

Photography suggestions for *Automata Magazine*

If you have any questions about any of what's below, please drop us an e-mail at automatamag@comcast.net We look forward to hearing from you.

Good photographs are important, both for the viewer's understanding of what's being depicted and to enhance the overall appearance of the magazine.

There's a big difference between a snapshot and a photograph. A snapshot is often taken on the spur of the moment. Lighting is whatever's available. Although the subject may be of interest, the main point is to capture it at that moment so it can be shared. A photograph, on the other hand, is carefully crafted. The subject is positioned just so, the lighting has to be ideal, backgrounds need to be examined and cleaned up, the camera angle must be thoughtfully considered to achieve the desired look, and depth of field has to be taken into account.

Your automaton is something into which you've put countless hours of thought and effort, creating a thing of beauty and satisfaction. Here are some things to think about when photographing your work, either for publication or just for your own scrapbook.

Considerations

If you want a quality photograph, it's possible to get them using the camera in your phone. A digital camera, if you have one, is usually a better choice. Read the manual and understand your camera's capabilities to achieve the best results. Always shoot your pictures at the highest possible resolution.

Photos should be taken in bright, even light. If you have the room to set up a little studio and have floodlights, one on either side of the subject, set at about 45° from it, and a third pointing straight down on it will usually give good results. Diffusers in front of the bulbs will help avoid harsh shadows.

Frame each shot and carefully examine it before pushing the button. What's the subject? Are there distracting elements in the shot? Watch the background!

The above are just suggestions. Good photos can be made in a variety of different ways. Don't be afraid to experiment, and send us your best shots!