

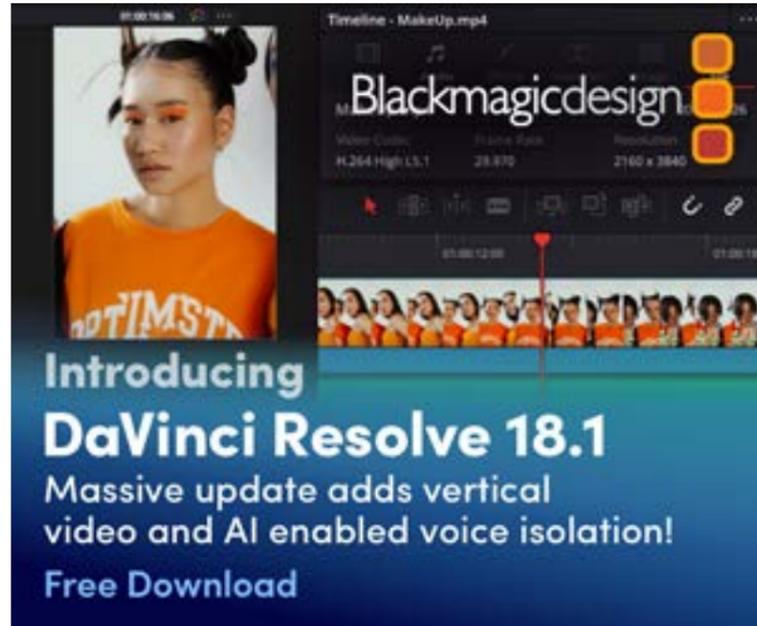


# Creative Content

March 17th 2023

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- **Interview: Charles Pakana (VAN)**
- **Flying Drones for Fun and Profit.  
What You Need to Know!**
- **Review: Teleprompter Pro**
- **3D Modelling and Animation Training**
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**Cover:** *Meelup Beach in the Naturaliste National Park  
Shot on Fujifilm X-S10*



# editorial

## Good afternoon / evening

This month so far seems to have been The Month for Drones.

In the last two weeks we have covered everything from the need for insurance when flying, the rules to be able to make money from your drone (which is easier than you think as it turns out) and if you want to go full on with your drone as a professional flyer, the courses available - and in some cases necessary – to be able to do so.

I also delved back into Cinema 4D this month and discovered a brilliant training course for it that is free, covering everything from the basics to advanced modelling and animation.

In between times I managed to put together a quick tutorial on the Rule of Thirds, what it is and when to use it, and also revisited Teleprompter Pro software which is still a bargain for a fully featured teleprompter system on your PC.

Feel free to pass this e-magazine to anyone else of course, and to keep daily up to date with everything in the world of being creative, visit <https://creativecontent.au>

If you have any issues, ideas, complaints or hopefully bouquets, please do contact me!

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# news snippets from around the place

## Gravity Media chooses FUJINON 4K lenses for Supercars

Recently Gravity Media had a requirement to significantly bolster and upgrade its 4K broadcast lens inventory, in particular for use at the Repco Supercars Championship races, and for that they chose FUJINON UA125x8BESM and FUJINON UA107x8.4BESM lenses.

[More](#)

## Blackmagic Design: New ATEM Mic Converter and more

Blackmagic Design today announced the Blackmagic Studio Camera 6K Pro, a new more powerful studio camera model that features an EF lens mount, a larger 6K sensor for improved colorimetry and fine detail handling, ND filters and built in live streaming via Ethernet or mobile data. Blackmagic Studio Camera 6K Pro shares the same compact all-in-one design of the studio camera family with a lightweight carbon fiber reinforced polycarbonate body, large integrated 7" HDR viewfinder and powerful broadcast connections.

[More](#)

## Resurgence in higher end cameras?

In what I suspected would happen, according to Japanese trade group CIPA (Camera and Imaging Products Association), the value of camera sales values is up, compared to 2019 at least.

Apparently back then, a 'standard' camera purchase was around



AUD\$450 but in 2022 CIPA says, that has increased to a smidgeon over AUD\$900. Individual shipments of cameras has jumped 40% in the last 12 months they say.

In a further comparison, in 2008 the global digital camera market was valued at around AUD\$23 billion, and this was comprised of 120 million shipped units. In 2020 the value had rocketed to AUD\$1.6 billion, but the number of units had dropped to 22.8 million.

What does this tell us?

