



Incorporating Curves into your Photography

By Val Sleger (summarized from articles in [Skylum](#), [Drop/A Wall](#), [Learning with Experts](#)- linked)

One of the challenge words for May is Bend, which might lead you to think about curves and curving lines. Curves “establish spatial continuity, manage the gaze, call for further action, and stir emotion” (skylum). Curves are visually compelling; we can’t help but follow the curve with our eyes. Whether you seek out C-curves or S-curves, architectural curves or those found in nature, incorporating curves can help you compose interesting images.

Curves can physically exist (think a road, path, or river), or be implied. If we see a shape where part of the curve is “missing”, our brains fill in the gaps.

Both C-curves and S-curves are interesting, but S-curves, being longer, will engage the viewer for a longer period of time. It simply takes longer to follow the curve to its terminus.

Changing your viewpoint can influence the strength of a curve in your photo. Getting up a little higher will show more of the curve. Positioning yourself so the curve flows diagonally or vertically will create more visual energy than a curve photographed horizontally.

If you are near water and have the opportunity, photograph both the curve and its reflection to create circular patterns in your image.

A final tip is to place a subject at the far end of a curve. This gives the viewer’s eye a “final destination” as it follows the curve.

Photographing curves can be fun and challenging. Watch for curves and bends for your next photographs, and be sure to share them with the club.

Photoshop Shortcuts

Many photographers use Adobe Photoshop, or Photoshop Elements, to process their photos. Below are a few keyboard shortcuts you might want to commit to memory, to speed your workflow.

CTRL/CMD Z – Undo the last action

CTRL/CMD D – Deselect a selected area

[(left square bracket) – Decrease brush size

] (right square bracket) – Increase brush size

CTRL/CMD S – Save

CTRL/CMD 0 (zero) – refit the image to the window

CTRL/CMD T – activate free transform

CTRL ALT SHIFT S / CMD/OPTION/SHIFT S

Save for Web (select options; output maximized for web posting – small file size)

Weekly Challenge

At each meeting of the Club, held on the 3rd Thursday of each month, four challenge prompts will be presented for the following month. Focus on one word or phrase each week to complete all four to share at the following month's meeting. Folks who can't attend the meetings will get the list in the newsletter. May challenge photos will be shown at the May meeting and included in the June newsletter.

May

Low Light

D is for _____

Bend

Movie: Hope Springs

Meeting Schedule

Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Sierra Vista Police Station Training Room, 911 Coronado, Sierra Vista. Meetings begin at 4 PM. **May meeting: Sunrise/Sunset photos by club members; Club gear demo**

Carrying your camera

Small point & shoot cameras can fit into your pocket. Bridge cameras, or those with smaller lenses, can often be comfortably carried using the provided neck strap. Longer lenses, or those with added battery grips, can quickly become heavy and uncomfortable using just a neck strap. If you are considering a harness or a 3rd-party strap system that is designed for sling or holster use, here are a couple of links that might help with your research.

[Forum discussion: Best choice for sling/strap for a camera and 600mm lens](#)

[Article: 22 Straps Reviewed](#)

[Testing a budget and premium chest harness \(8:03\)](#)

[Camera Strap Review \(several styles/models\) \(12:41\)](#)

Officers

President: Sheila Foraker

Vice-President & Program Coordinator: Bob Luce

Secretary: Joyce Genske

Treasurer: Madeleine Charron

2025 Meetings Calendar

May 15: Sunrise/Sunsets (Club Members) and Club Gear Demo (Mark)

June 19: Trail Cam photos, and Processed photos from October's 30-minute challenge walk

July 17: Post processing with alternatives to Photoshop (Norm)

August 21: Focus on Water (Club Members)

September 18: Roadside Finds (Joyce)

October 16: Minimalism in Photos (Jon)

November 20: Year in Review – Member's Best/Favorite Photos of 2025

December 18: Holiday Party and Club Elections



April challenge words:

Now

C is for _____

Put Something in the Foreground

Movie: The Substance

Submitted by Val Sleger



C is for Curve



Put Something in the Foreground

April challenge words:

