

Through The Lens

*A guide to digital photography for computer enthusiasts.
After the click of your camera, you're only half done!*



What are the odds?

by Lynda Buske

What is it about odd numbers in our lore and traditions, especially the number three? We have the holy trinity, three musketeers, the three Stooges, three little pigs and of course Mama bear, Papa bear and Baby bear.

Duos of course occur in romance and quartets are popular in rock bands but there is usually one member at the rear on the drums or on a keyboard. When you think of groups that sing and do dance moves, you'll notice many have an odd number such as three (The Supremes) or five (Temptations, Jackson 5, Spice Girls). As a photographer, I would find it easier to shoot Charlie's three Angels than the Beatles (although I wouldn't mind meeting Sir Paul). For the "manufactured" boy bands (One Direction, NSYNC, NKOTB), I am inclined to think that it is not an accident most have five members knowing it looks good on stage and in photos.

In photography, this is called the rule of odds and it works with any objects such as flower blossoms, people or even bales of hay. Somehow an odd number of objects just cluster nicely and look less static than groups of an even number.



An exception may occur in situations like bridal parties where an even numbers often centre around the duo of a bride and groom.

The rule of thirds is a guide for composing photos where there is one or two clear objects of interest. The rule of thirds grid is created by dividing the photo into thirds horizontally and vertically. The four intersection points are where you should place objects of interest for a

pleasing composition rather than in the centre. You may have this as a display option built into your camera but if not, even free photo editing programs (such as Windows Photos or Photoscape X) will usually show the grid when you go to crop the image. In the example below, both the mountain top and the piece of farm machinery are points of interest. They fall nicely near two intersection points.



An exception to this rule is if you are filling the frame with the object such as a single blossom.

