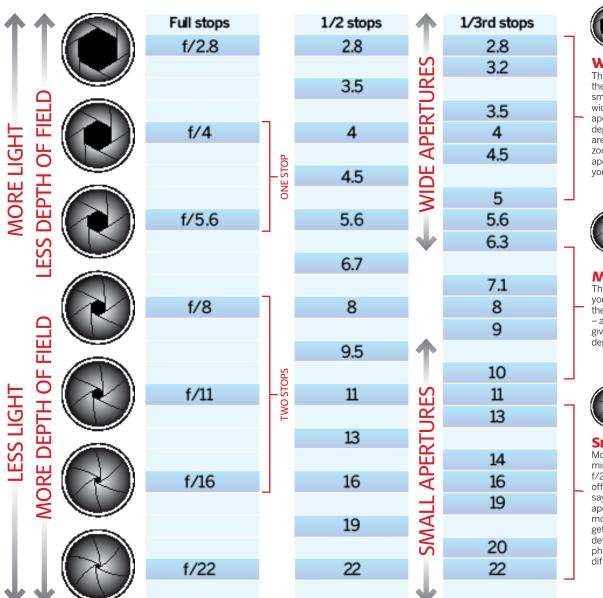




Making sense of f/stops

At-a-glance guide to aperture scales, and what the settings mean





Wide apertures
The widest apertures have the f/stops with the smallest numbers. The widest 'maximum' aperture available depends on the lens you are using. On many zooms, the maximum aperture gets smaller as you zoom in.



Mid apertures

The middle apertures on your lens tend to give you the best quality images - although they may not give you the amount of depth of field you require.



Small apertures

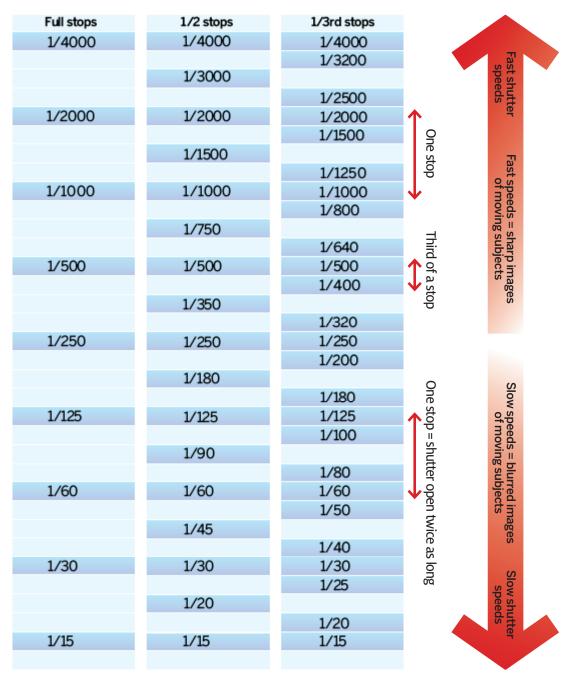
Most lenses have a minimum aperture of f/22, although some may offer smaller settings of, say, f/25 or f/32. As the aperture gets smaller the more depth of field you get, but image resolution deteriorates due to a phenomenon called diffraction.



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Making sense of the speed scale

Canon SLRs give you the choice of two different shutter speed scales – one with half-stop steps, the other with third-stop steps (see Step by Step, below). Each step along the full stop scale represents a doubling (or halving) of the amount of light reaching the sensor.



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