

Telephoto Zooms • Headshots • Camera Protection • Panorama Workshop

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The in-depth quarterly for the photo enthusiast

70-200mm Zooms

11 Lenses Tested

Creative Panoramas with George Lepp

How to Shoot
Headshots
like Peter Hurley

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All-Weather Gear for Cameras
13" Photo Printers

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Autofocus

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Has autofocus ever annoyed you because it missed a moving target? Or when it pumps back and forth searching for the right setting? Things get even worse if a focus error exists that is too slight to see in the viewfinder but is glaringly obvious when you view your images on a computer. Glitches like these often spoil a whole sequence of photos and raise the question of what's wrong and how you can improve the situation.

The best solution is to get to grips with how the autofocus system built into your DSLR or mirrorless camera works. Our Author Ralph Altmann has dug deep into the technology behind today's autofocus systems and has come up with a great article that tells you all you need to know about how your camera keeps things sharp. He has also invented a simple computer-based method for testing your camera's AF system and even explains how to improve its accuracy. See page 68 and this issue's free online content for details.

Now you can head off to the racetrack or your child's birthday party safe in the knowledge that your photos will come out pin sharp. And, if you're looking for the right universal lens for the occasion, check out our 70-200mm zoom test on page 16 for details of the best name-brand and third-party glass on the market.

Have fun and see you next time ...

Peter Nonhoff-Arps

Peter Nonhoff-Arps



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How to Create Cool Headshots 40

Portfolio

Charlotte Steffan is a master of minimalistic compositions and a shoots using a minimum of gear too.

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Telephoto Zoom Test

70-200mm zooms are great all-round lenses for a wide range of situations. We test a selection of major brand and third-party models for DSLR and mirrorless systems.

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Pentax K-3 II

The K-3 II is more than just an update and includes innovative features such as 'Pixel Shift Resolution' for capturing enhanced-resolution images.

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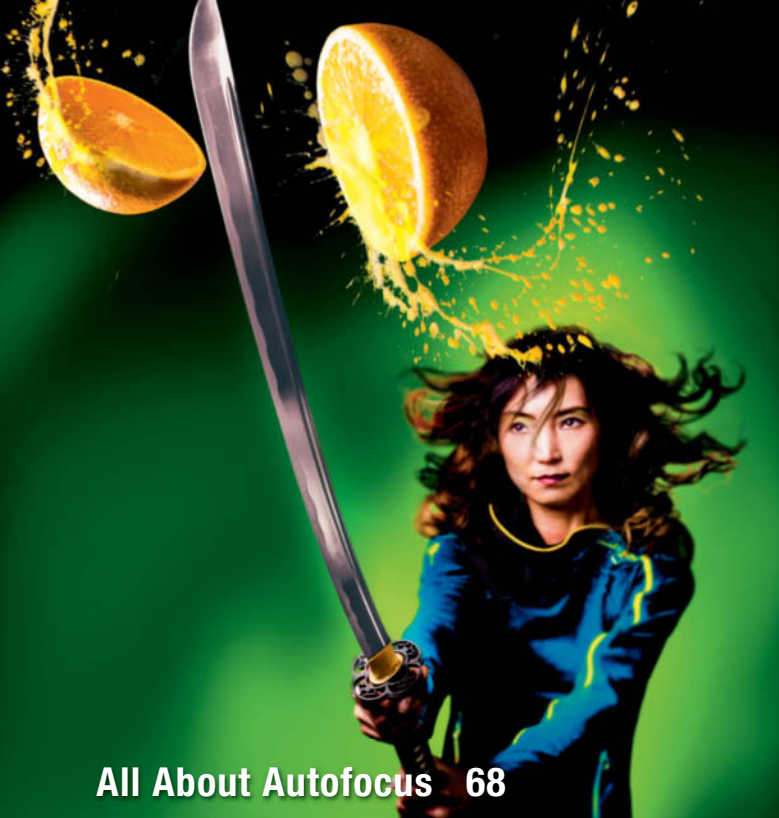
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High-end Photo Printers

Wide-format printers produce high-quality images and give you complete control over the printing process. We test the best current models from Canon and Epson.

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Creative Panorama Techniques

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Full Version Software

Movavi Photo Editor is a powerful photo editor that enables you to give your images extra polish with just a few simple clicks.

Special Edition Software

Franzis Color Projects Professional offers new and unique ways to transform your photos into digital works of art using smart tools and a crystal-clear workflow.

