

Bracketing: Exposure Exercise

Bracketing means taking exposures on either side of the recommendations of the light meter. It is a safe way to guarantee good exposure. Bracketing produces several different exposures of the same image. At least one exposure should be ideal. Bracketing is not always practical, such as with candid or moving subjects, so do not approach it as a crutch.

Example:

- The light meter recommends an f-stop and shutter speed combo of **f/8 at 1/60**
- Take an exposure at that setting
- Take an exposure allowing *twice as much light* to reach the film (**f/5.6 at 1/60** or **f/8 at 1/125**)
- Take an exposure allowing *half as much light* (**f/11 at 1/60** or **f/8 at 1/125**)

In the example below, the first negative was made with an exposure of f8 at 1/125. The second negative was taken with an exposure the equivalent of *one f-stop more* (f5.6 at 1/125), and the third negative was taken with an exposure the equivalent of *one f-stop less* (f11 at 1/125).



f8 at 1/125



f5.6 at 1/125



f11 at 1/125



negative is well exposed



negative is overexposed



negative is underexposed

A dense negative = A dark negative = Too much exposure = Lots of silver buildup on negative.
Silver buildup prevents light from passing through negative when enlarging resulting in a light print.

A thin negative = A light negative = Too little exposure = Very little silver buildup on negative.
Lack of buildup allows much light to pass through negative when enlarging resulting in a dark print.

Indoor Lighting (incandescent/fluorescent)

Subject: _____

Lighting conditions: _____

Exposure #:	<i>f</i> stop (aperture)	Shutter speed
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		

Outdoor Lighting (daylight)

Subject: _____

Lighting conditions: _____

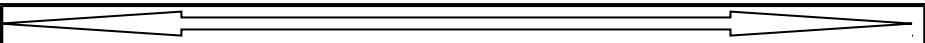
Exposure #:	<i>f</i> stop (aperture)	Shutter speed
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		

Mixed Lighting (artificial & natural)

Subject: _____

Lighting conditions: _____

Exposure #:	<i>f</i> stop (aperture)	Shutter speed
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		

Most Light		Least Light
	f1.4 f2 f2.8 f4 f5.6 f8 f11 f16 f22	
	1/8 1/15 1/30 1/60 1/125 1/250 1/500 1/1000	