



APRIL
2016

VERTEBRATES
&
OPEN

PROJECTED = 57
PRINTS = 07

JUDGE

TREVOR PENFOLD

VERTEBRATES A GRADE DIGITAL

A MOTHERS LOVE

Well caught tender moment but focus is off. Sharpest area is the blanket and perhaps not such a tight crop to see a bit more of the mother's head and hand

ACCEPTED



BIG DECISIONS (LEFT OR RIGHTHAND)

Great composition and subject. Would like to see highlights better controlled and the shadows are all a bit bright so you've lost some depth to the image. Also a bit heavy on the noise reduction as you've lost fine detail producing a plastic feel to the image. It looks like some poor cloning on the near post due to

what looks like smudging. Good attempt just watch your processing.

MERIT

BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

Nice well balanced composition. White balance is off as the image has quite a strong blue colour cast. Watch your edges when darkening a background it could be better around the bird's tail and perch.

MERIT



BULL CALLED CHAINSAW

Great action shot with great timing well done. Think a little more about the composition. The spectators are also important to the story in this shot, but you've cut some of them off. If you had allowed a bit more space it would also of meant the riders hand would not be so close to the edge of the image which would give more balance to the image. Vignettes can work well, but I find this one a bit heavy for my liking, also just watch your sharpening it looks a bit much in some places. Overall though a pretty good shot.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

VERTEBRATES A GRADE DIGITAL CONTINUED



CHIMP

Nice thought out composition with a nice background, its also an engaging image due to the posture of the chimp, well done. I feel it could just do with a touch more contrast to give the image a bit of punch, it would give more separation between the subject and background.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

COMING INTO LAND

Nice composition and good to see you left space for the subject to move into, the diagonal separation between land and sea also works well. Unfortunately because the light is so flat there is just no impact in the shot even tough you've captured the gannet well. **MERIT**



COOLING OFF

Not bad for photographing through glass the diagonal composition works well. Slightly less exposure would bring out more detail on the tigers head as the light is quite harsh. A slightly wider shot would of kept all the tigers leg in the frame. Try using a polarizer in these conditions, it can work very well to cut out the glare.

MERIT

JUST GLIDING

Subject well positioned in the frame resulting in a balanced composition. Lights pretty flat so not much impact in the image. Think about the light and when it might be best to shoot, this type of shot early morning and evening when the sun is low would result in a much more pleasing and captivating image. **MERIT**



MELLOW YELLOW

The composition is quite nice the way you've framed the subject with the yellow blossom. I also like the way you've shot through the branches. Unfortunately the image is very flat and lacking contrast I would expect to see more vibrant yellow in this Kowhai having photographed them many times myself.

MERIT**NEW LIFE**

Nice moment with the interaction between new born and mum. I quite like the high key feel to the image, its where you've cropped off mums head I have an issue with, its just a bit too tight I feel I'm being drawn out of the image as opposed to into it. Shooting from a lower angle would have also made the image more intimate. **MERIT**

**NZ FALCON**

Nice and sharp and full of detail great exaggerated angle that really emphasizes the concentration of the falcon's stare. Good to see some thought into how to make the most of photographing a captive bird.

HIGHLY COMMENDED



PAWS IN PLAY

Great shot although a few flaws which I'll come to, this image grabs your attention and works great in black and white and I like the lighting. Great eye contact from both cats really engages the viewer.

The position of the cats is great I feel you just need a bit more space bottom left to bring it into frame a bit more which would just balance it a little better. Shutting down the aperture a little more would have also bought

out a bit more detail especially in the lower kitten. **HIGHLY COMMENDED**

READY TO SOAR

The composition is not bad but for in wildlife photography eyes and heads have to be in focus because there the areas your drawn to. Well done for trying this difficult shot next time try a smaller aperture because in this situation the main focus point will always land on the back so you need enough DOF to ensure the head is also in focus **ACCEPTED**



