

New forum structure

Introduction

We are not a gear based site; we are a photography site. We want to promote photography discussions across all genres.

This is how I envisage our forum structure moving forward. Note that this (the forum layout) should be just one menu item of the site – others should be reviews, articles etc. At the moment, we are unsure how this will be implemented, but we want the home page to be more than just forums. That's just one part of our whole site.

To see what I am looking at, click here <https://dev2.dprevived.com/> - it's a development area, but you can see most of the structure (not the restricted/private forums) without needing to log in. [Ignore the odd capitalisation. That will be fixed when we go live]

Of course, we are still working on threaded view, how to incorporate editorials and articles and other stuff (possibly even some detailed gear reviews but that is a long way down the road). This document is just for the forum stuff.

Details

Stuff to throw out:

- For sale & wanted. It's not used.
- Mobile photography (can have one forum for all O/S's under photo equipment)
- Operating Systems (See above)
- Testing
- DPRevised News forums – We will have something, but not 9 forums)

I've tried to do it in what I think is a logical fashion.

- So, news & discussion, including photo challenges & discussions first.
- Composition second
- techniques third
- Gear fourth,
- DPRevised stuff last (with Dumpster right at the end).

This reinforces that we are NOT a gear forum. If all people want to do is discuss specific models or lenses in their own forums, then DPReview is the place for that. You can discuss gear stuff, but it's not 'hidden' in a specific model based forum and therefore will be more visible to others (one of the restrictions I don't like about DPReview).

So, this is the list of new forums – I've cut it down to 2 levels, not 3 as I don't think we need 3 levels now. However, the 3 forum layout is really nice, so I have introduced one dummy level 1 forum to keep the structure looking good. Please also note that no existing threads or posts will be deleted when we change – they may not be quite where you expect though.

I've also proposed that all the different photo review forums are combined into just two – one for challenges and one for discussions. This may increase posts and views for those types of forums and should certainly increase the visibility.

News and Discussion

Open Talk

Any discussion on any topic – same as now.

Beginners' questions

Where beginners can ask questions and they will get simple answers

Technical discussions

Where detailed information on photography techniques and answers to BQ can be discussed

Photography news and rumours

All the industry news and rumours go in here.

Photograph critiques, challenges and discussion

Post weekly photo sharing threads, photo critiques, photo challenges, this week through your eyes etc.

Photo techniques & Software

This is where we put in different types of techniques – e.g., B&W photography. We want discussions on each type and samples for review.

- Cut the 21 forums down to something manageable.
- Or maybe just one forum called 'Descriptive' and separate threads started by the users for each type they are interested in?
- Or is this our main reason for being here – so keep all forums as they are?

Photography Genres

This is where the different styles of photography can be discussed.

Photography techniques

Put all the different techniques and s/w forums into this one forum – different threads posting ideas and asking question. Some of the descriptive ones work better if they are here (e.g., B&W photography)

Photo equipment & Software

One forum per manufacturer plus one for O/S's plus one or two generic ones (e.g., a Film forum, one for accessories etc.). The list I envisage is 10 manufacturer forums (cut down from the 50 we have today) plus a few others as follows:

Photo Equipment

- Canon
- Fuji
- Leica
- Nikon
- Olympus
- Panasonic
- Pentax
- Sigma
- Sony

- Others & Miscellaneous

Operating system Threads

Ask questions about photography on any O/S

Film threads

Discussions about film photography

Digital Photography History

Discussion about where we came from, how we got started etc.

Accessories

Any discussions about accessories (flash guns, extra grips, microphones etc.)

Buying advice

Ask questions about photography gear in here.

DPrevived Discussion

Development requests & bugs found.

We can put our ideas for future development into here.

Governance & organisation

Links to all our documents go here plus we can chat about where we go for future updates.

Private forum for moderators

The mods (and admins) can talk to each other here.

Private forum for developers & beta testers

Developers can chat about next versions, bugs found etc.

Oddball forums

Dumpster

Put this at the end so it's not easily visible from a forum list.