

PANNING FOR SHARPNESS AND BLUR

Freezing and blurring movement are both ways in which you can control the appearance of motion in an image, but what if you want a sharp subject and a sense of motion too? The good news is that this is easily achievable. The solution is to “pan” with your subject, which basically means following them

with your camera while you make your exposure. Although it’s unlikely that the subject will be as tack-sharp as it would be if you used a motion-freezing shutter speed, it won’t be blurred beyond recognition either; what blur there is will serve to enhance the idea that it’s moving.



1 SELECT SHUTTER PRIORITY
Turn the mode dial to Shutter Priority and choose your shutter speed: something in the region of 1/60 sec is a good starting point.



2 ACTIVATE IMAGE STABILIZATION (IS)
For hand-held panning shots, switch your IS on. Some lenses offer an IS option specifically for panning, so activate this useful feature if you have it.



3 SELECT CONTINUOUS AUTOFOCUS
Unless your subject is moving really fast, Continuous Autofocus (AF) mode is the best option as it will keep adjusting focus to keep your subject as sharp as possible.



4 TRACK YOUR SUBJECT
Look through the camera’s viewfinder and follow your subject as it approaches you.



5 PAN THE CAMERA
Just before your subject reaches the point where you want to take your shot, gently press the shutter-release button. Continue to track your subject with your camera as you do so, turning at the waist so that you pan smoothly.

HIGH-SPEED PANNING

When you’re photographing very fast-moving subjects, your AF system may not lock on accurately in time to capture the moment. In this situation, focus manually at a predetermined point and wait for your subject to arrive: don’t forget to pan quickly as you take your shot though.



THE RESULT

Panning has created a more dynamic result than a “frozen” shot would have done: the blurred pedestrians and city backdrop contrast strongly with the sharper cyclist.

CAMERA SETTINGS

