

BEAUTIFUL BOKEH

YOUR GUIDE TO FINDING AND SHOOTING IT



Don't you absolutely love images you see with that beautiful bokeh in them?

It's not as hard as you might think. It's really quite easy to accomplish and I'm going to tell you how.

Bokeh has been defined as "the way the lens renders out-of-focus points of light".

Capturing bokeh is all about aperture -- the smaller your number (the wider your aperture), the larger the bokeh will be. A small number results in letting more light in the camera. For example, using an aperture of 1.8 will result in larger "circles" of bokeh.

If you have a point and shoot that allows you to change your aperture, you can capture bokeh as well as if you're using a DSLR. With a DSLR, using a lens such as the 50mm that allows a wide aperture (1.4 or 1.8) will result in the following types of bokeh.

IMAGE #1



My camera settings: 50mm lens, ISO 320, Aperture f/1.8, shutter speed 1/4000

My background here is a tree. The sun was high and to my left. I sat down in front of the Iris, shooting towards the tree.

Look at your trees and bushes or hedges. If you can see sunlight coming through the leaves, you can capture bokeh.

IMAGE #2



My camera settings: 50mm lens, ISO 320, aperture f/2.8, shutter speed 1/2000

You can see the bokeh is a bit smaller than with the 1.8 aperture. Again, this is because the 2.8 aperture results in a smaller opening than the 1.8 aperture.

Note: I was also shooting in manual mode and if you notice, as I change to a smaller aperture (larger number), the shutter speed is slowing down. This is allowing time for more light to enter the camera to maintain my exposure. This also means that I had to manually adjust my exposure compensation because I was shooting in manual mode.

You could set your camera to aperture mode and it will adjust the shutter speed for you.....maintaining your exposure without worrying about exposure compensation.

IMAGE #3



My camera settings: 50mm lens, ISO 320, aperture f/4.5, shutter speed 1/640

Notice the bokeh size got much smaller with this aperture.

IMAGE #4



My camera settings: 50mm lens, aperture f/9.0, ISO 320, shutter speed 1/200

You can really see the difference in the bokeh size with the jump from an aperture of f/4.5 all the way up to an aperture of f/9.0.

I'll show you a couple more examples of bokeh with changing my position a little, which can also change the appearance of the bokeh.

IMAGE #5



My camera settings: 50mm, aperture f/9.0, ISO 320, shutter speed 1/200

I allowed a little more sky to show in the upper left hand corner of the image, resulting in more blurred bokeh in that area.

IMAGE #6



My camera settings: 50mm, aperture f/9.0, ISO 320, shutter speed 1/200

I backed up to allow more sky in my image. You can see that I've lost most of the white bokeh but there is some lovely blurred green bokeh from the leaves on the tree.

I sincerely hope you enjoyed reading this guide and I encourage you to just go out and play.....practice catching some **BEAUTIFUL BOKEH.**

You don't even have to have a subject as a foreground, you can simply "shoot a tree"!