Tips on CROPPING
By Clem Wehner

CROPPING
Trimming the edges of an image

- Change the size of the image
- Change the aspect ratio
- Change the composition
- Emphasize the subject
- Eliminate distractions

CROPPING

BEST

In Camera - viewfinder
Before pressing the shutter
(recompose the scene)

In Computer - software
After taking the photo
(move the edges)

Here are some tips to help you

TIP

In dynamic situations (animals, action, etc)

Shoot a little wide, crop later

If shot like this:

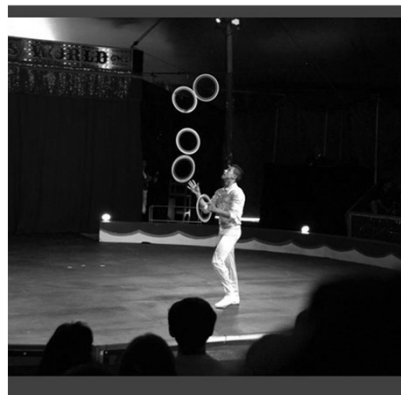You can't show this:

For action shots: shoot a little wide, crop later

If shot like this:

You can't show this:

Consider shooting a little wide

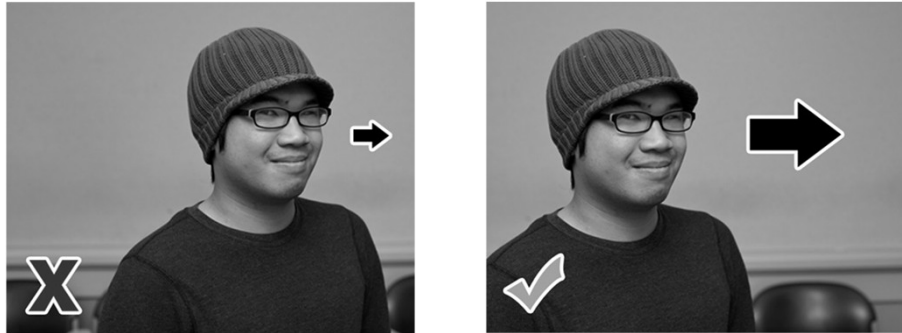Especially if you're not sure of the final presentation

Photos by Fran Wehner

Don't crop at joints

If it bends, don't crop it there !

Don't face into the side of frame
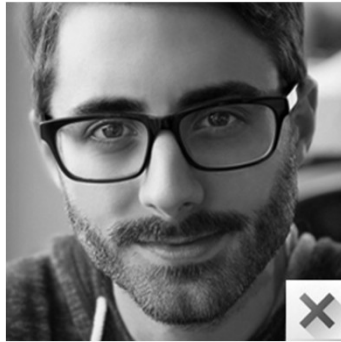

Crop in enough so it doesn't look like a mistake

Poor crop
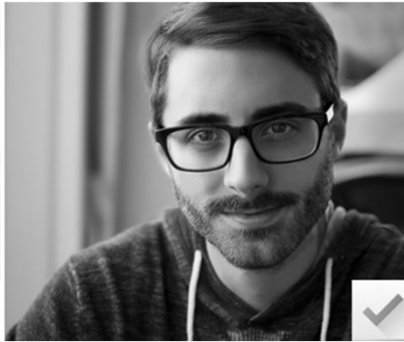(Is he bald?)

This is OK.
(Hairline is complete)

This is not too bad
(it looks deliberate)

Oops!   **BETTER**

Crop so eyes are at "thirds" line

Don't crop at the chin

X

by Fran Wehner

Eliminate unnecessary parts of image

Don't let nose block part of the eye

X   X

Don't let nose block the cheek line

Oops!   Perfect!

X   ✓

Crop out distractions

Crop to eliminate distractions

not this

this

photo by Clem Wehner

photo by Clem Wehner

Crop to position the subject using "Thirds"

OK   **much better**

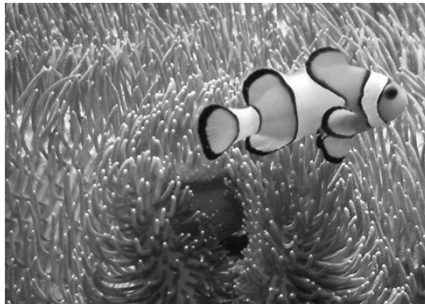photo by John Powers   photo by John Powers

Leave room in front of moving subjects

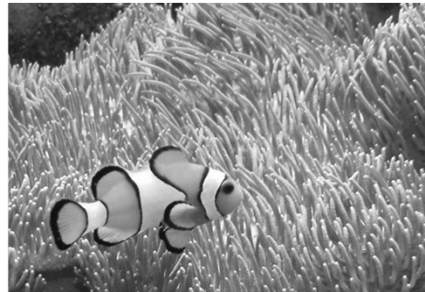**not this**   **this**

photo by Clem Wehner   photo by Clem Wehner

Leave room in front of subjects that imply motion

X

If it's supposed to move, leave room

not this X   this

Crop to change orientation

It's your choice

**Don't unintentionally crop out
the horizon on landscapes**

Oops!

