ND Filter Guide

Which filter suits which light?

ND filters (neutral density filters) work like sunglasses for your drone camera: they absorb light without changing the colours. This keeps the shutter speed in your video natural, and movement looks smooth instead of jerky.

RULE OF THUMB

Shutter speed = 1 ÷ (2 × frame rate)

At 25 fps that is 1/50 s, at 30 fps 1/60 s, at 50 fps 1/100 s and at 60 fps 1/120 s.

If it is too bright for that, darken the image with an ND filter instead of shortening the shutter speed.

FILTER STRENGTH AT A GLANCE

ND4	ND8	ND16	ND32	ND64	ND128	ND256
2 stops	3 stops	4 stops	5 stops	6 stops	7 stops	8 stops

Filter	Darkening	Light conditions	Example situation
ND4	2 stops	Weak, direct light	Sunrise or sunset (golden hour)
ND8	3 stops	Lightly overcast / changeable	Sunny, but with clouds in the sky
ND16	4 stops	Bright sunshine	Cloudless days with strong sunlight
ND32	5 stops	Very bright	Days with extremely bright light conditions
ND64	6 stops	Very bright + reflections	Reflective snow, water or desert shots
ND128	7 stops	Extremely bright	Highly reflective surfaces / extreme contrasts
ND256	8 stops	Long exposure / very bright	Flowing water, passing clouds, motion blur effects
Polariser	1–2 stops	Weak to normal light	When the light hardly needs to be reduced, but gloss and reflections in the footage should be avoided.

Questions about filters or courses?

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