your picture.

Tip 9: Watch the Light

Next to the subject, the most important part of every picture is the light. It affects the appearance of everything you photograph. On a great-grandmother, bright sunlight from the side can enhance wrinkles. But the soft light of a cloudy day can subdue those same wrinkles.

Don't like the light on your subject? Then move yourself or your subject. For landscapes, try to take pictures early or late in the day when the light produces more attractive results.

Contrary to popular belief, the middle of a sunny day is not the best time to take a picture. Learn to identify different types of natural light and recognize their benefits in various situations.

Any kind of weather is suitable for picture-taking, and the worst weather may actually suit your subject best.

An overcast day is actually preferable for portraits—there are no harsh shadows under eyes, noses, and chins, and nobody has to squint. Flowers also photograph best on a cloudy day, especially pastel-colored flowers with soft textures.

Is it raining? Don't dismay. Look at how a wet street shines and reflects headlights and traffic signals. And a calm, rainy day means better reflections of the autumn leaves across the lake.

The weather will affect the mood of your picture. Soft, foggy light will convey a very different feeling from the one the same scene conveys on a bright sunny day.

Perfect timing: You may not have the luxury of waiting hours, even days, for the perfect light. Children walk away, and the tour bus has a schedule to keep. When something about a scene isn't quite right, though, consider when it would be better.

- A city skyline is boring at noon. Try sunrise or sunset.
- Wait until late afternoon (side lighting) to emphasize texture, such as on a weathered fence.
- Wait for a calm day to capture reflections on water.
- Use the warm glow of late afternoon to create a soft mood. □

INTERESTING WEBSITES

Editors' note: You will not be able to access the following web sites directly since this is being sent to you in a PDF format. You will have to key in each website address. Sorry for the inconvenience.

http://www.njagoyouth.org/Liberty_.htm
Self directed fireworks display

<http://www.pga.com>
Provides a detailed running account of how all the golf players in a tournament are scoring. Great for following until the TV pickup

<http://www.libraryspot.com/>
Links to a wide variety of info, e.g. Library of Congress, Britannica, College rankings, top children's books and much more

<http://www.kbb.com>
Kelley Blue Book—pricing and other info useful when buying or selling a car

<http://www.flightview.com/TravelTools/>
A handy and easy-to-use site for obtaining status of airline flights, sometimes including maps showing approximate airplane location and other flight data

<http://hubblesite.org/gallery/showcase/text.shtml>
Amazing photos from the Hubble telescope

<http://www.TheTimeMovie.com>
Is a reminder about how we spend our time

<http://www.wikiHow.com>
Is a collaborative writing project to build the world's largest how-to manual. With contributions from the internet users, a free resource was created that helps people by offering clear, concise solutions to the problems of everyday life. One may join by writing a new page, or editing a page that someone else has started.

<http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/>
Games and quizzes on geography of the United States, Mexico, etc.

<http://photo.stamps.com/>
A leading provider of Internet-based postage services, has launched PhotoStamps for Mac. PhotoStamps, the popular form of postage that lets consumers turn their digital photos, designs or images into valid U. S. postage.