Crop for special effects

Crop tighter to add drama

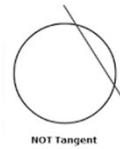**Crop to a different shape**

Clem Wehner
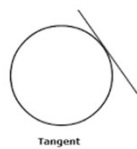
Experiment

Anita Page

Marie Butler

Fran Wehner

Crop to tell or enhance a story

Fran Wehner

Avoid "Tangents" when cropping

Tangent- a line touching, but not intersecting another line

Ask yourself:

"Does this crop look deliberate or does it look like a mistake?"
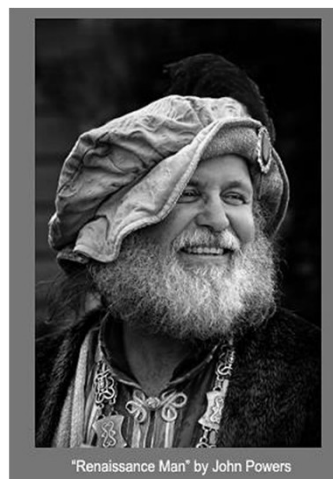
Mistake?   Probably deliberate

Clem Wehner

Be careful not to overcrop

X

"Renaissance Man" by John Powers
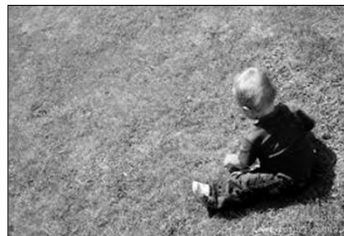
CROP WITH __BALANCE__ IN MIND
Compose image so that similar weight is on each side

BALANCED

UNBALANCED

To keep balance, compensate for
each element with a counter-weight

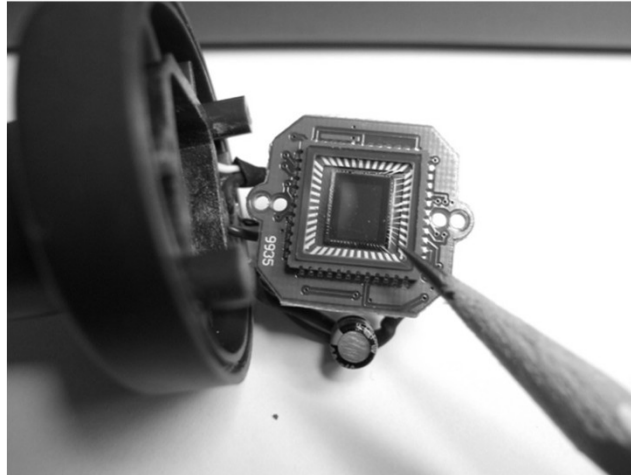**Cropping can affect balance of the image**

