



Whats in my Bag?

Filters – trying to get it right in the camera

Filters

We all take photos that we think 'I can tweak that when I get home

Occasionally it is nice to try to get it right in the camera from a personal satisfaction point of view but

Sometimes the dynamic range is too much for Photoshop to rescue

Dynamic range is the difference between the brightest part of the image and the darkest and measured in stops

A typical SLR sensor is about 5 stops dynamic range

Using a graduated filter can increase that by 6 stops, it doesn't really but sure looks that way



Filters

Cokin Filter System

Consists of a filter holder that can take three filters

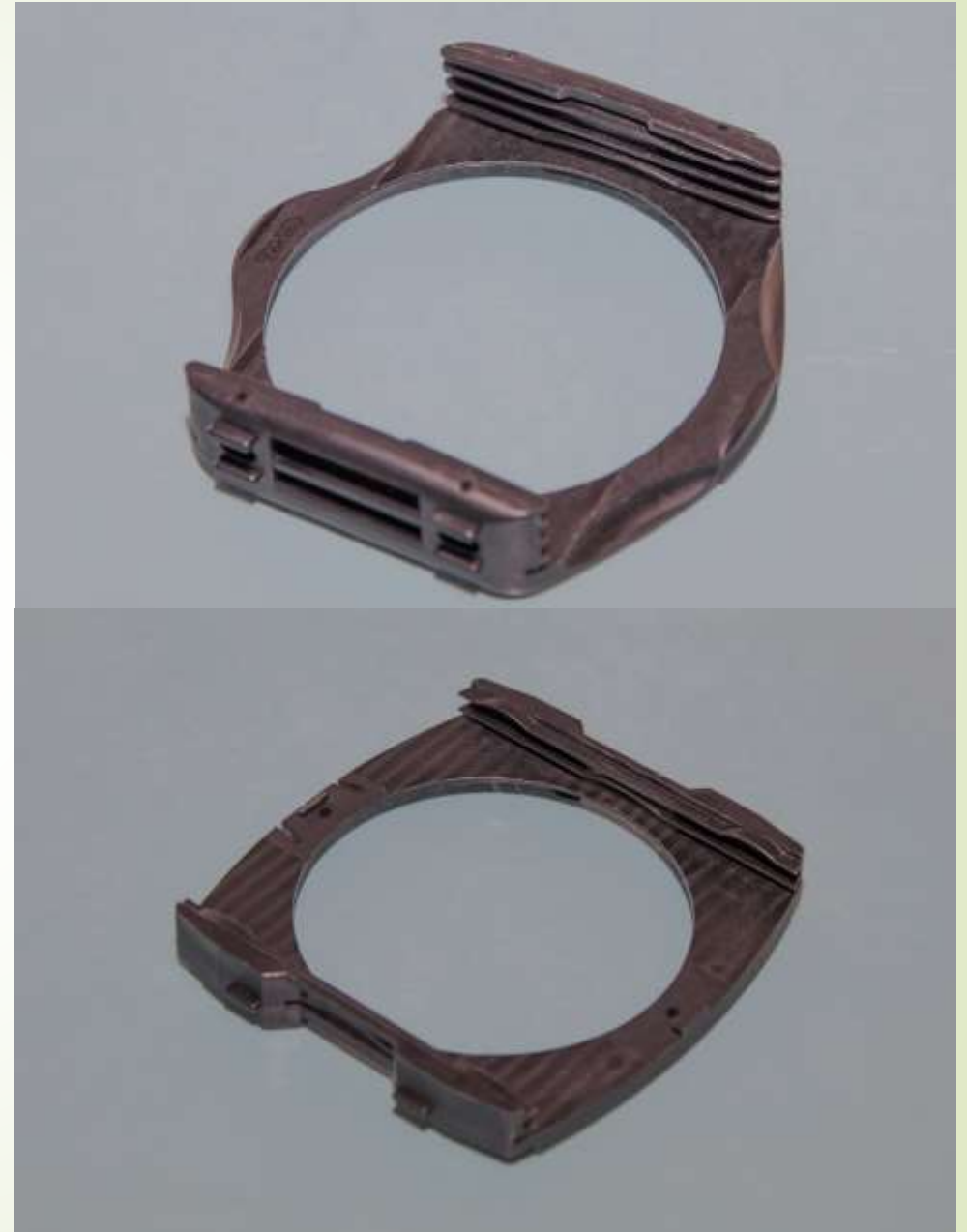
Single filter holder

There are different size filters

For an SLR P Series (84mm) will be ok but will affect a wide angle lens 10-16mm

For a full frame SLR L Series (100mm) are best

Of course the larger are more expensive



Adaptor rings to match the lens filter thread size

You need an adaptor ring that for each of your size of lens

Rings about £6 each



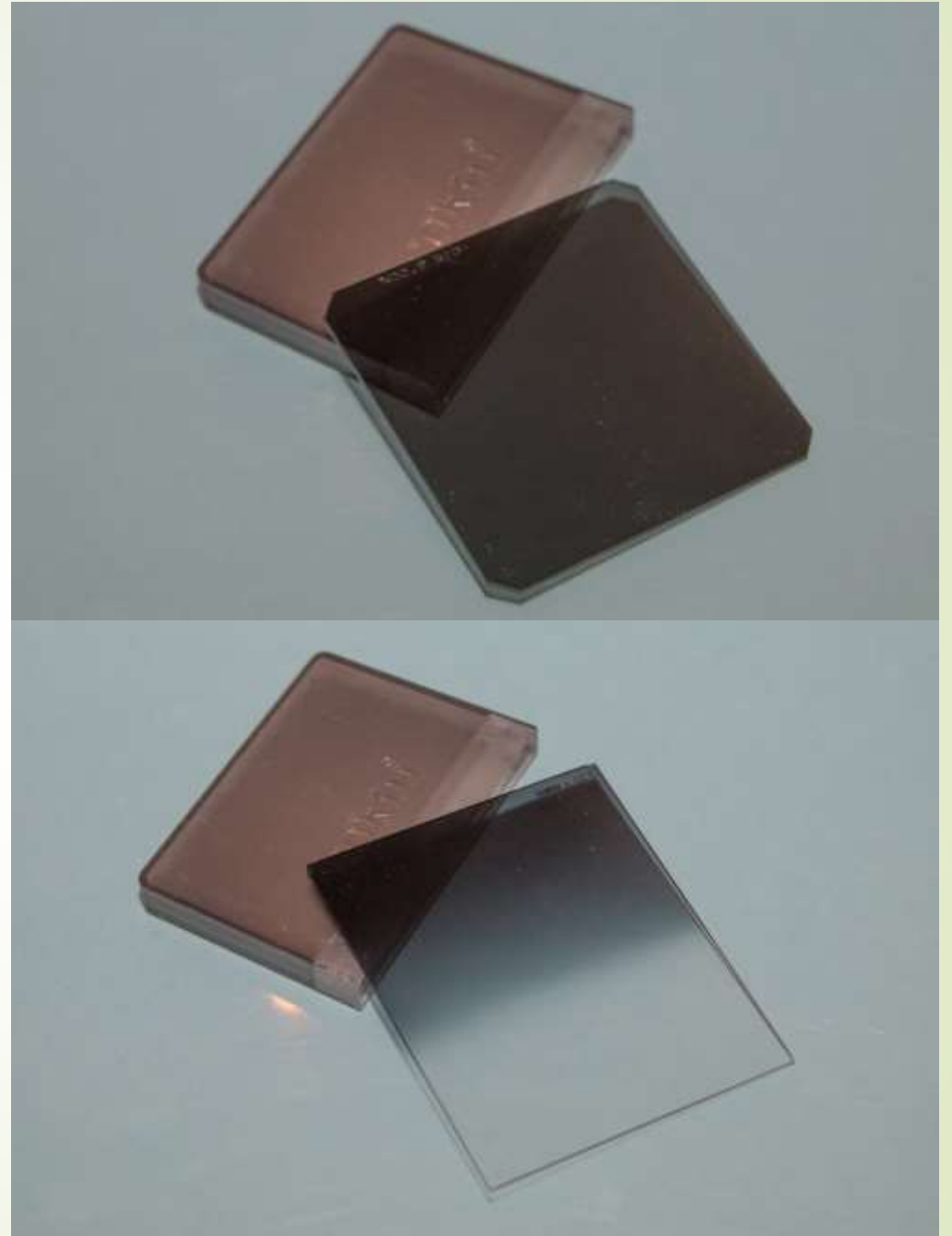
What type of filters are there?

