



## WHY USE A SMALL APERTURE?

- 1 Increase depth of field in close-up shots to ensure the whole scene is in focus, from front to back. This is also important when shooting landscape scenes.
- 2 Capture the optimum degree of fine detail – so narrow apertures are great for deep landscape and building shots.
- 3 Narrower apertures allow slower shutter speeds for creative motion-blur effects, and striking light trails at night.



## WHY USE A WIDE APERTURE?

- 1 Reduce depth of field to focus attention on your subject while keeping the background nicely blurred.
- 2 Isolate an object from a distracting background.
- 3 The more light that's allowed onto the sensor, the faster the shutter speed you can use to freeze action, or stop camera shake from spoiling your shots.
- 4 Create arty abstract shots with a macro lens by carefully controlling what is sharp.

## Working in 'stops'

In the sequence below, notice how each f-number is 'half' the size of the one before it, and so lets in half as much light. The difference in light between two sequential f-numbers is often referred to as an f-stop, or simply a 'stop' – a stop is a 'unit' of light and exposure value. So, as

you increase the amount of light that comes through the aperture hole, you need to reduce the amount of time it passes through the aperture to maintain the same exposure. Your SLR works this out for you unless you are in Manual mode, where you can specify aperture *and* shutter speed.

Aperture	f/2.8	f/4	f/5.6	f/8	f/11	f/16	f/22
Shutter speed	1/500 sec	1/250 sec	1/125 sec	1/60 sec	1/30 sec	1/16 sec	1/8 sec