

# AF SLR LENS TEST GUIDE

The Lens Test Guide provides **averaged lens ratings** based on formal lens test results from various **EXTERNAL SOURCES**. Please be aware that naked test verdicts as presented below cannot describe all the different characteristics of a lens. You've to refer to test magazines directly for details. So please take these values as a **tendency ONLY!**

The results range from 1.0 to 5.0 (5 is best). There're 6 (7) textual marks for the optical quality:

1. (4.26 to 5.00) = excellent ( > 4.5 = outstanding )
2. (3.76 to 4.25) = very good
3. (3.26 to 3.75) = good
4. (2.76 to 3.25) = average
5. (2.26 to 2.75) = sub-average
6. (1.0 to 2.25) = poor

A typical result looks like this: **3.48 (3) = good**

The number in brackets shows the number of tests included for the calculation (3 in this case). There have to be a minimum of 2 tests before a lens will be presented here.

## Zooms:

- [ultra-wide](#)
- [fast standard zooms \(f/2.8\)](#)
- [standard zooms \(24-xxx, 28-xxx\)](#)
- [fast tele zooms -210mm \(f/2.8\)](#)
- [tele zooms -210mm](#)
- [long tele zooms - 300mm](#)
- [ultra tele zooms - 400/500mm](#)

## Fix-Focals:

- [extreme-wide: 14-17mm](#)
- [ultra-wide: 18 - 21mm](#)
- [wide\\_ 24 - 35mm](#)
- [standard: 50mm](#)
- [moderate tele: 85 - 135mm](#)
- [tele: 200mm](#)
- [tele: 300mm](#)
- [long-tele: 400mm+](#)

### Ultra Wide-angle zooms

Carl-Zeiss AF 17-35mm f/2.8 N

Canon EF 2.8 16-35mm USM L

Canon EF 4.0 17-40mm USM L

Sigma AF 2.8 20-40mm EX DG

Sigma AF 3.5-4.5 15-30mm EX DG

Nikkor AF 2.8 20-35mm D

Canon EF 2.8 17-35mm USM L

Canon EF 2.8 20-35mm L

Canon EF 3.5-4.5 20-35mm USM

Tokina AF 2.8 20-35mm AT-X Pro

Minolta AF 3.5 17-35mm G

Nikkor AF 3.5-4.5 18-35mm IF ED D

Nikkor AF-S 2.8 17-35mm IF ED D

Sigma AF 2.8-4 17-35mm EX (HSM)

Pentax SMC FA 4.0 20-35mm AL

Tamron AF 2.7-3.5 20-40mm Asph.

Minolta AF 3.5-4.5 20-35mm

Tokina AF 193 3.5-4.5 19-35mm

Tamron AF 3.5-4.5 19-35mm

[Generic](#) AF 3.5-4.5 19-35mm

### Optical Quality

4.10 (2) = very-good

3.97 (3) = very-good

3.78 (3) = very-good

3.56 (3) = good

3.54 (3) = good

3.47 (5) = good

3.26 (5) = good

3.22 (3) = average

3.18 (5) = average

3.15 (5) = average

3.13 (4) = average

3.09 (3) = average

3.08 (2) = average

3.02 (3) = average

2.97 (3) = average

2.78 (5) = average

2.67 (4) = sub-average

2.67 (3) = sub-average

2.48 (2) = sub-average

2.27 (5) = sub-average

## f/2.8 Wide-angle zooms

Canon EF 2.8 24-70mm USM L  
Canon EF 2.8 28-70mm USM L  
Tamron AF 2.8 28-75mm LD XR Aspherical SP  
Nikkor AF 2.8 35-70mm D  
Nikkor AF-S 2.8 28-70mm IF ED D  
Pentax SMC-FA 2.8 28-70mm AL  
Minolta AF 2.8 28-70mm G  
Tokina AF 2.8 28-80mm AT-X Pro  
Canon EF 2.8-4.0 28-80mm USM L  
Sigma AF 2.8 28-70mm EX DF  
Tokina AF 2.6-2.8 28-70mm AT-X Pro II  
Sigma AF 2.8 24-70mm EX DF DG  
Sigma AF 2.8-4 28-70mm HS  
Tokina AF 2.8 28-70mm AT-X Pro SV  
Tamron SP AF 2.8 28-105mm LD (IF)  
Sigma AF 2.8-4 28-105mm Aspherical  
[Generic](#) AF 2.8-3.8 28-105mm

