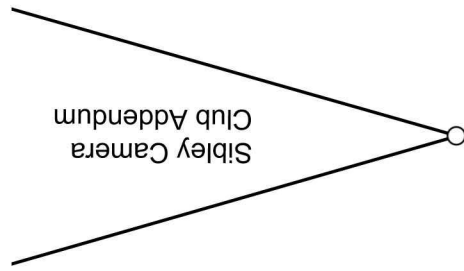




Sibley Camera  
Club Addendum

*April 2021*

**Special thanks to ...** Julie Brunson Childs, Alison Peeler, Conrad Coleman, Tonya Lambeth Dawson, Kenneth Rust, Kelly Stout, Alayne Paulson, Ken Zoller, Richard Galle, Susan May, William Bynum, Caleb Jagger, Susan Benham, Russell Malm for contributing to the newsletter so far as it continues on and evolves. Your help to make an idea into something realized is appreciated.



## In this issue ...

Conversation with Russel Malm (*shared*)

Beyond the photograph – featured photographer Susan Benham *pg. 2 (Front)*

DIY gear – colored filters by Malcolm McElvaney *pg 2 (Back)*

Ask yourself a question - part 2 *pg. 3 (Back)*

---

## Notes from the editor

The interview with Richard Galle left a question unanswered, Sonya Fitzgerald was the individual who initially requested the camera club be started. So if that was a burning question in your mind you can thank Michael Nickell for remembering that tidbit of information. Since the initial issue was a sample to kick off the newsletter I have not including it as the first issue, this issue however marks the sixth edition of the new newsletter and the support I have gotten to make these issues is truly appreciated. It started as an idea and challenge to see if it would work and perhaps more along the lines of a personal project at first but it now belongs to the club. While I continue to request input as I figure out who does what and why please feel free to consider this another forum to send me unrequested material to as I would be more than happy to work with you and get it published.

Where do future issues go from here? I need your help to fill them with your unique point of views, tales of places you have photographed, reviews of your new toys, and whatever else I haven't alluded to. I have posted online some random bits of encouragement and reasons to overcome the fear of writing but the most important aspect is the confidence in yourself that you do have something to share and it will be well received. If I have learned at least one thing about putting my thoughts into words it is I have learned more about what I write about in the long run.

Malcolm McElvaney  
*malcolmm9789@gmail.com*

## Beyond the photograph

featured photographer Susan Benham



This photo was taken at the Miller Ranch near Valentine, Texas. Our camera club had been graciously invited to visit by Jill and Bill Miller. We were looking into Mexico at Sierra Viejo at sunset. I happened to capture Dave Taylor and Jill Miller taking photographs in the distance. It was a beautiful sunset and ONE of my best memories of a camera club outing. To me, it represents the fellowship, fun, and adventure that the camera club fulfills.

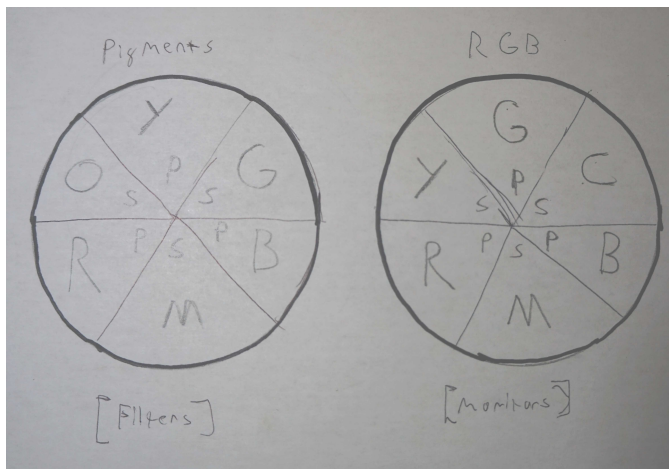
# DIY gear – colored filters

by Malcolm McElvaney

03/08/2021 - This should be the first of a few articles to highlight some do it yourself projects I'm working on for advancing my photography via cheap supplies and as an added bonus I don't know the outcome yet so how will my vague plans develop. First on my list is colored filters via school crafting supplies but before I work on them another day how about some history and usage of filters.

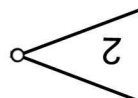
The filters we use in photography today, although not so common since the digital age, has been around since about 1906. I'm not absolutely sure about that date but it is close and the manufacturer of these filters was a company called Wratten and Wain Wright which operated from 1878 – 1912. They were the first photographic supply store to help make the photographer's life easier. Kodak Eastman bought them out and carried on from that point. Filters have wratten numbers for a reason, at least to pay some respect at least I would assume. Those first filters were designed for panchromatic plates also being produced and used a yellow color. I couldn't find much information on this aspect of our craft so if you know more about this maybe post it and share it.

Filters have a variety of uses like the neutral density to stop light down, specialty effects, colored variations to correct color or alter contrast in black and white to name a few uses but that added piece of glass or gel is incorporated into the final image captured and becomes part of what is recorded. Digitally we can capture raw data so correct many issues with no need of some of these filters but like getting cheaper lenses for vintage effects in camera effects can be a good quality to seek out I suppose.