CROP TO MINIMIZE IMBALANCE

Cropping, Clarity, and Megapixels

SENSOR CHIP REPLACED FILM

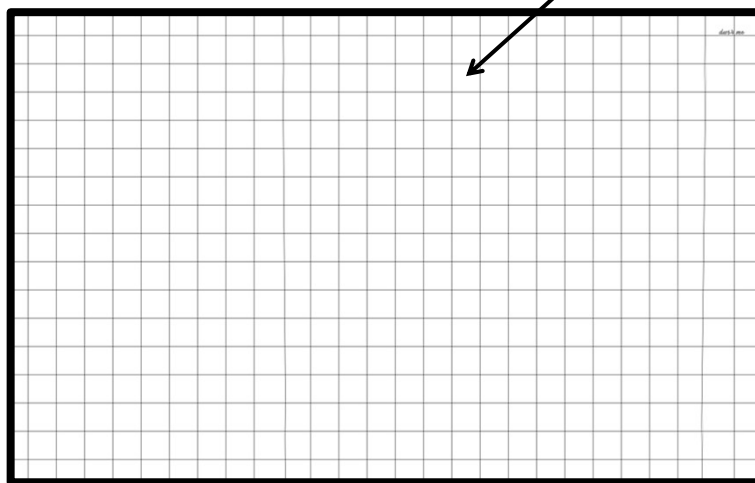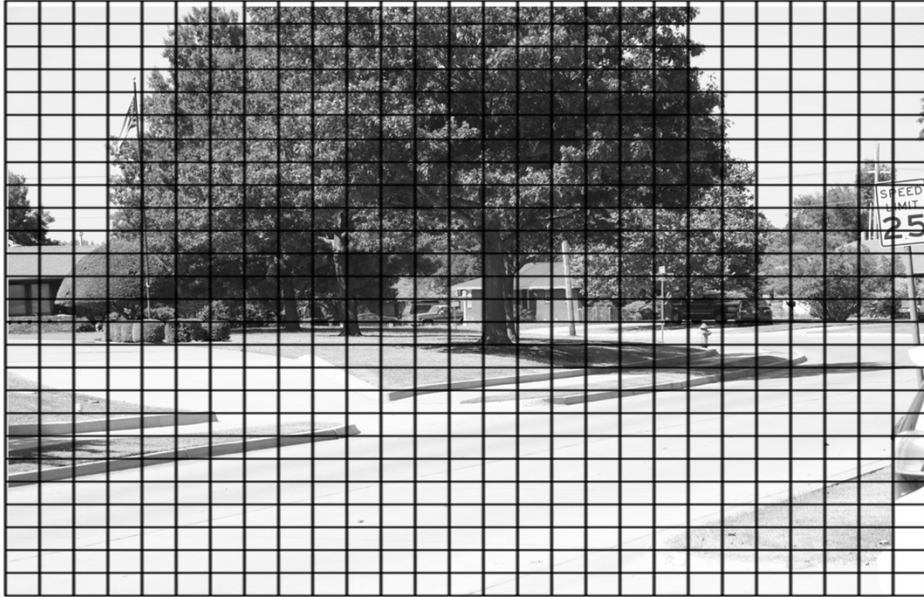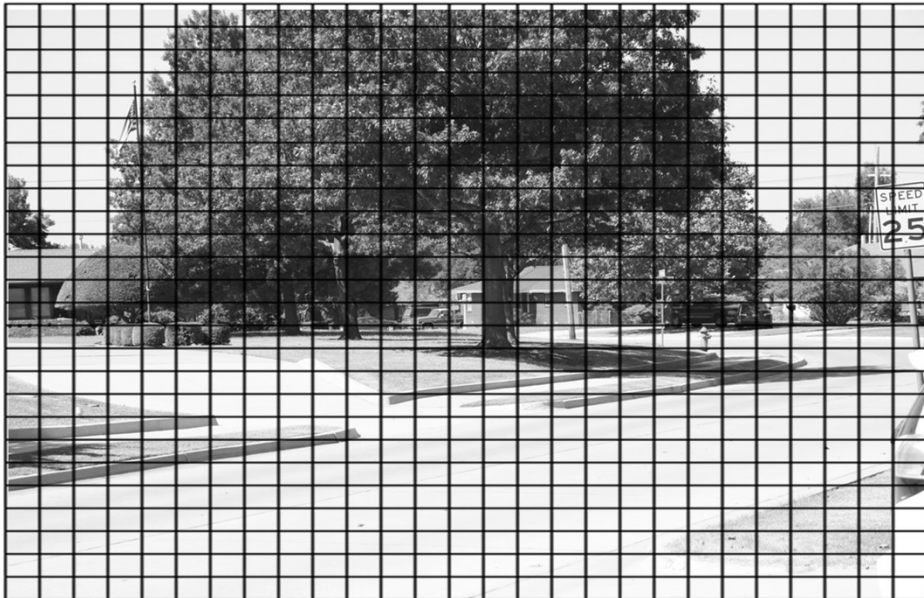**Chip is divided into many sections called picture elements (pixels)**

IMAGE IS SUPERIMPOSED ONTO THIS MATRIX OF PIXELS

EACH PIXEL CONTAINS ONLY A SMALL PART OF THE WHOLE IMAGE
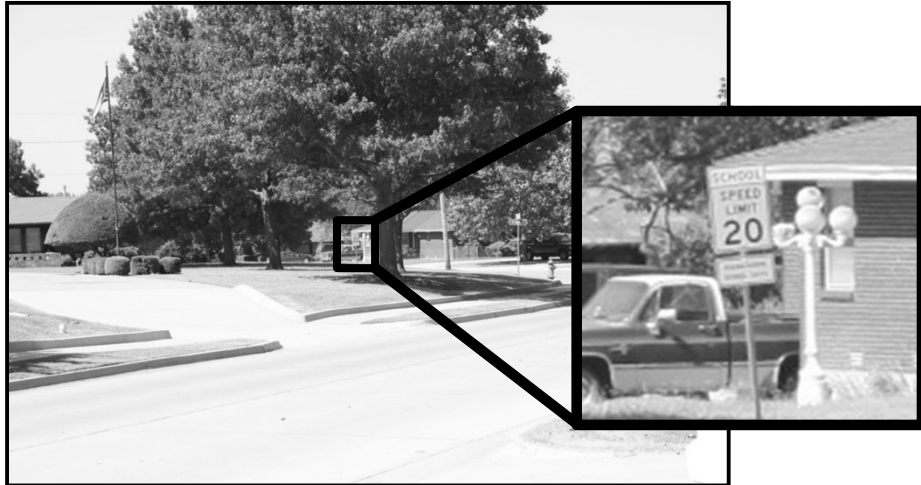
CROPPING ELIMINATES A LOT OF PIXELS OF IMAGE

WHEN YOU ENLARGE THE REMAINING IMAGE TO FILL THE SCREEN

IT GETS BLURRY !

Remember, CROPPING MAY RESULT IN A BLURRIER IMAGE

If you know you want a close up

Zoom in with your lens, BEFORE pressing the shutter

For clearest image of small distant object:

Instead of shooting then cropping later

:

ZOOM IN

<u>BEFORE</u>

PRESSING THE SHUTTER