RIGHT YOU LOT

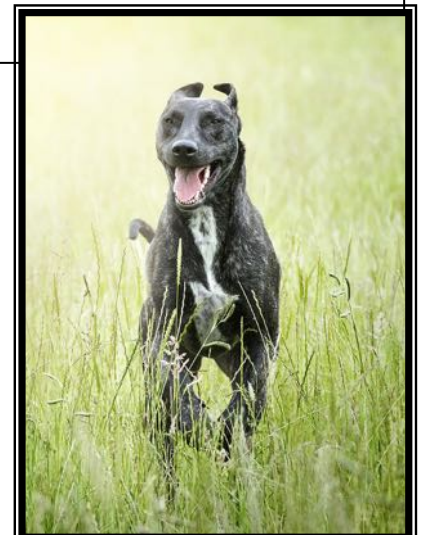
Waterfowl composition and great title (titles are very underestimated). Nice diagonal lead in line and you've given you subjects room to breath. Nice colour and exposure, great detail, although slightly more exposure in the shadows of the three penguins facing us would be nice. Great job though.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

RUNNING FREE

For an action shot the focus is bang on well done.

For composition because of the angle of the dogs head I would prefer it more to the right of centre to give it more directional space, I love the long grass in front of it though. Not sure about the bright background, is it fog? The colour balance is also a bit off the dog is looking a bit on the green side.. **MERIT**



VERTEBRATES A GRADE CONTINUED DIGITAL



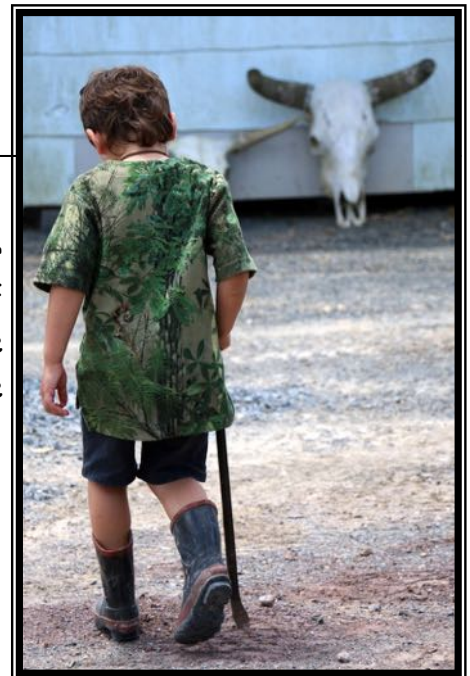
SAFE WITH MUM

This image had so much potential the dogs posture and the position of him in his owners legs is great well done. I even like the vignette but the arms are so distracting you should have asked the model to just move them out the way without the arms I would have given this image at least a highly commended. **MERIT**

SO MUCH TO DO

Quite a different take on the theme so well done for thinking outside the Box. Technically a sound image. If the lad was walking towards the large skull it would have made for a stronger composition but here he looks like he's just walking out of shot so it feels a bit weak.

MERIT



SUMMER BRONZE

Unusual take on the theme but we are all vertebrates. Great composition and positioning of the model, nice soft focus complements the warm colour pallet well thought out image. Its just a shame you went a bit far sharpening the eyes they look a bit on the false side, ease back on that and it would be great.

HIGHLY COMMENDED



TIAKI

Well done for getting this shot it must have been a great experience. Your exposure and focus are fine but your composition needs a bit of work. The main focal point (where you eyes are drawn to) in this image has to be the water

pouring from the tail yet you've kept it to the far left even cropping off some of the surface disturbance. I would have put the centre of the waterfall around the first vertical (rule of thirds) making sure not to crop the wake on the right hand side, that would draw the viewer into the image not kept them hanging on the edge.

Its also a distraction when you have a horizon cutting through you subject. I know that was probably due to circumstances on this occasion but something to bear in mind for the future **MERIT**

TWO ARE BETTER THAN ONE

Great idea with the reflection and a solid composition but sorry always a but. The subject is the two Ibis and they're both out of focus, they should be the sharpest points in the images. Everything else not bad although there is a slight green colour cast on the image adding a slight touch of magenta tint should sort that. **MERIT**



WHITE HERON

Well done leaving space for the subject to move into unfortunately its just flying in the wrong direction. For engaging flight images we generally want the bird to be parallel to us or flying towards us not away.

