VIGNETTE CORNER AUDIT

Inspect the corners before adding a vignette.

Darkening every edge can damage useful structure. Identify the distracting corner first.

01	**Locate**	Name the corner or edge that steals attention. If none does, there may be no problem for a vignette to solve.
02	**Structure**	Check whether architecture, light or a story detail relies on an open edge. Preserve that relationship.
03	**Choose**	A local correction may solve one bright corner more precisely than darkening all four. Compare both approaches.
04	**Falloff**	Keep transitions gentle and inspect the brightness of surrounding surfaces. The subject should not appear trapped in a dark ring.
05	**Off test**	Toggle the vignette at normal size. Keep it only when attention improves without making the effect itself visible.

Worked example

Repeating arches often depend on light reaching the edges. Dark corners may interrupt their rhythm. If one corner is distracting, a modest local adjustment can preserve the architecture better than a global vignette.

Keep in mind

Some lenses create natural falloff that suits the image. Judge the photograph rather than removing or adding vignetting by habit.

Your decision

Distracting edge

useful edge

local alternative

off-on preference

final decision

Adapted from the PhotoMind source manuscript, section 8.5, pp. 154-158. Examples and worksheet are editorial applications.