

Meter Modes

Cameras generally allow the user to select between *spot*, *center-weighted average*, or *multi-zone* metering modes. Most consumer cameras only use multi-zone metering.

Spot metering

With spot metering, the camera will only measure a very small area of the scene (between 1-5% of the viewfinder area). This will typically be the very centre of the scene, but some cameras allow the user to select a different off-center spot, or to recompose by moving the camera after metering. Spot metering is very accurate.

Center-weighted average metering

In this system, the meter concentrates between 60 to 80 percent of the sensitivity towards the central part of the viewfinder. The balance is then "feathered" out towards the edges.

Average metering

In this metering mode the camera will use the light information coming from the entire scene and averages for the final exposure setting, giving no weighting to

Partial metering

This mode meters a larger area than spot metering (around 10-15% of the entire frame), and is generally used when very bright or very dark areas on the edges of the frame would otherwise influence the metering

Multi-zone metering

matrix, *evaluative*, *honeycomb*, *segment metering* --the camera measures the light intensity in several points in the scene, and then combines the results to find the settings for the best exposure. The focus point determines the light reading.