Videos

- Coached Shooting:
Advice from Bert Stephani
- Transparent Fruits:
Cool Effects with Little Effort
- One Light Shooting:
Portraits with the Softbox
- Tim Mantoani:
The Man with the Large-format Camera

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Free Downloads

Visit www.ct-digiphoto.com/downloads212015 for free access to a full version of *Movavi Photo Editor*, a special *c't* edition of Franzis *COLOR projects professional* and a range of exciting videos and video tutorials.

Movavi Photo Editor

Full version software: Movavi Photo Editor lets you optimize your photos in just a few clicks.

Spontaneous snapshots often contain color errors, sloping horizons or unwanted details that spoil the look of the photo. Movavi Photo Editor provides the tools you need to remove these annoying side effects with just a few simple clicks and the 'Resize' tool enables you to scale your edited images as you wish. A single click on the 'Magic Enhance' button automatically optimizes contrast, saturation and color temperature, while the 'Cut Out' tool makes swapping out backgrounds a snap and the 'Delete' tool simply erases objects you don't like. You can also create custom text overlays

and save your results in a range of formats. *Photo Editor* has a clean, easy-to-use interface that makes advanced image processing tasks simple to perform.

c't Digital Photography readers can register via e-mail for a free copy of Movavi Photo Editor. Windows users qualify for a 40% discount on a purchase of Movavi Photo Studio, and Mac users receive a 60% discount on Movavi Video Converter. These offers are valid until January 15th 2016. (tho)



Coached Shooting

Video tutorial: Bert Stephani plays coach and lets us in on some of his secrets for great portrait sessions.



In this workshop, pro photographer Bert Stephani puts his camera down and lets his assistant Laurent photograph a model. Stephani has plenty of useful tips for his less experienced colleague and certainly proves his mettle as a photo coach, constantly optimizing his assistant's ideas. As well as helping Laurent concentrate on the details, he also discusses basics like composition, the choice of background and communication with the model. As a viewer, you can learn from Laurent's mistakes and use the results to improve your own portrait photography skills. (sea)

Image Processing Tools

Windows

Artweaver Free
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GIMP Portable
GREYCs Magic Image Converter (GMIC)
HeliosPaint
Hugin
Inkscape
Luminance HDR
Movavi Photo Editor 2.1.0 **Full Version**

Mac OS

COLOR projects professional **Special Edition**
GIMP
GREYCs Magic Image Converter (GMIC)
HeliosPaint
Hugin
Inkscape
Luminance HDR
Movavi Photo Editor 2.1.0 **Full Version**

Linux

GREYCs Magic Image Converter (GMIC)
HeliosPaint
Luminance HDR
Movavi Photo Editor 2.1.0 **Full Version**

Photo Tools

Windows

AmoK Exif Sorter
Enblend/Enfuse
EnfuseGUI
ExifTool
FastStone Image Viewer
Gallery
WordPress
XAMPP
XnView

Mac OS

AmoK Exif Sorter
EnfuseGUI
ExifTool
Gallery

MacPorts

WordPress
XAMPP

Linux

AmoK Exif Sorter
Enblend/Enfuse
ExifTool
Gallery
WordPress
XAMPP

Sample Images

Autofocus Test Image and Photoshop Actions
Lens Test Sample Images

Videos

Coached Shooting – Advice from Bert Stephani
One-light Shoot – Portraits with the Softbox
Tim Mantoani – Large-format Portraits
Transparent Fruits – Cool Effects with Little Effort

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Use of the Windows version requires a two-stage online registration during installation. Mac users need to install the trial version and send an email to the manufacturer containing the text *c't Digital Photography – Color projects for MAC*. You will then receive a free serial number via email. Registered readers also qualify for a 40% discount on upgrades to the full version of *PHOTO WORKS projects #3*. These offers apply until March 31st 2016. (tho)

