Photron

MONTHLY TECH TIPS WITH MIKE

Topic: Setting your camera's back focus

Back focus refers to the focal flange length, which is the distance between the rear lens element and the camera's sensor. In the following tech tip we will go over commonly asked questions regarding back focus.

1) What is back focus?

Each type of lens mount has a different back focus distance. This tech tip will focus on the following three:

1. C mount 17.52mm
2. Nikon F mount 46.50mm
3. Canon EF mount 44.00mm

2) Why does my lens not focus properly?

When the back focus distance is incorrect, the distance scale on the side of your lens is also incorrect. For example, when the distance scale on your lens is set to 10ft, your lens should be focusing at 10 ft. This disparity generally goes undetected until one tries to focus at objects close to the lens or at infinity and the camera is not focusing properly.

3) How do I set my back focus?

1) Place the camera in a stable location pointed at a distant object. The object should be far enough away so that you must set your lens to infinity to focus on it (farther than 30ft). Make sure it is pointed at something with relatively fine detail for focusing.

2) Loosen the set screws on the lens mount barrel. Each style of mount is a little bit different, but expect to loosen 2-3 set screws.

3. Open the lens aperture completely.

4. Set the lens to infinity

5. Rotate the lens mount barrel until the object comes into crisp focus.

6. Tighten the set screws.

We hope this tech tip was helpful and if you have any questions or comments please contact us:
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