

Motion Blur Workshop



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February 15, 2017

Photo By Neil Miller

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Capturing Motion in Your Photography



- Blurred Subject
- Panning (matching your subject's rate of movement and direction in which it is traveling)

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Ways to Capture Motion

- Blur certain elements in an image while focusing sharply on a few subjects in foreground
- Freeze or blur everything
- Capture motion simply to convey that an object is moving
- Movement can communicate mood
- Use motion to eliminate distracting elements in a scene

Tips for Capturing Movement

1. Slow Down Your Shutter Speed
 - Allow ample time for the shutter to be open so the camera's sensor can 'see' the movement of your subject
 - Select a longer shutter speed (1/25 of a second versus 1/4000th of a second)
2. Secure Your Camera
3. Try Shutter Priority Mode

How long should your shutter speed be?

There is **no** 'answer' for this question!

It depends on:

- Speed of your subject (snail versus racing car)
- How much light is in your scene (longer shutter speed lets more light into your camera and runs the risk of blowing out or overexposing your shot)
- How much blur you want to capture

The **KEY** is to experiment.

How Adjust Shutter Speed?

Set the shutter speed to about 1/30th of a second

- This is just a starting point.
- Experiment to find the right speed but start there and increase it(to 1/60th or faster) if you have a fast moving target
- Race Cars try increasing to 1/125 or even faster
- Decrease shutter speed to 1/15th or slower to capture a snail

Secure Your Camera

Two ways to get a feeling of movement in your images are:

- have your subject move
- have your camera move (or both)

Subject is moving - keep camera perfectly still

- Use a tripod
- Have your camera sitting on some other still object
- Use a shutter release mechanism
- Use the self timer feature

Try Shutter Priority Mode

Shutter Priority Mode allows YOU to set your shutter speed.

The camera chooses other settings like Aperture to ensure the shot is well exposed.

Manual Mode (if you feel more confident in getting the aperture/shutter speed balance right)

How to Compensate for Long Shutter Speeds When there is too Much Light?

1. Decrease Your ISO

Adjust ISO to a lower number (eg., from 400 to 100) which allows less light into your camera. Photo will appear darker.

Side Note:

Adjusting ISO to a higher number (eg., 400, 500, 640, 1000 etc.) allows more light into your camera sensor. Photo will appear lighter.

How to Compensate for Long Shutter Speeds When there is too Much Light (Cont'd)

2. Try a Neutral Density Filter

These filters cut down the light passing through your lens and into your camera which in turn allows you to use a slower shutter speed.

3. Try a polarizer filter.

In addition to cutting some of the light, it can cut out reflection and change the color of a sky. This may not be what you to do.

Camera Setup for Panning

ISO

- Bright Sunlight = ISO 100 or Auto ISO
- Evening then crank up quite high

Shutter Priority Mode

Shutter Speed

- starting point = 1/30th of second
- faster moving target = increase speed
- slower moving target = decrease speed
- experiment

Burst mode

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Camera Setup for Panning (cont'd)

Set Focus Dot or Zone

1. Single dots only

- Set so camera chooses which one to focus on (all dots activated).
- Make sure nothing gets in front of the object you are shooting because the camera will focus on the closest thing.

2. Zones

- *Set it to the center but larger than one single point. This will allow the camera to find focus on the moving car as you pan.*

Panning Technique

- Find moving target that is moving across your field of view
- Look in direction the subjects are coming from and wait
- Make sure you look through viewfinder (eye piece) NOT LCD screen on back of camera
- When right subject approaches, start shooting between 10 - 2 o'clock (a 30 degree window).
- Keep shooting through that full range.
- Keep it in the viewfinder the whole time
- You will be rotating to match the speed of the moving object
- After you stop pressing the shutter, keep rotating to follow the object all the way out of view (between 9-3 o'clock).

Practice, practice, practice - patience, patience,patience

Not uncommon to shoot 10 or more times in daylight to get a good one.
Could shoot 30 images to get a good one in the evening.

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Resources

- iphonephotographyschool.com/moving-subjects - EXCELLENT SOURCE
- digitalphotomentor.com/panning-photography-tips-add-a-sense-of-motion
- digital-photography-school.com/how-to-capture-motion-blur-in-photography
- digital-photography-school.com/a-beginners-to-capturing-motion-in-your-photography