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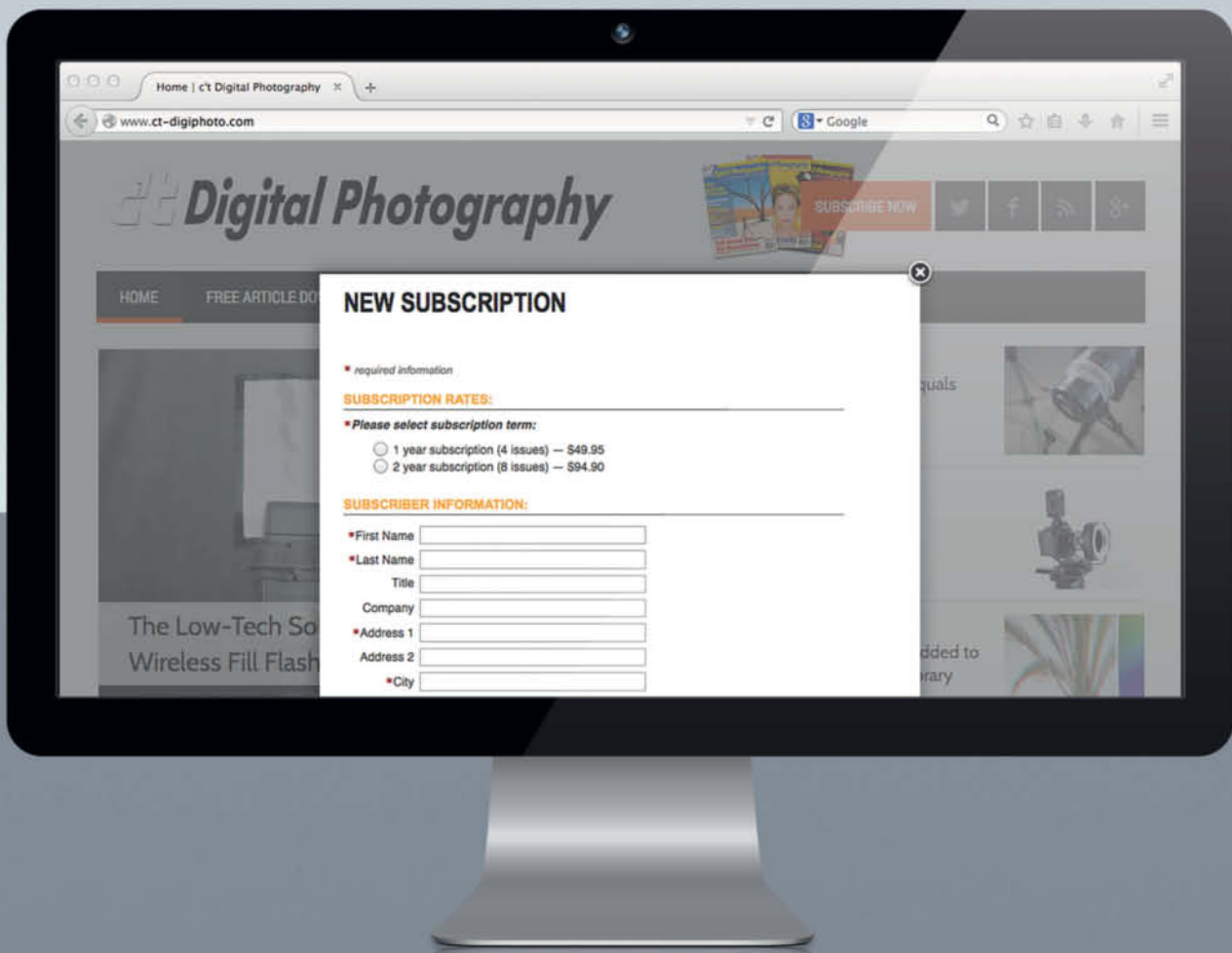
Keep on top of the latest trends and get your own regular dose of inside knowledge from our specialist authors. Every issue includes tips and tricks from experienced pro photographers as well as independent hardware and software tests.

There are also regular image processing and image management workshops to help you create your own perfect portfolio.

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Portfolio

Charlotte Steffan

Lines, patterns, nuances of color... Charlotte Steffan likes things minimalist and tidy – and that's how she likes her photographs too, most of which she takes using her iPhone.



Church Windows, Mannheim, Germany (2004)



Green Glass, Munich, Germany (2005)

Photographing the patterns revealed in felled tree trunks and sawn-off branches, taking inspiration from road markings, looking for graphic elements in rows of houses or window frames – out and about with her camera, looking for subjects and allowing the world to make its impressions on her, Charlotte Steffan is not seeking the sensational and prefers instead to “show the everyday in a new light”.

The 60-year-old artist came late to photography after taking early retirement. She lives in Mannheim and spends a lot of time traveling the city and its environs, but not with a heavy camera and multiple lenses.

