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# Photography: Avoiding pictures that are too dark



Professional Tips [5]

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Avoiding pictures that are  
too dark 5/5

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Extremely light subjects will tend to produce a dark image.

Why? Because the camera's light sensor automatically sets the brightness of the scene for a middle grey.

Thus, light areas become greyed out, and areas of medium brightness become blacked out. The only option is to correct the exposure.

## Handy tips

- It will not always be possible to correct the picture with photo retouching software.
- Brightening the image may result in digital noise: areas of degradation where details are covered in blue-green specks.



# 1. In A and S modes

- Correct the exposure by placing the cursor towards the positive end of the scale: 0..+1..+2.
- Fix the exposure by pressing the AEL or  $\checkmark$  button, focus and compose your picture, then release the shutter.

# 2. M mode

Select a slower shutter speed or wider aperture: this will let more light on to the sensor.

# 3. Scene modes (Portrait, Landscape, Sports, etc.)

With most cameras, you cannot correct the exposure. It is therefore better to use A, S or M modes.

## **Hands on:** Sunsets

If you point the camera directly at the sun, the sensor will darken the foreground, producing a silhouette. To avoid this:

- 1) Place the lens at a 45° angle to the sun, focus on the horizon and measure the exposure over this area.
- 2) Fix the focus by pressing the shutter button half way, and fix the exposure on this area.
- 3) Get the sun in frame and shoot!

Warning: do not look at the sun through the viewfinder for too long as the light could damage your retina.

## **Suggested products**

**Canson® Infinity Platine Fibre Rag**



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It's time to do away with preconceived ideas! Blur is not always the enemy. It is actually a key weapon in the creative armoury of any photographer.

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