

Sigma 18-35mm f/1.8 DC HSM A

www.sigma-imaging-uk.com

We've been impressed with several 'reasonably priced' Sigma standard zooms and superzooms for APS-C cameras, but this new 18-35mm is in a more professional league. It's limited in zoom range but, with an effective 28.8-56mm, it still covers everything from wide-angle to standard focal lengths. More importantly, it boasts a constant maximum aperture of f/1.8; that's 1.33 stops faster than Canon's constant-aperture EF-S 17-55mm f/2.8, and more than three stops faster than variable-aperture f/4-5.6 lenses at the long end of their range.

Build quality and handling are excellent. The ring-type ultrasonic

autofocus is very fast and extremely quiet, complete with full-time manual override, and both zooming and focusing are fully internal, so the front element neither extends nor rotates at any setting. Sharpness and contrast are outstanding, even at the widest aperture, while distortions are well controlled and colour fringing is remarkably low. It's a fabulous lens, and the only minus point is that it doesn't have stabilisation, although it's not needed on such a fast wide-angle zoom lens.



PhotoPlus Verdict

- ✓ Superb image quality and handling with a fast maximum aperture
- ✗ The zoom range is a little limited, and there's no image stabiliser

95%

18mm



35mm



Sigma 50mm f/1.4 DG HSM A

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There can be something special about 'standard' prime lenses, especially if they've got a really wide maximum aperture. A 50mm f/1.4 makes an ideal fast standard lens for full-frame bodies, while the effective focal length of 80mm on APS-C bodies, combined with a tight depth of field and minimal distortions, also makes this a potentially perfect combination for portraiture. Canon's own EF 50mm f/1.4 costs about £285, and is a reasonably small, lightweight option at 74x51mm and 290g. It's a good lens, but, like Sigma's older 50mm f/1.4, we've always found it to be lacking sharpness and contrast when used at its widest aperture.

Sigma has rewritten the form book with its new Art-line 50mm f/1.4 lens. The first thing you notice is that it's comparatively massive. Indeed, at 85x100mm and 815g, it's even bigger and heavier

than the Canon EF 70-300mm DO telephoto zoom lens that's on test. It's also about three times the price of the Canon EF 50mm f/1.4, so what do you get for all that extra size, weight and cash? In a nutshell, this new Sigma is one of the sharpest lenses for Canon D-SLRs that we've ever tested. Vignetting and colour fringing are minimal, and distortion is practically nonexistent. In short, it's a stunning lens that's well worth the money. ▶



PhotoPlus Verdict

- ✓ Superb image quality; fast AF, super-fast maximum aperture.
- ✗ Much bigger, heavier and pricier than most 50mm f/1.4 lenses

92%

50mm

