FORMATT FILTERS

Product Information

Neutral Density Filters

Neutral density filters (also known as NDs) produce a grey neutral tone and are used to reduce light, enabling more control over exposure and depth of field without affecting colour or contrast. They are especially useful in bright light conditions to avoid overexposure. When using wider lenses they adjust exposure correctly, allowing for reduced depth of field. This enables highlighting of the principal subject and taking the foreground or background out of focus.

Standard NDs

NDs are made in different grades according to the level of light reduction. The standard grades are 0.3, 0.6, 0.9 and 1.2 which equate to 1, 2, 3 and 4 stops of light reduction. Heavier densities can be manufactured to order.

Graduated NDs and Blenders

New!

NDs are also available in graduated filters, both in hard and soft edge. These filters are clear in the bottom half of the filter with a gradual transition to the ND effect in the top half, and are used for skylines. They are usually used with wide or prime lenses.

Graduated NDs are also available as standard in 0.3, 0.6, 0.9 and 1.2 with heavier densities available to order.

Graduated NDs are available in Soft Edge or Hard Edge varieties. Soft edge grads have a smooth transition from clear to ND. Hard edge grads have amore defined hard lined transition and should be used for longer lenses. For extremely long focal lengths a razor edge grad, providing a very highly defined transition, may be ordered.

A blender is the same as a graduated filter, but with the transition taking place gradually over the whole length of the filter rather than in the middle. Blenders are available in the same grades as graduated filters.

Note: when ordering graduated filters in Panavision (4x5.65”) size, as these filters are not square, care should be taken to order either horizontal filters (i.e. landscape) or vertical (i.e. portrait) dependent on which way you will be using the filters in the matte box.

High Definition ND Range

Having undertaken detailed research with DOPs and other users of High Definition (“HD”) equipment, it became apparent that HD cameras require a more optically pure grey neutral density filter to avoid some of the colouration issues which are inherent in their use, particularly at low light levels. Formatt’s new HD NDs (available in standard and graduated versions) provide this with no colour shift of the type which can be found in some standard ND filters.

Formatt recommends the purchase of HD ND filters as they are the most optically pure ND filters available and, although designed for HD can be used with any type of camera. They are the same price as the standard ND range.

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