In the last few years she has used nothing more than an iPhone most of the time.

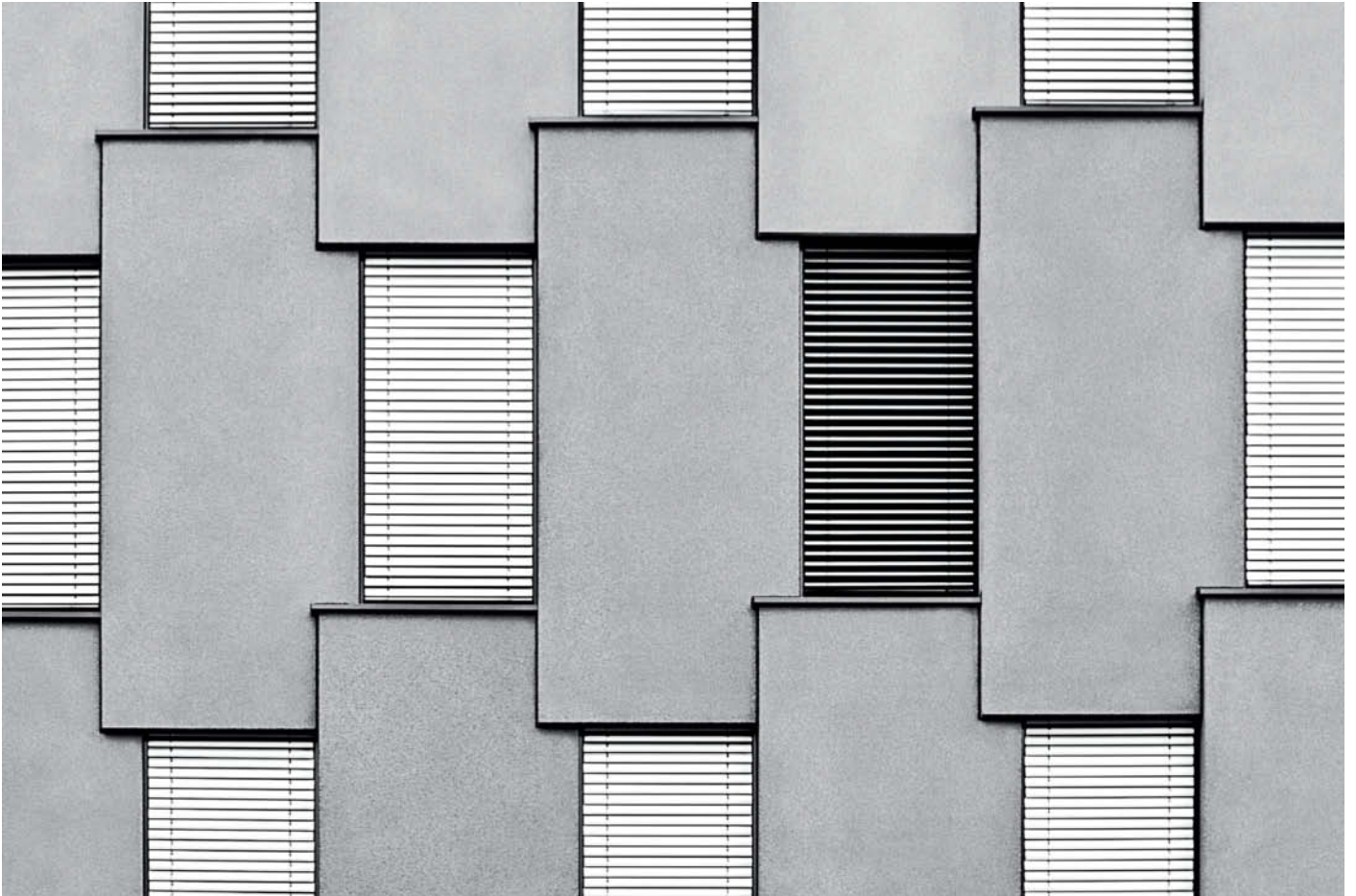
“I’m totally happy with the quality,” she says – and she knows what she’s talking about. “Early on, as I concentrated more and more on technical things like aperture, exposure, noise and sharpness, my eye for subjects became less keen and my photography was the poorer for it, despite using a reflex camera and high-quality lenses.” Acquaintances and critics constantly commented on this shift too, she remembers.

