

Blurred Movement

For this assignment you will experiment with various ways of illustrating motion by using slow shutter speeds. Blur happens for two reasons:

1. On Purpose to emphasize motion (this “good” blur)
2. Because the photographer moves the camera while exposing the film, thereby creating a blurry photo

90% of blurred photos could be classified as “bad” blur; the photographer didn’t intend it to happen

Getting started: Set your camera at f16 and your shutter speed at 1/15th of a second. (you will want to use your light meter, but this is a good starting point)

Once you get going, experiment with shutter speeds as low as 1 second or more if you are shooting at night, or in low light..

This assignment will be easiest to do on an overcast day. Here are **3** methods to achieve blur in a photo:

1. **Panning** Aim your camera so that your subject will enter your viewfinder from the left or right hand side, follow your subjects movement as it enters the viewfinder and press the shutter release button. Keep moving with the subject as the shutter opens and closes. Move your camera at the same speed as the subject. This will produce a blurred background, whilst your subject remains more or less in focus. This is known as “panning”.

2. **Moving subject/ stationary camera** Mount your camera on a tripod or find some other way to hold it steady. Have your camera focused on the background and press the shutter release button. This should produce a steady background while your subject moves across the frame as a blur.

Some good examples of moving objects include: Planes, trains, automobiles, athletes, machinery, water, and on and on ad infinitum!

Remember: Stationary objects exhibit motion as well. Sewing machines have moving parts, as do gears and cogs; even if the object itself is stationary, there is usually a section that moves.

3. **Zoom Blur** Focus on your subject, then using your light meter, get your exposure correct for your subject. You can start with your focal length wide open or have your lens zoomed in. Using a shutter speed of at least 1/4”, begin zooming in or out on a subject and as soon as you start, press the shutter release button.

If you submit digital files, you will be handing in 3 examples of each style of blur photography (9 photos in total).

- 3 panning
- 3 zoom lens blur
- 3 stationary background, blurred subject

Place these documents in an MS Word .docx. Consider the following:

- center the images, and consider renaming the files with their aperture and shutter speed. I suggest you include this information underneath each image.
- Create a heading each of the 3 blur types
- Submit the file after renaming it “YourNameBlur.docx”

If you are submitting silver gelatin prints, please hand in 3 prints. (Either 2 blur and one panning or vise-versa), your negatives, and a contact sheet. For the stationary background shot, I strongly encourage you to explore light painting (just Google it to see some examples)

An example of panning



$\frac{1}{8}$ " @ F16

An example of Zoom blur



$\frac{1}{2}$ "@F5.6

An example of light painting (stationery background, moving subject)



1/2"@f11