

Photographing Evidence

A. Basic Principles

1. Take two photographs of each item of evidence
 - a) One should be an orientation (midrange) shot to show how the item is related to its surroundings
 - b) The second photograph should be a close-up to bring out the details of the object itself
2. Measuring and marking devices
 - a) Take two photographs if a marking or measuring device is used
 - (1) One photograph without the device, the other with the device
 - (2) So the defense can't claim that the scene was altered or that the device was concealing anything important
3. Fill the frame of your view with the evidence
4. Position of Camera and Scales
 - a) Keep the film plane parallel with the evidence
 - b) Fill the frame with your evidence
 - c) Place the scale on the same plane as the evidence
5. Exposure
 - a) Preview lighting
 - b) Use a gray card for ambient light exposures
 - c) Bracket exposures
6. Digital image type
7. Lighting techniques
 - a) Direct lighting
 - (1) Normal copy lighting with one or more light sources at 45-degree angles
 - b) Oblique lighting
 - (1) Use light source at low angle, usually used to show detail by creating shadows in the subject surface
 - c) Bounce lighting
 - (1) Light is bounced off a white or reflective surface

- d) Diffused lighting
 - (1) An opaque material is placed between the light source and subject
- e) Transmitted lighting
 - (1) With transparent subjects the light source is transmitted through the subject toward the lens
- f) Front directional or axis lighting
 - (1) Use when photographing into holes or cylinders

B. Close up photography

- 1. Close-up lenses and devices
- 2. Focusing
 - a) Use a copy stand or tripod when possible
- 3. Focusing while hand-holding the camera
 - a) Rough size (scale) the subject by focusing with the lens focus ring (manual focus). Then stop focusing with the focus ring.
 - b) Fine focus the subject by moving the camera in or out from the subject
 - c) While maintaining the fine focus by moving the camera in or out slightly, lightly depress the shutter button