



F I L T E R S

Product Information

Polarizers



After a clear protection filter, a polarizer is probably the first filter which any camera user should purchase. The principal use of the polarizer is to eliminate surface reflections, glare and hot spots from any light source entering the camera. This reflected light often shows up as a whitish glare which reduces the colour in the image. The polarizer is used for colour and contrast enhancement and removes reflections from substances such as water and glass. It can darken a blue sky and increase colour saturation. When two polarizers are placed together it is possible to achieve near black out, dependent on the angle in which they are aligned. This enables intense effects to be created. One of the polarizers is rotated until the required effect is achieved.

Polarizers are available in linear and circular varieties:

Linear Polarizer

The linear polarizer is the standard polarizing filter, and is an essential outside all-purpose filter. It deepens skies and minimizes reflections. It is typically rotated to achieve the required effect; for this purpose you should ensure that your matte box has at least one rotating filter tray, and make sure that when purchasing circular filters that you buy a polarizer with a rotating ring.

Circular Polarizer

The circular polarizer produces the same effect as a linear polarizer, but is used in cameras where polarizing elements are used in the beam-splitters of the camera. If using a linear polarizer with such cameras, the light can become cross polarized (giving the same effect as using two polarizers together). Circular polarizers are made from a different polarizing material than linear and will usually prevent the cross polarization.

Note that circular polarizers may only be used one way in front of the lens and are marked accordingly.

HD Optical Filters Ltd

Glass Filter Division

Unit 23 Aberaman Industrial Park, Aberdare, Rhondda Cynon Taff, CF44 6DA

Tel 01685 870979 Fax 01685 877007 Email sales@formatt.co.uk Web www.formatt.co.uk