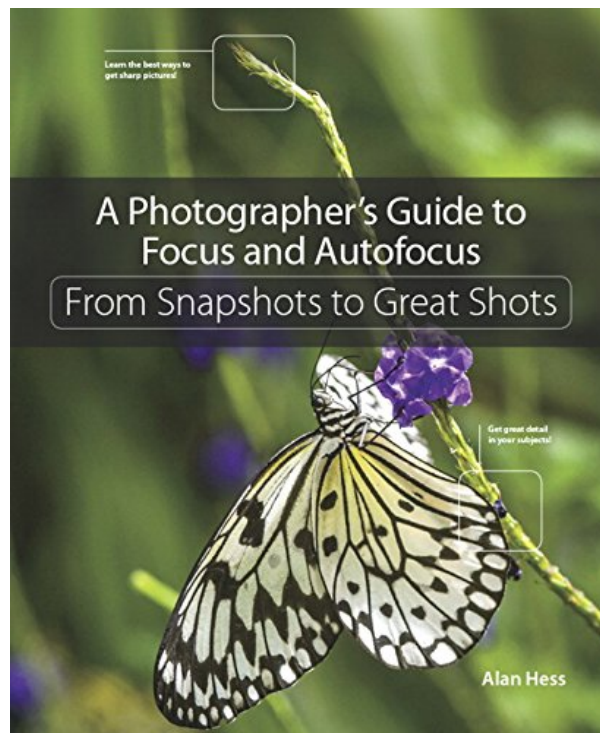
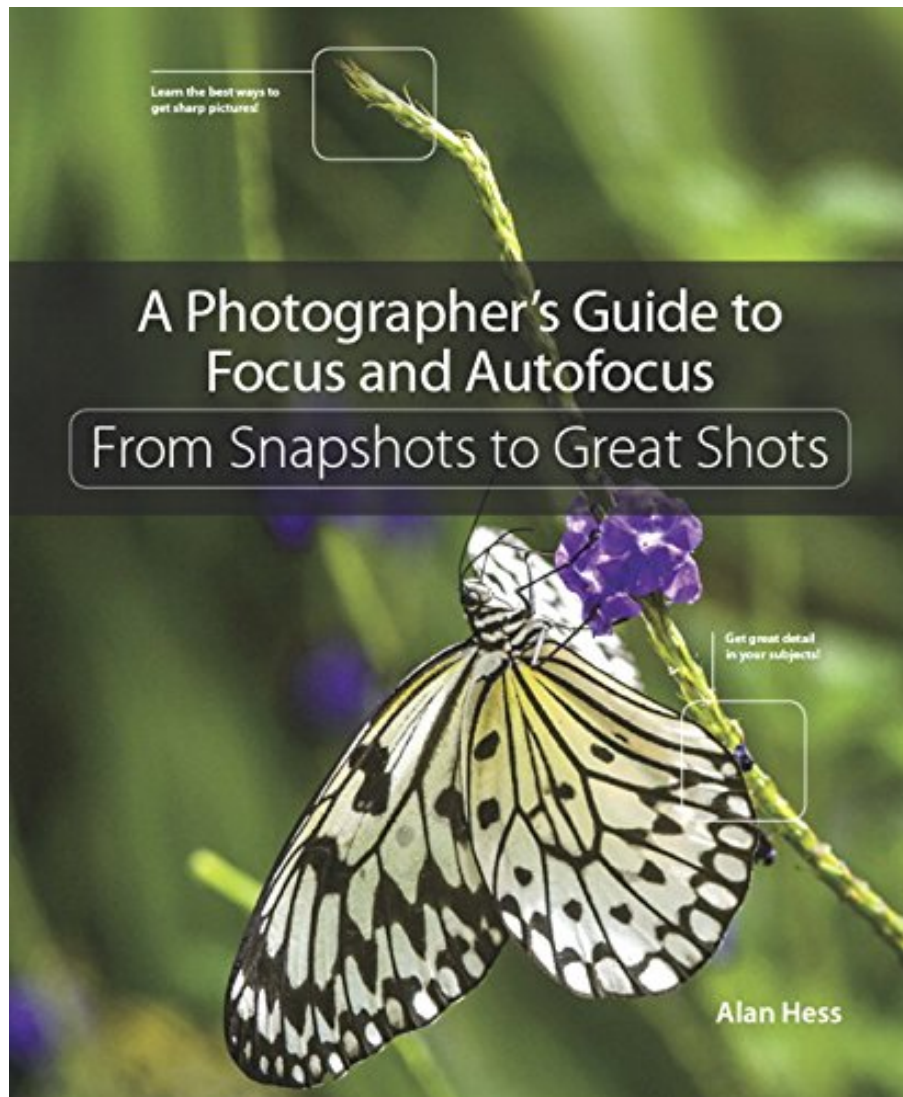


