

BRACKETING

Bracketing is a system that ensures you have a usable exposure despite inaccuracies in reading your camera's light meter. What it involves is making multiple different exposures while recording the same scene. Most photographers bracket each shot by one stop; some cameras can be programmed to automatically bracket for you (press the button once and it will fire off 3 shots of varying exposures)

In order to do this, it is essential that you understand how to add and subtract stops from the indicated meter reading. After getting the hatchmark to line up under the zero, you make a shot at that exposure, then change EITHER your shutter speed OR your aperture (NOT both, if you do this you may be making an identical exposure) until the hatchmark lines up under the +1 for the overexposed shot and under the -1 for the underexposed shot. Generally speaking, change your aperture OR your shutter speed three clicks each direction away from your indicated meter reading. In some instances (such as recording images for use in High Dynamic Range processing) you may need to bracket even further than 1 stop.

TO BRACKET USING YOUR SHUTTER SPEED:

- Make an exposure at the indicated meter reading (for example, 60 f8)

- To make a 1 stop overexposure change the shutter speed 3 clicks down from the indicated meter reading (30 f8)
- To make a 1 stop underexposure change the shutter speed 3 clicks up from the indicated meter reading (125 f8)

- To make a 2 stop overexposure change the shutter speed 6 clicks down from the indicated meter reading (15 f8)
- To make a 2 stop underexposure change the shutter speed 6 clicks up from the indicated meter reading (250 f8)

- To make a 3 stop overexposure change the shutter speed 9 clicks down from the indicated meter reading (8 f8)
- To make a 3 stop underexposure change the shutter speed 9 clicks up from the indicated meter reading (500 f8)

TO BRACKET USING YOUR APERTURE:

-Make an exposure at the indicated meter reading (for example, 60 f8)

-To make a 1 stop overexposure change the aperture 3 clicks down from the indicated meter reading (60 f5.6)

-To make a 1 stop underexposure change the aperture 3 clicks up from the indicated meter reading (60 f11)

-To make a 2 stop overexposure change the aperture 6 clicks down from the indicated meter reading (60 f4)

-To make a 2 stop underexposure change the aperture 6 clicks up from the indicated meter reading (60 f16)

-To make a 3 stop overexposure change the aperture 9 clicks down from the indicated meter reading (60 f2.8)

-To make a 3 stop underexposure change the shutter speed 9 clicks up from the indicated meter reading (60 f22)