

Andy's Handy Exposure Calculator

How to make it

Recommended tools: a sharp craft knife and a metal ruler.

First cut out the window and score the folds - it's easier to do this before you've cut the parts out from the page. The back of your knife blade is handy for scoring the folds. Cut out the two parts of the exposure calculator. Glue the tab then fold and assemble the main part. When the glue is dry, slip the sliding scale inside the main part.

The sliding scale on this page has its aperture scale graduated in 1/3 f-stops. If you prefer half f-stop graduations, use the alternative scale on the next page.

How to use it

Establish the brightness (EV) of your subject, using either your hand-held light meter or the descriptions on the front and back of the calculator. (Note that the descriptions are only a guideline - if you're working from them you may wish to bracket your exposures.) Slide the sliding scale so that the ISO value of your film lines up with the appropriate EV value. Then you can read off aperture/shutter speed combinations from the lower pair of scales.

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Time exposures at 100 ISO	
8	Bright room with sunbeams
7	Skylight, no sunbeams
6	Window, no sunbeams

Daylight, indoor	
9-10	Before sunset
11	Sunset
12-14	After sunset

Sunsets	
16	Bright sunshine on light sand or snow
15	Bright sunshine (hard shadows)
14	Rainbow against clear sky
13	Hazy sunshine (soft shadows)
12	Rainbow against cloudy sky
11	Cloudy but bright daylight (no shadows)
10	Heavily overcast
9	Shaded areas in sunny conditions
8	Bottom of rain forest canopy

Night, outdoor	
1	Neon signs
2	Floodlit sports stadium
3	Very brightly lit street scenes (e.g. Las Vegas)
4	Bonfires, burning buildings
5	Shop window displays
6	Brightly lit street scenes
7	Fairs, amusement parks
8	Subjects lit by firelight
9	Bright streetlamps
10	Light trails of moving traffic
11	Average streetlamps
12	Distant view of city skyline

Night, indoor	
8-11	Gallery
9	Strongly spot-lit subjects
10	Bright office interior with fluorescent lights
11	Stage shows (brightly lit)
12	Ice shows
13	Indoor sports
14	Stage shows (average)
15	Circuses
16	Bright home interior
17	Swimming pool
18	Average home interior
19	Church interior
20	Floodlit buildings
21	Christmas tree lights
22	Candle-lit close-ups

cut out

score here

score here

glue here

ISO film speed	
25	64
100	125
200	160
400	320
800	640
1600	1280
3200	6400

Aperture	
1	1.4
2	2.8
4	5.6
8	11
16	22
32	64

This is the optional aperture scale graduated in half f-stops.
If you prefer 1/3 f-stop graduations, you don't need this page.

