

FILTERS

UV - Either this filter or a Skylight (discussed below) is a requirement for your camera, less for the actual effect than for the protection it affords your lens. The purpose of the UV filter is to remove the ultra-violet rays that the film can record in certain situations. For this reason it is generally easier to think of a UV filter as a “haze” filter .

Skylight - This filter reduces the slightly bluish tint that often occurs in open shade or on overcast days. It is occasionally seen on light objects or in a person's skin tones.

Polarizing - Used to darken blue skies and cut the reflection from glass and water. The effect is dramatic and can easily be seen by simply trying on polarizing sunglasses. The most surprising results are found in the way in which clouds stand out from the sky. These filters will make ocean and lake shots with clouds in the distant sky appear to be award winners. In order to make the filter work you will need to rotate the filter which is created in two stages.

80 A - Use it with daylight film that you use indoors WITHOUT a flash (which would resemble daylight) to correct the orange tint that predominates a photo made indoors with tungsten light. An 80 A filter requires an additional two stops of light. Think about that for a moment; if you are choosing a film for a couple of outdoor shots and then plan to shoot indoors without a flash you will have to compensate with 2 more stops of light.

85 B - Almost the reverse in a photographic sense from the 80A. This filter is used with tungsten film used outdoors to correct what would be a severe blue cast over the image. The use of this filter will require an additional 3/4 of a stop of light. Outdoors in sunlight this is a negligible difference.

Neutral Density - used only occasionally; they decrease the amount of light that reaches the film.

Ex: Using 1000 ISO film indoors for a dance recital and then going out into broad daylight to finish the roll.

Soft Focus/Diffusion - used to reduce the impact of a image's background. They are often used to soften the “crow's feet” or lines around a person's eyes or stray hairs in portraits.

An inexpensive and useful soft-focus lens can be created by simply smearing Vaseline around the edge of a Skylight or UV/Haze filter. Be careful to never get the Vaseline on the actual lens front as it cannot be cleaned without removing some of the lens protective coatings.

Starburst, Multiple Image, Repeating Image All three are dramatic image producers that are overused as soon as you've used one three times in a roll of film or 10 times in a year.

- Starburst filters make the light source(s) into star patterns.
- Multiple Image make the image appear as a single image within a series of 5 or 6 more of the same image.
- Repeating image filters repeat the same image in a direct line.

Yellow (K2) - used with black and white film to increase the contrast to normal between clouds and a normal blue sky.

Red (25A) - used with infrared film to give the infrared effect; used with black and white to dramatically increase contrast.

Green (X1) - (black and white) lightens foliage in sunlight, effective use in gardens and flower beds with multiple colors.

FL-D(ay) - used with color film indoors under fluorescent light