

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

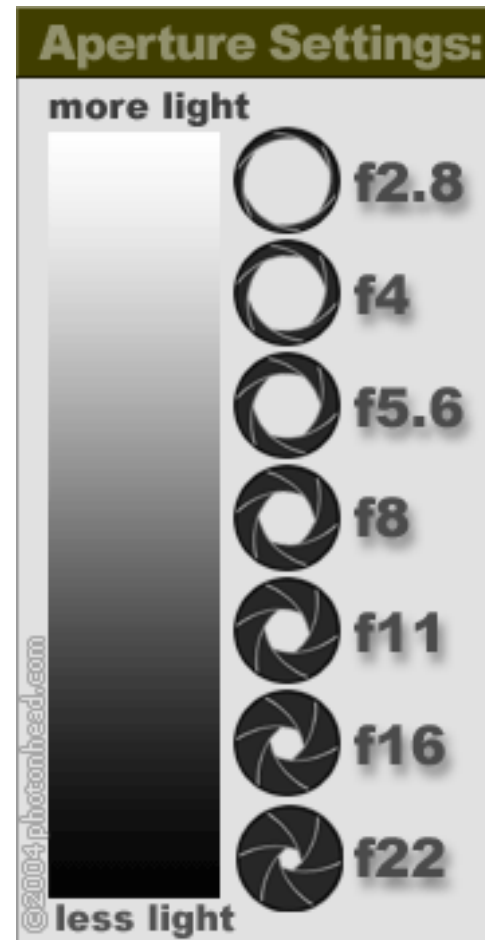
# Photos for Discussion of Exposure

# Exposure Depends On Proper Metering

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

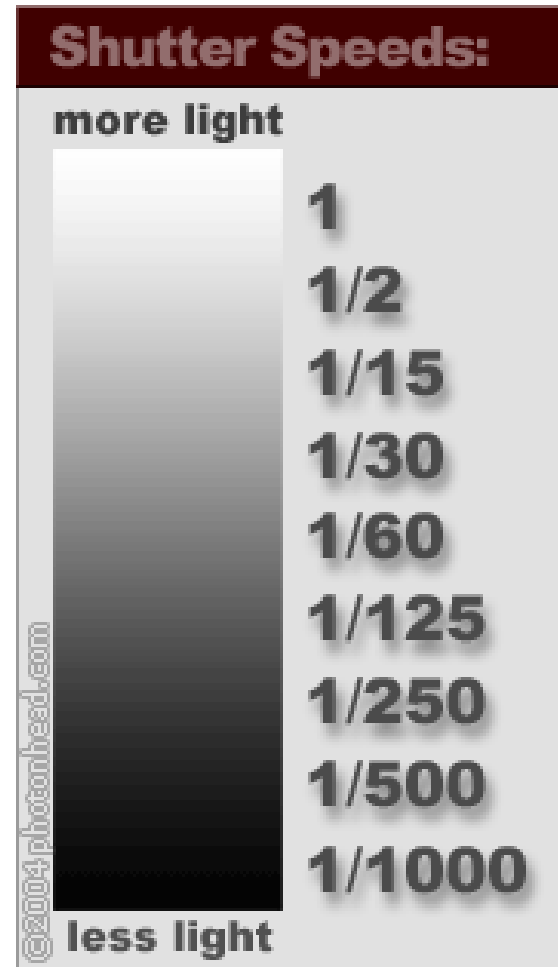
# F-Stops

- 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

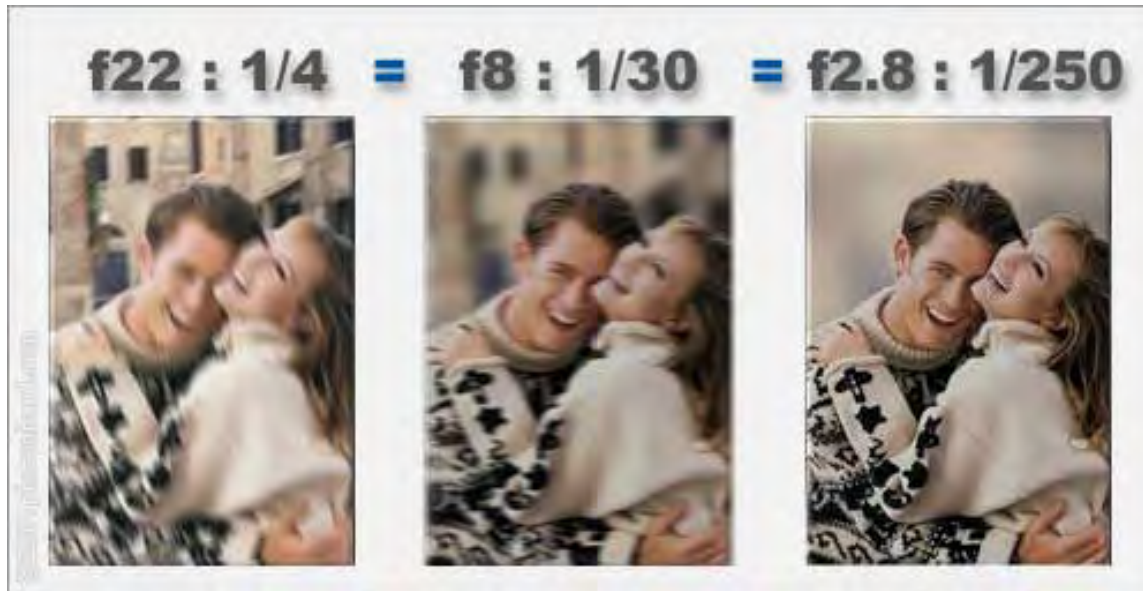
**1/4 Second  
Exposure**



**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>