

EXPOSURE

Wayne Bennett

What is exposure?

What factors affect exposure?

1. Aperture . . . lens opening . . . f-stop
2. Film Speed (ISO Setting in Digital) . . . the higher the number the faster the speed of your film or sensitivity of your sensor. Faster film speed=more grain. Higher ISO in digital=more noise.
3. Shutter Speed . . . the amount of time your shutter stays open during your exposure.

THESE 3 FACTORS ARE CALLED THE EXPOSURE TRIANGLE.

With film, film speed becomes a constant when you put your film in your camera, so it essentially becomes a non-factor once in the camera, except you need to be cognizant of what film you are using and its rating. In digital you can change your ISO setting for each exposure.

Aperture and shutter speed function reciprocally. Each doubling or halving of aperture or shutter speed represents a one stop change in either aperture or shutter speed.

Other factors to consider: Depth of Field . . . stopping or blurring action.

HOW DO YOU CREATE A CORRECT EXPOSURE?

What does your camera see? How is it calibrated? All cameras are preset to try to make everything 18% gray!

What are the characteristics of your film? Digital sensors have about the same tolerance and latitude as slide film, perhaps a little more lenient than slide film.

Exposure modes: P(rogram) . . . A(perture priority) . . . S(hutter priority) . . . M(annual) Which one do you use? Depends on whether you want to create the exposure or let the camera take a picture for you. You make the choice!

Metering modes: Spot . . . Center weighted . . . Matrix
Which one do you use?

Newer cameras are very sophisticated and even in automatic modes are capable of presenting you with good exposures. Learning how to control exposure to produce the results you want is your choice. Your camera will "argue" that your exposure is wrong, because it is programmed to make the whole scene 18% gray, so any change you make is considered an error! Don't believe your camera!

Parameters for correct exposure:

- Exposure Triangle
- Reciprocal functions of Aperture/Shutter Speed
- Depth of Field
- Stopping/Blurring action
- Exposure latitudes of film/sensor
- How to expose for medium tones