

Filter Facts

Lens Protective Filters

Photographers agree that it is important to protect your lens from damage. Your choice of a protective filter will depend on the type of effect you would like to achieve in your photographs.

Here is a list of filters and a description of the effect they create:

UV Protector – Optical quality, clear glass that is the most economical way to protect your lens. Available in standard and wide-angle filter mounts.
Light loss: 0 f: stop UV Absorption: 12% Sizes: 27mm to 86mm

Sky 1-A – Light pinkish tinted glass for slight warming effect. Useful when shooting during overcast days and outdoor open shade. Available in standard and wide-angle filter mounts.
Light loss: 0 f: stop UV Absorption: 45.5%

Haze 1 – Clear glass filter offering greater UV absorption as compared to the Sky 1-A filter. This filter is helpful when photographing mountain, aerial and marine scenes where increased haze threatens to make photographs indistinct in color and clarity. Available in standard and wide-angle filter mounts.
Light loss: 0 f: stop UV Absorption: 71%

Warm 812 – A filter that warms skin tones and reduces excess blue cast often found in electronic flash, video lights and outdoor open shade. Minimizes lighting flashback often incurred on facial cheek and forehead areas. The 812 filter creates a greater warming effect as compared to the Sky 1-A filter. This filter works equally well with photo, digital and video.
Light loss: 1/3 f: stop UV Absorption: 50%

Warm UV – This filter combines a warm 812 and an “extreme haze penetrating” feature. This filter has a much greater UV absorption as compared to the Haze 1 filter. An all around filter that is ideal for lens protection, people, electronic flash, video light, ultimate UV absorption and outdoor open shade images.
Light loss: 1/3 f: stop UV Absorption: 97%

Other choices of filter, which are also lens protectors, help to enhance the color of your film. For this enhancing effect few filter work better than a polarizer. A polarizer is the next choice of filter after a UV protector. Polarizers are great outdoor filters and are a must for anyone who takes photographs while traveling.

Linear (SR – Standard Rotating) – Produces deeper colored blue skies which provides a striking contrast with white clouds, a snow landscape, etc. Minimizes light reflections

from glass and water. Reduces glare from non-metallic surfaces. It provides a general color of saturation to both cool tone and warm toned colors. This polarizer may be used in extremely bright light situations to reduce the amount of light entering the camera for selected depth of field control. Best when used with a non-auto focus SLR camera.

When utilizing the linear polarizer with an auto-focus SLR the result will be an under exposure of approximately 2-3 f stops (light is polarized by both the filter and the AF camera's beam splitting meter which results in double polarization). Linear polarizer may be utilized with both manual focus 35mm and manual focus video camcorders. Top brands are Promaster, Hoya and Tiffen.

Light loss: 2 f: stops

Circular Polarizer – This filter provides all the features of a Linear Polarizer such as color saturation, deep blues (skies) and reflection reduction. May be used with both manual focus and auto focus SLR cameras (photo and digital) and camcorders. The filter is constructed with a linear polarizer combined with a “Wave Retardant.” When utilized with an AF camera the linear polarizer portion of the filter polarizes the light, the wave retardant de-polarizes the light and the auto focus camera's beam splitting meter polarizes the light again for proper exposure. The circular polarizer looks identical to a linear polarizer. Available in standard and wide angle filter mounts. Note: Wide angle lenses less than 17mm will stop vignetting.

Top Brands are Promaster, Hoya and Tiffen.

Light loss: 2 f: stops

Warm Linear Polarizer – Features the combination of a self-rotating linear polarizer and a warm Tiffen 812 filter. This filter offers all polarizing features along with those of the Tiffen 812 such as scene warming, eliminates excess blue from blue cast situations found with electronic flash, video lights and outdoor open shade and makes people look healthy with a tan. Top brands are Promaster, Hoya and Tiffen.

Light loss: 2 f: stops

Moose Peterson Filter (Warm Circular Polarizer) – Features the combination of a self-rotating circular polarizer and a warm Tiffen 812 filter. This filter offers all polarizing features along with those of the Tiffen 812 filter such as scene warming, eliminates excess blue from blue cast situations found with electronic flash, video lights and outdoor open shade and makes people look healthy with a tan. This filter can be used with auto focus camera systems. Hoya is the only manufacturer of this filter.

Light loss: 2 f: stops