The position is good. I'd probably crop off some of the empty space on the right as half the image has nothing in it. That way you would also loose some of

that dark shadow on the right although lens correction might also help there. **MERIT**

WOLF

Good focus and detail on the subject but there are some strange colours going on. It has quite a strong magenta colour cast and could do with a slightly warmer white balance. The wolf also seems lop-sided as though the camera isn't straight (I straightened it in Lightroom to see and it looked much better). Lastly watch you don't crop too tightly, give your subject room to breath. **ACCEPTED**



VERTEBRATES B GRADE DIGITAL

AWAITING MY TURN

The composition of the horses in a row in their stables is good and you've controlled your exposure. Shutter speed is just too slow so the leading horse is blurred which for me I'm afraid is a big no no. If you want to show movement then it has to be more pronounced so it looks deliberate, otherwise your subject needs to be sharp anything in between looks like a mistake **ACCEPTED**



BABE

Solid portrait composition well focused you just need work on your processing its a bit dark and has that over processed look about it.

MERIT

CYGNUS ATRATUS

Lovely detail in the swan and nice control of exposure crop is a bit tight for the direction of travel more space needed to the right and bottom for the swan to move into watch the vignette its a bit heavy for my taste I find it distracting rather than enhancing.

MERIT



JOHN SNOW

Nice to see you've tried Black and white and for this subject I think that was a good choice. Being B&W though I would like to see a bit more texture in the fur, a touch more clarity should bring that out, lightening the eyes a little would also put a bit more life in the image. Watch things like whiskers you've cropped them off on the left. Bottom right is also a bit distracting I would have cropped a bit off the bottom to sort that. Good effort though **MERIT**

VERTEBRATES B GRADE DIGITAL CONTINUED

LOOK AT ME I'M FLYING

Nice effort on an action shot the exposure needs upping a bit as the image seems quite dark (looking at the histogram also suggests that). You caught the dog nicely at the top of the jump but to balance the image you really need more space to the left and bottom of the frame otherwise it feels like the dog is jumping out of the image, try to keep more space in front of the direction of the movement rather than behind it. **MERIT**



MEERCAT MUDDLE

Composition is clean and simple which means its even more important you get your focusing correct. In this case it should be the face of the meerkat on its back but it isn't its body. When focusing in this situation make sure you select a single point and place that over the main focal point.

MERIT

MORUS SERRATOR

Nice detail across the whole gannet and good to see you controlled the white feather detail. The background works well and you've kept the composition simple. The only thing I might say is slightly more contrast to give separation between subject and background and you have a slight magenta colour cast that needs a slight correction. **HIGHLY COMMENDED**



VERTEBRATES B GRADE DIGITAL CONTINUES

RANA TEMPORARIA

Nice capture and nice to see the main focal point - the eyes are the sharpest part of the image. Composition is not bad but I'd rather see the frog nearer the bottom right looking up to the left I would also pull back the highlights a bit. For future reference a polarizer is a good way to control the glare on wet reptiles. **MERIT**



VERTEBRAE

Nice exposure but the composition doesn't really work there is nothing to hold the viewers attention.

ACCEPTED

SINGING IN THE RAIN

Nice idea and the composition is okay. If you cropped in a bit tighter so the edges of the outside posts came in on the corners of the frame it would have strengthened it. The exposure is a bit on the bright side so you're losing some of the finer detail in the image, just decreasing the exposure would make a big difference.

MERIT



UP STANDING IN THE FIELD

The image is about the cow trying to stand up but it's just too small in the image. You need to frame it tighter which would also help lose the distraction of the wire fence and the cropped cow on the left.

ACCEPTED

THE WATCHER

Nice background and leading the fence in diagonally from the bottom left corner works well. A few things that would help by just lowering your shooting position so you were shooting at the bird's eye level would have made a huge difference to the impact of the image. Although the bird's body is in focus its head isn't. The head especially the eye should be the sharpest point of this image. It would also have been nice if the bird had been more helpful and looked in your direction.

MERIT



OPEN A GRADE

DE GREY RIVER BRIDGE

Nice B&W image bit more contrast would be nice. It doesn't look like you set your camera up level as the image needs to be straightened a little I would have also shot this dead centre so it was symmetrical.

