

# 5 Tips To Remove a Beginner's Fear of Film Photography

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OK, fear may be too strong a word, but it is true that today film has become that dinosaur from a million years ago we are fascinated by but would like to stay away from. These cameras seem to most of us too complicated, too raw, and too time consuming to handle. The truth is, you're right, but this is why you absolutely should try one! Film slows you down and takes you right back to the medium, which also helps inform your digital photography. And the amazing quality of the results is an added bonus! Read on for our top 5 tips to remove your fear of film and start you off as an amazing photographer.

## Get the right camera

There is no better way to learn than on a manual camera, as it teaches you so much about aperture, shutter speed and all that goes into getting the right exposure. However, as a beginner your fear may be heightened by a camera that is fully manual. If you are a bit apprehensive, I suggest you look for something that also offers some semi-auto modes, like the shutter priority (TV) or Aperture priority (AV) modes. I wouldn't suggest a camera that is overflowing with features, nor a fully auto camera as you want to be the one doing the shooting, right? Check out our [5 of the best film cameras for beginners](#) for a better idea of what to get.

## Read the manual

This is a step most over-excited novices skip, and this is a big mistake. Your camera is your new companion, and you should get to know it thoroughly before you dive in. This is something even professionals do, even after their 20<sup>th</sup> camera purchase. Read through the whole thing; get to know where all the buttons and functions are and how to change the film, battery, lenses, etc. Most fears come out of the unknown, and knowing your camera will make you less nervous to use it.

## Just shoot!

Sometimes the best way to remove your fear of water is to just dive in at the deep end and thrash about until you learn how to swim. Just because you have a limited number of shots doesn't mean you think forever before shooting; there's plenty of time to do that later. Don't think about getting amazing photos; at this point, you won't. However, you need to shoot a lot in order to get a hang of the camera and get an idea of how it works and what kind of results it produces.

## Try out different films

With film cameras you don't have monochrome modes and different white balance settings, you have different films. Films have different ISO speeds, contrast, tonal range and color quality. There are black

and white films as well as color films. If you don't get good results it may be because you're not using a film that works for you, and you may end up frustrated and disappointed for no reason. So explore different films in the beginning to see what kind of results each one gives.

### **Remember, mistakes are your friend!**

The biggest fear you have is of failing, and the only way to overcome this is to embrace mistakes. Of course, you should do everything in your power to get an awesome shot, but if it is lacking in some way, don't beat yourself up but learn from it. Look at your pictures critically and figure out what you can do to make them even better. The moment you start welcoming mistakes, you will start becoming a much better photographer.

A little bit of nervousness is good, but fear is always crippling, and always stunts creativity and growth. To be a better photographer, you should learn to shoot film, and to learn to shoot film you should follow these steps, and dive into it head on with no training wheels, to mash-up two phrases for you.

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