





How I Prepare My Photography Gear

Step-By-Step Guide




I prepare my photography gear systematically to ensure that I'm always fully prepared for a shoot, here are the 10 steps that I go through.



1. Decide which gear I need.

Now I have quite a bit of photography gear and I probably use about 15% of it. I use the same camera lens and tripod combo on most of my shoots. So, what I do is I get the gear that I need, and I put the rest into a separate bag, so number one is to decide which gear I need.





2. Pack spares in a separate bag.

Now the spares will be anything critical, like another camera and lens which mean that if my main camera fails, I have a full backup so I can carry on.

The spares go in a separate bag, and the separate bag also goes in my car.



3. Clean everything.

I clean the front and rear lens elements of every lens that I'm taking. I clean the front and rear lens elements of every lens that's in the spare bag. I clean the LCD screen, the viewfinder, the camera body, my glasses, everything gets cleaned before it's put away (including me).



4. Charge my batteries.

Now I go on a shoot with three batteries. I only ever (normally) use one battery, I've got to be honest with you. Every now and then on a long shoot, I've had to use two batteries but never ever more than two. So, if two batteries die randomly, I have one spare.




5. Format memory cards

Now this is important.

It's all important but this is one that you might not have thought about. I format all the memory cards (note backing up memory cards – be for formatting).


I format memory cards using my camera - my Nikon Z8 if I'm going to be using that or using my Nikon Z7ii if I am going to use this.



I always format the cards in camera, which is the best and only way you should do it. Please just believe me on that.

I put two cards in each camera, they are 128 CFX and 128 SD-gigabyte memory cards (good quality at that). They're not huge. They don't need to be.

I'll probably take a few more SD memory cards, I put in a waterproof case.



So, during the shoot, I will take a card out of the camera and I will put it in a hard, unbreakable waterproof SD card holder case, but I put it upside down, so I know it has been used.

That means I know which are the blank formatted cards, and which are the cards with images on them. Now I do this all the time. If I'm going on holiday, I will do that every day. So, every day I've got the cards with the photos are safe and I know where my memory cards are, this is how I manage data.



6. Choose a bag

Now depending on what I'm doing that will dictate which bag I take. For Landscape and architectural photography, I use the lowepro Design Everyday backpack. I am not being paid to say that - it's just a great bag. I don't carry a lot of gear, and I need it in the backpacks, so my hands are free.



7. Pack the gear I need.


I only take on shoots the gear that I need.





8. Pack the spares bag(s)

Everything else goes in these. And it's normally left in my car. So, it's within reach if I need it.





9. Pack the other odd stuff.

When I say other stuff, this is stuff including things like a mono pod, in case I need to stick my camera up in the air, and a pair of waders in case I need to stand in a river. That kind of thing. And for wet days a raincoat, rubber boots, and gloves for cold days this all needs to be packed away. So, it's not just about the photography gear, the photography stuff is quite easily managed.



10. Check the other stuff.



So, I'm talking to you about things like the weather, distance, traffic, parking, etc.





Important Stuff

This is important stuff because this is making sure that we have a system and are always prepared for any shoot. Since I've adopted this quite rigid system, I've never had a problem.



Thank you
I hope all your Photography trips go well