

Taking Infrared Photos with your Digital Camera

You might have been intrigued by the otherworldly look of infrared photographs, with their black skies, white foliage, etc. You can get special infrared film for film cameras, but did you know that most digital cameras are capable of taking infrared pictures?

Here's how to see if your camera qualifies:

Take your TV remote control, which works by shining a beam of infrared light at the TV set. Point it into the lens of your camera, push and hold any button on the remote, and see if the camera registers the light. If so, you are in business!

Next you will need an infrared filter for the camera. This looks like a black piece of glass, because it blocks all the visible light and passes only the infrared. You can get one at B&H, for example, for about \$40 and up, depending on the diameter and brand.

With this filter on the camera, you'll probably need a long exposure, like half a second or so, even in broad daylight. Experiment.

If your digital camera tries to interpret the infrared image as a color image, the colors are likely to be meaningless and probably ugly. You will probably want to set your camera to record a black-and-white image, or convert the image to monochrome in your image editing software. Let us know if you get some interesting results!

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