Light Metering

All modern cameras have built-in light meters that read exposure by measuring the amount of light reflecting off objects in a scene. Light metering is used to help set your exposure settings when shooting in **auto**, **aperture priority**, and **shutter priority**.

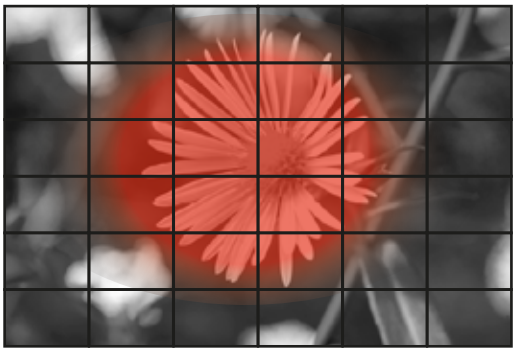
Matrix / Evaluative metering

The most complex and modern way of metering a scene.

It works by using the light from the entire scene by averaging it out to set the overall exposure of your scene.

The exposure of each section is calculated separately and then averaged out with the remaining sections to determine the overall exposure of your scene.

When To Use: Evenly Lit Scenes, Landscape Photography
When To Avoid: High Contrast

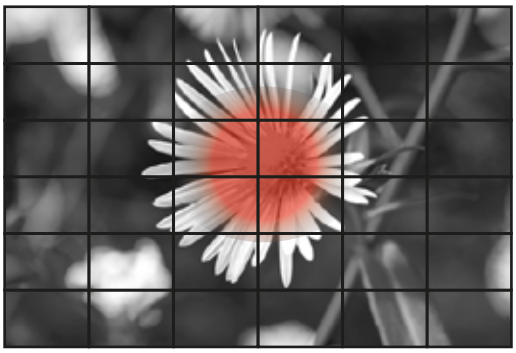


Centre-weighted metering

Similar to evaluative metering, but it places a greater emphasis on the center of the frame. It is considered halfway between evaluative and partial metering

In general the center will account for 2/3rds of the exposure calculation, while the rest of the frame accounts for 1/3rd of the exposure calculation.

When To Use: Portraits, Center composed images
When to avoid: Landscapes, Off-Center Images

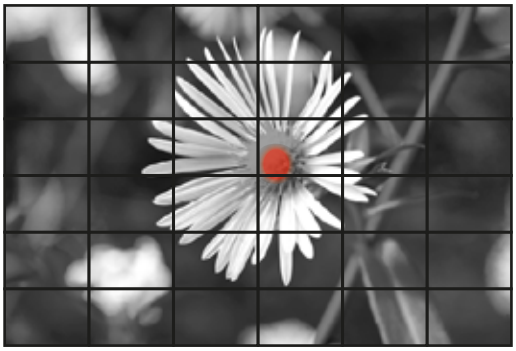


Spot metering

In this mode the camera takes a measurement from a single point or spot. This area is often at the centre of the frame, but it may be linked to the active AF point but it typically between 1% to 5% of the scene.

Your focal point determines the "spot" or area of vour scene that is evaluated.

When To Use: Properly expose a single object, Portrait, Wildlife, Creating silhouettes
When To Avoid: Wide Landscapes



Other metering types

Depending on the brand or type of camera you have you may have other metering types. These include Highlight, Entire Screen Average, Multi-feild and Partial metering.

These metering modes are specific to brands like Hasselblad, Sony, Leica and Canon. They will add additional features and flexibilities to the above modes.