

Suggestions for Photographing Stained Glass Windows

Equipment necessary:

1. 35mm SRL* camera recommended
2. Slide film: Kodak echtochrome epp (100 ASA)
If epp is not available epn is suggested
3. Tripod
4. Cable release (optional) The cable release makes the sharpest image

Procedure:

1. Set manual camera at ASA 100 and metering to average mode.
2. Using tall tripod shoot straight onto window being photographed. If most of window is higher than eye level, extend tripod full length to photograph.
3. Center composition
4. Turn off interior lights: It is important that no surface light is reflecting onto the window being photographed.
5. DO NOT USE A FLASH
(In the case of using an automatic camera be sure the flash mode is OFF)
6. Bracket exposures: plus or minus one stop
Generally apertures between f 5.6 and f 11 are best; in manual cameras, after taking the first photograph according to proper light meter reading, take another photograph after opening the aperture one stop; then take one photograph stopped down one stop from normal.
Example: If light meter reads a good exposure at 1/30th second and f 8., shoot the second photograph at 1/30th second at f 5.6. The third photograph should be taken at 1/30th second at f 11. Each window photographed should be bracketed and therefore each window should have 3 photographs of record to chose from.

Light Conditions:

Bright, hazy, overcast days will insure the most even light through the window. Partly cloudy and sunny days are not good conditions to photograph stained glass, because the light coming through the window may have too much contrast and unevenness.

After film is processed, please record on each slide the following: identification of window, building in which window is located, city, state. Please also include name of photographer on each slide for credit.

* Single lens reflex: what is seen in view finder is the actual image produced