

Mastering MANUAL MODE

Module 4 ISO



Assignment

In this practical exercise, to understand ISO, we're going to set up in a low light situation and this time have a small collection of props in the image. Also, your aim is to achieve a large area of focus. To get that result, you're going to need to use a small aperture. Let's say you have to use a fast shutter speed because you're not planning to use a tripod or you're in low light, and since you want to have a large area of focus, you can't use a large aperture. This time you're going to use ISO. Set up a scene with a background subject and some props around it. Select a medium aperture of somewhere between f8 and f 11, and a shutter speed suitable for handheld use. That is above 1/60th of a second on a 50mm lens or above 1/100th of a second on 100mm Lens, for example.



Then use your cameras in built meter to guide you to the required ISO setting. You will probably need to refer to your camera manual to understand how to adjust your ISO setting in your particular camera in either AV or TV mode, depending on which you've chosen. Once you've got your first shot and it's looking okay, we'll move on to the next test shot. This time you can again use AV or TV mode in your camera, whichever is your preference, and then move your ISO to the highest available setting in your camera. The inbuilt meter will then make the decision for the correct shutter speed, our aperture in order to finish the adjustment. Once you've taken the shot, copy both images to your computer and zoom in to look at them closely. Now you can see how grainy the worst case scenario result would look like in your camera as well as comparing it to the earlier shot that you took.

Finally, compare it to a shot that you took when your camera was on an ISO of 100 in a bright scenario so you can fully understand how dramatic the range of ISO results are. Also, take note of any difference in sharpness and overall quality of image. Finally, pick your two favourite images, one using a very high ISO and one with a low ISO and send them to me via the student assignment upload form on this page and include any questions that might have come up for you as a result of this exercise.