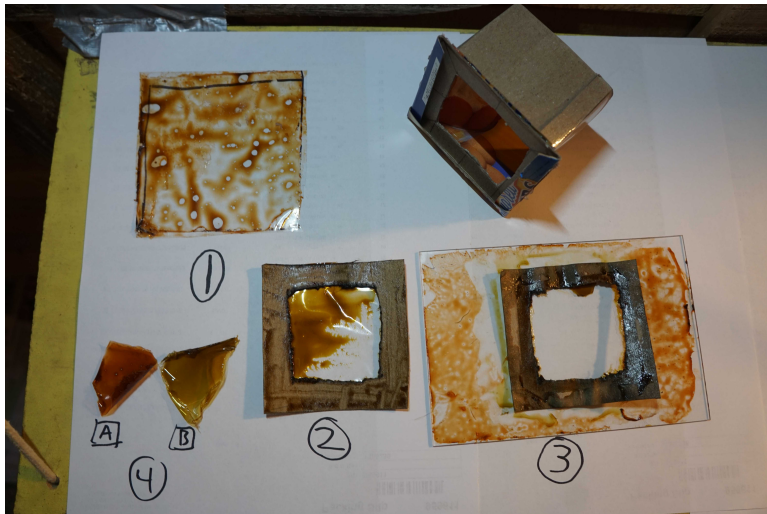
Color is complex and I understand enough about it to appreciate it and respect those with the ability to paint. In photography color plays an important role as well but the physical filters and the digitally captured image use two distinct systems. As you can see the primary colors are mixed to form the more complex ones but both have red and blue in common. The third primary color is either yellow or green on each color wheel and so not interchangeable.

Pigments absorb certain wavelengths of light and reflect back others but in RGB we start



with a black screen and three colors at various intensities combine to form the colors we see. Thankfully we don't have to dive too deep in order to take color photographs but look up color theory if you would to take that deeper dive.

In black and white photography a monochromatic image is produced and color isn't the primary focus; however, it shouldn't be overlooked and ignored. The various colors present translate into the shades of grey captured. The color of the filter influences the color range translating to the lighter values and which ones get darker. Because filters are pigment based refer to that color wheel. The color range opposite the color of the filter will be darker so, for example, a yellow filter will darken the blue of the sky for higher contrast and bring out the clouds. I do not have any of these colored filters and work in post-processing for my black and white results but understanding other options exist is a good thing. Better explanations can be found online but in my quest to understand color the homemade filter offers some unique artistic options and the theory presented may fill in some blank details.



03/13/2021 – Now is the time to share some of the initial attempts to make the actual colored filters; however, the choice of material is most challenging and not quite working but a glimmer of hope at least as the concept is viable. Food coloring is working well and the colors I'm getting is great but school glue as a medium to apply it is another story. I have not given up and with an established gadget to hold the gels I have my starting

point. My first assumption was to evenly distribute my colored glue between two sheets of thin plastic sheets (sheet protectors) but as you see [1] is clearly not usable. I created the medium used from two spoons of glue and mixing in two drops of yellow and red plus one drop of blue food coloring. The result is a darker orange range [4A] but I'm also using a darker yellow (“sepia”) by using two drops of yellow and one drop of red and blue [4B] for my next attempts. Attempt [2] I secured a cardboard support to one layer of plastic and spread the glue on. The thought then occurred to me to dilute the thick glue with rubbing alcohol to see what happens. Attempt [3] didn't use plastic but was a worst result and the addition ingredient didn't help either. In summary I have a ways to go but I did get a picture through the filter [2] to give you some idea of the potential use.



Not the greatest result but shows some promise overall; however, why would I be selecting the colors I am and not more pure colors. Commercially you can buy yellow, orange, blue, green, and even red but sepia and other color possibilities once I figure out how to manufacturer an usable filter will give me some options to be more artistic with. The biggest question I could be asking myself is how much could be achieved in post-processing and avoid any filters at all,



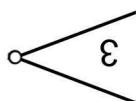
yet, there is a difference between optically introduced in camera verses digitally added in software. This is a good place to end the article and maybe you will see the results of my overactive imagination with a more successful filter on facebook; however, reality is a cunning nemesis.

---

## Ask yourself a question – part 2

In the March 2021 issue I asked a set of questions, although, I didn't receive any responses but that is fine. I asked “What was your most challenging photograph you have taken? Where was it taken? What did you learn from the experience?” and here is how I would answer them.

The photograph was a compilation of 11 views collected over a 12 hour full moon walk in the Monahans Sandhills State Park based on a set of rules where I always had the moon in the center of the 2/3 grid line and composed for the central section of the image. Since I took the pictures from wherever I was on the hour I had to compose the best shot possible within those limits; however, night photography isn't my strongest skill set but with lots of luck the image I framed, matted, and top mounted those 11 view points on turned out better than expected. It pushed my framing skills and while not perfect was worth the effort it took.



## More about us . . .

The Sibley Nature Center Camera Club meets on the first Saturday of the month from 10am to 11:30am at the Sibley Nature Center on 1307 E. Wadley in Midland. Come join in on the monthly photo challenges on the groups FaceBook page and be part of the activity as well. In addition to the monthly meeting we are currently doing weekly zoom meetings. We have had some fantastic guest speakers from around this area and the United States. They have been kind enough to share and talk about their journey in photography.

As always we welcome anyone that is interested in photography to join us. Our membership requirements are the \$40.00 annual membership donation to Sibley Nature Center and attend at least one meeting a year. Any questions please contact Kelly at [sibleycameraclub@gmail.com](mailto:sibleycameraclub@gmail.com).

