# Exposure Values and Charts

How to assess correct exposures came up on an HPIC Q&A session and an introduction to Exposure Values was given.

With the modern Digital SLR these have gone out of vogue because the Camera does it all for you! But it’s good to know where it comes from with respect to the how the EXPOSURE TRIANGLE works and relates, especially if you want to work in MANUAL Mode.

For any given set of lighting conditions there will be variety of alternative Aperture / Shutter / and ISO setting which will give the SAME exposure. Depending upon what you want to achieve either biased towards Aperture or Shutter speed.

The Exposure Values or Ev. are shown in the chart below for each generalised Lighting situation. Most of our situations will be in the range of 5 -16 unless you are photographic Black Cats in Coal Holes or Nuclear Explosions! As you become more experienced you will begin to learn EVs generally.

Those of us who remember the old film cameras will remember you set the exposre range by a series of symbols based on a sunshine, a fluffy cloud or a shady house etc. It’s the same principle.

* **So look at your surroundings and lighting condition for the image you want to take and determine an EV from the Value Chart below**

# Using the Exposure Factor Relationship Charts for a specific Ev.

The Exposure Factor charts are shown below as Chart B

## How to use the chart

Having established a target Ev, you will now look for that number in the body of the columns to the left hand side. Under the appropriate ISO Column.

You will see that each Ev occurs under subsequent ISO Values diagonally down the chart. Each of these gives a correspondingly different combination of Aperture and Shutter speed setting to achieve the same Ev. In the rows to the right.

## So which should I choose?

This will depend upon what you are doing! E.g :

* If Landscape you will want a lowest ISO and then an appropriate Aperture to give the desired Depth of Field. E.g. f11 or f16 etc, The shutter sped will be given on the chart but may not be of consequence if you are using a tripod.
* If Portraiture, then Aperture will be more important and whether you are hand holding, which may need to be a minimum shutter speed for that and the right DoF, Select the row and the ISO value that achieves that.
* If sport or nature then shutter speed will be important and probably a fixed low fstop, select the ISO to give you that row / range or set for Auto ISO.





