

APERTURE

The goal of this lesson is to help you understand lens aperture and how you can use it to improve your photography. The aperture is simply the hole in your lens diaphragm that lets light through. The size of this hole is described by a **f stop** (f number).

Photographers are often confused when trying to understand the relationship between the size of the hole, the f stop, and the effect on the photo, so let's just look at two of the elements for now; f stop and its effect on your photo:

A big f stop means more will be in focus from front to back. A small f stop means less will be in focus. For example f 22 will have more in focus than f 4.

Therefore, aperture affects **depth of field** – the amount of your photo that is in focus from front to back.

However, your lens will not be as sharp at the largest or smallest f stops as the middle f stops, like f 8, especially in the corners. This is a separate consideration from depth of field, and you should experiment to see which f stops are sharp for your lens.

Got that? A big f stop means more is in focus, and a small f stop means less is in focus.

You don't really need to know about the size of the hole in the lens diaphragm, so if you think it will confuse you, ignore this. But if you want to know anyway, here it is:

The larger the f stop, the smaller the hole (more depth), and the smaller the f stop, the larger the hole (less depth).



f 16



f 4



f 22



f 4