

## Model Horse Tips:

# Ten Tips for Better Picture Taking

by Sarah Tregay

---



Taken in my real horse arena, this is a decent photo of a G3 Breyer Stablemate pony painted by Karen Prescott, but when you look closer you can see how the bright sun has cast a sharp shadow on the model's neck. This wouldn't have happened on an overcast day.

- 1** Get close to your model. Leave just a bit of space around it, so you can see the footing, the sky and some space in front of the nose and behind the tail.
- 2** Get level with your model's shoulder. Don't look down on the model or up at it. Place the model on a table covered in footing and kneel or sit on a stool in front of the table.
- 3** Get the entire model in focus, but don't be afraid to blur the background--it allows the viewer to concentrate on the model. Some digital camera's have options for a short depth of field.
- 4** Carefully observe the background and foreground before you take the picture to avoid clutter and elements that are not to scale or poorly placed (like a tree "growing" from your model's head.)
- 5** Avoid using the flash. Take your pictures outside instead.
- 6** Remember to use the macro setting on your camera. It's frustrating to have the background in focus and the model blurry.
- 7** You may find that your camera has a focusing sweet spot where it auto-focuses on the correctly. If you find this spot, go ahead and use it--even if it means that you have to crop the boring elements off the edges of your photos later.
- 8** Watch the direction of light in your picture. The sun should be at your back or over one shoulder when you are taking the picture. It will light your model nicely.
- 9** Bright sun can wash out colors and cast harsh shadows, try taking pictures in the shade or on an overcast day may be better.
- 10** Take plenty of pictures for greater success. You can always delete them. Even if you look at the photos on the camera, you may not see everything until you download them to your computer.