



Developing Professional iPhone Photography

Using Photoshop, Lightroom, and other iOS and Desktop Apps to Create and Edit Photos

Rafiq Elmansy

apress®

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About the Author

Rafiq Elmansy is a design consultant, educator, and author. He is a design lecturer at the American University in Cairo and Adobe education partner with more than 17 years of experience in the design industry with clients around the globe. He teaches digital design, interactive design, and design management for both academic and industrial institutions including the American University in Cairo, Hawaii University, and Academy Class UK. Rafiq is an Adobe Certified Instructor, Adobe Education Leader, and Adobe Certified Expert. He works closely with Adobe teams in developing new products as part of the prerelease program and is an official writer for Adobe Certified Expert (ACE) and Adobe Certified Associate (ACA) exams.

Elmansy has been published by various publishers including Taylor and Francis, Focal Press, O'Reilly Media, and John Wiley & Sons. His published books include *Teach Yourself Visually SEO*, *Illustrator Foundations*, *Photoshop 3D for Animators*, and *Quick Guide to Flash Catalyst*. He has been published in both academic and industrial magazines and journals including the Design Management Review, Adobe Inspire, Smashing, and TutsPlus. He is also a jury board member in acknowledged design competitions including the Adobe Design Achievement Awards, Poster for Tomorrow, and A'Design Awards and Competitions.

Introduction

The idea of this book started when I was traveling without my camera and wanted to take photos in Paris. So, I just grabbed my iPhone and started taking shots of the amazing sightseeing there. That's when I discovered that the iPhone is a powerful photography tool with a high-quality camera lens, stabilization capabilities, and small form factor. The numerous photography and photo-editing apps on the App Store make it even more powerful.

Therefore, this book aims to help both professional and nonprofessional photographers start using their iPhones as a photography tool. It contains dozens of tips that start by helping you understand the core photography features on your iPhone and how to get the most out of them. Then, it moves on to tips that will help you use your iPhone to create photography projects that you used to create using your DSLR camera. These tips cover basic photo-editing skills such as adjusting colors, fixing issues, and replacing the background.

The tips then cover more photography techniques such as creating double-exposure effects, low-light photos, and high-key photos. These tips simulate the techniques that can be done using the existing light in the scene of the shot. The later chapters give you more photo-editing tips, such as creating a composition of different photos, manipulating photos to create dramatic scenes, creating digital artwork, and more.

During these tips, you will explore how to use a number of apps that can help you extend your iPhone's photography capabilities. This includes the Adobe mobile apps for Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom that simulate the desktop-based photo-editing versions. Most of the other apps in the book can be easily grabbed from the Apple App Store. Some are free, and others include trial versions to try before buying.

Later in the book, the tips explore how to organize your work on your iPhone and how to handle the space issues using the different cloud technologies including iCloud. Then you will explore how to start your work on your iPhone and then take it back to your computer to add even more effects to the shot.

All the photos in this book were taken with an iPhone by my wife, Radwa Khalil, and me in different countries. The only photo that was not taken by an iPhone device is the Earth photo that was grabbed from Wikipedia under the public domain copyright.

How to Use This Book

Each chapter in this book includes a number of tips that cover skills related to mastering iPhone photography. Each tip stands alone, so you can start the book with any of these tips and try them individually. If you are a newbie at using your iPhone as a photography tool, you can start with the first tip and move forward from there. If you have some knowledge, reviewing the first tips will help you to organize your photos and find hidden features on your iPhone.

Each tip gives an example of the workflow to create a specific effect. So, you need to read each tip and follow its steps and then try to apply it using your own photos. You may need to explore different values and options to create the most effective output with your own photographs. At the end of each chapter, there is a practice task that you can use to apply the effects used in the chapter to a photo and share it on different social networks; just use the hashtag #iPhonePhotography or mention me (@rafiqelmansy) on Facebook, Twitter, or LinkedIn. I will be checking your work and commenting on it.

Practice, Practice, and Practice

The more you practice with your iPhone, the more you will improve your skills. This book will start you on your journey, but further practice is important. Use the steps and figures to guide you to create effects based on each tip. Once you feel confident with these tips, you can move forward and explore other effects and techniques using the different photo apps available on the App Store to create even more fantastic iPhone photography projects.

CHAPTER 1

Unleash Your iPhone Camera's Capabilities

While the camera doesn't make the photographer, a good camera can definitely take your creative shots to another dimension and extend your ability to apply different techniques, especially with the evolving technologies related to digital photography cameras. The same rule applies to phone photography. The excellent camera in your iPhone allows you to take photos for both professional and personal purposes without the need to hold heavy photography gear. The Apple iPhone's camera is one of the features that sets the phone above the competitors.

