

# Filters in Landscape Photography

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# Topics

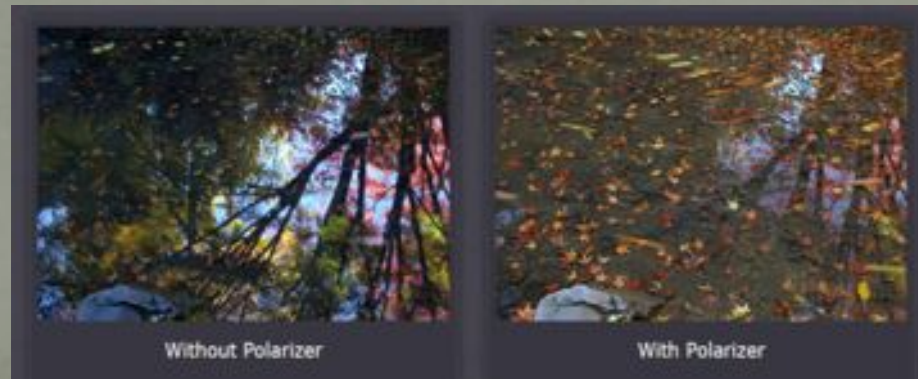
- Polarizing Filters
- Neutral Density Filters
- Graduated Neutral Density Filters
- A demonstration of the Lee Filter System

# Polarizing Filters

- Polarizing filters are used to:
  - Increase colour saturation



- Decrease reflections.



# Polarizing Filters

- Types of Polarizing Filter:
  - If you use an autofocus SLR you will need a Circular Polariser.
  - If you use a manual focus camera, whether 35mm or medium format, you can use either a Circular or a Linear Polariser.
- A Polarizing Filter operates at maximum effect when one's line of sight is perpendicular to the direction of the sun.
- Rotating your filter will toggle the angle that appears most polarized.
- Typically, you will lose one stop of light when you place a polarizing filter on your lens.
- Polarising filters will have the biggest impact when:
  - Shooting a picture of water, or surfaces covered in water, by cutting out glare and even changing the colour of the water.
  - Shooting a blue sky. Watch as the colour changes from a light pale blue colour to a vibrant and deep blue colour (depending upon where the sun is).
- In general, Polarizing filters cut down the reflection that many objects have (even those that you might not think reflect at all). This makes the colours of some of these objects more vibrant.



# Neutral Density Filters

- There are times when we need to reduce the amount of light reaching the sensor whilst maintaining a wide aperture or slower shutter speed.
- A neutral density filter is usually a piece of darkened glass that is placed over the lens in order to reduce the amount of light reaching the sensor or film.
- Typically ND 101 (1 stop of light) to ND 113 (13 stops of light).



# Neutral Density Filters

- The Lee 'Big Stopper' is a popular 10 stop Neutral Density Filter.
- To use the Big Stopper:
  - Set focus manually.
  - Record exposure without filter.
  - Calculate new exposure when reduced by 10 stops of light (using card supplied or App).
  - Set new exposure manually. If exposure is >30s, Bulb mode will be required.
  - Place filter into the nearest slot on the Lee Filter system.
  - Cover camera and filters with a black cloth.
  - Take photo.



# Graduated ND Filter

- A **graduated neutral-density filter**, is an optical filter that has a variable light transmission.



- Typically half of the filter is of neutral density which transitions, either abruptly or gradually, into the other half which is clear.



# Graduated ND Filter

- Graduated filters are used to balance the exposure within a scene – typically between the bright sky and considerably darker land.
- Hard and Soft Grads:
  - As a general rule, a Hard grad would be used for images containing a horizon, or any hard transition between the sky and the foreground - even with jagged or mountainous horizons, the exposure can be controlled far easier with a hard grad.
  - Soft grads perform best in woodland, mist, or interiors. Anywhere where there is no definite transition between sky and foreground, a soft grad will gently balance exposure across the image.

