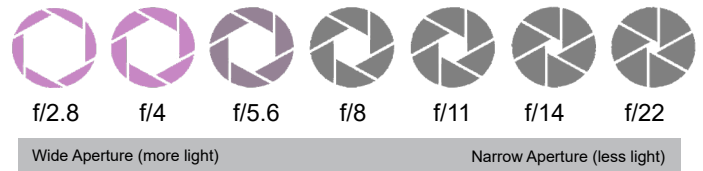


HIGH KEY PHOTOGRAPHY

BLUEPRINT

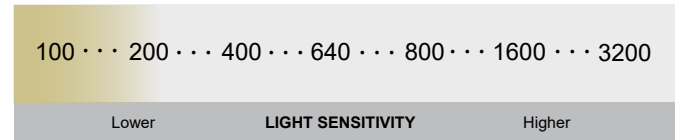


APERTURE



Set the aperture to wider values (between f/1.8 and f/4) to get a soft effect in your high-key images.

ISO



You have a lot of light in high key photography and you can shoot at low iso values.

SHUTTER SPEED



Choose shutter speeds greater than 1/250s or greater than 1/focal length, taking into account the crop factor. If you have the camera on a tripod, then you can go with slower shutter speeds too.

1 LIGHT THE BACKGROUND

First things first, you need to light your background. We want one light either side of where your subject is going to be, pointing directly at the background. These lights should be at exactly the same power either side, so we get a nice evenly lit backdrop.



Make sure that the lights aren't too close to the background, or you may get hot spots, where one section of light is significantly lighter than the others. Ensure that the lights aren't angled towards the subject, otherwise, you may get light spill.

TIP:

If you want your backdrop to be pure and completely white, then you'll need it to be 2 stops brighter than the subject you're shooting!

2 SET THE MOOD

High key photography seeks to eliminate harsh shadows and create a bright environment. It is generally used to convey an upbeat, cheerful or fragile subject.



You see high key used regularly for model photography, flowers and other subjects that are feminine in nature. Practically speaking, the bright nature of the photo highlights the subject and can make for some great attention-grabbing contrast.

TIP:

In addition to photographing flowers, animals or kids in high key, you can shoot products in this way - they will look clean and sleek!

3 THE ESSENTIALS

3 EDIT PROPERLY

Editing can be used to clean up problem areas, lighten up and even out the background, and enhance the look and feel you are striving for.



To achieve even more softness in your high key photos, you can play with the dehaze tool until you achieve the "heavenly effect". It can look stunning in portraits and flower images!

TIP:

If you're not happy with the colors, feel free to convert your high key images to b&w. Just make sure to tweak the luminance of colors if necessary!