To get the most of your iPhone camera, it is crucial to understand the camera's capabilities and the different features that can help you take good photos using both the default and third-party photography apps. In this chapter, you'll explore the capabilities of the default camera and the Photos app before moving on to different photography techniques in the remaining chapters.

Mastering Your iPhone Camera

Your iPhone camera has hidden features that can help you open the Camera app quickly. You can also improve your photo's composition by applying a grid system to align your scene.

Get Easy Access to Your Camera

One of the iPhone's advantages is the ability to quickly take photos anywhere and anytime. All you need to do is grab the phone out of your pocket or bag, open the Camera application, and take the shot. However, you need to know how to quickly access the Camera app in order to catch those special moments, such as your kids playing or your favorite team winning the game. The iPhone gives you three main ways to access the Camera app quickly.

Swipe to Open

The first method is to swipe through your screen. This allows you to open the Camera app while the phone is locked, which is considered the quickest way to access the camera. Follow these steps:

1. If your iPhone is asleep, press the home button once to open the display.
2. While you are on the lock screen, swipe from the right side of the screen toward the left side to open the Camera app, as shown in Figure 1-1.

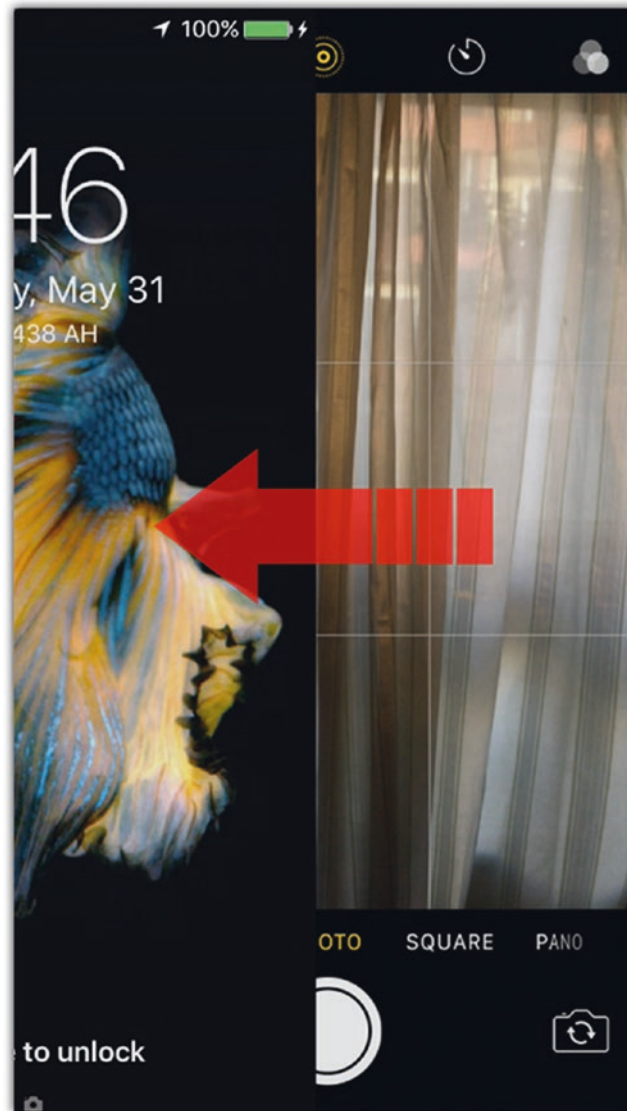


Figure 1-1. *Swipe from the right side of the screen toward the left side to open the Camera app*

Use the Phone Control Center

The second method can be used while the phone is locked or unlocked; you just go through the phone's Control Center.

1. If your iPhone is asleep, press the home button once to open the display.
2. Swipe with your figure from the home button toward the top of your phone, as shown in Figure 1-2.
3. Tap the Camera app in the Control Center.

