

Film Speed

Film speed or ISO is how sensitive to light, that is, how much it reacts to a given quantity of light, is indicated by the film speed. The faster (more sensitive) the film is, the higher the number in the rating system.

A high speed film (greater than ISO 400) needs less exposure to produce an image. Fast films are used when photographing in dim light, or when a fast shutter speed is needed. High speed film has its drawbacks as well such as increase in graininess, decrease in contrast and loss of sharpness.

Slower film speed (ISO 25-200) has smaller grain, finer detail and more contrast, but requires more exposure in order to capture an image.



POINT OF DEPARTURE

A point of departure is a standard aperture and shutter speed which usually has good results. A standard point of departure is F16 at 1/125. It allows you to spend your time on focusing and subject matter without worrying about aperture and shutter speed. However, once you have reached a comfort level with your camera, you should start adjusting your shutter speed and aperture to control the light and exposure of each shot.