

Fast Lens

The speed of a lens and how fast it is refers to the maximum aperture of the lens. The larger the maximum aperture, the more light is delivered to the focal plane, the faster the shutter speed can be set, and the faster the lens.

Fast lenses can be advantageous over slower ones in certain shooting conditions. They excel at night and in low light conditions, as they allow more light in to expose the film, increasing the chance of a faster shutter speed and avoiding the use of a tripod.

Fast lenses were common until the late 1960s, as color film speeds available at that time were still relatively slow.