
Line Art Enhances Technical Photographs

Some people think that photography is photography and line art is line art and the two should never mix. In fact, you should frequently supplement technical photography with line art in order to tell a more effective story.

Please forgive a slight digression on juggling technique. Jugglers do not simply throw objects at random. Instead, jugglers throw objects in a particular sequence, along a particular path, at a particular height, and in a particular rhythm. This entire combination of particulars is called a *juggling pattern*. The juggler shown in Figure 9-20 is performing a juggling pattern called the *five-ball cascade*.

If you study the left side of Figure 9-20, you'll quickly encounter one of the central flaws of relying solely on pure technical photography when capturing dynamic images. The flaw is that it is impossible to tell which of the balls are going up and which are going down. Horizontal motion is also impossible to detect. By adding a little line art (in this case, some arrows), the direction of motion becomes clearer. In fact, the length of the arrows suggests the relative speed of each object. An alternative to line art is to open the camera shutter for a longer period and capture a blur of motion that suggests direction; however, the line-art arrows provide a far clearer way to teach the five-ball cascade.



FIGURE 9-20 Arrows help demystify a complex juggling pattern.