

Digital Photography



Digital

Focus

- Auto Focus
- Semi-Auto Focus
- Manual Focus

Auto Focus Mechanisms

- Reflected Beam
 - Bounces a beam (usually infra-red) off the subject to determine distance and focus.
- Contrast Optimization
 - Analyzes a small portion of the image and changes the focus until Maximum Contrast is achieved for that portion of the image.
 - Most Cameras use this mechanism most of the time.

Auto Focus Problems

- Certain situations can confuse Auto Focus
 - Low light situations.
 - Multiple subjects in the frame.
 - Glass between the camera and subject.
 - Reflections off shiny subjects.
- Other Auto Focus Concerns
 - Auto Focus uses more battery power to work the focusing motors.
 - Noise and delay of focusing mechanisms.

Auto Focus Benefits

- Most new cameras have multiple focus points.
- Most new cameras are pretty good at “Guessing” which object in the frame is the subject.
- Most new cameras are reasonably quiet and fast to focus.
- Some technologies (such as “Night Shot”) can focus in total darkness at close distances by using infrared LED illumination.
- Minimal Effort, Point and Shoot.

Semi-Auto Focus

- Many Cameras will set and lock both the Focus and the Exposure when the shutter button is pushed HALF way down and held.
- Some cameras will allow the user to control which focus point is used.
- Some cameras will beep or flash a light in the view finder when the focus is set.

Semi-Auto Focus Procedure

- Setup the camera to use a specific focus point. (for example, the center focus point)
- Place the focus point on the subject. (for example, a persons face)
- Press the shutter half way down and hold it there.
- Compose the shot.
- Press the shutter button the rest of the way down to take the picture.

Manual Focus

- Distance step focus.
- Continuous focus ring on lens.

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