

# How to take BETTER Hall of Fame pictures (or pictures in general)

## *Introduction*

- So, now that you've learned the basics from the previous PDF, I'll teach you more techniques to further improve your photos.



## *Light Play*

- A big part of photography is the lighting (or lack of it), as it can make or break an image. To introduce a new perspective to an image, you must understand the light dynamics, its contrasts with the subject and its counterpart, shadows or dark areas.
- Now, I know this is very hard to master 'cause every situation is different in its way as you really can't control time/weather, but there are some tips and techniques that might help you next time you try shooting.

## *Sunny/Clear*

- The most hated weather condition by photographers, as it makes an image quite hard to expose correctly, but don't worry, we don't have to worry about that in-game, as it exposes automatically for us. Even if it does that for us, we still need to be a step up from others, so here's something for you:
  - Is anything wrong with this image?



- We would all agree that this is an okay image: the car is standing out from the foreground and background, it's using the rule of thirds and it's exposed correctly. Weelll, wouldn't you also agree that it's kind of dull? The car has no distinguishing features as it looks flat and plain ol' boring.



- How about this one?



- I'd agree it's even worse! We can't see the cars' paint correctly; there are weird reflections because GTA is 30 years old, while the car still seems boring.

- Now you understand why taking a good photo in this setting could be a pain, but we can take advantage of the things that ruin it. How about balancing both shadows and highlights of the scene, creating a different perspective while maintaining the car as the main subject?



- Check that out. Doesn't that create a new dynamic for the whole scene? The sharp contrast between light and darkness is a diamond in the rough for photography.

### *Cloudy/Overcast*

- The dream for most photographers. A setting that no matter what, you expose correctly for the whole scene since it doesn't have much of a contrast, unlike those sunny days.
- It's the perfect time to bring your flashy/colourful cars out of the garage, or whether you're taking a HOF picture, you've lucked out! These settings allow the colour to pop without being oversaturated.





## *Foggy*

- A setting that allows you to bring a bit of mystery and questions to the photo or scene itself. Fog's great to introduce a new dynamic, allowing the viewer to ask even more questions about your work, so use this to your advantage.
- Create a mood and explore it.



- This will also allow the car to stand out against the background, so pick an exciting background to better convey your feelings. One last thing to note, This weather condition could also show the subject's aggressive look, or sharp lines, so keep that in mind.

### *Rain/Thunder*

- Another setting that allows you to explore the emotions that you want to share. Mystery, glamour, and elegance are all things that could be easily portrayed in a rainy scene.



- Take a good look at your surroundings. As it rains, puddles start to form around you, so use that to get a unique look to your image and stand out from the rest.
- How pretty can you make an image look?





## *Night*

- This is the only time setting I'm adding since it can be challenging to take a decent photo while being original doing it. Now let's look at this image:



- Well, it's pretty self-explanatory, right? Having your headlights on or off doesn't make that big of a difference, as you can barely see the car. Try adding a common technique implemented in studio photography, a spotlight or a single light source, as it lights up the subject well enough, making it stand out while maintaining a simple and clean image. Check that out:



- I'd say it's way better.

## *Adding Depth*

- One way to make a photo more appealing is by adding elements that complement the subject and the scene. The most common way to do so is by adding a foreground piece, thus not making the image look flat.



- Let me remind you that this might not work for every single picture you're trying to take, but it's always good to explore and take in your surroundings when you're shooting. In my honest opinion, both pictures look good, but there's a slight difference that could make or break them.
- Also, remember that GTA is an old game, so textures might not be as high quality as you thought, so if you add it to the foreground, it might show how old the game is, thus ruining the immersion.



### *Choosing the scene*

- Touchy subject this one, but I'm always here to give my 2 cents on it. One thing to make a photo more appealing and immersive is complementing the subject with the scene around it. So think about something that relates to the car itself: Would a supercar fit in the middle of a mountain? Would a big offroad machine fit in a racetrack? Probably not.



- You have endless opportunities in GTA, so why not make them worthy? Take the time, choose the spot and shoot away. Add cars, planes, boats, lights, buildings, you name it, just make sure it makes sense. Let me show you a couple more photos so you can understand.







- You get my point. It's easy to make a decent photo look good if you have enough effort or patience to do so. Explore and have fun!

### ***Conclusion***

- Maybe you've read through it all or just skipped to the end, I hope this small guide will help you with your photography and to improve and expand your horizons. Remember, have fun and keep shooting!

