

Photo Techniques 2026

Contre-Jour & Long Exposure Photography

PART ONE

CONTRE-JOUR PHOTOGRAPHY

"Creating drama with light from behind the subject."

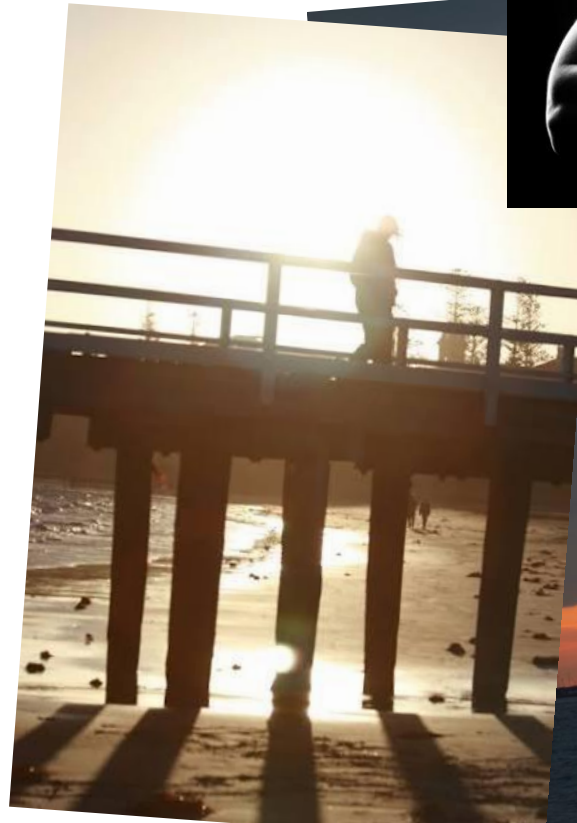


What is Contre-jour?

- **Definition**

- *A photographic technique in which the camera is pointing directly toward a source of light*

- Characteristics
- Backlighting
- Silhouettes
- Rim lighting
- High contrast
- Atmosphere



Understanding the Light

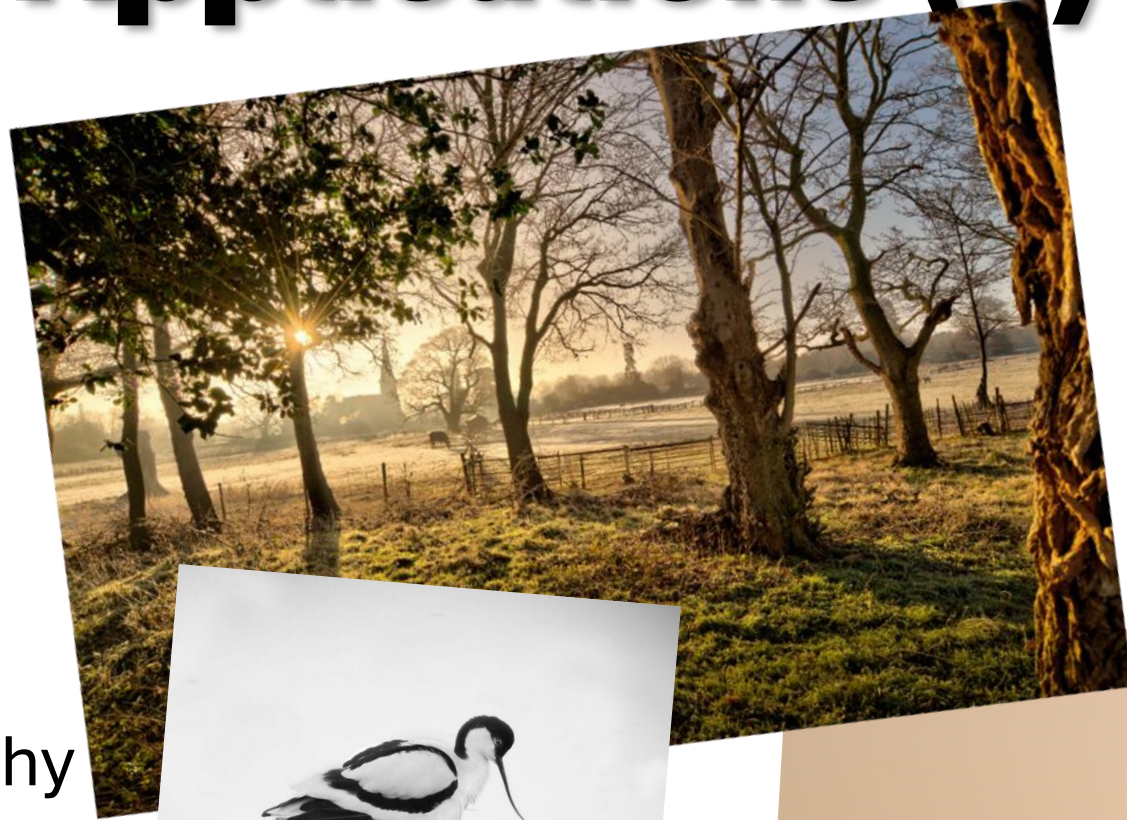
- Sun → Subject → Camera
- Light direction
- Subject placement
- Background brightness
- Exposure choices