## slow speed Wide-angle zooms

Carl-Zeiss T\* 3.5-4.5 24-85mm (N-mount)  
Carl-Zeiss T\* 3.5-4.5 28-70mm (N-mount)  
Minolta AF 4.0 24-50mm  
Nikkor AF 3.5-5.6 28-80mm G  
Tamron AF 3.5-5.6 24-135mm Aspherical AD IF SP  
Sigma AF 3.5-5.6 24-70mm HF  
Nikkor AF 3.5-4.5 28-105mm D IF  
Pentax SMC-FA 4-5.6 28-105mm  
Nikkor AF-S 3.5-4.5 24-85mm ED-IF D  
Minolta AF 3.5-4.5 24-85mm  
Canon EF 3.5-5.6 28-135mm ImageStabilizer  
Canon EF 3.5-5.6 35-350mm USM L  
Nikkor AF 3.3-4.5 24-50mm  
Tokina AF 24-200mm f/3.5-5.6 AT-X  
Minolta AF 3.5-4.5 24-105mm D  
Nikkor AF 2.8-4 24-85mm IF D  
Pentax SMC-FA 4 28-70mm AL  
Canon EF 3.5-4.5 28-105mm USM (II)  
Nikkor AF 3.5-5.6 28-80mm D  
Minolta AF 3.5-4.5 28-105mm  
Pentax SMC-FA 4.0 24-90mm AL  
Nikkor AF 3.5-5.6 24-120mm D  
Sigma AF 2.8-4.5 24-135mm  
Sigma AF 3.5-5.6 28-200mm Hyperzoom macro  
Pentax SMC-FA 3.2-4.2 28-105mm AL  
Nikkor AF 3.5-5.6 28-200mm D IF  
Canon EF 4-5.6 28-105mm USM  
Pentax SMC FA 3.5-5.6 28-80mm

## Optical Quality

4.16 (3) = very-good  
4.15 (5) = very-good  
4.14 (3) = very-good  
4.11 (5) = very-good  
4.05 (4) = very-good  
3.90 (5) = very-good  
3.76 (4) = very-good  
3.66 (4) = good  
3.56 (4) = good  
3.50 (2) = good  
3.42 (5) = good  
3.40 (3) = good  
3.05 (2) = average  
3.12 (2) = average  
2.93 (5) = average  
2.48 (5) = sub-average  
2.18 (5) = poor

## Optical Quality

3.96 (3) = very-good  
3.75 (2) = very-good  
3.68 (3) = good  
3.68 (3) = good  
3.51 (4) = good  
3.44 (3) = good  
3.41 (4) = good  
3.38 (4) = good  
3.33 (2) = good  
3.32 (4) = good  
3.25 (5) = good  
3.23 (5) = average  
3.21 (4) = average  
3.20 (3) = average  
3.17 (3) = average  
3.11 (3) = average  
3.07 (4) = average  
3.00 (4) = average  
2.95 (3) = average  
2.93 (4) = average  
2.93 (2) = average  
2.90 (5) = average  
2.88 (2) = average  
2.84 (2) = average  
2.78 (2) = average  
2.77 (5) = average  
2.75 (2) = average  
2.74 (3) = sub-average

