Film Speed



ISO and ASA

- ISO International Standards Organization
- ASA American Standards Association











ISO rating on your film/Charged Coupled Device (CCD)

- ISO designates the film's/CCD's degree of sensitivity to light
- Higher number ISOs mean more sensitive to light can be used in lower light settings (generally)
- Lower number ISOs mean it is less sensitive to light and is used for brighter settings (generally)

ISO Sensitivity

• The sensitivity of film/CCD to light has to do with the density of the silver halides on the film / photosites on CCD







Low Density High Density



Silver Halides Create Film Grain



ISO - Digital



PHOTOSITES









How does ISO affect print quality

- Lower ISO films/digital settings are more dense, and thus are less grainy/noisy when made into a print
- Higher ISO film/digital settings are less dense, and thus can be more grainy/noisy when enlarged

High ISO (3200)





Low ISO (maybe 64 ISO)



Ansel Adams

Low Density High Density





Higher ISO allows for faster shutter speeds but noise can be created



f/5 @ 1/60 (slow) ISO 200 (lower number)

(aperture setting remains constant)



f/5 @ 1/80 (a little faster) ISO 400 (a little higher)



f/5 @ 1/200 (faster) ISO 800 (higher)



f/5.0 @ 1/400 (quite fast) ISO 1600 (much higher)

More noise present

Noise













ISO 800







Grain





High ISO - Sand





Low ISO - Clay





High ISO (3200) is less dense like a raised doughnut





Low ISO (100) is more dense like a cake doughnut





