

Fine Tuning Sharpness

If your photos aren't as sharp as you would like, could be:

- Focus
- Depth of Field
- Camera Movement
- Subject Movement

Eliminating Camera Movement

- Lean against a wall or tree and brace yourself with your elbows tight to your body.
- You can also find a branch or railing to rest the camera on.
- For real stability you need a small tripod or an even easier to carry monopod.
- Use the optical viewfinder to take photos
- Just before taking a shot, inhale deeply, then exhale and hold your breath while smoothly depressing the shutter-release button.
- Use your right finger to press the shutter-release button and your left hand to support the camera.

Direction of movement

Distance to subject and focal length of lens

Focus and Depth of Field

Focus

- Plane of critical focus

Depth of field

- Distance wherein objects are in focus
 - Large part of the scene to be sharp, increase the depth of field.
 - Less of the scene sharp. Decrease it

Focus Settings

Auto focus often has trouble focusing in scenes

- With little contrast
 - When the object in the focus point is brighter than the rest of the scene
 - When the subject is poorly illuminated,
 - When both near and distant objects fall within the focus point
 - When the subject is moving quickly.

Using focus lock

•This lets you set the focus at any distance from the camera to control both focus and depth of field.

How To: Using Focus Lock

•3 easy steps

1. Point the camera so the item you want to lock on is in the focus area
2. Press the shutter-release button down halfway and hold it there to lock in the focus.
3. Without releasing the shutter-release button, recompose the scene and press the shutter-release button the rest of the way to take the picture.

Controlling Depth of Field

To control how deep or shallow depth of field is, you have three factors to work with.

•Aperture size.

- Smaller the aperture (the larger the f-number), the greater the depth of field.
- The larger the aperture, the shallower the depth of field.

•Camera-to-subject distance.

- Farther = increase depth of field
- Closer = decrease depth of field

•Lens focal length.

- Zooming out = increase depth of field
- Zooming in = decrease depth of field

How To: Increasing Depth of Field

- Photograph in bright sun so the aperture closes down.
- Zoom out to a wider angle of view.
- Move farther away from the subject.
- Switch to aperture priority mode and select a small aperture such as f/11.

How To: Using Focus Lock for Maximum Depth of Field

1. Point the camera so the area you want to focus on is in the focus area in the center of the viewfinder.
2. Press the shutter-release button down halfway and hold it there to lock in the focus.
3. Recompose the scene and press the shutter-release button the rest of the way to take the picture.

Using Selective Focus

How To: Decreasing Depth of Field

- Photograph in dim light to open up the aperture.
- Zoom in to enlarge the subject.
- Move closer to the subject.

- Switch to aperture priority mode and select a large aperture such as f/4.

How To: Using Focus Lock for Minimum Depth of Field

1. Zoom in to magnify the subject or move close to it and focus the camera on, or slightly in front of, the subject you want sharpest.
2. Press the shutter-release button down halfway and hold it there to lock in the focus.
3. Recompose the scene and press the shutter-release button the rest of the way to take the picture.