



## Panning

Whether it's your baby who has just learnt how to walk, a horse galloping along in a field or a car hurtling around a track, you can improve your chances of getting a sharp shot if you grasp a simple technique known as panning.

Panning is a great technique for action and, once perfected, the main subject will be sharp against a blurred background. The idea is to follow the subject as it passes in front of you and continue to follow it as you press the shutter and even after the shot is taken.

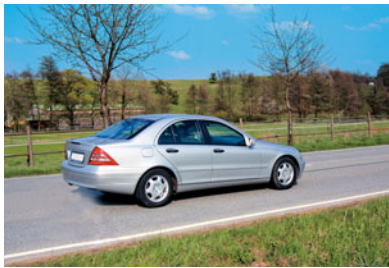
If you pan at the same speed as the subject it will appear sharp against a streaking blurred background. To ensure smooth results keep your feet still and rotate the top half of your body as you track your subject. Prefocus your camera at a point where your subject will pass to ensure the picture is sharp. Also ensure the background isn't too light and doesn't have shapes as this can create ghostlike effects or

streaks in the image. A darker background is better. Make sure you press the shutter when the subject reaches a mid point along your panning track to ensure it's in the best position and try to follow without moving up or down to prevent subject blur.

Don't be tempted to use the LCD screen when taking your panning shots as the scene may appear jerky when tracking at such speeds, making it difficult to follow the subject accurately.

**What can go wrong?** Here are three examples of things that can go wrong. The left shot shows a static looking car caused by a shutter speed that was too fast. The middle shot demonstrates what can happen when you don't have a look around the frame before you take your shot and the LCD screen was used when the right shot was taken and as there was a slight shutter delay, the action was missed.

(Taken from <http://www.ephotozine.com/article/camera-panning-technique-4768>)



Peter38 / Shutterstock



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## EXERCISES

### 1 True or false?

- a. A darker background is better to obtain a good panning effect.  T  F
- b. To obtain a better effect you can use an LCD screen.  T  F
- c. To make a good panning picture you have to run.  T  F
- d. Making mistakes using panning is almost impossible.  T  F

### 2 Connect the mistake with the effect obtained in the picture.

If you use a shuttering speed that is too fast	you may loose the subject in the picture.
If you use the LCD screen to take your shot	something may cover the moving subject of the picture.
If you forget to look around before taking the shot	you will obtain a picture with a static looking object.

### 3 Match questions and answers.

QUESTIONS		ANSWERS	
<b>A</b>	What is the main idea of the panning technique?	<b>1</b>	You have to keep on following the subject while you take the shot.
<b>B</b>	Do you have to move your body to obtain better results?	<b>2</b>	To take a good picture you need a background that isn't too light.
<b>C</b>	What kind of background do you need?	<b>3</b>	You have to rotate the top half of your body keeping your feet still, to obtain smooth results.

A .....	B .....	C .....
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