

Greater Cleveland PC
Users Group



How to Take Better Pictures With Any Camera

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Overview

- **You don't need a "good" camera to take "good pictures"**
- **Good pictures are made with 3 simple ingredients**

Two Kinds of Digital Cameras

Point and Shoot



Single Lens Reflex



Know Your Camera

- Owner's manual-printed or online
- Books
- Online
 - Google your question
 - Flickr Forums

Interact With Other Photographers

- Local Camera Clubs
- Websites
 - [Digital Photography School](#)
 - Photography Websites/forums
- Books

What makes a “bad” picture?

Bad Picture Example: Blurry



Bad Picture Example: Too light or dark



Bad Picture Example: No Clear Subject



Fundamentals of Photography

- Focus
- Exposure
- Composition

Focus

- How does your camera focus?
 - Automatic focus
 - Manual focus
- Three causes of fuzzy images
 - Focusing on the wrong thing
 - Camera shake
 - Shallow depth of field when you didn't intend it

Examples of Photos With Focus Problems

Getting Focus Right: Use “Focus Lock”

- Position your subject in the center of the frame
- Press shutter down halfway
- Reframe the subject while holding down

Getting Focus Right

- Make sure the camera focuses on the areas you want sharp
- Prevent Camera Shake
 - Shutter speeds $< 1/60$ often blurry so brace the camera
 - Use “human tripod” stance

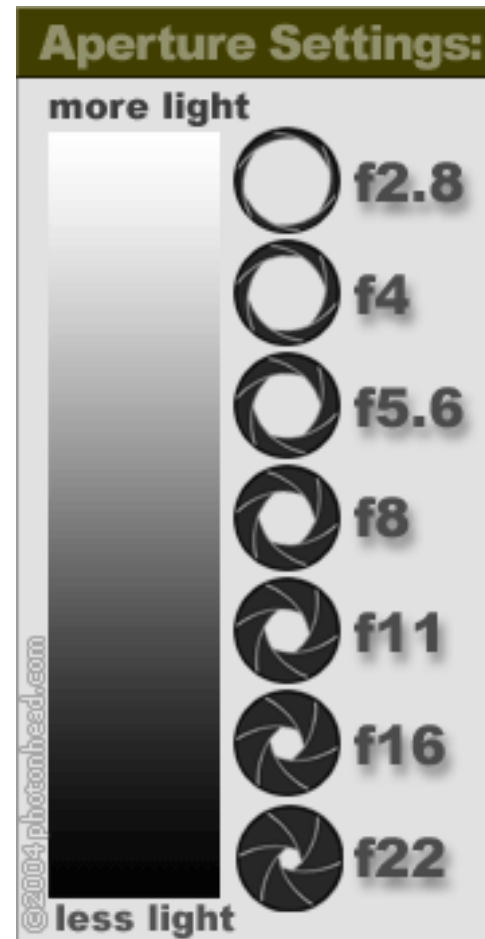
Photos for Discussion of Exposure

Exposure Depends On Proper Metering

- Your camera's metering system
 - Average of light
 - Center weighting
 - Spot metering

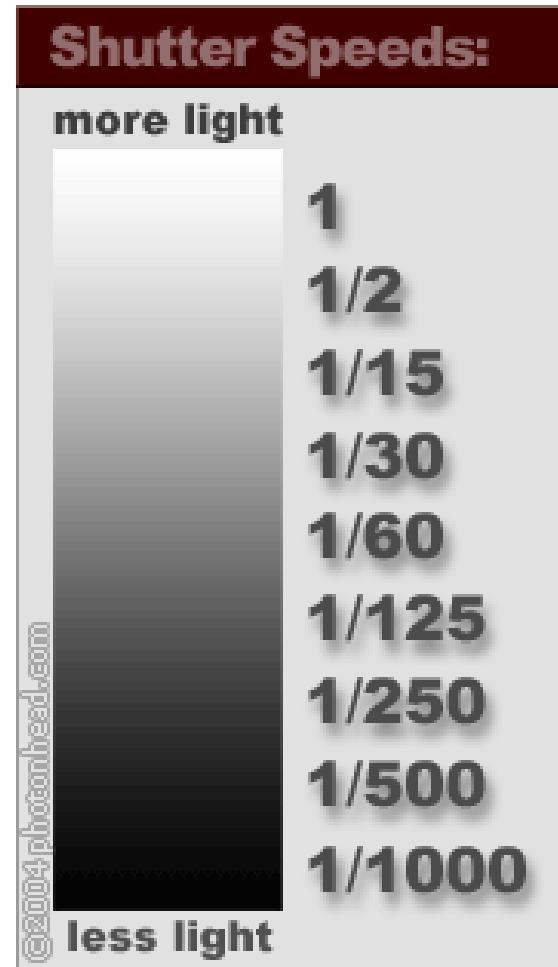
F-Stops

- Control the amount of light
- The larger the opening, the shallower the [depth of field](#)



