

NOTES ON DEPTH OF FIELD

By Dick Kenyon

Depth of field is the distance in front of and behind the point of focus over which the image appears acceptably sharp.

Although there are some widely quoted guidelines or rules of thumb concerning depth of field, they are generally derived from special cases and in some cases are not true.

Many factors affect depth of field in a photograph. One might say that the recipe for the "depth-of-field cocktail" is sufficiently complex that few photographers get it right without sufficient study and careful consideration in each photographic situation.

The ingredients may include:

Lens focal length	Sensor/Film size
f-Number (Aperture)	Magnification
Subject distance	Print Size
Circle of Confusion	Print Viewing Distance
Pupil factor	Lens symmetry (Macro)

These may influence depth-of-field determination to one extent or another.

A most important player in the overall scenario is HYPERFOCAL DISTANCE. This is the focus point at which everything from one half this distance to infinity is acceptably in focus

To study and contemplate depth-of-field visit the following web sites:

<http://photo.net/learn/optics/dofdigital/>

<http://vanwalree.com/optics/dof.html>

<http://luminouslandscape.com/tutorials/understanding-series/dof.shtml>

<http://cambridgecolour.com/tutorials/depth-of-field.html>

Find a Depth-of-Field Calculator and Hyperfocal Distance Chart (software and hardware) at: <http://dofmaster.com/dofjs.html>