Canon EF 3.5-4.5 24-85mm USM	2.73 (4) = sub-average
Sigma AF 3.8-5.6 28-135mm IF Aspherical macro	2.72 (3) = sub-average
Sigma AF 3.5-5.6 28-80mm Macro Aspherical	2.71 (4) = sub-average
Sigma AF 3.5-5.6 24-70mm Aspherical	2.66 (5) = sub-average
Tamron AF 3.5-6.3 28-300mm XR-IF Asph. macro	2.65 (2) = sub-average
Tamron AF 3.8-5.6 28-200mm XR-IF Asph. macro	2.63 (3) = sub-average
Tamron AF 3.5-5.6 28-80mm Aspherical	2.60 (4) = sub-average
Tamron AF / Pentax SMC-FA 4-5.6 28-105mm Asph.	2.54 (5) = sub-average
Canon EF 4-5.6 28-90mm (USM) II	2.52 (2) = sub-average
Minolta AF 3.5-5.6 28-80mm II	2.52 (4) = sub-average
Pentax / Tamron AF 3.8-5.6 28-200mm Asph. LD-IF Super	2.46 (5) = sub-average
Pentax SMC FA 3.5-5.6 28-90mm	2.41 (3) = sub-average
Canon EF 3.5-5.6 28-200mm USM	2.38 (2) = sub-average
Tamron AF 3.5-6.3 28-300mm Asph. LD-IF	2.37 (4) = sub-average
Sigma AF 3.8-5.6 28-200mm DL macro IF Aspherical	2.38 (2) = sub-average
Tamron AF 3.3-5.6 24-70mm Asph.	2.30 (4) = sub-average
Sigma AF 3.5-6.3 28-300mm DL IF Asph.	2.30 (3) = sub-average
Generic AF 3.5-5.6 28-80mm	2.05 (4) = poor
Generic AF 4-6.3 28-300mm	1.78 (5) = poor
Generic AF 4.2-6.5 28-210mm	1.75 (3) = poor

### Tele zooms f/2.8 -210mm

Minolta AF 2.8 70-200m APO SSM G	4.20 (2) = very-good
Minolta AF 2.8 80-200m APO G	4.19 (4) = very-good
Canon EF 2.8 80-200mm L	4.07 (5) = very-good
Canon EF 2.8 70-200mm USM L	4.07 (3) = very-good
Canon EF 2.8 70-200mm USM L IS	4.02 (3) = very-good
Sigma AF 2.8 70-200mm EX (HSM)	4.02 (5) = very-good
Nikkor AF-S 2.8 80-200mm IF ED D	3.98 (4) = very-good
Nikkor AF 2.8 80-200mm IF ED D	3.90 (3) = very-good
Pentax SMC-FA 2.8 80-200mm ED (IF)	3.87 (5) = very-good
Nikkor AF-S 2.8 70-200mm ED-IF VR D	3.67 (2) = good
Tokina AF 2.8 80-200mm AT-X Pro	3.36 (4) = good
Tamron AF 2.8 70-210mm LD	3.35 (4) = good
Generic AF 2.8-4 70-210mm	2.97 (3) = average

### Optical Quality

### Tele zooms -210mm

Canon EF 4.0 70-200mm USM L	4.17 (3) = very-good
Micro-Nikkor AF 4.5-5.6 70-180mm ED	3.87 (4) = very-good
Carl-Zeiss T* AF 3.5-4.5 70-200mm N	3.63 (2) = good
Canon EF 3.5-4.5 70-210mm USM	3.12 (4) = average
Minolta AF 4.0 70-210mm	3.09 (2) = average
Minolta AF 4.5-5.6 70-210mm	2.96 (4) = average
Nikkor AF 4.0-5.6 70-210mm D	2.95 (5) = average
Pentax SMC-FA 4.0-5.6 70-200mm	2.85 (5) = average
Canon EF 4.5-5.6 80-200mm USM	2.77 (3) = average
Nikkor AF 4.5-5.6 80-200mm D	2.72 (3) = sub-average
Nikkor AF 4.5-5.6 75-240mm D	2.54 (4) = sub-average

### Optical Quality

Canon EF 4.5-5.6 55-200mm USM

Tamron AF 4.5-5.6 80-210mm

### Tele zooms -300/320mm

Sigma AF 4.0 100-300mm EX (HSM)

