

# Exposing film is much like getting a perfect suntan

Understanding exposure can be frustrating to many beginning photographers, who often throw up their hands in exasperation and turn over the whole thing to their camera's meter.

Unfortunately, they never will develop a knowledge of this very important step of photography. Many of my students will ask for a simple explanation of how exposure works.

Well! I'm going to make the complex world of exposure easy to understand. All you have to do is sit back, read slowly, and concentrate on the following analogy:

IMAGINE yourself sprawled lazily on the beach about to get a suntan on a hot, bright, sunny day.

Now, let your imagination go and assume two things: 1) There is such a thing as obtaining a "perfect tan", not too much and not too little sun. 2) There is an adjustable diaphragm between you and the sun over which you have complete control.

Stop for a moment, and think of the many ways you can reach your "perfect tan". If you open the diaphragm wide and let the sun's rays pour in on you, you'll obtain your "perfect tan" quickly.

Just the opposite, if you close down the diaphragm to a small opening, it will take much longer to reach the "perfect tan". A middle opening will result in a time to get your tan somewhere between the quick tan and the slow tan.

The important thing to remember is that the end result is the same in each example... a "perfect tan." It just takes longer through a small opening and shorter through a large opening.

IF YOU should lie in the sun too long or let the sun in through too large an opening in the diaphragm, what happens? You get overexposed.

Conversely, too little time in the sun or too small a diaphragm results in what? Underexposure.

Further, with a given opening and a given time, some people may get their "perfect tan" faster or slower than you. What this means is that they have more or less sensitive skin than you do. You might even say that people have different ASA skin ratings.

Now, let's shift gears slightly and come back to reality. What I've actually been discussing is not getting a suntan through an imaginary diaphragm, but giving film (your skin) proper exposure (perfect tan) through your camera's lens opening. And realizing that there are many shutter speed/aperture combinations to accomplish this.

And those films that reach correct exposure more quickly than others at a given lens opening



photography  
**Monte Nagler**

and shutter speed simply have a higher ASA. That is, they respond faster to a given amount of light just as someone's skin might.

Well, have I exposed you to enough on exposure today? I certainly don't want to overexpose your mind. So I'll call it quits for now and, in a long time exposure of two weeks, will be back to discuss more about exposure and tell how you can use it to improve your photographs.

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## Short shots: Exhibits, classes

- The Greater West Bloomfield Photo Club meets at 7:30 tonight in the West Bloomfield United Methodist Church, 4100 Walnut Lake Road, just west of Orchard Lake Road. There will be an open slide competition. Visitors are welcome and admission is free, announces Tony Merlo (653-1407).
- The photo exhibit of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission will be on display through Sept. 24 in the Farmington Civic Center, 24705 Farmington Road, north of 10 Mile. Sept. 27 to Oct. 13 in Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus Library, 27055 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills; and Oct. 13-22 in OCC's Highland Lakes Campus Student Center, 7350 Cooley Lake Road, Union Lake. Featured are winners of the parks commission's spring photo contest.
- Meteor Photo has a three-session fall seminar beginning at 7 p.m. Oct. 6 in its plant at 1099 Chicago, Troy, with a session for beginning single-lens reflex camera owners. Other sessions will be at 2 p.m. Oct. 10 in Kensington Metropark and 7 p.m. Oct. 13 at Meteor. Gerald Gazda is instructor. Fee is \$25. Call the company at 585-3090 for registration information.
- Columnist Monte Nagler will teach a course beginning Oct. 13 in the Farmington Community. Call the center at 477-8404 for registration information.



All the elements of correct exposure can be found in Monte Nagler's photo of Caesars, Spain. The buildings are white, the shadow areas are dark, and there are many tones in between. Note how the buildings form a backward "S" curve.

**If you like to be in style...**

Focus on Fashion  
September 24, 7:00 p.m.  
September 25, 2:00 p.m.

See the latest fall fashions — the bold black and white combos, the jewel tone accents for your charcoal colored suiting, the sophisticated suiting, and soft sweaters.

Men's and children's fashions will be included in the show

Cleo Hoogerhyde,  
Fashion Coordinator  
Toni Clark, Narrator

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**If you like a classy car...**

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Fraser Fine Art Show  
Now through September 25

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What a splendid addition this truly classic Highboy can make to a nursery room in your home! An 18th century masterpiece, fashioned in Honduras mahogany with shell design and brass inlaid. An instant antique. 68" h., \$1999.

Henredon Folio Fifteen Breakfast executed in the Baroque manner of 17th century European originals. Interior lights, glass shelves. 83 1/2" h., \$2439. Transitional Dinette grouping: Fruitwood Table and 4 upholstered-seat Chairs... 5-piece set \$799.

Create just the storage you need with versatile oak Wall Units... open, closed, drop-lid and entertainment units available. As shown, 60" wide, 3 Units \$1299. Laminated top, Pedestal Extension Game Table and 4 Can-back Upholstered Chairs... 5-piece set \$599.

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