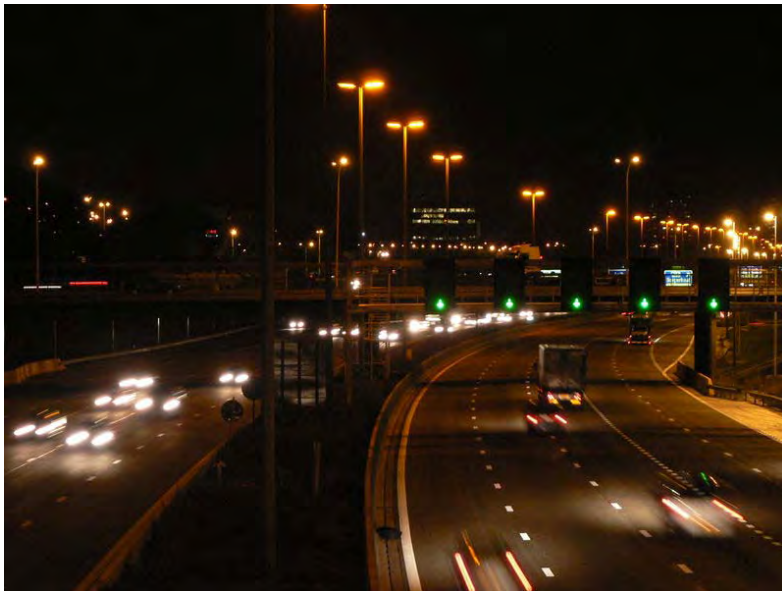
Shutter Speeds

- Are length of time the shutter is open
- Faster speeds freeze action



Slow Shutter speed blurs motion

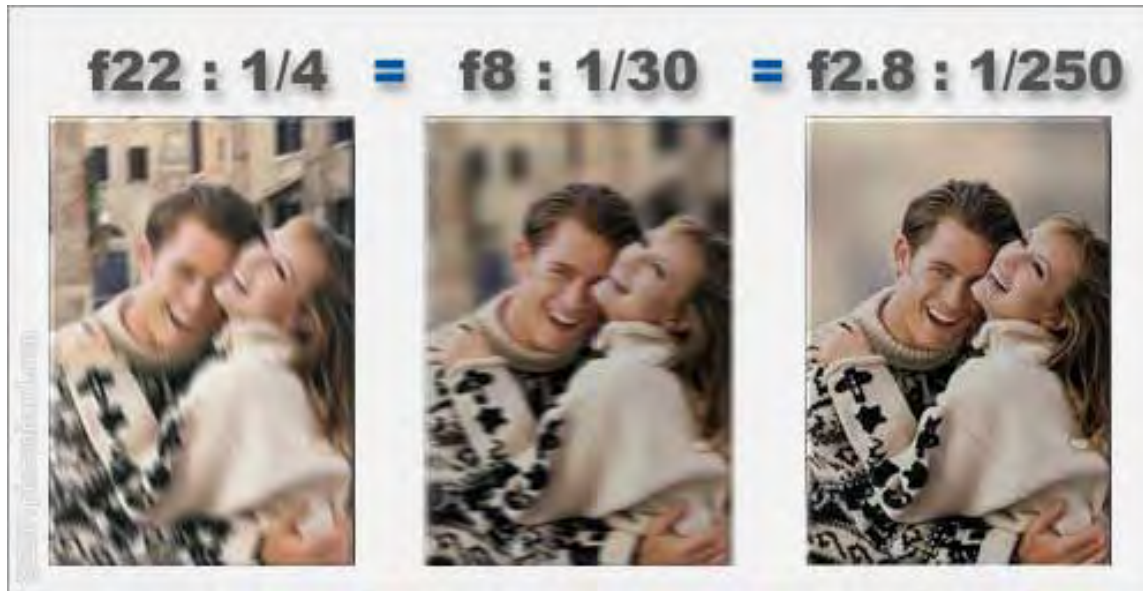
**1/4 Second
Exposure**



**2 Second
Exposure**



F-Stop & Shutter Speed Combinations



- Faster shutter speeds freeze action
- Larger lens opening (f-stop) has shallower depth of field

Exposure: How to Control Your Camera

- Auto Mode
 - Exposure compensation
- Aperture Priority
- Shutter Priority
- Manual Mode
- Special Purpose Modes
 - Museum,
 - Kids and Pets,
 - Fireworks

Exposure: Using Flash

- Know the range of your flash
- Consider available light
- Use “fill in” flash in bright sunlight

Exposure: How to get it right

- Basic
 - View the picture
- Advanced
 - View your [histogram](#)-Check for blinkies
 - Consider “Bracketing” your exposure
 - Consider shooting in Raw

Composition

- Rule of thirds
- Face-ism

Composition: Face-ism Ratio

- high face-ism ratio (the face takes up most of the image)
 - focus attention on the person's intellectual and personality attributes.
- low face-ism ratio (focus on the body)
 - puts attention on the physical and sensual attributes of a person.

See Examples

Photos to Illustrate Composition

Mobile Photography



- Always present
- Sharing is easy
- Uses limited only by your imagination

Artistic and Practical Uses for Mobile Photography

- Your camera phone can become your visual diary

Capturing the spirit of play

- Experiment with your photos
- There is no cost for trying something new
- Do more of what works, less of what doesn't

Conclusion

- Focus, Exposure, and Composition help make an effective photograph
- Your mobile phone is a laboratory for improving your photographs

THE END

Resources

- Camera Manufacturer
 - Example: Nikon D 90 [Digitutor](#)
- YouTube and other sites
- [Dictionary of Film and Digital Photography](#)
- [Digital Icons Demystified](#)



F-Stop and Shutter Speed Simulator

<http://www.photonhead.com/exposure/simcam.php>