

WBPresentation White Balance

1) what is WB?

White Balance is an adjustment in camera or in Post Processing that calibrates Colour rendering of the image for the available Light source. Light sources are measured in degrees Kelvin [an element heated to a specific temperature will radiate light of a given colour]

For photographic purposes Light sources will range from about 2300 K to 9000 K

Sodium vapour around 2700 K, incandescent 3000 K, fluorescent from 3000 to 5000 K, Daylight from 5200 for direct sun to 8000 K in the shade

2) why do I have to worry about it?

If you want the colours in your image to accurately represent the colours in your subject the white Balance must be correct. If WB is set too cool your colours will appear warmer than they were [red or yellow cast] If WB is set too warm colours appear cooler than they should [Blue cast]

As with most Photographic adjustments you can't compete with getting it right in

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camera [correcting it in Post Processing
does take longer]

3) Can't I just fix this post production? In
jpeg? in raw? Advantage of raw?

as in many cases that depends WB is
easiest to correct if we record images in the
RAW format. RAW includes extra information
unavailable in TIFF or JPEG formats that
makes WB correction very easy. A FEW clicks
in Adobe Camera Raw or Nikon Capture NX will
do it. In JPEG or TIFF files that information
is lost so you have to resort to additional
steps to correct WB [White Point, Black
Point , Neutral or Grey Point steps or
possibly a Colour Balance step]

Note : if you are having trouble opening RAW
files try Updating your RAW converter

each new Camera model uses different RAW
files which may not be recognized by older
versions of RAW converters [ACR, Capture NX
etc]

4) Can't I just trust my in-camera mode?

Sometimes the Auto White Balance works fine
; in other situations it fails horribly
In situations with mixed lighting [several
different light sources] often the light

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source you would prefer to expose for is not the source the camera chooses.

the AWB function seems to be improving though with each New generation of Digital Camera

we generally leave WB set to Auto; since we always shoot RAW; when we have to correct it , it is easy enough to do

In Difficult lighting situations a Custom White Balance can be recorded for very good results. Most DSLRs i am familiar with have this capability and presumably many P&S cameras as well

5) Can I use it to my advantage?

WB can be and often is deliberately maladjusted to produce interesting colour effects; artistic Liscence knows no bounds

6) some examples?

7) Some resources

WB Referances

<http://www.cambridgeincolour.com/tutorials/white-balance.htm>

<http://www.photoxels.com/digital-photography->

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tutorials.html

http://www.photoxels.com/tutorial_white-balance.html

<http://www.digital-photography-school.com/introduction-to-white-balance>

<http://www.all-things-photography.com/white-balance.html>

<http://www.photoaxe.com/how-to-deal-with-white-balance-in-photography-a-complete-guide-for-the-beginners/>

8) other questions that I haven't thought of but that the rest of you will