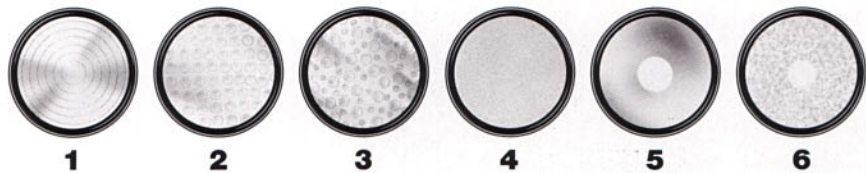


# B+W Soft Focus Effects

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## 1 B+W Soft Focus 1 and 2

These filters reduce contrast and create a soft halo around the highlights. They are also ideal for creating a hint of softness or blurred contours. Their effect is based on concentric rings in the glass and can be enhanced by opening up or reduced by closing down the aperture.

## 2 B+W Soft Image

The softening effect on the contours of the subject are only slightly more pronounced than the B+W soft focus 2. Its application is recommended for backlit pictures because the halo effect on the highlights is further enhanced, yet shadow areas remain sharply defined. Its image effect does not change with the lens opening being used.

## 3 B+W Original Zeiss Softar 1 and 2

Despite softening of the highlights, the basic focus remains sharp up to the edges with this classic soft focus accessory – an advantage which makes focusing easy. The degree of softening is not affected by the aperture setting. Tiny lens-shaped structures in the glass of the Softar create this pleasing effect. The model number of the filter and size determine the level of effect.

## 4 B+W Fog Filters 1, 2 & 3

Pictures taken with the fog filter appear to have been taken in a fine, bright mist. Whitening colors and soft lights create a romantic atmosphere which can enhance the tone of the image in an unusual way. In backlit situations, there is an even stronger effect. The three densities allow for variations.

## 5 B+W Spot Lens

When using the spot lens, only a circular section of the subject in the center of the image is reproduced sharply. All other surrounding details fade out in a blurred effect. This is a creative artistic tool which intentionally guides the eye of the observer to the center of interest. The degree of the blurred effect varies with the lens aperture opening.

## 6 Soft Spot

The soft spot produces a clear circular section in the center of the image where the details of the subject are reproduced in sharp focus. The surrounding area does not go completely out of focus but remains visible in softly flared contours with a slight whitening of colors.

Soft focus filters are popular lens attachments. Although there are a wide variety of applications, there is a tendency to use them to achieve a stronger or lower contrast level. However, images created with soft focus filters with lens shaped structures in its surface retain their sharpness while softening contours and causing a pleasing halo effect around the highlights. This effect remains unchanged from the lens aperture opening with these types of filters. Special-effect filters which are slightly colored or have concentric rings in the glass create a look that is similar to a slightly out-of-focus effect. This increases with wider lens aperture openings and diminishes by stopping down.

See pages 47 – 49 for available sizes.

## Tips

Soft-focus and fog filters are not only useful for still-life and romantic portrait photography, they can produce a surrealistic atmosphere for everyday subjects, too. Partial soft focus via a filter with a clear center can help concentrate the attention of the viewer to a specific picture subject. In this case, using larger lens openings to create a nice flow between the sharp and the unsharp portions of the image is recommended. Black and white pictures taken with soft focus or fog filters appear slightly dull. Underexposing (approx. 1/2 f-stop) can help remedy this.