

Intermediate Digital Photography

“The Photographic Eye, Learning to See with a Camera” Michael F. O’Brien & Norman Sibley

Blurred Movement

Assignment: Experiment with various ways of illustrating motion by using slow shutter speeds.

Goal: Use blurred motion with a clear purpose and with a clear result. In other words, try to get a shot in which the blur really *expresses* motion.



Tips: Set your camera at f/16 and 1/15 to start. Once you get going, experiment with shutter speeds as low as 1/8. You’ll find the assignment easiest on a gray, overcast day, since you don’t want too much light.

You may shoot in one of three ways:

- 1.) Aim your camera so that your subject is moving into the frame. Begin following your subject’s movement and then release the shutter. Keep moving with the subject as the shutter opens and closes. This will produce a blurred background with your subject more or less “frozen.”
- 2.) Mount your camera on a tripod or find some other way to hold it very steady. Aim so your subject is moving into the frame and release the shutter. This will produce a steady background with your subject moving across the frame as a blur.
- 3.) Attach a zoom lens to your camera, then mount it on a tripod or find some other way to hold it steady. Focus on the subject matter with the zoom at its maximum focal – length. Pull back on the zoom lens and immediately release the shutter. This produces a pattern of lines radiating out from your subject.

Note that you’ll have to find something to focus on, or guess the distance, before your subject moves through the frame. Possible subjects include runners; almost any sports activity; motorcycles, bicycles and other vehicles; a person or a group of people jumping, twirling, swinging, dancing, etc.

Your subject should contrast with the background (light on dark, dark on light). If it already blends in, the blur will make it blend even more.