At some point, she pulled the plug on it all, having realized that the fun had gone out of

photography for her. Yet fun, rather than technology, which she now keeps to a bare minimum, was the essential ingredient for good photos. Now, her phone’s fixed focal length lens is perfectly sufficient, “and I don’t care whether there is more noise in my images than the ones I made with my super-duper DSLR.”

But what determines whether an image is successful or not? Her answer is impartial and personal: “My images are supposed to stir up the viewer’s emotions,” she says. “For me, a good image is one that I like.”

This is why Steffan also prefers to avoid ‘deep and meaningful’ discussion and



Office Building, Mannheim, Germany (2010)

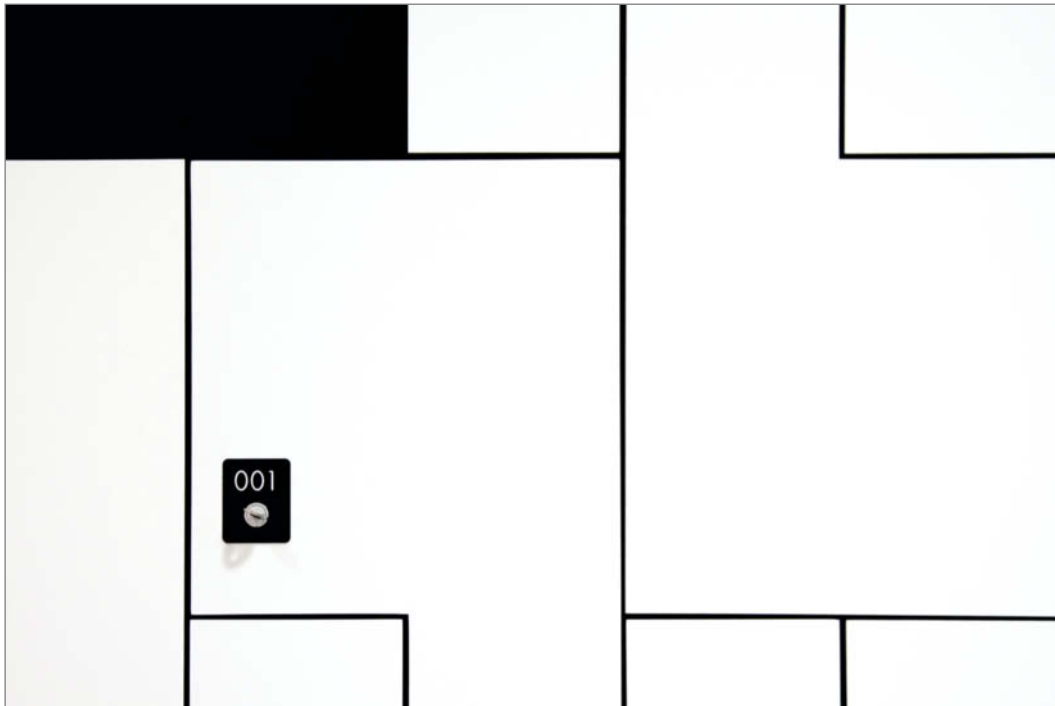
interpretation of her photographs. “For me, the subject is important, and the image has to make the right impact.” She names her images by describing them, rather than inventing a prosaic title – a method borrowed from Robert Haeusser, one of her favorite role models.

“I like line, I like black and white, and I like everything to be tidy,” is how she outlines her photographic preferences and favorite stylistic devices. “Technical processes and skills transform raw material into a form which, thanks to intense observation, evocative symbolization and visual effectiveness, far exceeds the result of

the present moment,” as the quote from well-known photographer and writer Andreas Feininger explains on her website. “If that can be achieved, then it is a good photo; reality has become art.” That is her goal.

Steffan is enjoying increasing success with this approach, having now displayed her work to a broad public at 17 exhibitions. Her most recent show comprised only iPhone photos, and she is now selling these images too. Even the city council in Mannheim is a customer, she says with a wink, although in this case, the buyer acquired some of her equally fascinating infrared images rather than her more graphic works. (keh)

**Learn more about
Charlotte Steffan at**
www.charlotte-steffan.de
[www.xing.com/profile/Charlotte_
Steffan](http://www.xing.com/profile/Charlotte_Steffan)



Locker, Stuttgart, Germany (2010)



Floor Lamp, Berlin, Germany (2006)