Chapter 3: Elements of Exposure, Aperture

The **F-Stop** setting determines how much light is allowed to enter a camera through the lens to reach the imaging sensor. F-stop is normally a setting of the lens that is attached to the camera, and is controlled mechanically, by opening or closing the lens ***aperture***.

Different lenses have different apertures and so can handle different f-stop ranges.

The **Canon EF 24-105mm f/4L IS II USM lens** that is normally kept on the SCiL DSLR cameras has an **adjustable f-stop range**from **f/4** (wide open) to **f/22** (nearly closed). It will retain the f-stop you set through its entire zoom range from 24mm to 105mm.

When the camera is set to **video mode**, you can **set the f-stop** on the Canon EOS 5D Mk IV using the **large dial** around the "set" button located at the lower right of the camera body.



> **Lower f-stop numbers** (like f/4) indicate that the **aperture is more open**, **allowing in more light**.

> **Higher f-stop numbers** (like f/22) indicate that the **aperture is more closed**, a**llowing in less light**.

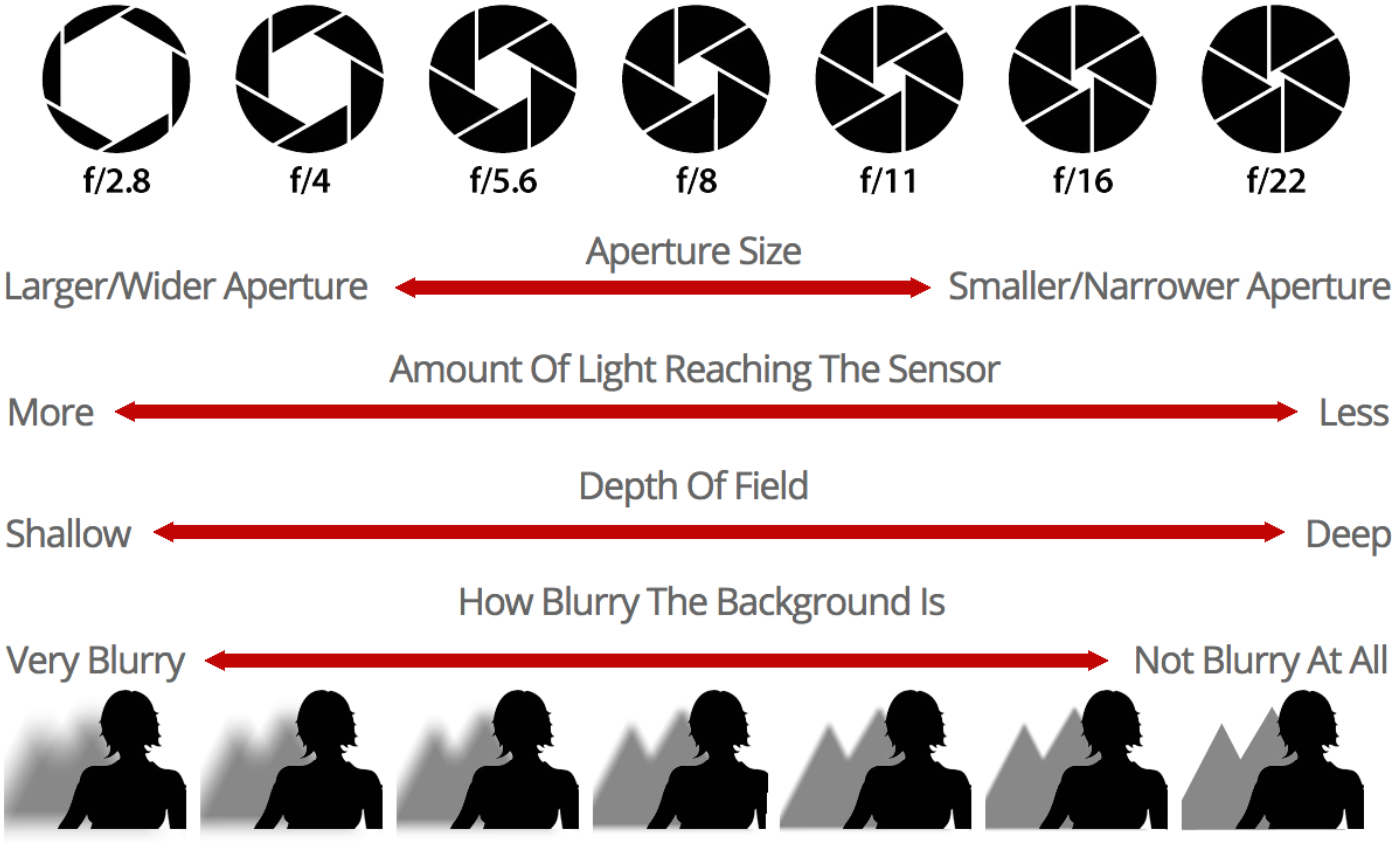
F-stop settings influence the depth of field.

> **f/1.2 - f/2.8** - lets in a **lot of light**, with a correspondingly **shallow depth of field**.

> **f/4 - f/8** - useful in many scenarios, with a somewhat **wider depth of field**.

> **f/11 - f/32** - best for **bright settings**, with a **wide depth of field**.

In the chart below, see how different **f-stop settings change the amount of light reaching the sensor and the depth of field**:



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