RE MEDIA SYSTEMS

FREE FIELD GUIDE / 01

The 30-Minute Shoot Blueprint

A calmer route through the home.
A repeatable handheld HDR system.



PLAN THE ROUTE. CAPTURE THE SET. CHECK BEFORE YOU LEAVE.

Scott Prokop / RE Media Systems

Based on Scott's confirmed handheld JPEG/HDR approach.

The timed plan is an editorial proposal for a ready-to-shoot home.

Thirty minutes is a target, never a guarantee or a reason to skip quality.

Photography only. Practise the route. Check the results.

BEFORE THE CLOCK STARTS

Set the shoot up to succeed

Use this plan for a prepared, standard residential property with straightforward access and a compact route.

What the 30 minutes includes

A short readiness check, front exterior, core interiors, secondary spaces, back exterior and a final capture check. Editing, upload, travel, staging, floor plans, drone, video and twilight work have separate time budgets.

Scott's capture approach

Scott confirmed a Sony A7 V, Sony FE 12-24mm F4 G lens, no tripod, and three exposures at -2, 0 and +2 EV. He uses JPEG files and Auto ISO, with a ceiling up to ISO 12,800 depending on the camera. His published f/8 Aperture Priority setting is a starting point to adapt to the light. His route moves from the front exterior to the main living spaces, primary suite, remaining rooms, family room and back yard.

Use settings as a starting point

Select JPEG, Auto ISO and continuous exposure bracketing. Test stabilization, a camera-appropriate ISO ceiling up to 12,800 and a drive mode that records all three files. Use Auto White Balance or a consistent property white balance. Keep aperture and focus consistent through each rapid bracket burst.

Check the slowest exposure

With aperture and ISO fixed, +2 EV takes four times as long: a 1/60 s base becomes about 1/15 s. With Auto ISO, verify the actual exposure settings and slowest frame. Stabilization cannot freeze a moving fan or person. Inspect the brightest frame at full magnification; check Auto ISO, your tested ceiling and shutter speed; brace and retake. If the set is still soft, pause and revise the plan rather than delivering blurred frames.

Reset the target when conditions change

Dark basements, occupied rooms, extensive preparation, large homes, difficult window contrast, weather and client requests can all add time. Agree on the essential coverage first and tell the client when more time is needed.

THE ON-SITE PLAN

30 minutes, with a buffer

Proposed photos-only schedule. Keep moving in one direction; adjust to the property, light and the agreed brief.

00-03 — **Readiness + route**

Confirm access and coverage. Quick walkthrough; safe light/blind adjustments, fans off, small clutter only with permission.

03-06 — **Front exterior**

Front elevation, useful approach and yard context. Avoid vehicles, people and distracting obstructions where practical.

06-15 — **Main living spaces**

Entry, living room, kitchen and dining. Prioritize room relationships and a strong kitchen/living composition.

15-20 — **Primary suite**

Bedroom plus ensuite. Show usable layout; check mirror reflections and door positions.

20-24 — **Secondary spaces**

Remaining bedrooms, bathrooms and family room. Add laundry/utility only when relevant to the brief.

24-27 — **Back exterior**

Back elevation, yard, patio or other agreed feature. Check access and changing light.

27-30 — **Coverage + exit check**

Review complete bracket sets, sharpness and missing rooms. Reshoot now; restore agreed light/blind settings and secure access.

PRINTABLE FIELD CHECKLIST

Capture the right coverage

Use the agreed brief to decide the final image count. These are composition prompts, not a fixed delivery promise.

- ☐ Before entry: charged battery, free cards, clean lens, JPEG, Auto ISO/ceiling, bracket preset and stabilization checked. Scott uses no tripod.
- ☐ Walkthrough: confirm permissions, pets and people; note hazards, restricted rooms and features that must be shown.
- ☐ Front: a clean elevation and useful property context. Check cut-off rooflines and leaning verticals.
- ☐ Living + kitchen: Scott describes 3-4 views of these key rooms. Make each composition explain something different.
- ☐ Dining + entry: show how spaces connect; avoid repeating the same doorway from several positions.
- ☐ Primary + other bedrooms: Scott describes about 2 views per bedroom, where the room and brief justify them.
- ☐ Bathrooms: often 1 clear view each. Check mirrors, glass, toilet lids and your own reflection.
- ☐ Family room + back yard: capture the agreed features; include laundry, garage or storage when they matter.
- ☐ Every position: level the camera, leave crop room, set focus and capture all three exposures quickly while holding steady. Finish the set before moving.
- ☐ Before leaving: compare the room list to actual captures. Recheck the darkest room and brightest window scene.

Leave room for perspective-correction crops; review that setting for steep upward views. Keep rejected retakes out of the processing input while preserving the originals. Make intentional alternate versions clearly different in framing or zoom.

THE QUALITY GATE

A fast shoot still needs a finish

The clock stops after capture. Protect a separate editing and delivery window.

01 / Before you leave the property

Zoom in on representative frames, especially the slowest bracket. Look for motion blur, incomplete sets, clipped important highlights, reflections, missed rooms and framing that cannot survive a vertical correction. Change the exposure, stabilize your stance and retake when needed; allow more time if the set is still soft.

02 / Ingest and protect the originals

Copy the original JPEG files to the job folder and a second location. Check transfer counts and sample-open files before reusing cards. Group brackets by composition and remove accidental partial sets from the merge queue.

03 / Automate, then inspect

After connecting Dropbox, use AutoHDR / property address / 01-RAW-Photos for complete JPEG brackets. AutoHDR processes the files and returns edited images to 04-FINAL-Photos automatically. Review each result in AutoHDR with a tailored QC checklist. Check alignment, motion, colour, detail and believable windows. Arrival in the output folder is not human approval.

04 / Correct without misrepresenting

Check verticals, white balance and room-to-room consistency. Confirm walls and fixtures retain believable colours. Do not remove permanent defects or change structural features without an appropriate, disclosed workflow and client approval.

05 / Export and deliver

Match the actual client or platform requirements. Open the exported files and check orientation, dimensions, count and filenames. Deliver only QC-passed images by the agreed method. Test the client-facing permissions, download access and version before sending a link.

MAKE THE SYSTEM YOURS

Measure quality before speed

Run this route on a practice property, then adjust the budget using actual results.

- [ ] Write down start/end times for each zone. Count complete compositions, not individual bracket files.
- [ ] Record the cause of each delay: preparation, camera handling, route, difficult light or missing coverage.
- [ ] Check the final merged images before tightening the next shoot's time target.
- [ ] Keep the last three minutes for coverage and retakes. Extend the appointment if that is not enough.

Keep the tested capture preset

Practise the full bracket burst and stance before a paid shoot. Check the slowest frame and finished merge; Auto ISO cannot guarantee sharpness.

Read the sources in context

AutoHDR's settings article supports 2 EV spacing; its photographer workflow currently suggests 3 EV. Follow Scott's confirmed three-frame, 2 EV preset. This route is a practice plan. Processing, QC and delivery need separate budgets.

AutoHDR: recommended photography settings

https://knowledge.autohdr.com/sops/recommended-photography-settings

AutoHDR: photographer workflow - select Dropbox

https://knowledge.autohdr.com/sops/photographer-sop

Beginner guide: capture settings, route and post-production

https://remediasystems.com/beginner-guide-real-estate-photography-10000-homes/

HDR guide: broader background and alternative settings

https://remediasystems.com/complete-hdr-real-estate-photography-guide/

Revised 30 October 2026. Keep the JPEG, Auto ISO and three-frame handheld guidance here. Review the current service instructions and adapt the route to the home, brief and actual image quality.