

### THE FRASER DIXON PATENT PHOTO SCORER

This is Fraser's suggested approach to judging a competition image and awarding it marks out of 20. Fraser's experience is that judges of photo competitions place most of their marks within the range 13-20. Not all judges would be so generous as to start at 13, but Fraser's a decent chap! The value of this system is that it recognises the inevitable subjectivity of judging but helps ensure that the thought process is organised and the decision not purely instinctive. It also leaves scope for a wonderful image to succeed in spite of minor technical blemishes. Maybe a key balance to strike when looking at focus, shutter speed, composition, exposure and niggles is to assess how much the issue matters: does it get in the way of the WOW factor?

Try it out on your own images to help you decide which to put in the competition. Try to imagine it's not your photo while you do it!

The questions to ask.	Photo has value and interest beyond just a record shot, so is it a "runner"? Doesn't really fit the competition theme, but at least the photographer made the effort to enter? ↓	Has a big WOW factor? High impact? ↓	Focus and depth of field handled well and appropriately to the subject? ↓	Shutter speed appropriate to subject? (Can be blurred if subject is moving, but it still needs to work as an image.) ↓	Exposure correct / as good as possible? ↓	Composition. Is the image nicely shaped / proportioned / cropped / composed? ↓	Difficulty. Was it a difficult shot for the photographer to achieve? ↓	Niggles. Are there details that annoy you or reduce the WOW factor or reduce the attractions of the image? ↓	Fits the theme really well / in an original way / better than the rest? ↓
<b>The action you take.</b>	Give it - ↓	Add 1, maybe 2 or make no change. ↓	Add 1, subtract 1 or make no change. ↓	Add 1, subtract 1 or make no change. ↓	Subtract 1 or make no change. ↓	Add 1, subtract 1 or make no change. ↓	Add 1 or make no change. ↓	Deduct 1 or make no change. ↓	Add 1 or make no change. ↓
<b>An example of the result.</b>	Say 13	13 + 1 or 2. Say 15.	Say 16.	Say 17.	Say 17.	Say 18.	Say 19.	Say 19.	Say 20.