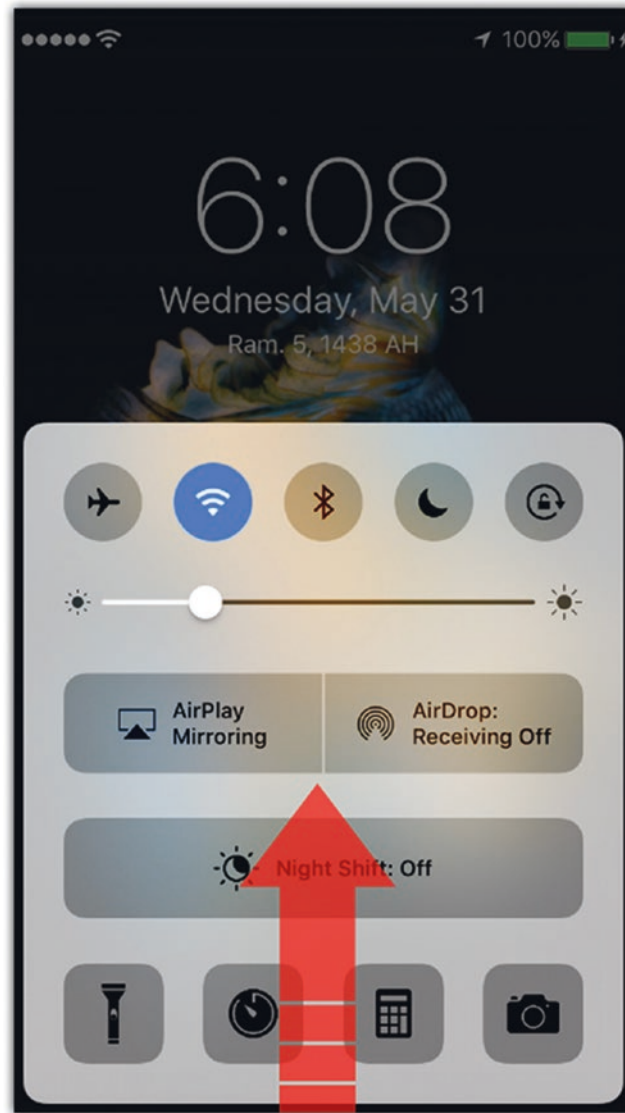


Figure 1-2. *Swipe from the bottom of the screen toward the top to open the Control Center*

These two methods are helpful when you need to easily access the camera when the phone is locked, while the next method allows you to access the camera quickly while you are using other applications on the phone.

Add the Camera App to the Dock

The third method is to add the Camera app to the dock of your phone. This helps you easily find the camera among the other applications installed on your mobile device. You can add the camera to the dock as follows:

1. Press your phone's home button twice to access the main screen (use a fingerprint or passcode if needed).
2. Tap and hold slightly on the Camera app icon; you will see it vibrate to indicate it can be repositioned, as shown in Figure 1-3.
3. Drag it to the screen dock next to your most used applications such as the Mail app and the Safari browser. If the dock is full, you can add it by removing the least used application from the dock.

