

Focus Accuracy

Are your images sharp where they should be?

Do you know about AF Micro-adjustment or AF Fine Tune?

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What is AF Micro-adjustment or AF Fine Tune?

They are Canon & Nikon terms for a feature that provides fine tuning of your camera/lens autofocus accuracy.

Why is it necessary?

Cameras and lenses are manufactured to a tolerance and this includes AF systems. Your camera and lenses were made in different factories at different times and have never been used together prior to purchase. Your combination may focus in front of the target which is called *Front Focusing* or behind the target which is called *Back Focussing*.

Is it a problem?

It can be if you use fast lenses and like to shoot at wide apertures. This is when the Depth of Field is so shallow that any inaccuracy can show up and ruin your photo. For example in portraiture you want the eye sharp but with an inaccurate combination it could be the ear or the tip of the nose or worse.

What can be done about it?

Most mid and high end modern DSLR's have a menu based adjustment to compensate for the combined tolerance inaccuracy. Check your camera manual for information.

Can I adjust it myself?

Yes you can and it will cost you nothing. Your camera manual will describe the process and you can download focus targets from various internet sites. It is a matter of ensuring your camera and target are correctly and rigidly mounted, follow logical processes and be prepared to put in the time to get a good result.

Can I have it done professionally?

Yes you can. I have invested in the latest LensAlign™ focus calibration system, Focus Tune™ image analysis software and time in learning how to use it. The system provides reports and charts, which plot your cameras AF performance through the entire adjustment range and shows the correct setting for accurate focus. I am now offering this as a commercial service.

Do you want to know more?

Check out my *Autofocus Adjustment* data sheet or feel free to phone, message or email me.

Cheers,
Greg Larchin



0417 534 061



greg@greglarchinphotographer.com.au



www.greglarchinphotographer.com.au