

CREATIVE EXPOSURE BY CHANGING ISO VALUES

GOAL

ISO

Capture a photograph by using iso values creatively.

SUMMARY

Iso is one of the three major factors that controls exposure and it plays a huge role in creative photography. It refers to the sensitivity of film and in modern digital cameras, it refers to the amplification of light signals falling on the camera's sensor. Based on the shooting scenario, you will need to make adjustments to iso values for creative exposure. In this project, we will discuss how iso values can be used for creative photography.



Iso refers to how sensitive a film is to the light falling on it and in digital cameras, it is the light sensitivity of the image sensor in the camera. Iso is the final setting that you will usually adjust when making an exposure after deciding the aperture value and shutter speed, but there are also times when iso values are intentionally used for creative exposure.

Low iso values are most of the time preferred because it helps to capture neat images with a good dynamic range.



Photo by Caique Silva



Photo by Shahin Kalaji

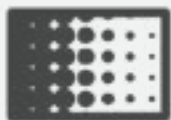
THINGS TO REMEMBER:

1. LOW/MEDIUM ISO



Iso values of 100 and 200 are used in very bright light situations, for example sunny days. Iso 400 to 800 are used in moderate light situations, for example overcast days.

4. NOISE



As you increase the iso values, the signals are amplified and can result in unnecessary noise in your photograph, sometimes even creating artefacts that can render the image useless. For this reason, high iso is mostly used only in low light situations.

2. HIGH ISO



When shooting indoors or at times when the light is not bright enough, iso values between 800 and 1600 are used.

When it is dark or if you have dim light, iso values greater than 1600 will need to be used.

5. STYLE



Iso setting is usually not directly used for creative impact on photographs but rather as a tool to use the desired aperture values and shutter speeds for creative photography. But there are times when you may have a certain style of photography in mind.

3. CREATIVITY



Besides the above situations, there are times when you want to get creative with your photographs by using different iso values than the ones mentioned above.

6. OTHER SETTINGS



There are other factors like aperture value and shutter speed that determine creative use of iso. In situations where you require to shoot at high iso, you can sometimes lower the iso by using slower shutter speeds and wider aperture values.



Photo by Priscilla Du Preez

ISO USE IN VARIOUS SITUATIONS:

1. LONG EXPOSURE



Photo by Jonatan Pie

Long exposures can vary upon situations, for example - the light is sufficient for you to capture a photo with normal shutter speed and iso values, but you intentionally need to keep the subject stationary and show some movement in the background, for example in street photography. In this situation, you will need to creatively make use of the lowest iso possible and slower shutter speeds than normal.

3. GRAIN



Photo by Platon Matakaev

You are looking to naturally create a film look in the image and you are in a scene where the light is not very dim. You can still make use of fast shutter speeds and narrow apertures, then increase the iso to create a natural film look in the image because using high iso values creatively will add some noise that looks like grains.

2. MOVING WATER/CLOUDS



Photo by Luke Stackpoole

When capturing long exposures like moving water, clouds, you will intentionally need to use low iso values, so you can capture the movement by lengthening the shutter speed. When photographing the night sky, in order to capture the stars pinpoint sharp in the photo, you will need to increase the iso values to reduce the exposure time (shutter speed) so you can avoid star trails in the resulting image.

4. INDOORS

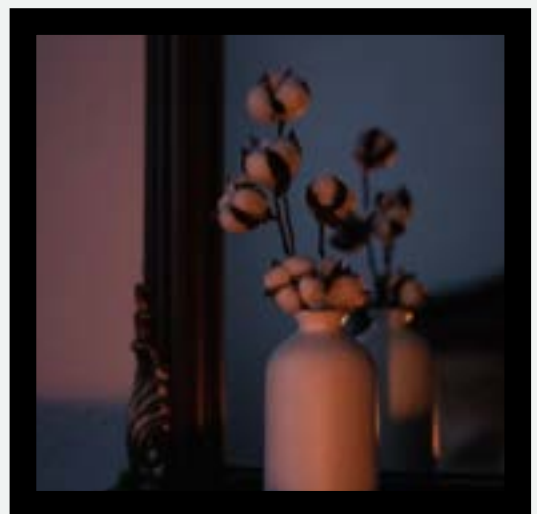


Photo by Alina Nichepureenko

In indoor settings, you will need to increase the iso creatively to use the right shutter speed and capture sharp images and at the same time avoid motion blur, especially for situations like event photography.

MORE TIPS:

1. NIGHT SHOTS



Photo by Pere Jurado

When capturing night photos and for astrophotography, you will need to decide on creative iso settings for desired exposure and at the same time have the lowest noise in the image.

3. DEPTH OF FIELD

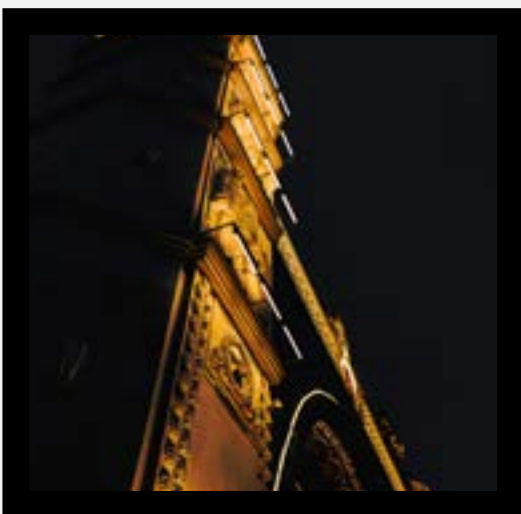


Photo by Pavel Zuyonok

When looking for greater depth of field in your photos, you will want to increase iso depending on the light and whether you are using a tripod.

2. BLURRY BACKGROUND



Photo by Kevin Nalty

For blurry backgrounds, a low iso and wide aperture will help achieve the look you are trying to capture. When under low light, the same wide aperture will require high iso and this may add grains to the background depending on the iso values used.

4. CREATIVE VISION



Photo by Pere Jurado

Compare the above images to see how changing the aperture value will change the depth of field in an image. This helps to understand how aperture controls depth of field and how narrow aperture values can be used for sharper images and images with more depth in focus, for example like landscapes.

AND EVEN MORE TIPS:

Here are some tasks you can try for creative exposure by changing iso values:

- Select a scene or subject of your choice. Use slightly higher iso values to emulate film grain in your image. This could be done in moderate or low light situations.
- Choose a moving subject and creatively use iso to freeze action and capture motion blur. This is to learn about how iso values can be changed to capture different kinds of actions, but it is always preferred to use low iso values if possible to freeze actions where possible.
- Capture a subject or scene (preferably one that has a good dynamic range) at varying iso values, low to high. Compare the images to see how varying iso values affect the colours, contrast, details/sharpness and dynamic range of the resulting image.

Photo by Aditya Das



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