Sigma AF 2.8 120-300mm EX (HSM)

Carl-Zeiss AF T\* 4-5.6 70-300mm (N)

Sigma AF 4.0-5.6 70-300mm APO Macro Super

Minolta AF 4.5-5.6 75-300mm II

Canon EF 5.6 100-300mm L

Tokina AF 4.0 100-300mm AT-X II

Minolta AF 4.5-5.6 100-300mm APO (D)

Pentax SMC FA 4.5-5.6 80-320mm

Nikkor AF 4-5.6 70-300mm G

Nikkor AF 4-5.6 70-300mm ED /  
Tamron AF 4-5.6 70-300mm LD

Canon EF 4-5.6 75-300mm USM IS

[Generic](#) AF 4.5-5.6 70-300mm

Canon EF 4.5-5.6 100-300mm USM

Sigma AF 4.5-6.7 100-300mm UC DL

Nikkor AF 4.5-5.6 75-240mm D

Sigma AF 4.0-5.6 70-300mm DL Macro Super

Tamron AF 5-6.3 100-300mm

### Tele zooms -400/500mm

Canon EF 4.5-5.6 100-400mm USM L IS

Sigma AF 5.6 300-800mm EX

Minolta AF 4.5-6.7 100-400mm APO

Sigma AF 4-6.3 50-500mm EX RF

Nikkor AF 4.5-5.6 80-400mm ED IF VR

Sigma AF 4.5-5.6 135-400mm APO Asph. RF

Sigma AF 5-6.3 170-500mm APO Asph. RF

Tokina AF 4.5-5.6 80-400mm AT-X

[Generic](#) AF 4.5-6.7 100-400mm

Tamron AF 5.6 200-400mm LD

### Fix-focals 14-17mm

Canon EF 2.8 14mm USM L

Nikkor AF 2.8 14mm ED D

Tokina AF 3.5 17mm AT-X Pro

Sigma AF 2.8 14mm EX

Tamron AF 2.8 14mm Asph. SP

### Fix-focals 18-20mm

Nikkor AF 2.8 18mm D

Canon EF 2.8 20mm

Nikkor AF 2.8 20mm

Minolta AF 2.8 20mm new

Pentax SMC-FA 2.8 20mm

2.35 (3) = sub-average

2.10 (5) = poor

### Optical Quality

4.18 (3) = very-good

4.05 (3) = very-good

3.54 (3) = good

3.21 (2) = average

3.08 (3) = average

3.05 (3) = average

3.03 (4) = average

3.01 (4) = average

2.95 (4) = average

2.84 (2) = average

2.79 (4) = average

2.62 (5) = sub-average

2.55 (4) = sub-average

2.45 (4) = sub-average

2.55 (3) = sub-average

2.29 (4) = sub-average

2.17 (2) = poor

2.16 (5) = poor

### Optical Quality

3.94 (5) = very-good

3.50 (2) = very-good

3.35 (5) = good

3.20 (3) = average

3.03 (3) = average

2.86 (4) = average

2.78 (4) = average

2.39 (4) = sub-average

2.31 (4) = sub-average

2.10 (5) = poor

### Optical Quality

3.44 (3) = good

3.22 (3) = average

2.75 (5) = average

2.67 (4) = sub-average

2.50 (3) = sub-average

### Optical Quality

3.57 (2) = good

3.36 (4) = good

3.14 (4) = average

2.97 (3) = average

2.87 (2) = average

Sigma AF 1.8 20mm EX

1.91 (2) = poor

### Fix-focals 24-35mm

Nikkor AF 2.0 35mm

4.07 (4) = very good

Pentax SMC-FA 1.9 31mm AL

3.91 (3) = very-good

Pentax SMC-FA 2.8 28mm

3.89 (4) = very-good

Canon EF 2.8 28mm

3.86 (4) = very-good

Canon EF 2.8 24mm

3.70 (3) = good

Canon EF 1.4 35mm USM L

3.61 (4) = good

Minolta AF 1.4 35mm G

3.50 (4) = good

Canon EF 2.0 35mm

3.50 (4) = good

Nikkor AF 2.8 24mm

3.46 (3) = good

Minolta AF 2.0 35mm

3.45 (4) = good

Nikkor AF 1.4 28mm D

3.45 (3) = good

Sigma AF 2.8 24mm

3.30 (4) = good

Nikkor AF 2.8 28mm

3.28 (4) = good

Canon EF 1.8 28mm USM

3.22 (4) = average

Pentax SMC-FA 2.0 24mm AL (IF)

