

# LENSTESTS

## Sigma 24–135mm f/2.8–4.5 AF: Generous range, great price



### SPECIFICATIONS: [24–135mm \(25.01–135.34mm tested\)](#),

f/2.8–4.5 (f/2.95–4.68 tested), 16 elements in 15 groups. Focusing turns 60 degrees counterclockwise. Zoom ring turns 80 degrees clockwise. Focal lengths marked at 24-, 28-, 35-, 50-, 70-, 100-, and 135mm. [Diagonal view angle:](#) 84–18 degrees. [Weight:](#) 1.2 lbs. [Filter size:](#) 77mm.

[Mounts:](#) Canon AF, Minolta AF, Nikon AF, Pentax AF, Sigma AF. [Included:](#) lenshood. [List price:](#) \$519. [Street price:](#) Approx. \$300.

**What you should know:** Relatively lightweight (and low cost), this bright (f/2.8–4.5) wide-angle-to-moderate-tele zoom is for photographers seeking an all-purpose zoom range and great depth of field: it's the first we've tested that closes down to f/51.

**Hands on:** Well-finished in matte-black polycarbonate plastic, the lens is below average in weight, if slightly longer (and more unwieldy) than most moderate tele zooms when racked out to 135mm. Its zoom and focusing rings are ribbed rubber for easy gripping, and their turning actions are nicely damped. Autofocus is a bit slow and slightly more noisy than average. Markings include depth-of-field and distance scales, both white on black.

**In the lab:** SQF data were excellent at 24mm and 70mm; very good at 135mm. We found noticeable barrel distort-

ion at 24mm (2%), considerable pincushion (2.6%) at 70mm, and considerable pincushion (2.4%) at 135mm. Close-up performance was above average for this class of zoom. The results at the 70mm setting were typical of 24mm and 135mm settings: Center sharpness at the close-focus distance of 18.5 inches (1:6) was excellent f/4–22, good at f/32, and poor at f/45. Corner sharpness was poor at f/4, very good f/5.6–11, excellent at f/16, very good at f/22, acceptable at f/32, and poor at f/45. Optimum close-up performance was at f/16.

**In the field:** Test slides were uniformly very sharp and contrasty, except at minimum apertures (f/36–51), which exhibited slightly soft centers and corners at 135mm. At 24mm, light falloff was gone by f/4; at 70mm, gone by f/5.6; and at 135mm, gone by f/9.

**Conclusion:** A very attractive lens for general-purpose shooting. While the distortion numbers may seem high, the lens is actually very well corrected for a zoom that starts at an ample wide 24mm.

@24mm					
Size	5x7	8x10	11x14	16x20	20x24
2.8	96.3	95.2	92.4	87.1	80.5
4.0	96.3	95.2	92.4	87.1	80.5
5.6	96.2	95.0	92.2	86.7	80.0
8.0	96.2	95.0	92.3	86.7	79.9
11.0	96.3	95.2	92.4	87.0	80.3
16.0	96.1	94.9	92.0	86.1	78.9
22.0	95.8	94.5	91.3	84.9	76.9
32.0	95.2	93.8	90.2	82.8	73.5

@70mm					
Size	5x7	8x10	11x14	16x20	20x24
4.0	97.6	96.9	95.2	91.7	87.4
5.6	97.8	97.1	95.5	92.3	88.6
8.0	97.9	97.3	95.8	93.1	90.0
11.0	97.7	97.0	95.3	92.3	88.8
16.0	97.2	96.4	94.4	90.6	86.0
22.0	96.4	95.3	92.6	86.9	79.7
32.0	95.5	94.3	90.7	82.3	70.9
45.0	95.9	94.7	91.5	84.2	74.4

@135mm					
Size	5x7	8x10	11x14	16x20	20x24
4.5	96.1	93.8	86.7	76.9	69.5
6.3	96.9	95.1	89.9	82.8	76.7
9.0	96.8	95.0	89.7	82.3	76.1
13.0	96.8	95.2	90.2	82.9	76.4
18.0	96.5	94.7	89.3	80.8	73.5
25.0	95.8	93.5	86.6	75.2	65.4
36.0	94.3	91.1	81.1	64.1	50.1
51.0	92.1	86.9	69.8	46.2	32.5