New Lens Testing

Unfortunately, quality control of many manufacturer's is such that poor performing lens reach the market.

After buying a lens follow the procedure below to take 9 photographs (zoom lenses) and determine how the lens performs.

Point the camera at a subject chosen because it fills the frame and every section of the subject is equally distant to the camera; in such a way that depth-of-field will not be an issue; e.g. The side of a house or something that is far away or a set of subjects all in the same focal plane.

Set the lens to it's widest focal length, then focus and take 3 shots; one at the largest aperture, one at f/11 and one at it’s smallest aperture.

Next

Set the lens at the middle of it's focal range, then focus and take 3 shots; one at the largest aperture, one at f/11 and one at it’s smallest aperture.

Next

Set the lens to it's longest focal length, then focus and take 3 shots; one at the largest aperture, one at f/11 and one at it’s smallest aperture.

Now view all 9 shots on a computer. With a regular monitor view at 100%; 1 to 1; pixel for pixel. When using a high density screen, like the Apple retinal display, it may be helpful to view at a bit more than 100%. Take about 15 to 30 seconds to look around and into the corners of each image. What is the best performing focal length for the lens? What apertures are the sharpest?

For a **fixed, focal length lens** point the camera at a subject chosen because it fills the frame and every section of the subject is equally distant to the camera; in such a way that depth-of-field will not be an issue; e.g. The side of a house or something that is far away or a set of subjects all in the same focal plane.

Focus.

Take an image with each aperture setting.

Now view all of the images on a computer. With a regular monitor view at 100%; 1 to 1; pixel for pixel. When using a high density screen, like the Apple retinal display, it may be helpful to view at a bit more than 100%. Take about 15 to 30 seconds to look around and into the corners of each image. What apertures are the sharpest?