MERIT



GABIE

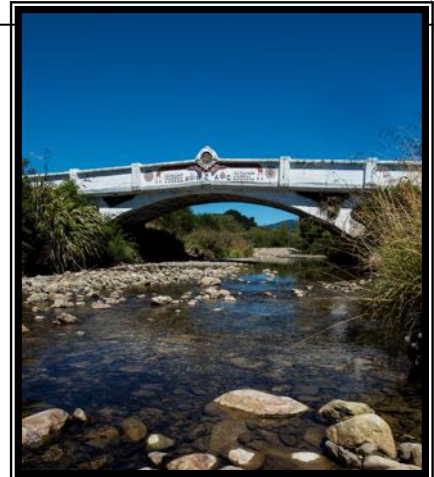
Nice idea and well thought out the composition is nice to nicely controlled exposure. The main problem I'm afraid is your focus is off The flowers behind the girl are sharper than she is and it looks like you tried to sharpen her face more and her hair to compensate. If you hadn't used such a high ISO you may have pulled it off. You could have used a larger aperture and been a bit more accurate with your focusing. Certainly worth trying this shot again once you've practiced a bit more with moving

targets. Good effort. **MERIT**

PEACE BRIDGE MANAWATU

Nice simple composition good focus and detail. personally I think the shadows/blacks need lifting that would also calm the colours as this image feels a bit over saturated.

MERIT



WHAKATANE 2016

This image feels very moody and the lighting is great. There are a few things I think could make it stronger, I would have the figure on the right so its looking into the image and across the scene as

opposed to looking out of the scene that way it would keep your attention in the image. Secondly I love the sky but I think you've gone a tad to far as some of the clouds have hard edged, that's not natural but a great image all the same well done.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

OPEN B GRADE

A DROP OF WATER

At ISO450 I'm sorry I just don't get this the quality is very poor the noise is overwhelming and there is no sharp detail anywhere. Apologies if I'm missing something.

NOT ACCEPTED



AT REST

Great b&w textures contrast and moody good combination. I like the way you shot the headstone low and at a slight angle to match the long shadows that draw the viewer in for the bottom left corner. Well done. **HIGHLY COMMENDED**

BREAKWATER

I like the movement you've captured in the water and it works well in b&w. The composition doesn't quite work as there is a bit of conflict going on between the Horizon and the top of the sea wall I would prefer a bit more distance between them or even shoot much lower so the horizon is nearer the base of the wall. I would also bring the highlights down more in the sky to make it a bit more dramatic. **MERIT**

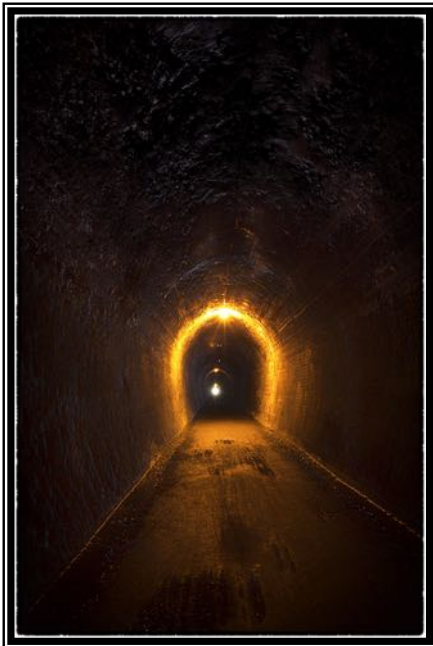


DAHLIA RISE

Unusual angle but works quite well, the colour gives it some impact although I think it would have more impact if you were looking more into the flower I would also like to see the center of the flower sharper as that's where the image radiates from. Good effort though. **MERIT**

DOROTHY FALLS

Although the composition of this image works well in regards to how you have placed all the elements in it. The key to a good landscape is lighting. The light here is very harsh. Taken mid afternoon early morning or evening would work much better. The highlights here also need bringing down to try and bring some detail back especially in the foreground rocks. **MERIT**

**KARANGAHAKE TUNNEL**

You've done well with this image I think the exposure is spot on and it has a great feel to it. I think if you had just thought about the composition a bit more it would be a stunner. It really needs to be symmetrical repositioning the camera so you had the light trails coming from both bottom corners would give it much more impact. If I were you I would go back and give it another go its a great subject. **HIGHLY COMMENDED**

POPPY DETAIL

Quite a strong image and the colour certainly gets your attention. I think it needs to be a bit more centred as the white petal at the bottom keeps drawing your attention out of the image. Keep an eye on your sharpening you don't want to over do it. **MERIT**



