



The Image – Monthly NEWSLETTER

The Abertawe Photographic Society –

Based near the heart of Swansea, Abertawe Photographic Society is an established, friendly and welcoming club, who's members both amateur and professional all share a common interest, in all aspects of photography.

Whether you are a complete beginner or a seasoned snapper, interested in digital techniques or 35mm film, there is a warm welcome by a likeminded group of people sharing in the search for the perfect image.

By sharing, not only our enthusiasm but also our skills, techniques and knowledge, we all grow as a club and by trying new things we all get the opportunity to stretch our boundaries. All members are encouraged to take part in club events.

The Society meets every Tuesday at:
Greenhill Community Centre
Chapel Street, Dyfatty,
Swansea.SA1 1NB.

This Month's Events: September

- 5th Hand-In for Land/Seascape Comp – DPI
- 5th Hand-In for Colour Print Comp.
- 5th Showing Port Talbot International
- 12th Land & Seascape Comp – Jen Cox
- 19th Open Evening
- 26th Annual Colour Print Comp >5 Prints – Leigh Woolford

What's On This Month?

Neat Steam & Vintage Show 2017

16th & 17th September at Llwynfelish Farm, Crynant, SA10 8SP.

Admission: Adults £5.00; OAPs £4.00 Accompanied children are free.

Enquiries to: Ian Davies 07971 167 651

This Month's Inspirations.....

I hope you enjoyed last month's inspirations, if so here are this months. Just remember, you don't have to follow exactly, you maybe have ideas of your own, or thinking of something stemming from these ideas.

Hope you try this month's ideas, and enjoy

1. Relive the days of film on a day out. Blank out your LCD screen and take just 36 exposures.

2. Stop a stranger in the street and take their portrait (OOH! I wonder how many will try this?)
3. Just take one lens on a trip. If it is a zoom, use the widest setting.
4. Photograph rock, paper and scissors in one shot.
5. Take a great picture in which everything is out of focus (that will be one for the judges!)
6. Photograph 5 things beginning with the letter E.

Go on, have a go and let's see what you have.

Exposure Compensation

Exposure compensation is a setting that you will find on your camera and is signified by the following icon:



Depending on your camera make and model it will be either on the back of your camera or on the top. If your camera is a simple point and shoot camera then you may not have this function.

It is probably one of those functions that some people fail to understand or use. So if you fall into this category let's try to help you understand what it does and when you should use it.

What does Exposure Compensation Do? – With the advent of digital cameras, it is accepted that cameras have a "mind of their own", particularly in Auto or Program mode. They are built to balance exposure of scene based on what is called a middle a middle grey (or 18% grey). This balance of light and dark is generally evaluated based on the entire frame that you see either in the camera's viewfinder or the LCD. Some cameras offer different ways to evaluate the scene (metering modes), such as "spot" or "center-weighted." These are very helpful in many situations; maybe I will include this in a future newsletter.

Basically, exposure compensation allows you to increase or decrease the exposure of a scene. In fact, you are telling the camera, "I see what you're doing there with your 'balanced' exposure, but I want it to be brighter (or darker)," as the case may be.

Exposure compensation is generally adjustable in 1/3 or 1/2 EV or "stops." Each full "stop" adjustment either doubles or halves the amount of light reaching the image sensor depending on whether it is a +1 or -1 adjustment. You will see this adjustment on your LCD screen, as depicted below (circled in yellow).



You will also notice I have placed marks on the -1 (left-hand side) and +1 (right-hand side).

Hence, an exposure compensation adjustment of +1 EV will result in an image that is twice as bright as the base exposure. Likewise, an exposure compensation adjustment of -1 EV will result in an image that is half as bright as the base exposure.

Exposure Compensation in Various Camera Modes

Exposure compensation is a quick and easy way to alter any exposure when you are shooting a Program, Aperture Priority or Shutter Speed Priority modes. Most cameras will lock the controls for exposure compensation in Auto or certain Scene Selection modes.

