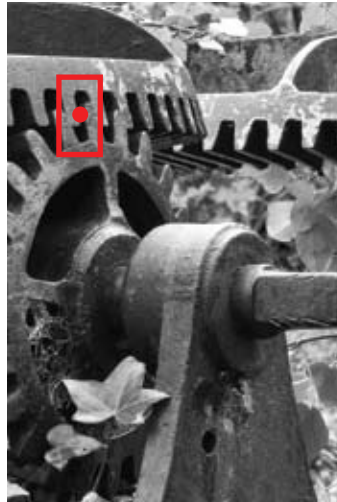
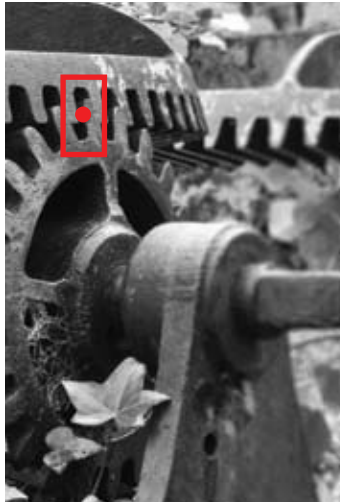


a sight for sore eyes

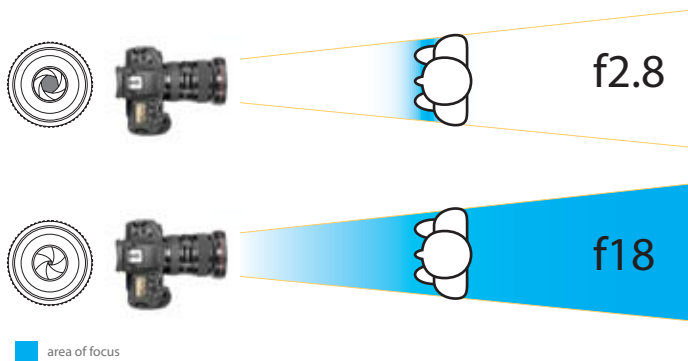
DEPTH OF FIELD



f2.8 - very limited range of focus

f18 - everything is in sharp focus

The image on the left shows the focus range at f2.8. It is very limited. While the image on the right was taken using an aperture of f18 allowing all of the subject to be in sharp focus.



Essentially, depth of Field is the term used to describe the distance in front of and behind the point of focus that appears to be sharp in a photograph.

Aperture controls the amount of light passing through the lens. It is measured in "f" numbers. Aperture is a critical factor in determining how sharp your image is. For portraits, most photographers prefer a wide aperture such as f4 and 5.6, which allows the subject to be isolated from the background. The wider the aperture, the shallower the depth of field.

For landscapes, I prefer to use a narrow aperture such as f 11 and f16. I rarely take a landscape picture with a wide aperture. The main reason for this narrow aperture is to achieve even sharpness throughout the entire image. A narrow aperture also enables you to use slower shutter speeds.

For a clearer understanding, put it into practice. The simplest demonstration you can get is to take a picture looking along a length of railing or a fence. Take two pictures. One at the narrowest and one at the widest aperture your lens will allow. Compare the results. You will immediately see the dramatic difference in the images and the effect that depth of field can have on your image.

...don't forget

Most SLR cameras have a Depth of Field preview button, which allows you to see just how much of your image is in sharp focus.

recommended accessories



Tripod

When using narrow apertures, you're shutter speed will slow down and increase the need for a tripod.

www.manfrotto.com



The Old Sluice Gate Clareville Water Works, County Limerick.

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