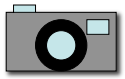
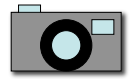
Scenic Photography: Useful Filters

- Polarizing Filter
  1) Reduces glare
  2) Increases deep blue sky
  3) Reduces haze (increase contrast)
  4) Enriches colors
  5) Allows you to "tune in" details



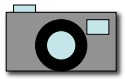
UV Filter

- Generally Reduces Haze
  - Reduces the ultraviolet content of light, short wavelength above the blue range.
- A must for film cameras, helps some CCDs also but to a lesser extent.
- Should not affect exposure settings.



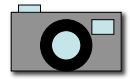
Haze Filter

- Like a UV but cuts a little into the visible blue range. May require increasing exposure settings a bit.
- You can also "Post-Process" Haze
  - Select area and apply unsharp mask to *the blue channel alone* with *very large radius* and *very low intensity* (amount)
  - Can be surprisingly effective.



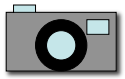
Neutral Density Filter

- Cuts down the amount of light
  - Gives you more options on aperture and shutter speed on bright days
- Split filter
  - Cuts down the amount of light on only the top half or bottom half of the image
  - Great for taming bright skies over darker ground



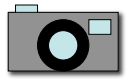
Overcast?

- Not so good for bright colors and high contrast
- Good for soft even lighting from all angles
- Good for subtle tones and rich shades of color (except for the darkest day)
- Good for detail in both shadows and highlights
- Overcast light can be graying.
  You might increase saturation or vibrance.



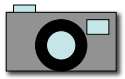
Haze or fog?

- The Good:
  - Dreamy and atmospheric
  - Great at showing distance
- Reduced detail and contrast
- Muted colors



Top Lighting (Noon)

- Time to eat lunch and take a nap?
  - Little contrast, flat
  - Little apparent depth
  - Small intense shadows
- Especially avoid for pictures of people



The Color of Light

- Sunsets produce yellow-orange light
  - blue light is scattered by dust and water vapor in the air. At dawn and dusk the light must pass through more atmosphere! Therefore more orange is left.
- People will like these pictures.