Infrared Photography

It’s much easier to know what you’re photographing now

Infrared is a realm that our eyes can’t see

- Shooting with IR film required experience
- With liveview and mirrorless cameras you can know what the sensor is seeing before you release the shutter

My IR experience

- I have a 720 nm converted A7R2 through Lifepixel
- My visible spectrum lenses all work except my 24-70
- I use a lot of masking in Lightroom to get the tones correct

Midday dull light

Get some contrast back

Skies are classic black and white with a red filter

Leaves reflect IR light

For those scenes that didn’t work for visible light

For those of you who shoot things other than rocks, trees, and water

Spectrum Choices

	Direct from Camera, Custom White Balance	Channel Swapped	Black & White	Direct from Camera, Auto White Balance
590nm Filter				
665nm Filter				
720nm Filter				
850nm Filter		N/A		
Blue IR NDVI				
Full Spectrum/ Two Spectrum				

Considerations for choosing an infrared filter

source: https://kolarivision.com/articles/choosing-a-infrared-filter

How to shoot IR

Film

Pros: Use that old film camera?

Cons: $10.99/roll

Don’t know what the light looks like until after

Developing it

How to shoot IR

Screw in Lens Filters

Pros: Cheaper ($77 for 77mm filter)

Can choose a variety of IR cutoffs (590nm 720nm, 830nm, etc)

Cons: requires very long exposure

Fussing with filter sizes, step up rings, etc

How to shoot IR

In Camera Lens Filters

Pros: Cheaper ($73-129 per filter)

Can choose a variety of IR cutoffs

Cons: requires very long exposure

Only for mirrorless cameras

How to shoot IR

Camera Conversion (Kolari Vision, Lifepixel)

Pros: Similar shutter speeds to visible light

No fussing with filters

Cons: expensive

Camera is dedicated to IR

+

How to shoot IR

Full Spectrum Camera Conversion with filters

Pros: Choose your own spectrum

Cons: most expensive

Need to fuss with filters

+

Other considerations

Hot Spot

- Lenses are optimized for visible light
- Lens Hotspot Database (Kolarivision)
- Focus markings on the lens will be off
  - Focus is variable for Zoom lenses
  - Converting a DSLR with less capable liveview will make focusing difficult

Processing is different

- Channel Swapping for partial visible conversions (550nm, 590nm)
- RAW files don’t behave the same in LR/PS (selecting white and black points is sensitive)
- If you get a conversion done with Lifepixel they offer a free processing tutorial with a genuine human

Questions?