



Hunting Photos

TIPS AND TACTICS

By Mike Eastman

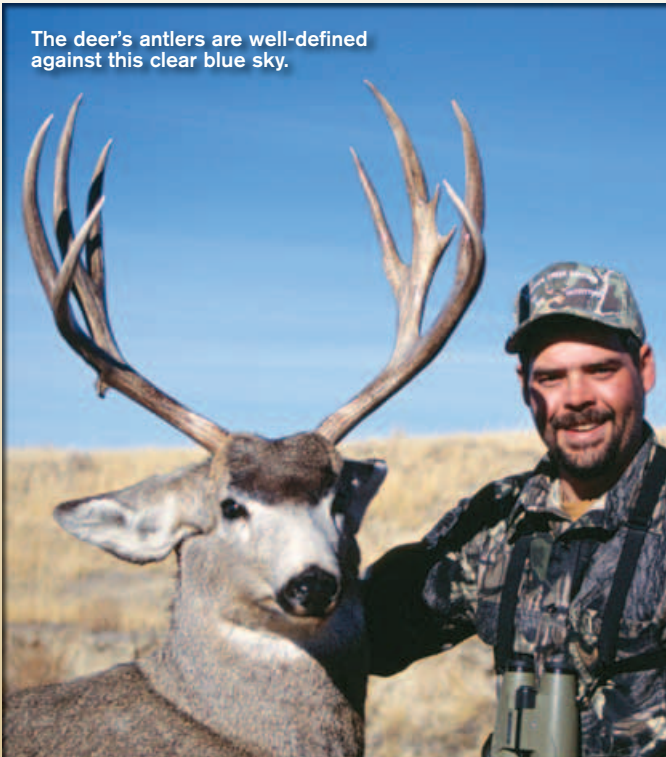
I have covered in this series two important parts for a quality trophy photo. One is having the right camera and using the right speed film. Second is the type of set-up to show the antlers or horns off in a complimentary and respectful manner. The third and final aspect is the use of background and lighting. The quality of light used in the photo will set the mood of the picture. Also it will contribute to the clarity and detail of the photo. The background is also very important. Use it to accent the animal and hunter. Remember the purpose of the background isn't to camouflage the hunter or his trophy.

The best light for photos is morning sun. The second best is as the sun is going down just before sun set. Why, you ask? Well, the sun's rays are the most horizontal and will shine straighter on to the subject. This will make the detail become sharper. I will usually do a set up early in the morning to get the warm sunlight on the photo then wait a few minutes and shoot with the full bright intense sun. Out of the three parts making up a quality photo this is the most important. Without good sun, a great set up just becomes a dull photo. What if you have to shoot mid-day

Morning sunlight casts fewer objectionable shadows and gives photos a warmer tone.



The deer's antlers are well-defined against this clear blue sky.



with sun rays coming straight down on the subject? Always use the flash to fill in the shadows. The fill flash will turn a dull shadow-prone photo into a respectable set up shot.

The background needs to be blue sky or something that will not compete with the subject. Move the trophy to a small ridge and photograph slightly up at the animal and hunter. This tactic will put some blue sky behind the subjects. Even if it's an overcast day still shoot on a small ridge. Having white clouds behind the animal and hunter isn't all that bad. Look through the magazine and test your skill on critiquing photos. The information in this series is the culmination of 40 years experience taking hunting and wildlife photos. I hope this series helps to pass your outdoor memories on to the next generation. Good luck hunting and photographing.

Michael Hartman