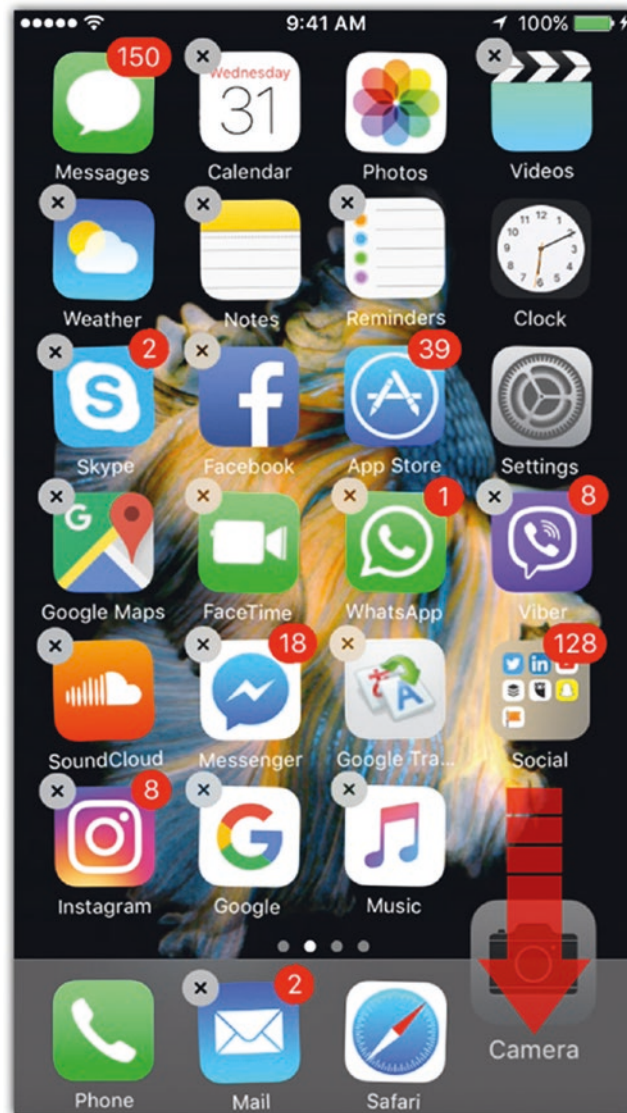


Figure 1-3. Drag the Camera app to the screen dock

Take Your Shot in Multiple Ways

The iPhone helps you to take your photo through three different methods based on different situations. The default method is to tap the camera button once to take the shot, as highlighted in Figure 1-4.

You can also press the volume button up or down to take the shot, also shown in Figure 1-4. This option helps you to hold your phone properly while taking the shot. It works similarly to the shutter button on your digital camera if your phone is in landscape position. Finally, if you are using a wired headset, you can use the volume buttons on your headset to take your shot. This helps you to take photos stealthily. For example, you can capture natural moments of your children playing without them noticing to produce spontaneous photos. Using the headset buttons can help you avoid shaking the phone while taking the picture.

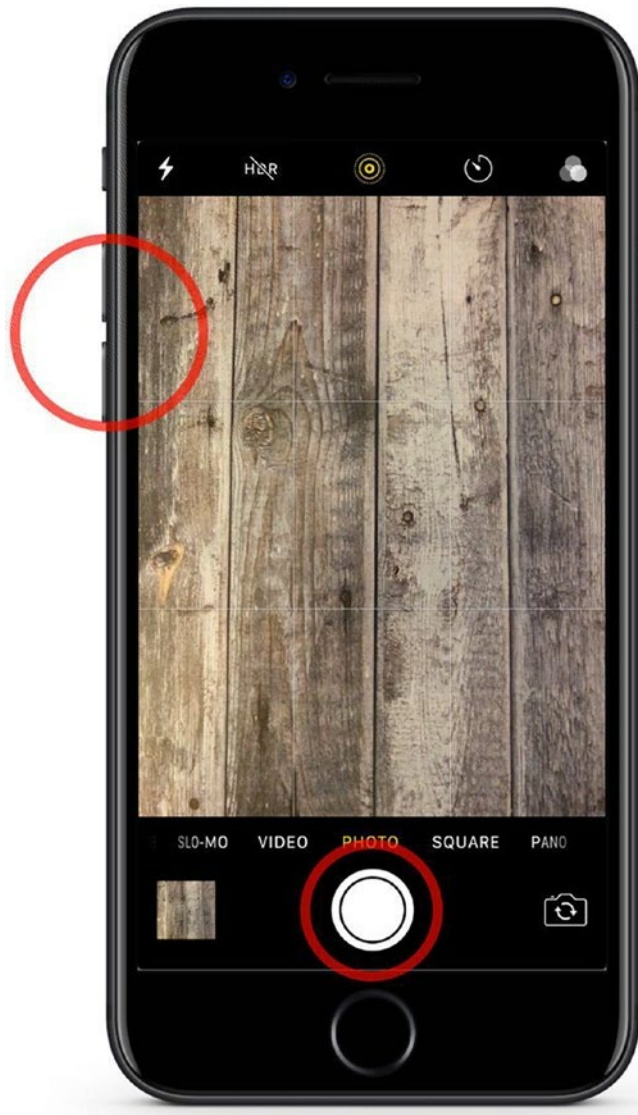


Figure 1-4. Tap the camera button or press the volume button to take photos

Enable the Grid Guides

As you probably know, the composition of a photo plays an essential role in making a great shot. The Camera app provides grids that can guide you while taking your shot to ensure that the composition is visually appealing. The Grid option divides the screen into three columns and three rows. This can help you to place the elements exactly where you want them in the photo. Follow these steps to enable the Grid feature:

1. Tap the Settings icon on your phone.
2. Scroll down and tap Photo & Camera.
3. Activate the Grid feature in the Camera section, as shown in Figure 1-5.