Creative Applications (1)

Examples

- Portraits
- Wildlife
- Trees
- Architecture
- Street photography
- Landscapes



Creative Applications (2)



Composition Techniques

Topics

- Strong outlines
- Rule of thirds
- Negative space
- Reflections
- Lens flare
- Colour



Common Problems & Solutions

Problems

- Overexposure
- Flare
- Low contrast
- Incorrect metering



Solutions

- Lens hood
- Spot metering
- Exposure compensation
- Change shooting angle
- Before/after comparison photographs

Summary of Contre-jour

Key learning points

Light behind subject

Silhouette control

Rim lighting

Accurate exposure

Creative composition



SECTION TWO

LONG EXPOSURE PHOTOGRAPHY

"Capturing the passage of time."



What is Long Exposure?

- Definition
 - a technique where the camera's shutter remains open for an extended period, usually from a few seconds to several minutes
- Movement becomes
- Soft water
- Moving clouds
- Light trails
- Star trails



Equipment

- Tripod
- Camera
- Remote release
- ND Filters
- Polariser
- Extra batteries
- Lens Warmer
- And, warm clothes!



Camera Settings

Typical settings

- ISO 100 (or lowest ISO)
- Manual Exposure
 - Aperture: f/8–f/16
 - Shutter: 1 second to several minutes
- Manual Focus
- RAW
- Exposure Bracketing
 - Instead of using a dark Neutral Density (ND) filter to blur moving water or clouds in broad daylight, you take dozens of rapid, standard exposures and stack them using a "mean" or "median" blending