[More](#)

## Avatar: The Way of the Water. How to make an Avatar film

Last night there was a special screening of an Art of the Cut chat with famed Steve Hullfish who was talking to the editing team from Avatar: The Way of Water, currently nominated for four Academy Awards (Best Picture, Best VFX, Best Sound, and Best Production Design).

It is now available for others to view and well worth the effort to see just how it all works behind the scenes.

[More](#)

## New ad from Coca-Cola. Its a masterpiece to say the least.

Sometimes you see something and think, "wow, I want to learn how they do that and have a crack myself".

This new ad from Coca-Cola is one of those things in my opinion.

[More](#)



# drone flying for fun and profit

*There is so much interest in drones of late I decided to find a company that specialised in the training of pilots to see what was involved. This then evolved into a much bigger story, so I have broken it into a 3 part series.*

*My investigations led me to the CEO of Global Drone Solutions, Mahmood Hussein, and I asked him about how he started the company (and why), what it did, and for who, plus his thoughts on the current and future status of the drone industry.*



***Creative Content: When did Global Drone Solutions start and what was the catalyst for its formation?***

Mahmood Hussein: I was born in Pakistan and my parents moved to the UK where I later qualified as a mechanical engineer. Moving to Australia, I established Global Drone Solutions in 2016 when the drone industry was in its infancy. The use of drone technology had been pioneered in the military;

however, I identified the rapid adoption of drone technology in a wide variety of industries and determined that the technology was driving new industry methodologies.

Drones could be used in the collection and analysis of big data – communicating the insights from this data significantly improves profitability for companies by reducing costs and risks whilst improving



# flying for fun and profit



operational efficiency and safety. I realised that as more industries and sectors sought to take advantage of drone technology, there would be a strong and increasing demand for qualified, well trained drone pilots, and that the sector would not develop without skilled operators.

**Creative Content: Who are the majority of your clients? What industries are they in?**

Mahmood Hussein: Clients include state government departments, local government authorities, emergency services, and mining and oil and gas companies.

Since establishing the drone pilot training academy my team has trained over 3000 pilots, and in the process, we have built a reputation for delivering exceptional training. This is demonstrated by the rapid growth of the business, the extensive number of positive student reviews and the loyal customers who have been with GDS since inception. Currently GDS employs 15 full-time equivalent staff at its head office in Technology Park Bentley and has another 15 contractors located around Australia.

**Creative Content: How is the training delivered?**

Mahmood Hussein: When GDS commenced trading, all training was delivered face-to-face. I later took a leap of faith and took the decision to develop online training courses. This would provide an opportunity for trainees to study the theory compo-

nent, which usually takes five days face-to-face, in their own time. This is a huge advantage for those living in a remote location, or who cannot make the time commitment to the full five-day training course in person. Developing the online material consumed considerable time and finances, with no assurance that it would be accepted by CASA or the market.

However, the risk paid off and it has been highly successful, even allowing GDS to double its turnover during the initial impact of the COVID pandemic.

**Creative Content: What services do you offer?**

Mahmood Hussein: Global Drone Solutions offer a wide range of online and classroom drone courses to cater for a variety of applications, whether you are a recreational user,

drone business start-up, commercial organisation or an advanced operator. These include the basic RePL (Remote Pilot's Licence) and RePL with Aeronautical Radio Operator certificate and Remote Operators certificate, plus Advanced Drone Courses aimed at specialist applications.

**Creative Content: Why is it important to get trained, registered and licenced?**

Mahmood Hussein: Apart from the obvious gaining of skill sets necessary for flying drones, especially in difficult circumstances, if you wish to pursue drone flying as a business, it is highly unlikely anyone would hire you if you were NOT registered and licenced.

**Creative Content: Is it important that users of consumer drones also get registered?**



Mahmood Hussein: Whilst it is not mandatory in this country as yet, unless your drone is over 2Kg in weight, apart from any training, I'd always advise recreational users get registered with the regulatory authority CASA. There are a number of benefits including;

For the rest of the story [click here](#)

# teleprompter pro

*Back in 2019 I discovered a neat piece of software called Teleprompter Pro.*

At the time, I was creating tutorials for Sony's Vegas Creative Software division (now owned by German company MAGIX) and it was a perfect fit for my Windows Surface.

