

BACKLIT PHOTOGRAPHY

BLUEPRINT

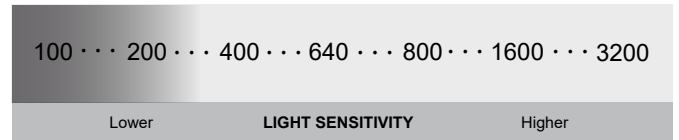


APERTURE



Shoot with a wide aperture for a shallow depth of field. The aperture for backlit portraits can vary from f/2.8 to f/5.6.

ISO



Keep your iso as low as possible - you can start with iso 100.

SHUTTER SPEED



Experiment with your shutter speed. Take a few shots with auto settings to get a general idea of proper shutter speed. Mostly it varies from 1/100 to 1/640s.

1 THE RIGHT TIME OF DAY

Backlighting works best either early in the morning or late in the afternoon. These times of day are known as the golden hour because the sun is positioned low in the sky and serves as a soft natural light source.



If you shoot closer to midday, the sun will be positioned directly above your subject, dispersing light evenly and making it harder to concentrate the light behind your subject.

TIP:

Typically the hour after sunrise and the hour before sunset are the best times to achieve the most beautiful backlighting possible.

2 PROPER POSITIONING

It's very important that you choose a camera position where the light source is directly behind your subject.



When you look through your camera, the light should spill past the sides of your backlit subject, but the central source of light should be mostly hidden. Practice the proper positioning both in studio and outdoors until you nail it!

TIP:

You don't need a fill flash if you want to shoot silhouettes, but if you want to capture traditional backlit portraits, using a fill flash is usually indispensable.

3 THE ESSENTIALS

3 CAPTURING MOVEMENT

When you think of silhouette photos, what first comes to mind are people posing, usually standing, with little or no movement. However, silhouette action shots can be truly captivating!



Ask your model to walk, dance, run, jump or twirl - you'll be surprised by how alluring such images can be!

TIP:

Don't forget to increase the shutter speed if you want to freeze the movement - start with 1/250s if your subject is moving slowly and go up from there.