

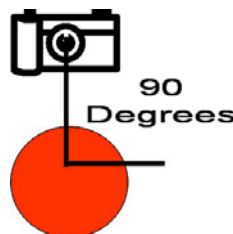
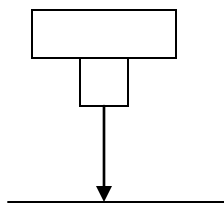
Exercise 2

Digital Point and Shoot Camera

Scenario: It is important to know and be familiar with your equipment. In film camera days, most of the settings were accomplished with dials or switches on the camera. In the digital age everything is basically in the menu. Make sure you have a copy of the manual for your camera. This is not a book that you will read cover to cover (if you have insomnia it will put you to sleep). You will need it for reference. It is great if you have to look up a question or if you wish to learn a about specific feature.

There are several settings that you will wish to set:

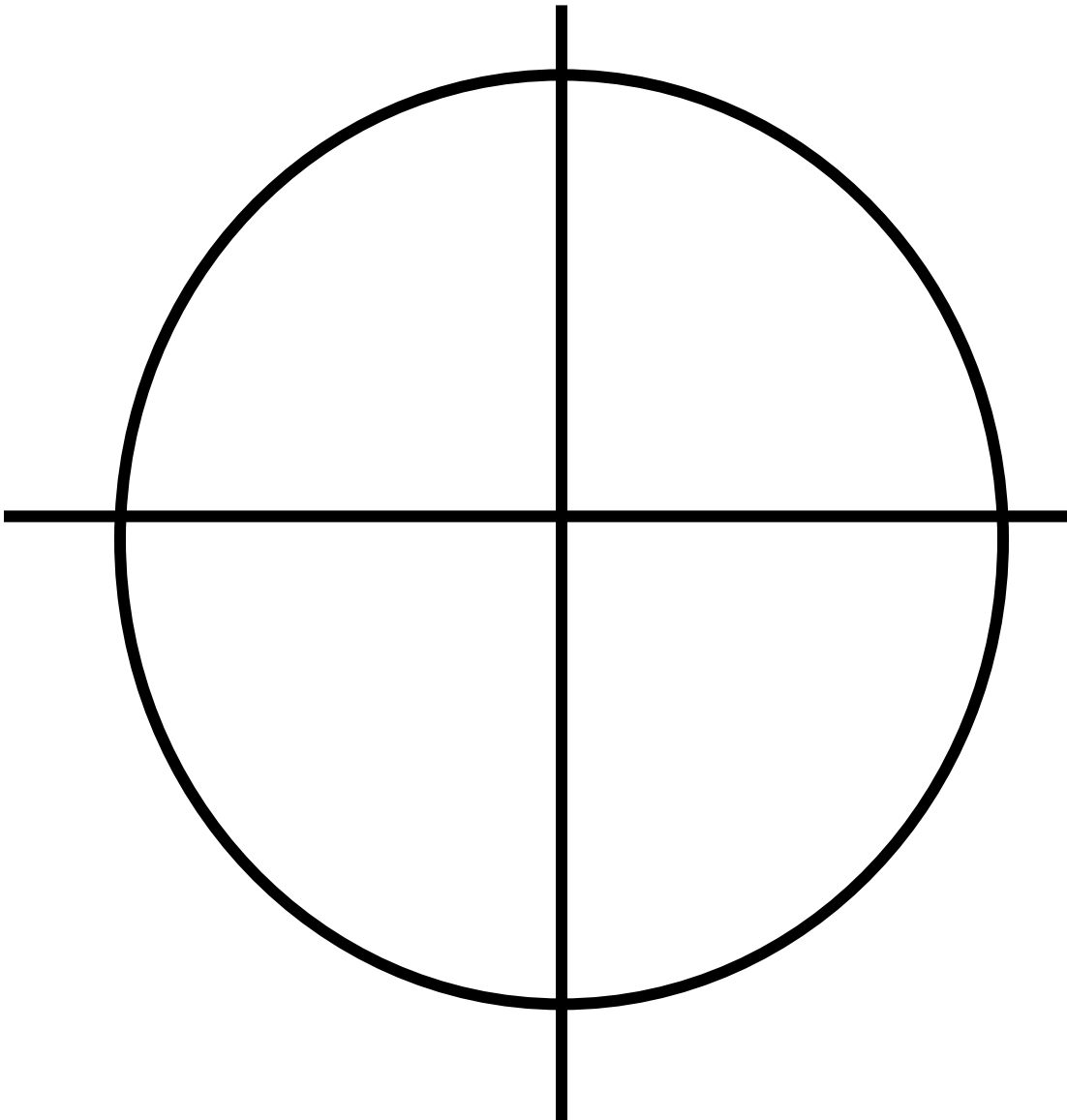
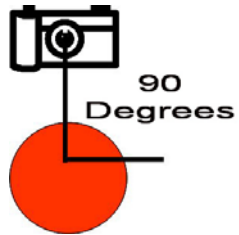
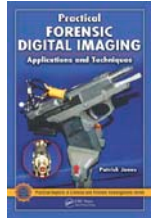
1. Set the frame (or picture counter) to continuous. This eliminates confusion when you upload your scene images to the computer so that you can create your *original copy disk*.
2. If you have a setting for *automatic white balance*, set it to *on*. This adjusts the color balance as relates to the specific lighting conditions in which you are working.
3. If you have a setting to imprint the date and time on your images, *turn this feature OFF*. The number feature can confuse jurors and the opposition can use it for the purpose of discrediting your pictures. An example: You are at a homicide and the date is 1-1-11 at 1155 pm. As you are photographing the scene, 10 minutes later, the date on those photographs will read 1-2-11. It appears as though you photographed the scene on two different days.
4. Insure that the camera is not set to *macro or close up imaging*. Many people, even experienced, get caught up in the scene and forget to turn off the *macro or close up imaging* to the detriment of the normal distance pictures take. I suggest that you not use the close up feature on a point and shoot camera unless all the images that you plan to shoot are close up.
5. You need to know the *minimum focus* of your camera. The viewing screens, even on the more expensive point and shoot cameras, are poor at best. You should know that if your minimum focus is 6 inches, then you should never photograph closer then 6 inches or you picture will be out of focus.
6. Use the page following this. There will be a target image on it. Place the target on the floor. With your camera at approximately chest high and at 90 degrees to the paper on the floor. Take a picture. Look at the screen. Is it in focus? If it is, move 6 inches closer and take another picture. Is this one in focus? If it is move 6 inches closer and take another picture. Keep doing this until the image of the lines are “fuzzy”. Move 3 inches back and take another picture. Is this sharp. If it is. **This is your minimum focus. Write it down somewhere and never take a photo closer than your minimum focus.**



7. Now practice. Take 200 pictures of various items. Get used to your camera. Take pictures of people, things, cars, buildings, animals, etc. List them on your photo listing sheet.

Exercise 2

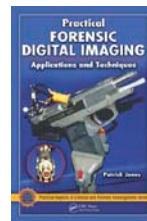
Target image to be used to determine minimum focus.



Exercise 2

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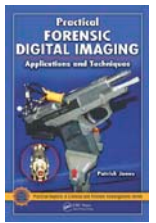
Page _____ of _____

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Exercise 2

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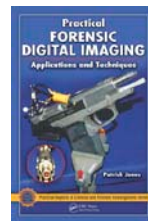
Page _____ of _____

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Exercise 2

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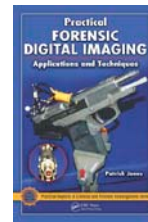
Page _____ of _____

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Exercise 2

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Page _____ of _____

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