

American Motion Picture Society

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TECH TIP: Polarizing Filter

This type of filter eliminates unwanted reflections or glare from shiny surfaces such as water and glass. The filter will also darken blue sky, thus increasing the contrast with white clouds. The filter is made up of a stationary element and a rotating element. Look at a surface through the filter and rotate until the reflections are reduced or eliminated. When using a polarizing filter colors are not changed but an increase in aperture will be needed. (Look under filters at any major supplier. A 52mm filter costs around \$20.)

Any filter increases the chance of stray light getting into the lens and degrading your picture. The filter means a layer of glass is further forward, so not as well protected by your lens hood. It also means at least two - and in the case of polarizing filters four - extra glass surfaces between the view and your camcorder's video chip. Only fit filters when you really need them.