



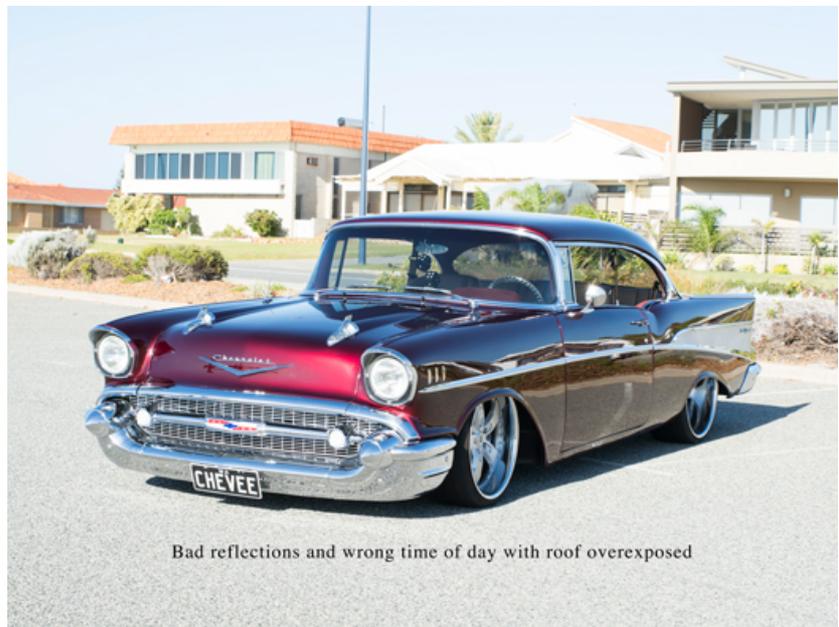
Vehicle Photo Tips

When supplying photos for your Show Board please consider the following to get the best possible result.

Firstly PLEASE use a digital camera not a smart phone, the photos from phones when enlarged come out pixelated, they look OK on the computer but not with the enlarging we need to do, we will use phone photos if you instruct us to and we will do our best to modify them in our software.

1. Lighting (90% of good photos start with good lighting)

1. Avoid midday sun, as the light is very harsh and will wash out the top of your vehicle.
2. Late evening/early morning horizontal light is the best as well as overcast days (not cloudy as the clouds will have a reflection).
3. I recommend starting with sunrise. Make sure the light source is behind you at all times, but don't let your body cast a shadow onto your shot! To have the light source behind you at all times will mean that the car will have to be moved throughout the photo shoot.



Bad reflections and wrong time of day with roof overexposed

Some say to use a flash, I don't like it for exterior shots. It looks unnatural to me, and anything reflective on



Reflections from the trees make this a very difficult photo to work with

your car (like license plates, bumpers and badges) could be way overexposed. Instead, if possible, use a tripod so that you can shoot without a flash. A flash is often necessary for interior and engine shots to fill in the shadows. I like to find some bright shade for these shots and use my flash. Watch out for harsh sun and shadows if you can't find bright shade.

2. Tricks

Here are some basic tricks that I have learned through much trial and error:

1. Be aware of your surroundings. Look for reflections in your car of telephone poles and wires, trees, clouds, buildings or windows, people, and you, the photographer! Don't park on grass, striped parking lots or gravel. The reflections of the ground surface will appear on your car. Ground cover also covers up the bottom profile of your tires. Windows are a big reflection problem and can be very hard to fix in software, especially if they're not tinted, take note of reflections here.
2. If you can find an open clear area with a nice clear horizon behind you, you have a great spot. Fill the car in your viewfinder and don't cut off anything. For a Show Board, I will cut out the background, so it isn't important, there is no need to go to the beach or look for that perfect scenic shot. Best to work on just avoiding the reflections.
3. Turn your wheels so that the face of the rim is visible, not the tyre, nobody wants to see your tire treads.
4. Don't cut off the bottom of the tyres, or if the bonnet/boot is open the top of them. I can always crop into the car but it is very difficult to make parts of it if it would look better for the Show Board.
5. Lower antennas and put windows up except for convertible photos with the top down.
6. When doing interior photos make sure the steering wheel is straight, hand brake is off, floor mats are clean or taken out, if the keys have a lot of things hanging from them remove them from ignition, make sure there is no rubbish in the console.



7. Engine photos need to be taken back a bit (include the guards, I can crop in), you can add some close up photos of different features as well. Also take some from a few different angles including up high facing down over the engine.



3. Composition

1. For a great aggressive looking muscular shot, get down to the ground at grill level and take some ½ (front + side together) and straight on shots from both front and rear. You will have to move your car around to get both front and rear, as you must keep the light behind you.
2. Park the car on a LEVEL surface, get your camera down real low so that you can see all 4 tires touch the ground through the camera view finder. The more you can do to create an imaginary line touching the bottom of all 4 tires, the better. Move around and experiment from that point on. Try to avoid “hiding” one of the rear tires from the shot.



3. Stand at normal height and tilt the camera a bit to create another dramatic effect.
4. Get close up shots of all the cool features and emblems that make your car unique. Play with various

angles on those as well as straight on shots.

5. Use a ladder or climb on a roof and take some perspective shots from up high. This works great with convertibles and cars with over the top racing stripes. The ladder is also very helpful for shooting the engine shots.
6. When doing a “profile” (side on) shot get the camera set up so that you are looking through the side windows as cleanly as possible without seeing the other interior door.

7. If you do want a good single photo of your car enlarged & printed along with the Show Board, pick a good location/background that doesn't detract from your car and that contrasts with the car's colour/paint nicely. If choosing a location such as a store or gas station, always choose a location that appears OLDER than your classic or antique car.
8. Don't be afraid to take 100 pictures of your car - you may only get a dozen that you can actually use! Digital media is cheap - your time for a re-shoot isn't.

I hope this helps a bit with your photos, please remember you probably won't get it perfect (especially with black or extreme polished paint) but it's worth having a go, and what's left hopefully we can tidy up for you.

Importantly it's not meant to be a chore to take the photos, go out and have some fun with it, you might enjoy it and find a hidden talent ☺