A PHOTOGRAPHER'S GUIDE TO FOCUS AND AUTOFOCUS: FROM SNAPSHOTS TO GREAT SHOTS BY ALAN HESS



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About the Author

Alan Hess is a San Diego--based photographer specializing in concert and live-event photography. He has photographed hundreds of concerts in clubs and arenas, including some of the biggest names in music, ranging from Justin Bieber to The Who. Alan is currently the house photographer for a large venue in Southern California where he photographs a wide variety of concerts and events. When he isn't out shooting concerts, he is writing. Alan has written numerous photography books, covering such topics as concert photography and the basics of exposure and composition. Find out more at alanhessphotography.com.

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A Photographer's Guide To Focus And Autofocus: From Snapshots To Great Shots By Alan Hess

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A PHOTOGRAPHER'S GUIDE TO FOCUS AND AUTOFOCUS: FROM SNAPSHOTS TO GREAT SHOTS BY ALAN HESS PDF

Autofocus changed the way photos are taken, making it easier to capture and keep the subject in sharp focus. Since autofocus was first introduced, it has become much more complicated, offering different focus modes, focus types, and focus points. What started out as a way to simplify the photo-making process has turned into a complicated endeavor with numerous choices and settings.

A Photographer's Guide to Focus and Autofocus: From Snapshots to Great Shots is here to answer all your questions about the focusing system in today's cameras and their various autofocus modes. Photographer Alan Hess covers the simple basics of focus: manual focus versus autofocus, the best focus modes to use, and how focus works in both DSLRs and mirrorless cameras. Then he discusses more advanced topics, including autofocus sensor types, back-button autofocus, and focus for DSLR video.

There is much more to autofocus, and focus in general, than just pushing the shutter release button and hoping the image is sharp and in focus. With this book, you'll learn how to get the right focus in your images, no matter what the occasion.

Follow along with your friendly and knowledgeable guide, and you will:

- Learn the top ten things to know about focus, including how to use the focus controls on the camera, how to pick the autofocus point, and when to use pre-focus in your images
- Address common autofocus issues such as dealing with low contrast or low light, or shooting through obstacles like glass or a fence
- Develop troubleshooting techniques for what to do when the autofocus doesn't work properly
- Work with both manual focus and autofocus and learn tricks to achieve better focus in video

And once you've got the shot, show it off! Join the book's Flickr group to share your photos and tips at [flickr.com/groups/focusandautofocusfromsnapshotstogreatshots](https://www.flickr.com/groups/focusandautofocusfromsnapshotstogreatshots)

- Sales Rank: #594341 in Books
- Published on: 2016-02-21
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .50" w x 7.40" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 192 pages

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concerts, he is writing. Alan has written numerous photography books, covering such topics as concert photography and the basics of exposure and composition. Find out more at alanhessphotography.com.

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2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

I learned a lot!

By Al Kunz

Simply put, if you don't have focus, you don't have a picture, at least one that anyone would admire or buy. In the present days of digital photography, autofocus is probably the most used feature on any DSLR (Digital Single Reflex Camera). However, if you carefully examine the features of that camera you will find a myriad of features associated with autofocus as well as manual. Because of this, a photographer has an abundance of options available to use in almost any given situation. Thus it behooves the careful photographer to study and learn all that the camera can provide that will make any picture stand out just because it is very well focused.

