

Digital Photography 1

Basic Camera Cheat Sheet

ISO

In an analog (film) camera, the ISO speed refers to the light sensitivity of the film. The higher the number, the more sensitive the film is to light meaning the film can be used in low light situations.

The ISO designation has been recycled in digital photography as well. Most digital cameras give you the ability to change the IOS setting on your camera. The higher the ISO number the more “sensitive” your camera is to light.

***A note on ISO**, the higher you set the ISO number the “grainier” or “noisier” your photos will become. You want to shoot your images at the lowest ISO possible to avoid grainy pictures.

Rule of thumb – 200 ISO for outdoor imaging on bright day, 400 ISO is an indoor/outdoor setting, 800 ISO and higher for indoors and low lighting.

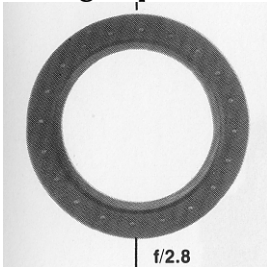
White Balance

White Balance is a setting on your camera that affects how the whites are recorded. Different lighting sources affect whites in different ways. Because of this you need to be cognizant of the white balance settings on your camera when taking pictures. Most cameras have an **Auto** setting that works well in most cases, however, you may get better results to change the white balance to a specific lighting setting to get better color. Check your camera’s owners manual to see what settings are available on your camera.

Aperture

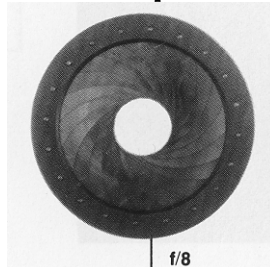
The aperture of a camera controls how much light is allowed into and through the lens of the camera.

Large Aperture



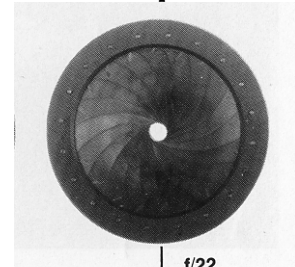
- Lets in most light
- The larger the aperture the smaller the f/stop number
- Little is in focus in the foreground and background

Middle Aperture



- Lets in more light
- Best use of the optics (lens glass)
- Some of the foreground and background closest to the subject is in focus

Small Aperture



- Lets in the least amount of light
- The smaller the aperture the larger the f/stop number
- More is in focus from foreground to background

Shutter

The shutter of a camera controls how long light is allowed to hit the film/sensor.

A setting of **1/4000** = a 4000th of a second exposure to light

A setting of **1"** = 1 second exposure to light

A setting of **BULB** = as long as you hold the shutter release button down the shutter stays open

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Light Meter

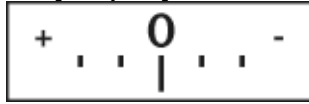
The light meter tells you, and the camera (in automatic settings) what it thinks the optimal settings are for a given photograph.

Overexposed Meter



- Image will be washed out
- Too much light

Properly Exposed Meter



- Best settings for the area(s) you are metering on

Underexposed Meter

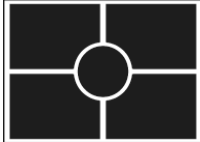


- Image will appear dark
- Not enough light

Metering

Metering refers to how the light meter is going to take its readings. Different cameras, and manufacturers, have different types of metering and names for metering.

Matrix Metering



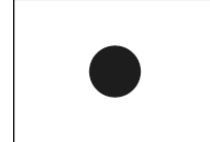
- Reads the entire image
- Canon calls this *Center Weighted Average metering*

Center Weighted Metering



- Reads an area in the center of the viewfinder
- Canon calls this *Evaluative metering*

Spot Metering



- Looks at a small area in the center of the viewfinder
- Canon also calls this *spot metering*