

DEPTH of FIELD

Depth of field (DoF) refers to the range of distance or the portion of an image that **appears acceptably sharp**. It varies depending on camera type, aperture and focusing distance, although print size and viewing distance can also influence our perception of depth of field.



The depth of field does not abruptly change from sharp to unsharp, but instead occurs as a gradual transition. In fact, everything immediately in front of or in back of the focusing distance begins to lose sharpness — even if this is not perceived by our eyes or by the resolution of the camera.

Larger apertures (smaller F-stop number) and closer focusing distances produce a shallower depth of field. The following test maintains the same focus distance, but changes the aperture setting. Watch what happens to the amount of the image that is in focus and how much blur there is in the background as the F-stop changes.



f/8.0



f/5.6



f/2.8