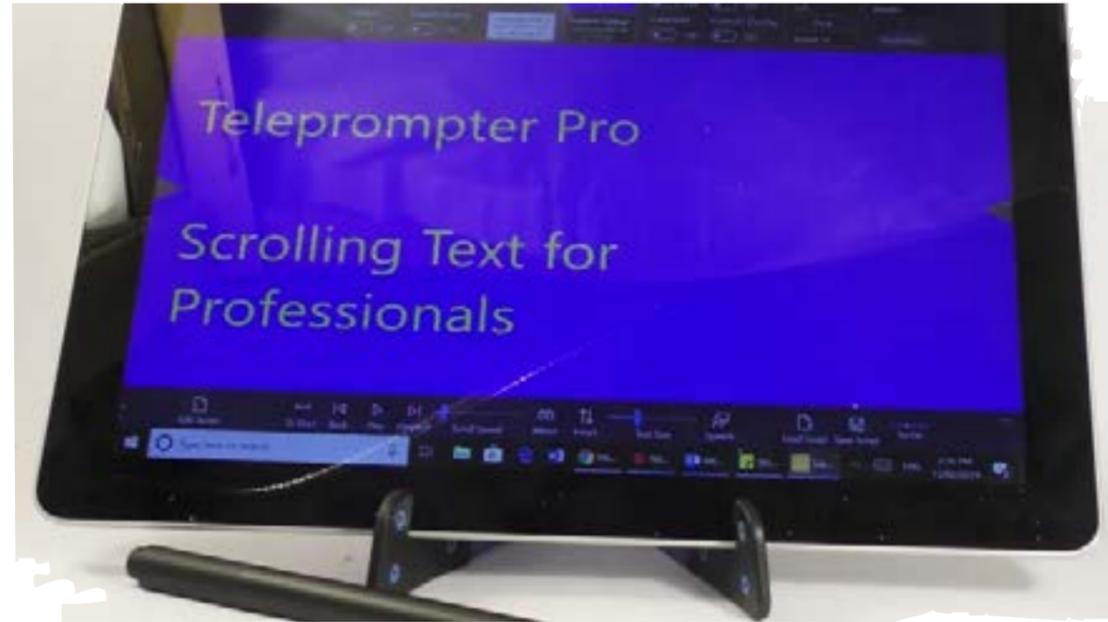
And at USD\$8.99 it was cheap! When I downloaded it, frankly for that price I didn't expect too much, but was then blown away by its capability!

I recently dug out the ol' Surface for another project and was reminded of Teleprompter Pro and wondered if it was still around.

And yes indeed it is in the Windows Store. And it appears to work perfectly under Windows 11.

So below is the original review. If you have a need for a robust teleprompter that supports native Word files, go and have a look at it.

I just downloaded it for my main



PC and I wasn't asked for a credit card or other details so it may well be free by now.

## Teleprompter Pro

Way back when, I worked as a contractor for a Perth company called Computer Television, and this job entailed writing scripts and directing educational / training films written around the use of Microsoft products, specifically Windows and Office.

(We also did the training videos for AutoCAD and Filemaker Plus, plus a couple of medically based ones I would rather forget thank you!)

The gear used was Panasonic M5(?) based – tape of course, no digital back then – and final output was to VHS videotape. And we sold SH-EDLOADS of 'em, mainly to corporate types at \$2K a set for Office.

Initially, these were very dry in content, very factual, and well, boring. And tedious to write. So,

I had a Bright Idea. Wouldn't it be fun to rewrite these and create training videos based around how an organisation might use these applications in the real world?

I had contacts in the radio world – back then, Radio 6PM in Subiaco specifically – so approached the station manager who I knew (Gary Roberts) to see if we could shoot the stories in the studios and around the station, and yay! He agreed.

## Alfoil?

All this is leading to the fact that at the time we had cutting edge tech for cameras, lights, audio (oooh radio mics!) and the like, but the script was read by the talent from a l-o-n-g sheet of paper holding the printed words in something like 72 or 96 point, and gradually unrolled from an old alfoil cardboard tube by a gopher.

Fast forward 20 years + to a few

months back when I received the fabulous Microsoft Surface for review, and wondered; "Is there an app that allows the Surface to become a teleprompter?"

And so a quick Google search found Teleprompter Pro from UK based Phillip Littlewood, who runs a company called Purple Wizard Software.

And it costs the princely sum of AUD\$8.99. Yep. Eight Dollars and Ninety Nine Cents.

Now for less than 9 bucks, you are probably thinking pah! Must be crap. And you'll be very, very wrong.

## Description

Teleprompter Pro is a Windows app that needs Windows 8 or greater to run. I have it on Windows 10 Professional, and so get all of the functionality, and that is a lot indeed.

