# Tamron 17–35mm f/2.8–4 Di LD AF: Optimized for digital


**SPECIFICATIONS:** 17–35mm (17.57–35.02mm tested), f/2.8–4 (f/2.91–4.00 tested), 14 elements in 11 groups. Focusing turns 110 degrees clockwise. Zoom ring turns 70 degrees counter-clockwise. Focal lengths marked at 17-, 20-, 24-, 28-, and 35mm. Diagonal view angle: 104–63 degrees. Weight: 1 lb. Filter size: 77mm. Mounts: Canon AF, Minolta AF, Nikon D AF, Pentax AF. Included: lenshood. List price: $817.95. Street price: Approx. $480.

**What you should know:** The "Di" designation indicates superior capability needed for digital cameras. With slightly wider apertures than last generation's so-so f/3.5–4.5 wide-angle zooms, this lens takes on some weight and much quality.

**Hands on:** Satin-black barrel has large, easy-to-grasp, heavy rubber-ribbed zoom and focusing rings, large zoom-focal length and manual footage markings in white. Adjacent metric markings should have been in another color to avoid confusion with footages. Zoom- and manual-control rings operate smoothly.

**In the lab:** SQF data excellent at 17-, 28-, and 35mm. There was noticeable barrel distortion (2.1%) at 17mm, slight pincushion at 28mm (0.60%) and 35mm (0.86%).

At the closest focusing distance of 11.5 inches at 17mm (1:10.9), center sharpness was excellent at all apertures. Corner sharpness was poor at f/2.8, acceptable f/4–5.6, good at f/8, very good at f/11, excellent at f/16, and very good at f/22. Optimum sharpness was at f/16.

At close-focus of 11.75 inches at 28mm (1:6.64), center sharpness was excellent at all apertures. Corner sharpness was poor f/3.3–4, acceptable at f/5.6, and good f/8–22. Optimum performance was at f/8.

At the close-focus of 11.75 inches at 35mm (1:5.4), center sharpness acceptable f/4–22 and very good at f/27. Corner sharpness was poor f/4–5.6, acceptable at f/8, good f/11–22, and acceptable at f/27. Optimum performance was at f/11.

**In the field:** Test slides were very sharp and contrasty from center to corner at every aperture and focal length. Light falloff was gone by f/5.6 at all apertures.

**Conclusion:** A strong performer. However, close focusing on flat-surfaced objects should be avoided.

@17mm

| Size | 5x7 | 8x10 | 11x14 | 16x20 | 20x24 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2.8 | 96.8 | 95.8 | 93.5 | 89.1 | 83.8 |
| 4.0 | 96.9 | 96.0 | 93.8 | 89.7 | 84.9 |
| 5.6 | 96.8 | 95.8 | 93.6 | 89.3 | 84.2 |
| 8.0 | 96.9 | 95.9 | 93.7 | 89.5 | 84.4 |
| 11.0 | 96.8 | 95.8 | 93.5 | 89.2 | 84.0 |
| 16.0 | 96.4 | 95.3 | 92.7 | 87.7 | 81.7 |
| 19.0 | 95.8 | 94.5 | 91.4 | 85.3 | 77.9 |

@28mm

| Size | 5x7 | 8x10 | 11x14 | 16x20 | 20x24 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3.3 | 97.0 | 96.0 | 93.9 | 89.7 | 84.7 |
| 4.0 | 97.0 | 96.1 | 93.9 | 89.8 | 84.9 |
| 5.6 | 97.0 | 96.1 | 93.9 | 89.9 | 85.2 |
| 8.0 | 97.1 | 96.2 | 94.1 | 90.3 | 85.8 |
| 11.0 | 96.7 | 95.7 | 93.4 | 89.0 | 83.7 |
| 16.0 | 96.0 | 94.8 | 91.9 | 86.3 | 79.5 |
| 22.0 | 95.2 | 93.7 | 90.1 | 82.7 | 73.4 |

@35mm

| Size | 5x7 | 8x10 | 11x14 | 16x20 | 20x24 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4.0 | 96.3 | 95.2 | 92.5 | 87.3 | 81.1 |
| 5.6 | 96.4 | 95.3 | 92.8 | 87.9 | 82.2 |
| 8.0 | 96.7 | 95.6 | 93.2 | 88.8 | 83.6 |
| 11.0 | 96.8 | 95.8 | 93.6 | 89.5 | 84.7 |
| 16.0 | 96.5 | 95.4 | 92.9 | 88.1 | 82.6 |
| 22.0 | 95.6 | 94.3 | 91.1 | 85.0 | 77.4 |
| 27.0 | 94.9 | 93.4 | 89.6 | 81.5 | 71.5 |