OPEN B GRADE CONTINUED



STEAMY EVE

There's quite a lot of distortion here due to the wide angle lens the boardwalk looks like its leaning over. Have you tried using lens correction? That aside you've lost quite a lot of the mood from the mist due to too much exposure if you had reduced it the fog would look more impressive and the beams

of light from the sun would also have been more dramatic. **ACCEPTED**

STREAMY FALLS

Lovely image nice use of a slow shutter speed presumably an ND filter. Nice use of the stream as a lead in line and the waterfall is well positioned. Excellent exposure well done. The only thing I would say is that it feels the image needs lifting on the right as the pool seems to be sloping that way. It might just be an illusion but I did drop it into LR and lift it on the right and it made quite a difference you might want to try it and see what you think. Like I said though lovely image. **HIGHLY COMMENDED**

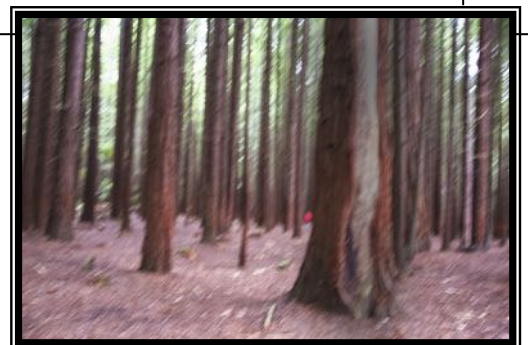


SURROUNDED

There's something about looking up through the trees and you've done a great job here I really like the composition and exposure is good. All I would suggest is drop the highlights a bit and add a touch of contrast to give it a bit more depth and that will also add a touch of richness to the colours, that's just me though. **HIGHLY COMMENDED**

WALKING THROUGH AN IMPRESSIONIST RED-WOOD FOREST

I understand what you were going for here and its good to see you trying different techniques. Not sure how the red blob helps the image and considering you wanted a slow shutter speed your choice of camera settings is interesting. I presume you went for a high ISO because you wanted a very noisy image for effect. Have you thought of a b & w conversion? **ACCEPTED**



OPEN C GRADE DIGITAL

ICY VEINS

Quite effective I'm glad you had a steady hand. I quite like the defused winter landscape the background. I think a small amount of fill in flash would have made a big difference and given the image more punch. Nice idea though.

MERIT



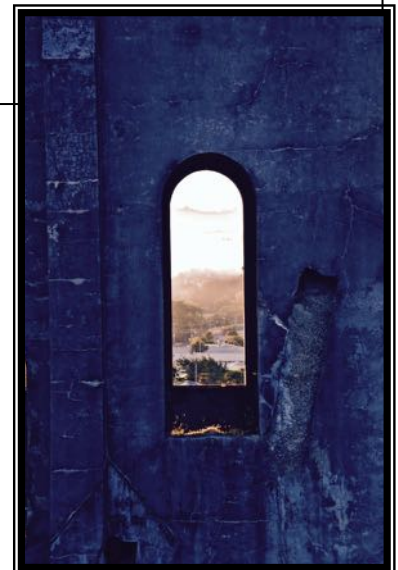
IMAGE 1 OPEN

Nice smooth tones in this b&w really works well with the fog but for me the tree in the foreground in this aspect I find distracting. If you change it to a square crop using the triangle of the tree to come in at the bottom of each corner I think it produces a much stronger composition. **MERIT**

IMAGE 2 OPEN

Good idea especially with the nice textures on the wall. But because it's about the view as well though the opening the landscape is too over exposed. The image also feels it needs straightening and you also need to keep an eye on distractions like the other opening you've cropped through on the right.

MERIT



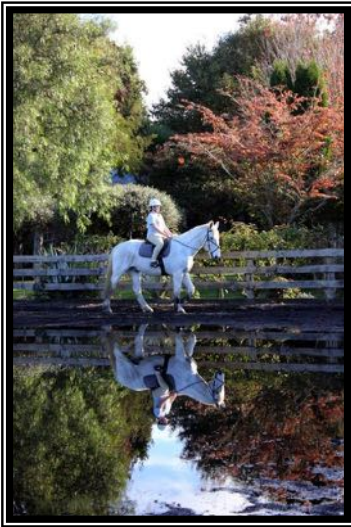
LITTLE HONEY

Good effort here nice focus on the main flower and very nice diffused background and nicely exposed. Keep an eye out for distractions - with a slightly tighter crop you could have lost the white petals coming down top left and with a slight change of position, moving to the left at capture you may have been able to lose the left hand

stem as well. good effort though well done. **MERIT**

MODERN MEETS TRADITIONAL

this is such a great travel shot. its a nice composition and the little girls face is priceless. Well spotted and captured. A slightly warmer white balance and a touch more contrast this image would really pop. **HIGHLY COMMENDED**