## The Interface

Once loaded, Teleprompter Pro shows two menu bars, one along the top of the screen and one along the bottom. Either or both of these can turn off in operation.

The top menu contains information relating to screen dimensions, font size, type and colouring (including foreground and background), text alignment and scaling.

Other options include showing the total time of the script and the time left when reading (more on these in a second).

To read the rest of the review and see download details, [please click here.](#)

# teleprompter pro

# interview: charles pakana (victorian aboriginal news)



*I first met Aboriginal journalist Charles Pakana, born Keir Wells, in the early eighties when he and I were both freelancing in the personal computer magazine industry.*

That was close on 40 years ago and we have both moved on significantly from those heydays of freelance journalism

Now, Charles heads up a small business called Victorian Aboriginal News, which sees him travelling across Victoria in his Transit

van and seeking out stories that other journalists either can't do or simply don't want to

In this interview, I catch up with Charles and ask him about his work.

**Creative Content: What is Victorian Aboriginal News and how did it start?**

CP: It all came about as a result of having travelling allowance disallowed when I was the Treaty journalist and broadcaster at a Melbourne radio station. My station manager, a non-Aboriginal man, told me that all my interviews now had to be done by telephone and that face-to-face interviews on Country, even with Elders, were no longer allowed.

I remember coming home from that meeting and saying to my mother: "When you fall off the perch, I'm going to get rid of everything, move into a mobile home and travel Victoria re-

porting on positive Aboriginal stories and give them away for free!" That's what happened.

I quit my radio job, focused on looking after Mum and getting ready for the inevitable. When that happened, and with much-needed financial support from my brother, I purchased a new Ford Transit van, gave away most of my possessions and fitted out the van with a very bare-bones setup.

The one thing I didn't skimp on, though, was power - 600Ah of Lithium Ion batteries and half the roof covered in solar panels.

That was over two years ago, and I've been living full-time in that van ever since. Yeah, at 65 years of age I'm a full-time van lifer. BTW, it's purely coincidence that the acronym of my company is VAN. A happy coincidence, though. :-

**Creative Content: Do you podcast, vlog or both?**

CP: Well, you and I go back a long way, and like you I started off as a print media journalist back in the early eighties, covering the burgeoning computer industry.

I had just left the Army after a nine-year stint as an infantryman and was looking for a totally different career path.

Most of the past 40 years has been self-employed/freelancing under my birth name of Keir Wells, and it wasn't until about six years ago that I was asked to go on radio and concentrate on Aboriginal current affairs, which is where I fell in love with audio and podcasting.

But to your question, I currently run a twice-weekly podcast called the Referendum '23 Tapes, which is an ongoing series of interviews with politicians,

activists, business leaders, community leaders and subject-matter experts from across Australia. As the name implies, it's all about the forthcoming Referendum on a First Nations Voice to Parliament enshrined in the Constitution.