3.11 (4) = average

Sigma AF 1.8 28mm EX

3.10 (2) = average

Minolta AF 2.8 28mm

3.03 (3) = average

Minolta AF 2.8 24mm new

2.91 (2) = average

Canon EF 1.4 24mm USM L

2.88 (3) = average

Sigma AF 1.8 24mm EX

2.78 (2) = average

### Std. Lenses 50mm

Sigma AF 2.8 50mm Macro EX

4.65 (4) = outstanding!

(Micro-)Nikkor AF 2.8 60mm

4.63 (4) = outstanding!

Minolta AF 2.8 50mm Macro

4.35 (3) = excellent

Canon EF 2.5 50mm Macro

4.34 (4) = excellent

Nikkor AF 1.8 50mm

4.19 (4) = very-good

Pentax SMC FA 43mm f/1.9 Limited

4.17 (3) = very-good

Pentax SMC F 1.7 50mm

4.13 (3) = very-good

Nikkor AI-S 2.8 45mm

4.00 (2) = very-good

Nikkor AF 1.4 50mm

3.98 (4) = very-good

Canon EF 1.4 50mm USM

3.96 (5) = very-good

Canon EF 1.8 50mm II

3.91 (3) = very-good

Minolta AF 1.4 50mm

3.91 (4) = very-good

Canon EF 1.0 50mm L USM

3.64 (3) = good

Pentax SMC FA 2.8 50mm Macro

3.62 (2) = good

Minolta AF 1.7 50mm

3.19 (2) = average

Sigma AF 2.8 50mm Macro

2.69 (2) = sub-average

### Fix-focals 80-135mm

Canon TS-E 2.8 90mm

4.72 (2) = outstanding!

Pentax SMC-FA 1.4 85mm

4.65 (4) = outstanding!

Minolta AF 2.0 100mm

4.60 (3) = outstanding!

Canon EF 2.8 100mm Macro

4.57 (5) = outstanding!

Canon EF 2.0 135mm USM L

4.52 (5) = outstanding!

Tamron AF 2.8 90mm SP Macro

4.49 (5) = excellent

### Optical Quality

### Optical Quality

### Optical Quality

Micro-Nikkor AF 2.8 105mm	4.47 (5) = excellent
Canon EF 1.8 85mm USM	4.45 (5) = excellent
Sigma AF 2.8 105mm macro EX	4.42 (5) = excellent
Minolta AF 2.8 100mm Macro D	4.42 (2) = excellent
Nikkor AF 1.8 85mm D	4.24 (3) = excellent
Canon EF 2.8 100mm USM Macro	4.25 (2) = excellent
Canon EF 1.2 85mm USM L	4.12 (3) = very-good
Pentax SMC-FA 2.8 100mm Macro	4.10 (4) = very-good
Nikkor AF 1.4 85mm D	3.96 (3) = very-good
Tokina AF 2.8 100mm Macro	3.92 (5) = very-good
Minolta AF 1.4 85mm G	3.89 (4) = very-good
PentaxSMC-FA 2.8 135mm	3.78 (2) = good
Nikkor AF 2.0 135mm DC	3.77 (3) = good
Canon EF 2.8 135mm Softfocus	3.69 (3) = good
Canon EF 2.0 100mm USM	3.69 (3) = good
<a href="#">Generic</a> AF & Pentax SMC-FA 3.5 100mm Macro	3.43 (5) = good

