

## Super 8 Cheat Sheet

1. YOU MUST SET THE CAMERA'S DIOPTER. If you neglect to do this, your scenes may appear in focus through the lens, but your images will be out-of-focus.

-Set the diopter of your camera each time you start filming or when your camera is used by a different person. Do not assume that the eyepiece has stayed where you last set it, or that two people's eyes are the same.

THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO SET THE DIOPTER. With cameras that have split-image rangefinders (the circle with a line through it in the center of the viewfinder), point the camera at a bright light source, throw the lens totally out-of-focus, and set the diopter (by twisting the eyepiece or turning a wheel) until the **horizontal line** within the circle is as sharp and clear as possible. For cameras with microprism rangefinders (a circle with a prismatic image within it) do the same but concentrate on making the **circle etching** itself as sharp and clear as possible.

2. ZOOM IN TO FOCUS. Focusing while zoomed in is referred to as CRITICAL FOCUS. ALWAYS ZOOM IN TO FOCUS!! Critical focus will guarantee that your image will always be in focus anywhere along the focal plane.

2a. While you are zoomed in check and note what your Automatic Exposure Reading is (exactly where the little needle is on the exposure gauge (the numbers that you see through the viewfinder)).

3. SET YOUR EXPOSURE. When the most important part of the scene is lighter or darker than the average light in the rest of the scene, move in or zoom in on the important part and let the camera determine the proper exposure ie: (automatic exposure reading what you did in step 2a). Then lock the aperture on this setting (or set it manually) before returning to the wider perspective.

4. COMPOSE YOUR SHOT: Zoom out or in to frame your shot. If you plan to transfer your film to video expect to lose 10% around the edges of your frame.

5. You are ready to shoot.

### Tips for Shooting Super 8.

1. Make sure your batteries are good, the light meter may use its own batteries.

2. Clean your lens and gate BEFORE EACH SHOOT. Apply lens cleaning solution to a lintless cloth to clean the lens, DO NOT apply the liquid directly to the lens. Clean the lens with a circular motion working your way from the centre of the lens outwards.

3. Check to see if your 85b filter is in or out. You can check visually by looking through the gate while you run the camera. If you see white light it's out. If you see an orange tint it's in.

4. You can always check to see if your cartridge is done by taking it out of the camera. If you see the word "Exposed" on the film then it is done, send it to the lab, but if you do not see the word "Exposed" then you still have film to run.

5. YOU WILL NOT RUIN YOUR FILM if you take it out of the Camera, only 6 or 7 frames will be exposed, pretty insignificant when you film is running at 18 or 24 fps.

If you can't tell whether or not the film is moving, put a mark on the film and run the camera for a second, if the mark disappears you're good.

7. Film is influenced by temperature change, try to keep it in cool dry conditions at all times (like the fridge).