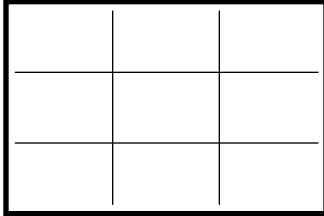


## Rule of Thirds

Composition based on the rule of thirds is a simple technique that will improve the way your photography looks, easily and immediately.



*Division of a frame according to the rule of thirds.*

This rule, whose origin can be traced back to the *golden mean* used by the old masters for composing their paintings, consist of tracing two imaginary lines inside and along the vertical and horizontal sides of the frame area, all equidistant of each other and of the parallel sides, resulting in a grid that effectivelly divides the frame in nine quadrants.

To compose a balanced scene, we should arrange the elements so as they are in clear—although not strict—relationship with either the vertices, the lines and/or the quadrants of our thirds. In this way we end with a well balanced composition. The same principle applies if you turn the camera to compose for a vertical frame.

The horizon in a landscape, a bulky form or something with a contrasty or outstanding form or color should correspond to the thirds. In a portrait, the head, and more precisely the eyes, are the visual center of attention, and in a symetric composition we could the quadrant in the middle as the main reference.

Study the photographs that you like and you will discover that almost all of them can be related to a composition based on the rule of thirds.

*Bigger volumes and strong lines are better distributed using the thirds as a reference. Here, the potato sits amid a quadrant, while the siccsors cross diagonally along two vertices.*



*In a portrait, the center of attention is in the eyes, but also the direction of sight and even the pose and body inclination are to be observed.*

