

FRESH START

CAMERA GEAR TEST CHEATSHEET

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Camera and Gear Test Ideas

1. **Shoot an over and under exposed photo in Raw and JPG mode** and compare the differences. What detail can you pull back from the highlights and how much detail can you pull out from the shadows.
2. **Lens Focal Length Test** - if you have lenses that overlap in focal length, try testing them out on a tripod if you've ever wondered if one was sharper than another. For example, is my 70-200 @ 200mm sharper than my 100-400mm @ 200mm?
3. **ISO Tests** - shoot various ISOs going from low to high. When do you start to see noise?
4. **Various Apertures** - what aperture is the sharpest? Try shooting the same scene on a tripod, with various apertures from wide to narrow.
5. **Mirror Lock Up** - if your camera has it, try it.
6. **Focus point for landscapes**. Does it matter? Try shooting the same scene while focussing at different points and look at them on the computer to see what the sharpest parts of the photo are.

7. Auto vs Manual Focus - On a tripod, shoot the same photo using auto focus and manual focus. Is either sharper than the other?

8. Tele-converters - many people will say that using a tele-converter makes your photos soft. Try taking a photo with one on and off. Does it make a difference?

9. Image Stabilization - a general rule of thumb is to turn Image Stabilization off if you're on a tripod. Try it with it on and off. Does it matter?

10. Color Spaces - If you have a printer try printing a photo that is sRGB, one that is Adobe RGB and one that is ProPhoto RGB. Can you see a difference?