

Panning

Technique for photographing a moving object with the intent of blurring the background to create a sense of motion and/or separating the subject from the background.

Tips:

1. Use a relatively slow shutter speed. The correct setting will be a function of the speed of the subject and the amount of desired "blur." You may get the desired results for a race car at 1/250 sec where a boy on his tricycle may require 1/8 sec. Of course, the slower the shutter speed setting, the harder it will be to keep even the subject sharp.
2. Use the longest focal length lens possible as this will create less DOF, adding to the blurring effect.
3. Use the largest aperture (smallest numeric f-stop... ie: f2.8) as this will also create less DOF.
4. For the best results, the subject should be traveling in a parallel plane to you. A subject moving closer or farther away will be harder to pan, but could provide an interesting effect anyway.
5. Autofocus can work, especially if you have a very fast system, but I find that pre-focusing on an area where you expect the subject to be works very well.
6. Obviously, try to keep the subject in the same position within the frame.
7. Try to eliminate any vertical movement if possible (unless the subject is moving slightly in a vertical plane also.)
8. A monopod or tripod can be an excellent aid if the subject is moving in a very level path.
9. If hand holding, I found by turning my complete upper body, I can maintain a level path with little vertical movement.
10. A fill flash can be used to help "freeze" the subject if you are within your flash unit's range.



Freeze Action

Technique for photographing a moving object without the subject blurring.

Tips:

1. Use the fastest shutter speed. The correct setting will be a function of the speed of the subject. You may get the desired results for a race car at 1/2000 sec where a boy on his tricycle may only require 1/250 sec.
2. Use the largest aperture (smallest numeric f-stop... ie: f2.8) as this will allow you to use the fastest shutter speed at the lowest possible ISO.
3. Use Aperture Priority and set to largest aperture (smallest numeric... ie: f2.8) which will automatically give the fastest shutter speed available at your chosen ISO. If blur is still visible, increase the ISO.
4. If increased DOF is desired, reduce the aperture (larger number... ie: f8.) If blur is still visible, increase the ISO.
 - a. Many cameras have a feature where ISO can be automatically adjusted based on user set parameters but this required more set up parameters.
5. A fill flash can be used to help “freeze” the subject if you are within your flash units range.
6. Same technique can be used when the “camera” is moving or shaking (ie: while walking or from car, bicycle, airplane, amusement rides, boats etc.)



Blurring Action

Technique for photographing a scene with selective subject blurring.

Tips:

1. Use a relatively slow shutter speed. The correct setting will be a function of the speed of the selected subject you want to blur and the amount you want to blur it. You may get the desired results for a waterfall or a stream at 1/2 second but at 10 seconds, the water will become very surreal. Experiment.
2. Use a small aperture (largest numeric f-stop... ie: f16) as this will allow you to use a slower shutter speed at the lowest possible ISO.
3. Use Shutter Priority and set to the desired shutter speed based on the blurring effect you would like and the camera will set the aperture at your chosen ISO.
4. If increased DOF is desired, either decrease the shutter speed or increase the ISO thereby requiring a reduced aperture (larger number.)
5. If decreased DOF is desired, either increase the shutter speed or decrease the ISO (if possible) requiring an increased aperture (smaller number.)
6. A Neutral Density filter can be used to reduce the amount of light hitting the sensor, thereby requiring either increase aperture, reduced shutter speed or increased ISO. This is helpful when the lighting conditions do not allow enough compensation within the camera to achieve the desired amount of blur.
7. A tripod (or some other stabilizing devise) is almost mandatory. Hand holding a camera below 1/30 sec while maintaining sharpness, even with VR, is very difficult.
8. Again, experiment.... Its digital and electrons are free!

