

Three essential tips for making your zoom lens your best friend

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3-4 minutes



Zoom lenses have plenty of uses and offer incredible versatility, allowing you to capture a wide range of subjects and scenes without physically moving. However, to truly harness the potential of your zoom lens, there are some key tips and techniques. In his recent video, Roman Fox shares some useful tips for making the best out of every zoom lens that you own.

1. Treat your zoom like a collection of primes

One of the most effective ways to use a zoom lens is to think of it as a collection of prime lenses. Instead of constantly adjusting the zoom, try setting it to a specific focal length and using it as if it were a prime lens. This approach can help you develop a better understanding of each [focal length's](#) unique characteristics and how you can use it to create different effects.

For example, if you have a 24-70mm zoom lens, you could experiment with using it at 24mm, 35mm, 50mm, and 70mm for extended periods. This will allow you to become

familiar with the strengths and limitations of each [focal length](#) and how they can be used to capture different types of subjects and scenes. This is also a great approach if you're looking into buying a new (or your first) prime lens. This way, you can see which [focal length suits your work best](#) and make a more informed decision.

Prioritize composition over zooming

While zooming can be tempting, it's essential to prioritize composition. Instead of relying solely on zooming, try moving around the scene to find the best angle and perspective. This will help you create more dynamic and engaging images.

Remember, just zooming in can sometimes lead to a flat or uninteresting composition. By moving around the scene, you can add depth, dimension, and [interest to your photos](#). Experiment with different angles, distances, and perspectives to find the most compelling composition.

So, don't be lazy. Don't just stand in one place and zoom in and out. Remember, the best photos are often captured by photographers who are willing to move around and experiment with different perspectives.

Start wide and zoom in

Roman suggests starting with the widest focal length on your zoom lens and gradually zooming in as needed. This approach makes it easier to assess the composition and avoid missing potential shots. By starting wide, you can capture more of the scene and get a better sense of the overall context. As you zoom in, you can focus on specific elements or subjects within the scene. This technique can be particularly helpful when photographing landscapes, architecture, or group portraits. I won't work that well for fast-paced street, sport, or [wildlife shots](#), though.

By following these tips, you can elevate your photography and make the most of your zoom lens. There's a bonus tip I'd add – analyze your previously taken photos to see which focal lengths you use the most. This way, you'll understand your work and your needs better, and make better decisions when investing in your gear further.

[[Zoom Better Like This](#) | Roman Fox]