



the ART of DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY



JOHN HEDGE COE



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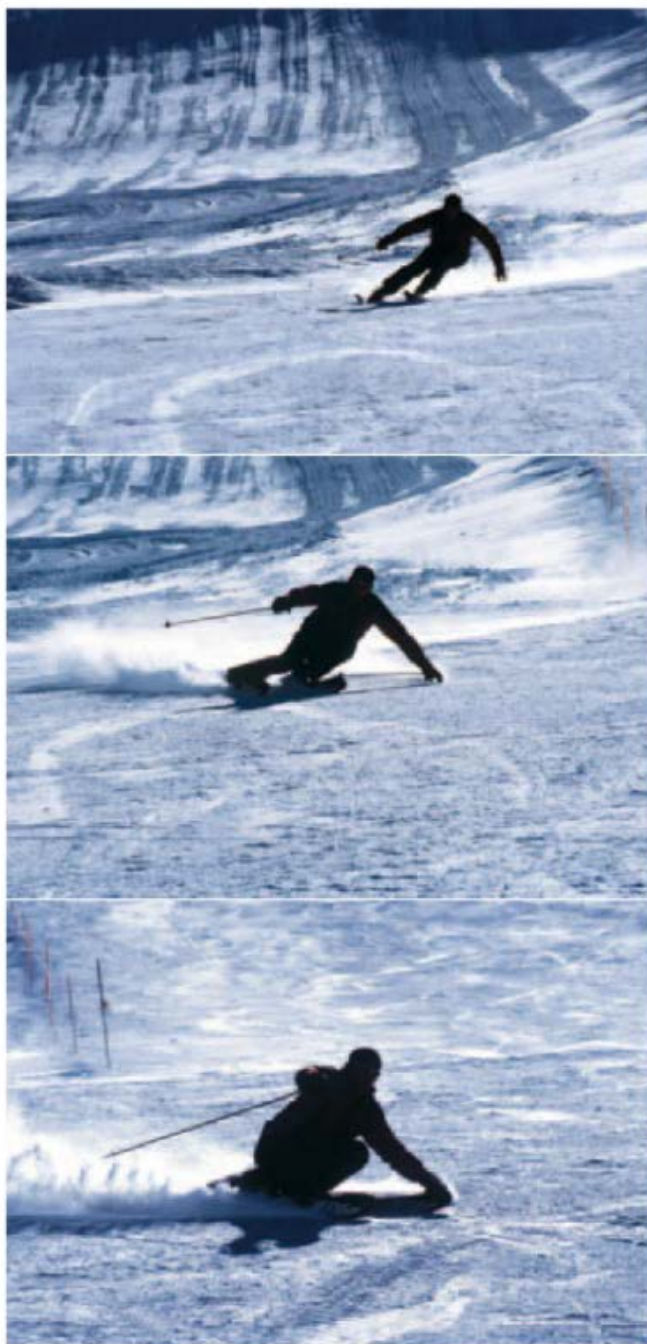
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burst rates

TAKING A SERIES OF SHOTS in rapid succession can help increase your chance of capturing that crucial moment in a sporting event. Furthermore, such continuous sequences can tell their own stories that help you to analyze the motion and show the intricacies of a sport in a way that is impossible with the naked eye.

In the days of film, the number of frames per second that could be shot automatically depended on the capabilities of your camera's motorwind. The maximum shooting speed of a digital camera relies more on processing power than on precision engineering. A digital camera is a computer, and the information recorded by the sensor needs to be digitized, processed, and stored—and this can lead to a noticeable wait before you can take your next shot. The slower the shutter speed, and the higher the resolution used, the longer the delay.

Many cameras have a continuous shooting mode for action photography that uses a buffer memory—a temporary store that holds the unprocessed data as the sequence is being shot. The number of shots that can be taken per second at this “burst rate,” and the total number of shots that can be taken before the camera needs to stop and catch up, varies significantly from camera to camera. The file format and file size are also important—the rate will be sustained longer if you shoot in JPEG format, rather than in RAW (see page 23). With a good SLR, expect a burst rate of three frames per second or more.

◀ DOWNHILL RUSH

A sequence of just three shots gives a much better view of a skier turning at high speed on the snow than a single picture. The burst rate here was limited to two frames per second by the speed of the autofocus.