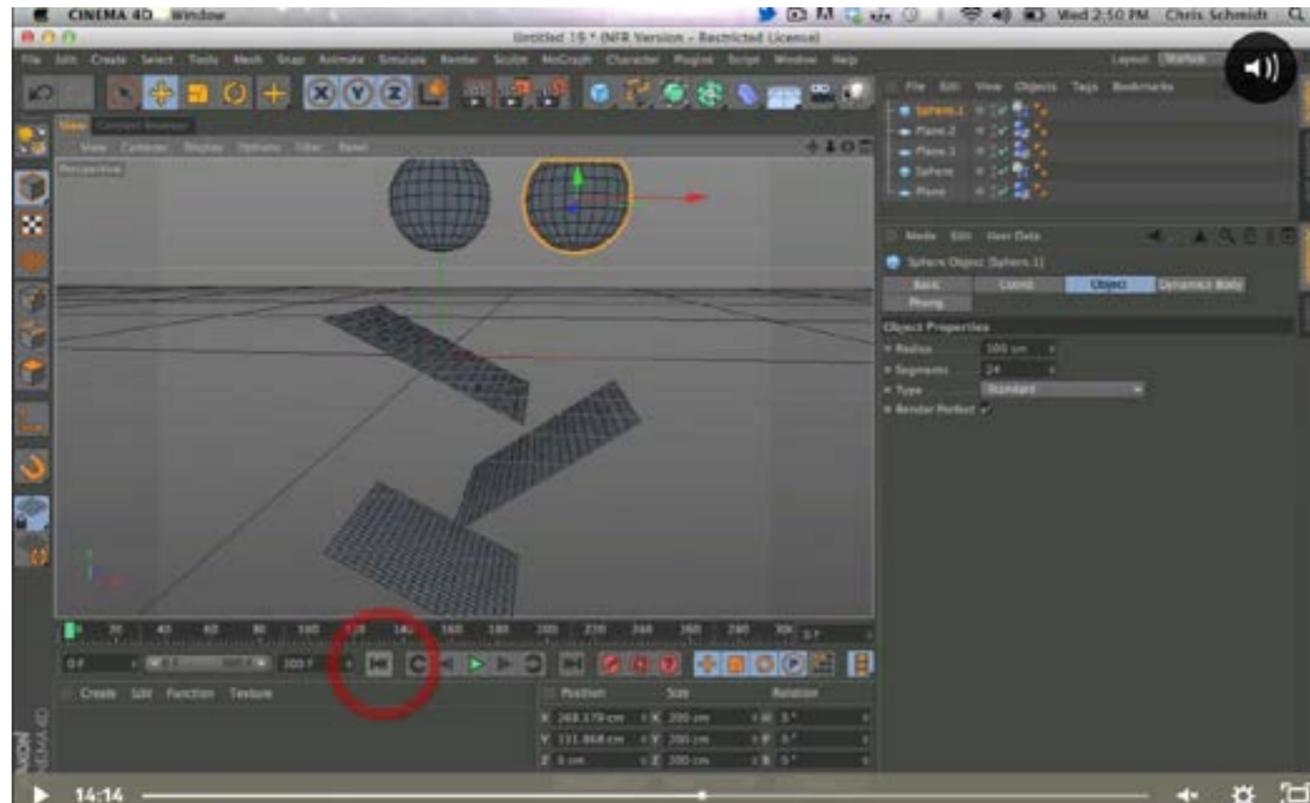
On top of that I'm in the production stage of a new video project called the Leader Tapes.

This really gets to the heart of Victorian Aboriginal News - travelling across Victoria and capturing the stories and experiences of amazing Aboriginal Elders and leaders.

I'm hoping that this will be launched in early June this year...fingers crossed

To read the rest of the interview and see how Charles puts it together technically, [please click here.](#)

# 3D modelling and animation



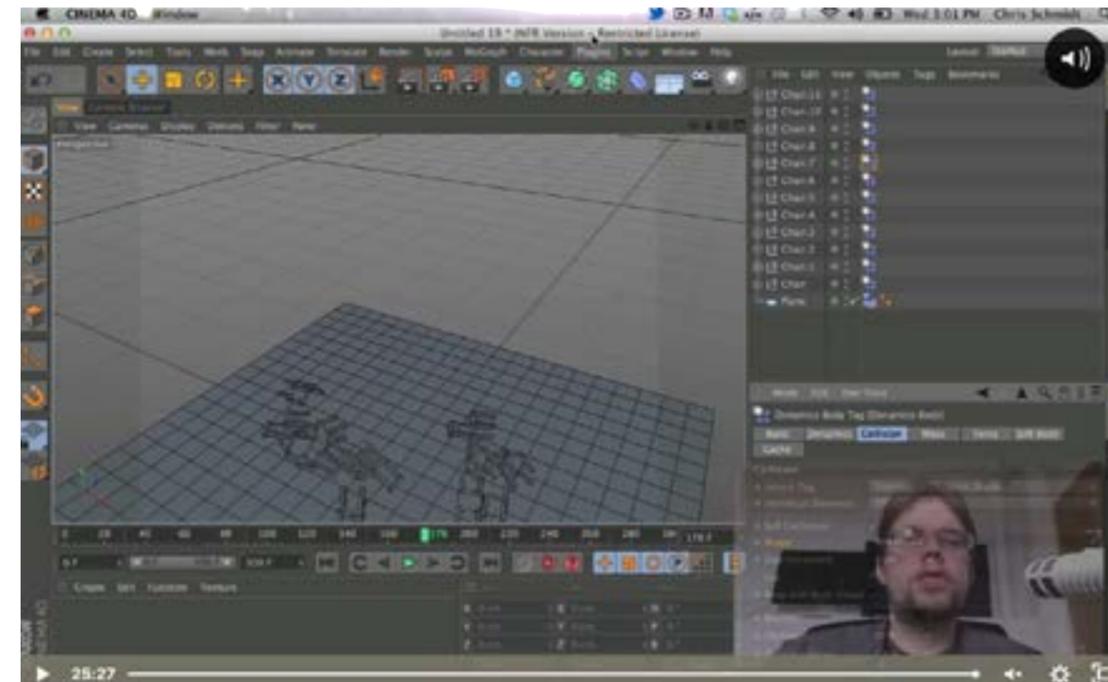
Earlier this month I wrote a piece entitled *Do You Imagine designing for Star Wars, Terminator or Blade Runner? Here's a place to start.*

In this story I gave a run down on the program I have used off and on for 15 years + called Cinema 4D from Maxon.

