

Polarizing Filters

There are two kinds of Polarizing Filters - namely **Circular** and **Linear**. Both have different uses to the photographer. Both kinds will restrict reflections in glass and water but not metal, enhance colours with shiny surfaces especially blue skies and slow down the speed without having to adjust your preferred aperture stop. The **Circular** gives better results if you are shooting images with lots of skies and prefer colour enrichment, whilst the **Linear** gives better results if you take a lot of images where you need to subdue reflected light. A word of warning here though; as Linear Polarizers can affect the metering on many TTL cameras the recommended option is a Circular Polarizers unless you use a light meter.

These results are achieved by coinciding the plane of the filter with that of the object, but let's not get too technical. In effect, to achieve the best polarizing effect the light source (the sun) needs to be at a 90 degree angle to the camera. Polarizers have no effect if the sun is immediately behind the camera, By rotating the filter the colour hue and reflected light changes and you can check the effect through your view finder. Once satisfied that the colour saturation is correct or an unwanted reflection is eliminated then press the shutter.

These filters come as straight forward screw-on attachments to your lens or as slot-in filters to the square filters holders such as Cokin etc. If using these square filter holders use the P Series in preference to the A Series as this reduces the possibility of the filter holder fogging the corners of your image at the wide end of a zoom lens. Personally I prefer the filters to be in a square filter holder. It makes them easier to rotate when trying to see the best effect. However, before purchasing any filter ensure that you know the filter size of your lens. This should be printed somewhere on the front of your lens. Always go to reputable Photography Shop such as Chesham Cameras or Chiswick Camera Centre (see our **LINKS** section of this website for further details) to purchase filters and seek their advice for the best system to suit you as an individual.