**Last Minute Gifts for the Photographer**

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The holidays are here….. It really feels like time of year as well. I live only about 20 miles from Mt Rainier and the few days without clouds allowed a magnificent view of this not snowcapped mountain… amazing.

I am going to list a few ideas for gifts for either yourselves or for other photographers. Everyone is one I own, use and can honestly tell you will help you make better images and enjoy photography

First, for some shameless advertising! My workshops are filling quickly (take advantage of the discounts!). Locations in the American Southwest, Pacific Northwest, Iceland ( winter and summer!) , the Eastern Sierra in October , Grand Teton NP for fall color and again for winter photography, The Palouse region of Eastern Washington, Death Valley NP in February and again in November… as well as some new spots like the Blue Ridge Parkway, Arches and Canyonlands NP. It’s also our year to get back to NE Ohio for our fall in Ohio featuring a full day with the Amish workshop in October then off to Zion NP.

I am fortunate to co-lead some of these workshops with y good friends and expert teachers and photographers Guy Tal and Bill Fortney.

Please click HERE for the complete schedule and registration documents. Why not give a gift or treat yourself? As always contact me for more information.

[**Heat 3 Smart Gloves**](http://www.outdoorphotogear.com/heat-3-smart-gloves/) **(USE CODE JGP10 for 10% off and free shipping)**

I personally tested and purchased these last month in Wyoming---yes it’s cold in December in the Tetons! Without reservation I can tell you these are the best gloves for warmth while allowing complete access to my camera dials and buttons. They were originally designed for the European Special Forces for warmth, grip and dexterity. They are the perfect extreme winter gloves for photography. I have looked for the best winter gloves that allows me full functionality of my camera while keeping as warm as possible. The simple do the trick. They performed way above my expectations. ---are they cheap NO! Are they the best YES! There is nothing like being warm when working in the field in extreme conditions.

Featuring the highest quality construction, the outer shell is made from an Elastic Microfiber with water resistant and breathable qualities much like Gore-Tex. The palm has full goat leather for added grip, warmth and durability and the insulation is Prim aloft for optimal warmth. With a mitten and glove design, a zipper across the palm opens up to expose the fingers for working your camera. A magnetic clip holds the mitten top in place and the thumb cap uses Velcro. Heat packs can be installed on both sides of fingers and in the wrist. A draw string around the wrist of the extra-long cuffs keeps snow out and wrist safety harnesses are included. The thumb and index fingers are conductive for touch screen operations. The ultimate cold weather glove with the ultimate dexterity! ---**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!**

**E\_BOOK’S**

There are literally thousands of really great E-Books available these days.

FOR THE GENERAL PHOTOGRAPHER:--I would strongly suggest you [consider Bill Fortney’s new e-book series on general photography](http://billfortney.com/?page_id=11474). These books are geared to the beginner to the advanced amateur. They are easy to get through. I would compare these to the series of books published quite a few years ago by John Shaw. Bill take you, step by step all the areas of photography one needs to be proficient at in order to make consistent quality images.

In addition, for you Fuji XT-1 enthusiasts, Bill has [a “Complete Guide to the XT-1”](http://billfortney.com/?page_id=12435) He will walk you through every menu setting carefully explaining the hows, whys and suggested setting. This is a MUST for Fuji owners.

Also check out his “[Americana](http://billfortney.com/?page_id=12619)” e-book--- it is impressive.

TAKING THINGS FURTHER--- I strongly recommend buying and reading over and over every e-book written [by Guy Tal](http://www.guytal.com). Click [HERE](http://guytalbooks.com/) for his selection. Guy is a thinker as well as an amazing photographer. There is not better communicator of the art than Guy. You’ll get insights into all of the photographic processes as well as Guy’s intuitive insights into photography. You’ll be not only a better photographer for reading and learning from these books, but have a different way of looking at the world.