Recently, with a bit of spare time on my hands

for various reasons, I decided to revisit Cinema 4D in depth as I really had done nothing serious in it for quite a few years.

And boy, has it changed! Stuff it could always do but required a LOT of modelling and tweaking is now possible in just a few mouse clicks.



There's lots more too, so the learning curve started all over again!

To get this epiphany, I looked again at Greyscale Gorilla, a training organisation specialising in graphics and 3D stuff. Originally I had done their initial tutorial for Cinema 4D where you followed along building a basic scene, adding some materials and textures and then, well, blowing it up.

This time, I had a look at their more in-depth tutorials that cover different aspects of Cinema 4D, covering major commands and features of the program. This is broken down into the major headings of Intro to Getting Started, Starting With the Basics, Dynamics, Deforming Objects, Basics of Lighting, Materials and Textures, Applying Materials, Modelling with Splines and NURBS, Mo-

graph Cloners, More MoGraph, Modelling Basics and so on.

Each section is video based with trainer Chris Schmidt taking you through the training in frankly, a very easy and entertaining way, and each lasts between 15 minutes and 54 minutes.

Whilst it helps to go through the lessons one by one, I found I could skip to stuff I wanted to see and then backtrack without too much issue.

If you have an interest 3D modelling and animation, I strongly suggest you get a trial copy of Cinema 4D at [www.maxon.net](http://www.maxon.net) and then go to <https://training.greyscalegorilla.com/courses/take/introduction-to-cinema-4d> and follow along at your leisure.

And best of all, unless I have missed something, its all for free.

# tutorial: the rule of thirds

*Many, many years ago, in a video forum far, far away, I had a 'robust' discussion with a person I'll call 'Gary', because that was his name.*

Gary argued the 'Rule of 3rds was a hard and fast rule that had to be followed to get the best images, no matter video or still.

My stance was that the Rule of 3rds is not a rule at all, but a guideline, citing one little know director called Stanley Kubrick who famously rarely, if ever used it, instead preferring the focal point of an image to be dead centre.

Be that as it may, the Rule of 3rds IS a useful guide to follow but going by a lot of the images and videos shown in various GoPro, drone and other forums, is probably not as well-known and understood as it should possibly should be.

So, what exactly is the Rule of 3rds?

To quote the Digital Photography School who put it best, "the rule of thirds is a compositional guideline that breaks an image down into thirds (both horizontally and vertically) so you have nine pieces and four gridlines. According to the rule, by positioning key elements along the gridlines, you'll end up with better compositions".

To see it in action, place a 3 x 3 grid over your image (many cameras and camcorders etc actually have this option built into the Display settings of the menu system.

It is usually called a Grid Overlay. To create an overlay in Photoshop, choose Preferences > Guides, Grid & Slices. Set the "Gridline Every" to 100% and the "Subdivisions" to 3).

The idea is to create a pleasing balance to the image. For example, in the image above, putting the red tree to the left of the photo is far more interesting than if it were in the middle. Note I have emphasised the vertical line to show how it also runs through the approximate centre of the red tree.

The centre points of intersect of the vertical and horizontal lines are sometime called "power points" and are also useful to emphasise points of interest in an image, such as an animal's eyes.

This second image, shows a landscape with the focal point also being placed at an intersection of the horizontal and vertical gridlines.

Additionally, I could have shot this image with the horizon line along one of the horizontal lines to make an even better shot.

Now as mentioned, as important (and simple) as the Rule of 3rds it is, again I stress it is NOT a fixed rule, just another item in the toolbox of image creation.



*Autumn in Manjimup in the South West Forests of Western Australia. Shot with Canon 5Ds*

# tutorial: rule of thirds



*Rule of Thirds Sunset at Hamelin Bay, near Margaret River on the South West Coast of Western Australia.  
Shot on DJI Air2S*



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