

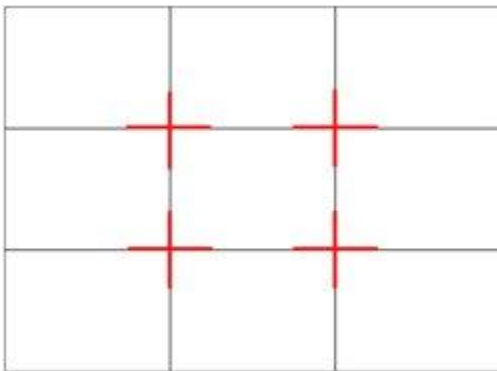
Topic 30

Rule of Thirds

The **Rule of Thirds** is perhaps the most well-known principle of photographic composition. Rule of third is also known as “Rule of Golden means”.

Basic Principle:

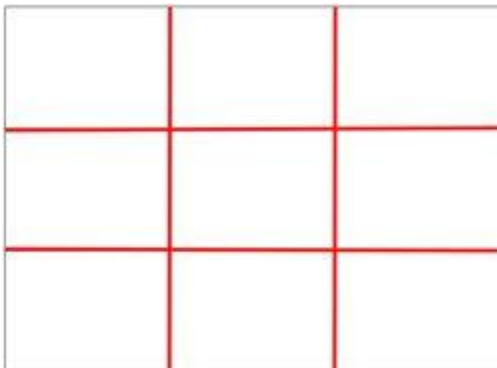
The basic principle behind the rule of thirds is to imagine breaking an image down into thirds (both horizontally and vertically) so that you have 9 parts. As follows:



As you're taking an image you would have done this in your mind through your viewfinder or in the LCD display that you use to frame your shot.

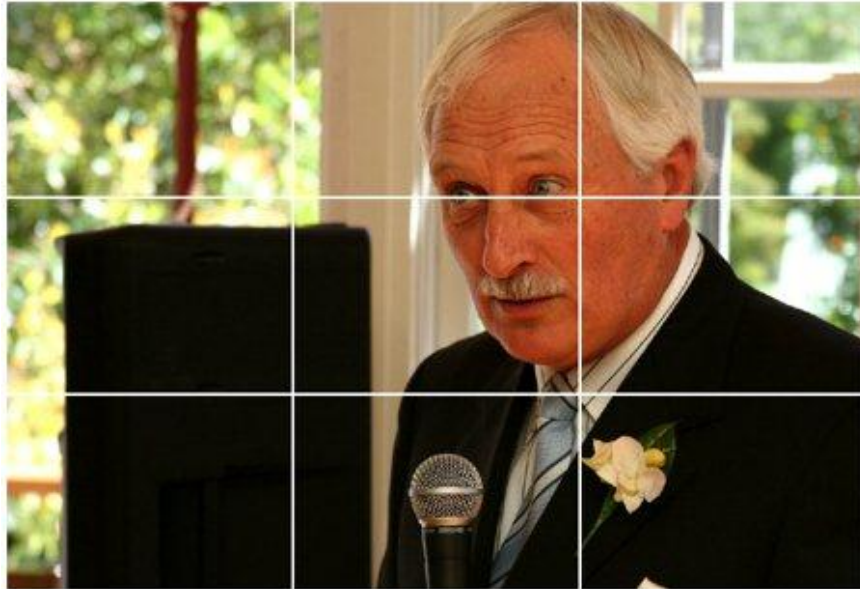
With this grid in mind the 'rule of thirds' now identifies four important parts of the image that you should consider placing points of interest in as you frame your image.

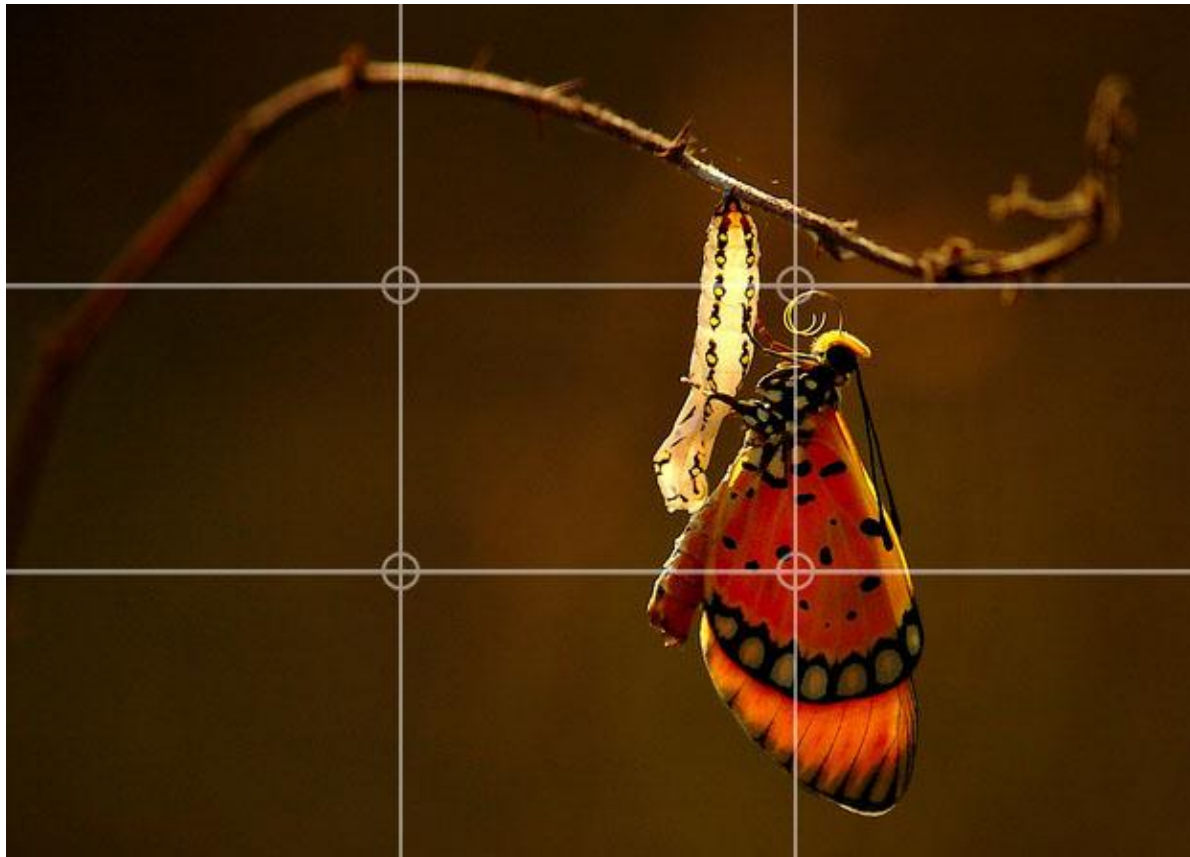
Not only this – but it also gives you four 'lines' that are also useful positions for elements in your photo.



The theory is that if you place points of interest in the intersections or along the lines that your photo becomes more balanced and will enable a viewer of the image to interact with it more naturally. Studies have shown that when viewing images that people's eyes usually go to one of the intersection points most naturally rather than the center of the shot – using the rule of thirds works with this natural way of viewing an image rather than working against it.

In addition to the above picture of the bee where the bee's eye becomes the point of focus here are some of examples:





NOTE: How to use the rule of thirds?

To use Rule of third in your photography ask following questions to yourself before capturing the photo:

- What are the points of interest in this shot?
- Where am I intentionally placing them?