



Crop Overlays

CREATING PLEASING COMPOSITIONS AFTER THE FACT

The Golden Ratio / Triangle / Spiral

The theory is that there's a special number that we find through nature that creates the most eye-pleasing shapes. It all goes back to Euclidian Geometry.

The quadrilateral that is supposed to be most pleasing is called the Golden Rectangle. The ratio of a Golden Rectangle's long side to the short side is 1.6180339874989434... and it goes on forever. This number is Phi.

ϕ



Euclid noticed that there was a special way to divide a line, where the ratio of the whole to the longer segment was the same as the ratio of the longer segment to the shorter one. That ratio was Phi.



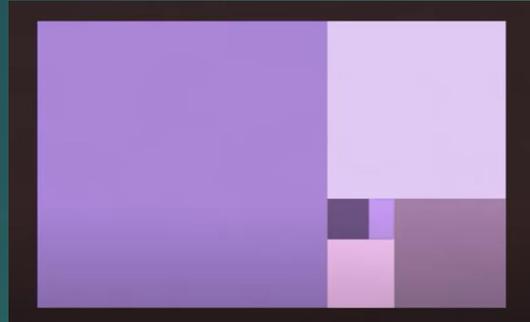
If you take the short segment as the short sides of a rectangle, and the long segment for the long sides... Voila the Golden Rectangle.

You can do some weird stuff with Phi. For instance, the ratio of the long sides of this triangle to the short side is Phi. This is a golden triangle, and supposed to be pleasing to the eye:



If you divide this triangle along one of the long sides by the the golden ratio, it's another golden triangle. This is going to get important for our photography soon.

If we take a golden rectangle and put another in it, and another in that and another in that, we get something like this:



Then if we draw a curve through all these shapes, we get a golden spiral. So... Let's see how we can use this information in Lightroom.

