

# EXPOSURE COMPENSATION

## BLUEPRINT

Even if you're an amateur photographer, you have most probably heard about exposure compensation. It allows photographers to override exposure settings picked by the camera's light meter, in order to darken or brighten images before they are captured.



Exposure compensation works by adjusting one or more of the exposure variables, depending on what camera mode you are using. The balance of light and dark is evaluated based on the entire frame that you see in the camera's viewfinder. Exposure compensation allows you to increase or decrease the exposure of a scene.

There are a few typical situations when you should consider using exposure compensation. A lot of the time the camera meter is right, but sometimes it is not and it needs your help.



### When to use exposure compensation:

1. snowy scenes
2. night photography
3. long exposure during daytime
4. if you don't like the "right" exposure

## 1 EV STOPS

Exposure compensation is adjustable in 1/3 or 1/2 EV or so-called stops. Each full stop adjustment doubles or halves the amount of light reaching the image sensor. The EV scales you'll see most often tend to range from about -6 to +17.



An exposure compensation adjustment of +1 EV will give you an image that is twice as bright as the base exposure. The same goes for -1 EV – it will result in an image that is half as bright as the base exposure.

#### TIP:

EV is used to describe not just the camera settings you use, but also the brightness of the scene. A higher EV means you're exposing for a brighter subject.

## 2 CAMERA MODES

The way exposure compensation works depends on what mode you have your camera in. In Aperture Priority Mode, exposure compensation works by changing the shutter speed. This gives you the ability to change the shutter speed while staying at the same aperture you initially picked.



If you work in Shutter Priority Mode, exposure compensation will change your aperture. In Program Mode, exposure compensation works by changing the shutter speed, just like in Aperture Priority Mode.

#### TIP:

In manual mode, the only thing that changes is the meter indication. You have to change aperture, shutter speed or ISO yourself.

## THE ESSENTIALS

### 3 EXPOSURE BRACKETING

Another topic that is closely related to exposure compensation is exposure bracketing and it can be quite useful as well.



In Auto Exposure Bracketing (AEB, or just bracketing), you have an option to set your camera to take multiple pictures in a row. The first one will be at normal exposure, the next one will be underexposed and the final one will be overexposed.

#### TIP:

You can also merge bracketed images and create some great HDR shots! Try this out if you haven't done it already.