Alan Hess's book, *A Photographer's Guide to Focus and Autofocus*, is all about learning all of those options and how best to use them. It starts simply by defining focus and autofocus and hitting ten things you should know about this subject. These 'quick hitters' are explored in more depth throughout the book. As anyone even slightly familiar with DSLRs will wonder when picking up this book, "Will this book tell me all I need to know about my camera's focusing capabilities?". Since there are so many different brands and models of DSLRs, that question entered my mind also. The author handles that aspect very nicely by using three models of cameras to illustrate the features and procedures best used to achieve good focus. He uses a Nikon, a Canon and a Sony model to illustrate features and processes. As a reviewer, I must advise you to have your camera model's manual nearby as you go through the various chapters. In that way you can readily identify the camera features being explained as they relate to your particular model or brand.

The book itself is a soft covered edition measuring 9 inches high by 7.5 inches wide and comprising 178 pages. As of the writing of this review, it was selling on Amazon for \$21.89 (list price \$29.99). It will fit in most camera bags to serve as a ready reference in the field. It is rated as a Beginner/Intermediate level with which I would quickly agree. It is very well illustrated and easy to read. The chapters are not overly long nor are they filled with voluminous techno-babble to try and impress the reader. Each Chapter includes an assignment designed to bring home the salient points of the Chapter. Many readers will have a tendency to skip this part but I would advise that the assignments not be bypassed. They do help, in a very practical way, to drive home the points discussed particularly as they relate to your particular camera. Most of the photos used to illustrate the text are accompanied by camera information (make & model, ISO setting, shutter speed and lens info). Thus, as the reader is going through the text and perusing the accompanying photos, lessons can also be learned relating the camera settings to the finished photo. The last chapter in this book covers video focusing, a pertinent subject given that many, if not most, DSLRS now have a video capability. This is a subject not often covered in instructional books on photography.

The author is an accomplished photographer in the fields of concert photography, sporting events, and portraiture including human and pet photography. He is also a prolific author, covering a number of photographic subjects. As you can no doubt ascertain, I enjoyed this book. It is not so voluminous that it becomes a burden, yet it provides a wealth of information on a subject vital to good photography. In a nutshell, I learned a lot.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Covers Autofocus for Nikon, Cannon and Sony

By Tyson Smith

Alan Hess takes on the daunting task of explaining the auto-focus systems of cameras and what settings to use. There are so many brands, so many models, and so many options that this could get very confusing, but he does a good job of explaining the choices and when to use them. To do this he concentrated on Nikon,

Cannon, and Sony but in a way that can be generalized to other manufactures as well.

He starts by defining terms as used by these three systems so that we are all on the same page. There is an understandable description of how auto-focus works in general for through the lens shooting and for live view. Alan includes other important factors like controls on the lens and how exposure settings affect focus. With this under our belts, he gives us a look at the sometimes perplexing decisions photographers have to make about how many focus points to use and what focus mode we should be in. In these chapters, he explains the differences between single point AF mode, dynamic mode, automatic mode, and group mode. He also discusses how multiple focus points work together when they are chosen rather than a single point option.

More practically, after explaining how everything works he gives us examples of when we might want to use the various modes. He also includes a chapter that addresses common autofocus problems and how to trouble shoot them. The book concludes with discussions of when to use manual focus, how to get sharp photos and how to focus for videos.

All in all, there is a lot of material here. It is probably best read with your camera manual in one hand and it in the other. It will define all the confusing terms that are in the manual. You can concentrate on the information on your brand of camera and on the features that your camera manual shows your camera has.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Exactly what I was looking for to help me with focusing

By John Rouse

Love it. Well written. It has been very helpful. I wish there were two separate books, one for Nikon and one for Cannon. But I know this is not practical.

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