### Fix-focals 200mm

Tamron AF 3.5 180mm SP Di	5.00 (2) = outstanding!
Canon EF 1.8 200mm USM L	4.46 (3) = excellent
Canon EF 2.8 200mm USM L II	4.40 (4) = excellent
Minolta AF 2.8 200mm APO G	4.37 (4) = excellent
Pentax SMC-FA* 2.8 200mm ED IF	4.34 (2) = excellent
Sigma AF 3.5 180mm APO Macro EX	4.30 (2) = excellent
Pentax SMC-A 4.0 200mm ED Macro	4.28 (3) = excellent
Canon EF 3.5 180mm USM L Macro	4.20 (4) = very-good
(Micro-)Nikkor AF 4.0 200mm ED	4.08 (2) = very-good
Nikkor AF 2.8 180mm ED	4.07 (4) = very-good
Pentax FA* 4.0 200mm ED IF Macro	4.00 (2) = very-good

### Fix-focals 300mm

Canon EF 2.8 300mm USM L IS	4.82 (2) = outstanding!
Canon EF 2.8 300mm USM L	4.50 (3) = outstanding!
Nikkor AF-S 2.8 300mm ED D	4.50 (2) = outstanding!
Canon EF 4.0 300mm USM L	4.34 (3) = excellent
Pentax SMC-FA* 2.8 300mm ED IF	4.25 (2) = excellent
Nikkor AF-S 4.0 300mm ED	4.12 (2) = very-good
Canon EF 4.0 300mm USM L IS	4.04 (5) = very-good
Nikkor AF 4.0 300mm ED	3.99 (3) = very-good
Tokina AF 2.8 300mm AT-X Pro II	3.86 (3) = very-good
Sigma AF 4.0 300mm APO Macro	3.74 (5) = good
Sigma AF 2.8 300mm APO EX	3.68 (2) = good
Minolta AF 4.0 300mm APO G	3.67 (4) = good
Pentax SMC-FA 4.5 300mm ED (IF)	3.64 (2) = good
Tamron AF 2.8 300mm LD IF	3.63 (4) = good
Tokina AF 4.0 300mm AT-X APO	3.56 (4) = good
Minolta AF 2.8 300mm APO G	3.51 (3) = good

### Fix-focals 400mm+

### Optical Quality

### Optical Quality

### Optical Quality

Canon EF 2.8 400mm USM L II	4.60 (3) = outstanding!
Canon EF 2.8 400mm USM L IS	4.45 (3) = excellent
Nikkor AF-S 4.0 500mm IF-ED D	4.22 (2) = very-good
Canon EF 4.0 600mm USM L	4.18 (2) = very good
Canon EF 4.0 600mm USM L IS	4.11 (2) = very good
Canon EF 4.5 500mm USM L	4.07 (2) = very-good
Minolta AF 4.5 400mm APO G	3.82 (3) = good
Nikkor AF-S 4.0 600mm IF-ED D	3.74 (2) = good
Pentax SMC-FA* 5.6 400mm	3.63 (3) = good
Canon EF 5.6 400mm USM L	3.56 (3) = good
Nikkor AF-S 2.8 400mm IF-ED D	3.55 (2) = good
Minolta AF 4.0 600mm APO G	3.54 (2) = good
Sigma AF 5.6 400mm APO Macro (HSM)	3.51 (4) = good
Canon EF 4.0 400mm USM DO IS	3.43 (2) = good
Tokina AF 5.6 400mm AT-X	2.80 (4) = average

Note: Lenses marked "**Generic**" are produced by Cosina (Japan) and licensed to numerous so-called OEMs - "brand" names / labels that is.

- Cosina (the "real"manufacturer)
- Voigtlander (label owned by the German retail chain "Ringfoto" - the Voigtlander \_company\_ disappeared long ago)
- Vivitar Series 1
- Tokina AF EMZ (not to be mistaken with the normal Tokina line-up which offers a vastly superior build quality)
- Soligor
- Exakta
- Phoenix
- and probably many more ...