Now

C is for _____

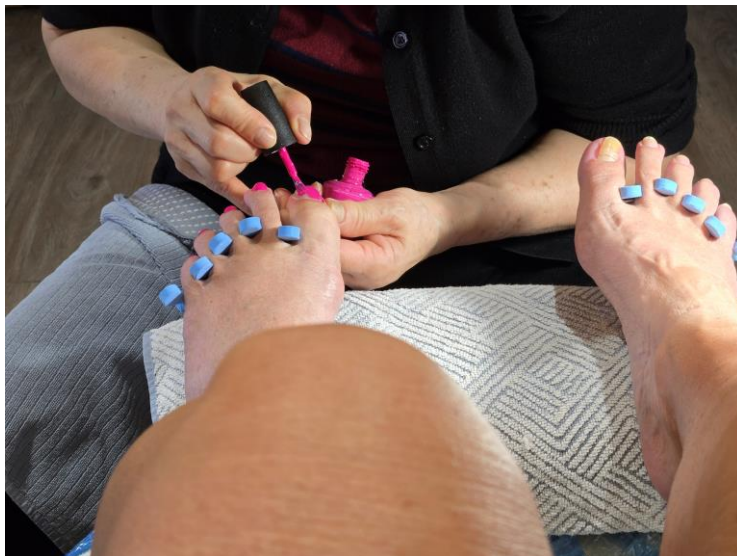
Put Something in the Foreground

Movie: The Substance

Submitted by Val Sleger



The Substance



Now

April challenge words:

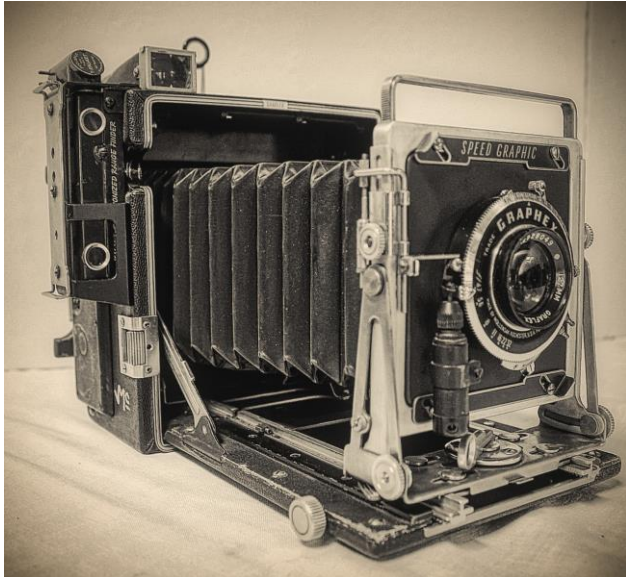
Now

C is for _____

Put Something in the Foreground

Movie: The Substance

Submitted by Joyce Genske



C is for Camera, and Coyote



April challenge words:

Now

C is for _____

Put Something in the Foreground

Movie: The Substance

Submitted by Joyce Genske



Put Something in the Foreground:
Moose
Weeds



April challenge words:

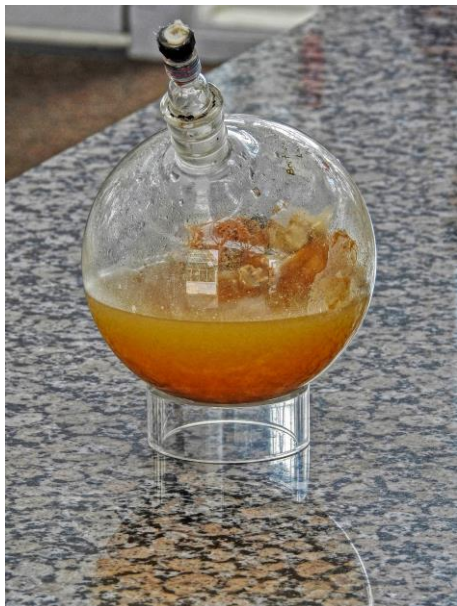
Now

C is for _____

Put Something in the Foreground

Movie: The Substance

Submitted by Joyce Genske



Movie: The Substance



Now: Flower Clock