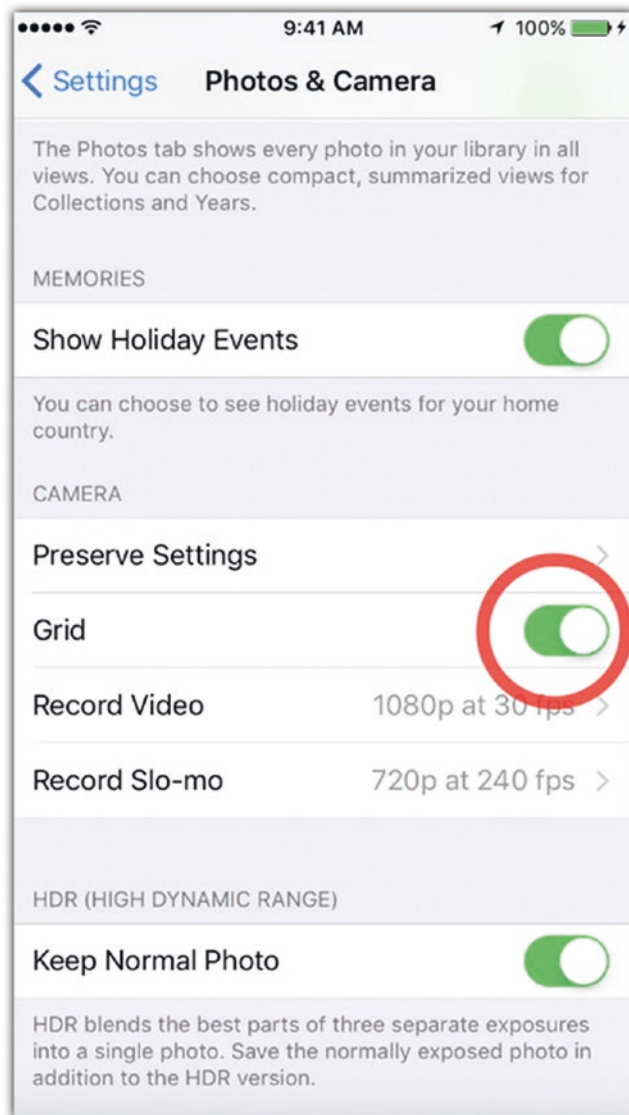


Figure 1-5. Activate the Grid setting from the Photos & Camera settings

Shoot in Burst Mode

For fast-moving events such as sports or children playing, you may need to take multiple shots of the same event so you can pick the best shot later. While tapping the camera button repeatedly would be too slow, the iPhone's Burst mode can help. It allows you to take multiple photos almost instantly by simply tapping and holding the camera button. The longer you hold the button, the more photos are taken in burst mode.

Once you release the button, the photos are saved in a special folder in the Camera Roll called the Burst folder. To see the photos in the Burst folder, you can follow these steps:

1. In the Photos app, tap the Burst folder to select it.
2. Tap Select in the middle-bottom toolbar.
3. Navigate through the different photos in the burst set, as shown in Figure 1-6.



Figure 1-6. *Select the different images in the burst set*

To select one photo in the folder, you can do the following:

1. Select the image and tap Done at the top right of the screen, as shown in Figure 1-6.
2. Either tap Keep Everything to keep the folder and save the selected image (or images) as a separate image or tap Keep One Favorite to keep the selected image only and delete the rest.

Once either of the options is selected, the selected image (or images) is separated from the Burst folder and added to your photos as a normal photo.

Set Up Manual Focus and Exposure

By default, the iPhone camera sets the focus in your photo automatically toward the nearest object in the composition. However, you may need to change this such as when you want to focus on a far object in the shot. The iPhone gives you the option to manually set the focus and exposure of the photo by simply tapping the object you would like to focus on; the camera will shift the focus in the shot to the selected object, as shown in Figure 1-7.



Figure 1-7. Tap the object to manually set the focus and exposure

After setting up the focus to the selected element, the exposure of the photo may change based on the light conditions in the image. If you want to modify the exposure, tap and drag up and down to open the exposure slider, which allows you to increase or decrease the exposure in the photo.

Lock the Exposure and Focus

Even though the iPhone gives you the flexibility to set the exposure and the focus in a shot, it has a drawback, especially when you are taking a photo where the elements may move. Or you might want to take multiple images of the same scene without changing the focus each time you take the shot.

To lock the focus and exposure, you can do the following:

1. Wait for the camera to optimize the photo exposure and photo.
2. Tap and hold on the screen until the yellow AE/AF Lock label appears at the top of the screen, as shown in Figure 1-8.
3. Tap the screen and drag up and down to change the shot brightness.



Figure 1-8. The yellow label indicates that the exposure and focus are locked

Note that if you close the Camera app and open it again, you need to set the lock again on the new shot.