Hundreds!

I use neutral grads full neutral which comes in 1,2 and 3 stop values

The graduated are slightly longer to allow you to slide them in and out of the holder so you can adjust where the transition is in the frame

Kits with 3 filters and a holder about £50



So what is the effect of using them?

No filter

3 stop graduated neutral density



What type of filters are there?

Polariser – must be a circular polariser (CPL)

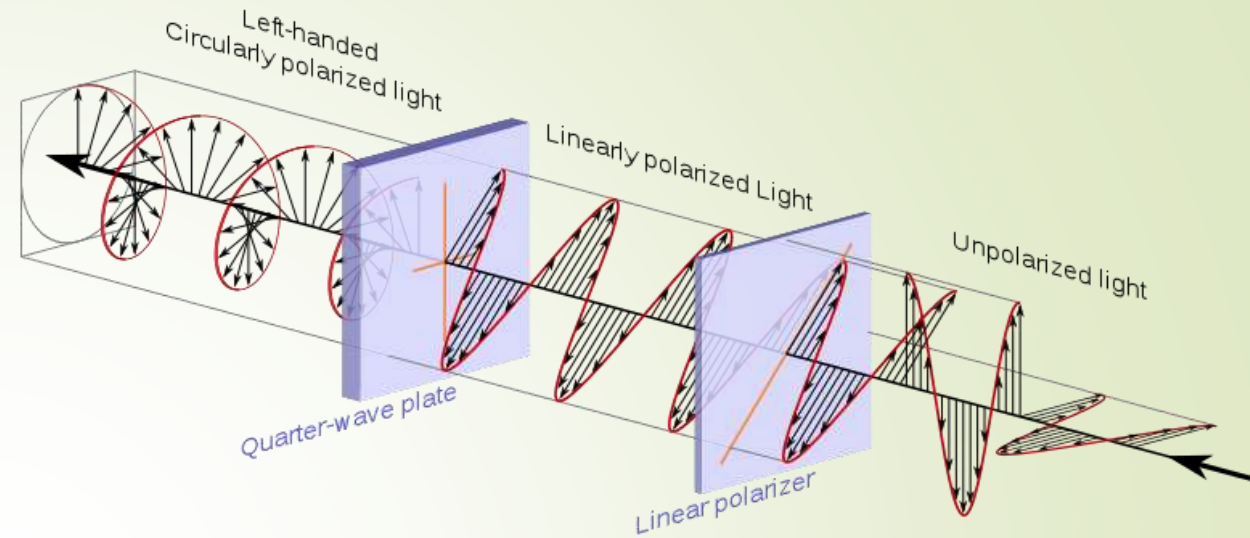
No, not the shape, but the effect on the light!

CPL for the focus and metering to work on digital cameras and to rotate it in the holder for optimum effect

Reduce glare, reduce haze (only slightly), saturates colour

This is the filter

Rule of thumb – work best pointing 90° to the sun



So what is the effect of using them?

No Polariser

Polariser in place and turned for the maximum effect



When polarisers cause problems

No Polariser

Polariser in place. Wide angle lenses cause the variation in colour. This was at 24mm, a shorter focal length would have been even worse, but it has brought out detail in the tree



Stacking filters

The three filter holder can be used to hold up to three filters, three square or one circular + two square

Combinations of stops up to 6 stops

Two problems with these filters:

1. Dust and scratches
2. Can cause internal reflections especially when stacked if the sun is near the frame



Big Stopper 10 Stop ND

10 stops is definitely a lot and produces long shutter opening periods which often require the Bulb setting

This means a tripod and cable release for successful use

Useful to have a ND Calculator app to calculate the release time

Without filter in place get exposure reading eg 1/30 sec, lookup to find shutter speed will be 33 secs for a 10 stop ND

Focus and set autofocus OFF

Select Bulb, ensure ISO and Aperture remain the same so Manual mode really is the best option

White balance is best left on auto, Big Stoppers generally leave a colour cast but that can add to artistic element of the photo

Price range £60-£100





Daylight white balance, 5500K

Changed to B&W to remove colour cast