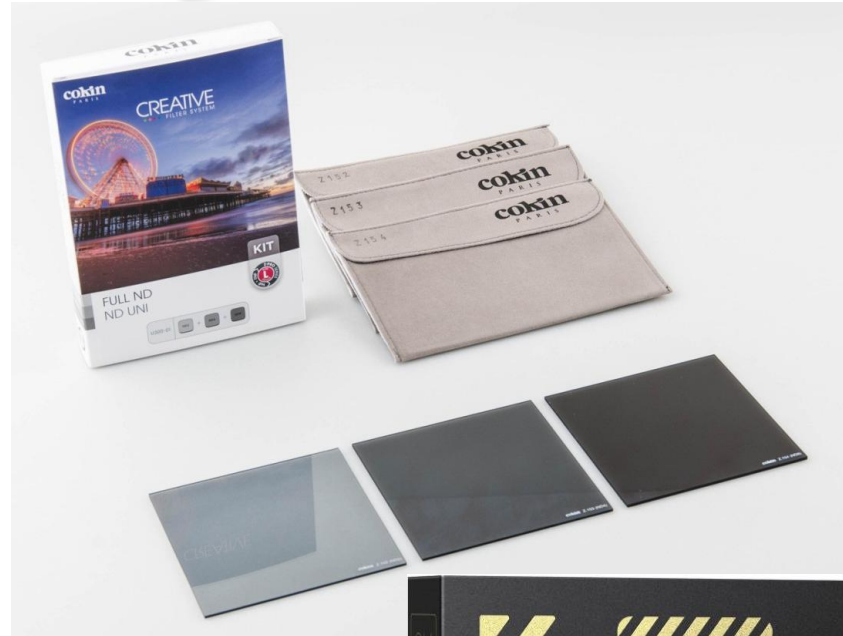
Neutral Density Filters

Purpose

- Reduce light
- Increase exposure time

Common filters

- 3 stop
- 6 stop
- 10 stop
- Variable ND

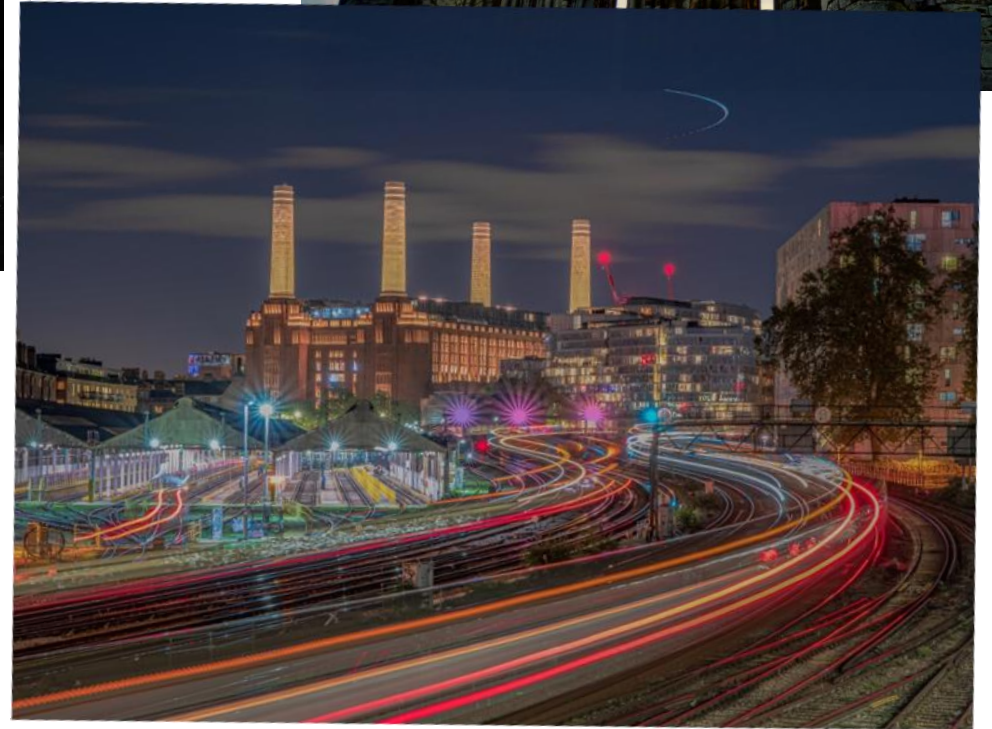


Creative Applications (1)

- Waterfalls
- Rivers
- Coastlines
- Clouds
- Traffic
- Ferris wheels



Creative Applications (2)



Night Photography

- Light trails
- Cityscapes
- Fireworks
- Star trails
- Recommended settings
 - Manual focus & exposure
 - Bulb
 - For fireworks cover the lens between fireworks



Common Problems & Solutions

Problems

- Camera shake
- Wind vibration
- Incorrect focus
- Noise
- Overexposure

Solutions

- Tripod (weighted?)
- Remote release . . .
- Or, 2 second self-timer
- Manual focus
- Live view
- Histogram
- Noise reduction



Summary of Long Exposure

Key learning points

- Stable camera
- Low ISO
- Slow shutter
- ND filters
- Patience and planning

Questions & Discussion

Questions?

"The camera records not only what we see, but how we choose to see it."

