

Digital Swimming

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Most of us, at one time or another, go somewhere to go swimming. As we stand in front of the body of water, a lot of things run through our minds. Maybe not thought of up front and probably very subdued if it is, we wonder how deep the water is, how cold is it, and is there anything of danger we can't see. Now, at this point all of us take different approaches. Some of us dive right in forgetting and ignoring all unforeseen dangers under the surface; others wade in slowly and finally immerse themselves all the way. Still others just wade and watch the rest swimming and frolicking in the water and having fun.

So you ask, "What does this have to do with digital photography." Well, a lot really, because we all approach digital photography as we do the body of water. Having said this, I might point out that a few people in the club have dived fully right into this new format. Others, like me, are wading in slowly before we finally get all wet. Still others are just wading and watching. Is there any proper approach we all want to know? At this point in the infancy of digital image creations through different technologies and new techniques not even envisioned, all we can do is as we have done before: Watch and learn and, yes, maybe even dive in once in a while. It can be, of course, more than we want when we are already standing safely on dry ground. But as always human nature takes its course, and we usually dig in, grit our teeth, and move toward the unknowns of this new format. I know this means using other things like the dreaded computer, scanner, printer, and, of course, software.

But I have heard this before, Being afraid of computers is kind of like fearing lions, tigers, and bears. O my! Really, a lot of these things are harmless: Because if you make a dreaded mistake of "wading" in too far, you can back up and correct an error without getting to the point where "water" is over your head.

There are lot of places to get information on all of the pieces of the new puzzle that make up this new format, and a number of people in the club can answer your questions.

Now is there anything wrong with film? Emphatically, no! Much information is on that slide or negative; but to digitize it, you must scan it in to ones and zeros on the computer. Once it is there, it is the same as any digital image. Having control at your finger tips is scary, maybe at first, but once you are in and swimming the water is just fine.