**LONG EXPOSURES**

I am noticing an increased interest in **LONG EXPOSURE PHOTOGRAPHY** both in my workshops as well as in images I view online. You’ll need 3 things to become a good long exposure. **First** is a good tripod and ball head. I recommend you buy the best early in your photography life and save a lot of money. I use [the REALLY RIGHT STUFF Tvc-33](http://www.reallyrightstuff.com/s.nl/it.A/id.8109/.f). And the [BH-55 head](http://www.reallyrightstuff.com/s.nl/sc.26/category.567/.f). Like the gloves, they are not cheap, but I know they are going to outlast me! **Second** you will need a good remote shutter release system. I use the [HAHNEL GIGA PRO 2.4Ghz wireless timer](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00345XKV4/ref=oh_aui_detailpage_o09_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1) (I use the Canon on my Fuji XT-1... make sure you order the one for your camera). **Third** and more important is good quality ND filters. I see all kinds on my workshops. The bottom line is if you buy filters from anyone other than [Singh-Ray](http://www.singh-ray.com) you will most likely run into some color shift or lack of quality. Singh-Ray just makes the best. Again, are they cheap—NO! Are they the best YES! They stand behind their products. I use a [MOR-SLO 10 and 15 stop ND](http://www.singh-ray.com/shop/mor-slo-5-10-and-15%E2%80%90stop-solid-neutral-density-filters/). I also would recommend the Vari ND. (If you call them use my code JACK10 for a 10% discount).[READ MY ARTICLE ON LONG EXPOSURES ON THE CURRENT SINGH-RAY BLOG](http://www.singh-ray.com/making-a-short-story-long/)

MISC STUFF

[The best lens cleaning cloths](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00L21THUU/ref=oh_aui_detailpage_o00_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1)---yes they are for auto detailing, but they are the best I’ve found for removing dust and water from my lenses, (Made by 3M).

# I protect my Fuji Lenses in my camera bad with these pouches made my[**FotoTech Extra Thick 4 pcs DSLR camera Drawstring Soft Neoprene Lens Pouch Bag Cover size S M L XL for Sony Canon Nikon Pentax Olympus Panasonic with FotoTech Velvet Bag**](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00C1VEQFG/ref=oh_aui_detailpage_o00_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1)**.** They are inexpensive and offer good protection...

# PROTECT YOUR EARS in the COLD—use the[180s Tec Fleece Ear Warmers---](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B005HGZ2XC/ref=oh_aui_detailpage_o00_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1)

# **FUJI BATTERIES**—For under 30.00 you can get 2 batteries, a charger and auto charger from Wasabi ! [Wasabi Power Battery (2-Pack) and Charger for Fujifilm NP-W126 and Fuji FinePix HS30EXR, HS33EXR, HS50EXR, X-A1, X-E1, X-E2, X-M1, X-Pro1, X-T1](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0084G3FKE/ref=oh_aui_detailpage_o00_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1)

What a deal---and they last as long as the factor ones from FUJI!

# **NOTHING TO DO WITH PHOTOGRAPHY---but this is really cool!**

[**Abco Tech Water Resistant Wireless Bluetooth Shower Speaker with Suction Cup and Hands-Free Speakerphone, Black**](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00H3L55FY/ref=oh_aui_detailpage_o02_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1)

**BOOKS**

I don’t know about you but there is something about look at a print in a book rather than on a monitor. Check out these two awesome NEW books:

[**THE EARTH is MY WITNESS**](http://www.amazon.com/Earth-My-Witness-Photography-Wolfe/dp/1608873064/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1418850608&sr=1-1&keywords=art+wolfe) **by Art Wolfe**… Art’s most comprehensive collection yet.. A must have for any photographer—buy it and get inspired!

[THE EARTH”S LAST GREAT WILD PLACES](http://mangelsen.com/books-calendars-gifts/books/the-last-great-wild-places-forty-years-of-wildlife-photography-by-thomas-d-mangelsen-bkwild.html) by Thomas Mangelsen. Tom is one our greatest photographers and his new book is impressive. I highly recommend this as well.

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