In Program mode (represented as "P" on your camera's mode dial), the camera can adjust the aperture or shutter speed in order to accommodate adjustments that you make to the exposure compensation.

As an example, your camera will think a given scene should be exposed, *i.e.*, the camera meters the scene (remember that "mind of its own") at f/5.6 and 1/250s, then an adjustment of +1 EV on the exposure compensation setting may well result in a setting of f/5.6 and 1/125s or perhaps f/4 and 1/250s.

Now, you need to understand what has happened here; by dropping the shutter speed to 1/125s, the camera doubled the amount of light reaching the sensor (as the exposure will last for twice as long). Equally, by opening the aperture to f/4, the camera doubled the amount of light reaching the sensor (because the aperture was opened a full stop).

Your DSLR camera's processor will probably consider things like the lens max aperture and the focal length of the lens in determining which values to adjust in Program mode. Whatever those calculations may be, the camera will adjust as needed to gain a stop of light for a +1 EV adjustment or halve the light for a -1 EV adjustment.

Similarly adjustments in Program mode, exposure compensation can also be used in Aperture Priority

and Shutter Speed Priority modes. Yet, in these modes, one element of exposure is locked (Aperture or Shutter Speed), and will not be changed when exposure compensation is used.

In Aperture Priority mode, the aperture remains at your chosen setting. Hence, the camera will adjust shutter speed to accommodate exposure compensation adjustments. In the first example mentioned above, f/5.6 and 1/250s, the camera would adjust the shutter speed to 1/125s for a +1 EV adjustment.

Likewise, in Shutter Speed Priority mode, the shutter speed will remain at your selected setting. Consequently, the camera will adjust the aperture when exposure compensation is used. Again using the above example of f/5.6 and 1/250s as a metered scene, the camera would adjust the aperture to f/4 for a +1 EV adjustment.

In both Aperture Priority and Shutter Speed Priority modes, the camera may also adjust ISO if you have the ISO set to automatic mode.

When to Use Exposure Compensation – One of the most frequent or common times to use exposure compensation is when your main subject is brighter or darker than your entire metered scene. This may be when you have a backlit subject, such as your subject in the shade with full sun scene or window in background, or perhaps when your subject has a lot of light on them with the rest of the scene is dark, e.g., a band/singer at a concert.

In some cases, you may want to switch to manual mode, and a lot of photographers prefer to shoot in this mode. However, there are some photographers who are more comfortable with a camera-metered scene or where it's simply quicker to hit a +1 or -1 on the exposure compensation dial, get the shot and be done with it.

If your subject is backlit, the camera is going to meter that backlight and make your subject darker so that the scene achieves that scene at 18% grey, as mentioned earlier. This can be corrected by increasing the exposure compensation, by telling the camera that this scene should be +1/3 EV, +1 EV or +2 EV brighter than what it "thinks."

It is consequently the same scenario for bright subjects in dark areas. Get the exposure right for the subject and allow the background be as dark as it needs to be. However, if your subject is entirely white (blown out), then the picture isn't worth taking. Dial your exposure compensation down by -1 EV or whatever looks right to you for the subject.

An exercise that you may want to experiment with is take a photograph in P-Mode, using the camera's "brain" to figure out all settings. Then change your camera to Manual Mode and adjust the exposure compensation -1, next do exactly the same but adjust your exposure compensation to +1. You will notice the difference of each image and see that you may prefer one of them as opposed to the other two. Also, try this in Aperture and Shutter Speed Priority; again you should notice the difference. In each of these scenarios take a look at the Meta Data of each image and note the settings that your camera chose.

I hope this helped in some way to understanding Exposure Compensation and that you begin to use it more.

..... and finally

Top ten reasons to date a photographer:

1. They work well in the dark
 2. They're used to funny smells
 3. They make things develop
 4. They work well on many settings
 5. They know how to focus
 6. They can make big things look small and small things look big
 7. They work well from many different angles
 8. They zoom in and out. And in and out and in and out and in and out...
 9. They shoot in many different locations
 10. They can find the beauty in anything
-