

SPG - TECHNICAL TIPS

Shutter speed to avoid camera shake

OK, so you've chosen the appropriate aperture for the depth of field you want in the picture. Now you need to check that the shutter speed your camera chooses to go with this will keep you out of the dreaded zone of camera shake.

It's widely known that too slow a shutter speed, when taking a photo hand-held, can result in a blurred image. So - what is "too slow"? (But remember, it's not always horribly blurred, just as often it's just that the edge has gone off the sharpness)

A general rule of thumb is that the shutter speed should not be slower than

$$1 / \text{the focal length of your lens}$$

eg. For a kit lens of 18-55mm

Lens setting	Minimum shutter speed per formula	Actual minimum shutter speed setting (as a limited number of options are available)
18mm for wide angle shot	1/18	1/20**
55mm for zooming in	1/55	1/60

** **BUT** very few of us can hold a camera steady for more than 1/30 sec - and this deteriorates with age! so 1/30 is realistically your minimum.

However, do take account of other factors -

- If you don't have a steady hand, use a faster shutter speed
- With a lens with Vibration Reduction (anti wobble) you may get away with a slightly slower shutter speed.
- If where you are standing is moving, or the wind is buffeting you, then you may well need a faster shutter speed.
- If the object you are photographing is moving then, unless you want a blurred image effect, you will need a faster shutter speed.

If you reckon the shutter speed is too slow for safety, either use a larger aperture, or if you want to keep that depth of field, increase your ISO.