REFLECTIONS

Nice idea with the reflection and keeping it almost symmetrical works well. The image is just a bit washed out you need to bring down the highlights and a bit of exposure and a bit of contrast and the whole scene will become more vibrant and bring out the detail.

MERIT

A PALACE OF GREAT HAPPINESS

Composition is quite nice with the river leading into the scene and the ponies/ donkeys adding foreground interest. The image itself is a bit flat bringing down the exposure in the sky would help boost the blue and give it a boost. A nice tranquil scene all the same. **MERIT**



THE WAITING GAME

Nice vibrant street shot shame the young lad isn't looking at the camera it would then really engage the viewer, a tighter crop may also help.

MERIT

VERTEBRATES A GRADE PRINTS

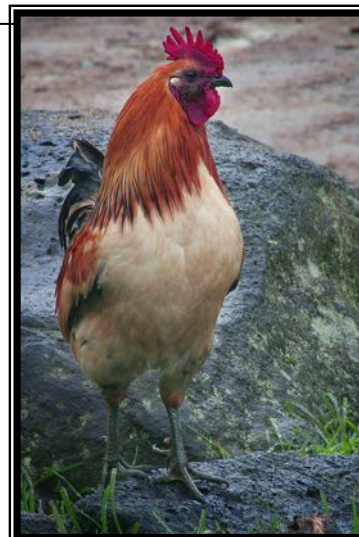
COCK-A-DOODLE

Nicely exposed with good detail. I like the pose but the crop I find a little tight.

A shallower dof would help defuse the background more and if you got lower you wouldn't have got the rock cutting through the birds neck. Backgrounds are just as important as the subject so ensure it complements your subject.

Personally not over keen on the metallic paper for this type of image but I think that just comes down to personal taste.

MERIT



FRUIT FOR LUNCH

nice idea with the three images but feels very heavy on the processing The images are quite dark yet you've still blown the highlights making it very contrasty.

If that's the look you like that's fine but silver-eyes are quite delicate pretty little birds and for

me you've lost that with these images. **ACCEPTED**

JURY

Its a bit on the macabre side but you've executed it pretty well. The lighting works well with the subject matter. Its nicely printed and the paper selection was good (although have you tried printing this on a fine art paper?).

Working in a set of three works well, where I felt it could be improved in not such a tight crop. Also the lead in line in this case isn't needed the image would be stronger if all three stems seemed to be floating. Tacking the left one out of the corner unbalances the image. Great effort though. **HIGHLY COMMENDED**



THE THINKER

Nice moment you've captured all the technical side of things is okay. The composition though doesn't feel balanced. If you drop a vertical line down the centre anything of interest is on the right hand side making the left a bit redundant. I think you have two options either have more space on the right, or because of the subject come in even tighter to really emphasis the expression

on the orangutan's face. ie think about just the arm and the face. **MERIT**

FRENCH CONNECTION

Good effort and well spotted nice print although it feels a bit on the dark side. Nice diagonal composition. but think more about how to engage the viewer. get lower so you're more at eye level with your subject and move around so the subject seems to engage more with the lens. Here the frogs posture is turning away from the lens, you could have moved around so it was looking towards it. **MERIT**



PARDON ME!

Nice posture and positioning in the frame and you've done well controlling the highlights on a sunny day. I'm not too keen on the paper choice but the big problem is that you've cut off the front paw unfortunately that lets the image down in a big way. **MERIT**

THIS WAY

Not only have you captured the penguin in a great posture your composition is also very good. The image feels well balanced and everything is where it should be.

It did fall down slightly on the colours in the print that could be the choice of paper. It looks like metallic which personally I think is a bad choice for this type of image. You've taken a very natural looking scene and made it unnatural through the medium you've printed it on. **HIGHLY COMMENDED**

