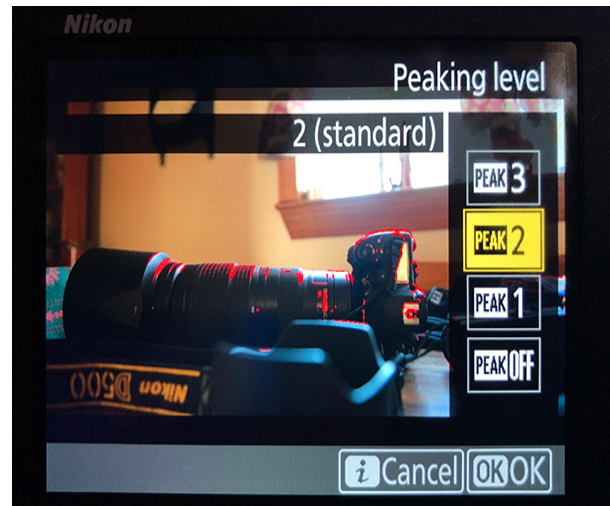


# Mastering Focus Peaking: Enhancing Manual Focus Precision

Focus Peaking is a powerful tool that helps photographers achieve razor-sharp manual focus by highlighting the areas of highest contrast in the frame. Especially useful in challenging lighting or shallow depth-of-field situations, it has become a favourite feature for both seasoned professionals and newcomers alike.

## What Focus Peaking Actually Involves

- Using coloured outlines to highlight areas in sharpest focus.
- Displaying live on the camera's EVF (Electronic Viewfinder) or LCD screen.
- Adjustable for sensitivity and highlight colour (e.g., red, yellow, white).
- Designed to assist manual focusing with real-time feedback.



## The Pros of Focus Peaking

- Faster manual focusing without guesswork.
- Increased precision for macro, portrait, and video photography.
- Live visual confirmation of focus areas.
- Customisable highlight colour and sensitivity.
- Works brilliantly with vintage manual-focus lenses.

## The Limitations

- Can highlight near-focus areas inaccurately at wide apertures.
- Less reliable performance in low-contrast or dim lighting.
- Heavy overlay may clutter the image preview.

- Not a replacement for critical focus checking with magnification.
- More accurate on mirrorless EVFs than DSLR optical viewfinders.

## How to Use Focus Peaking Wisely

- Combine peaking with focus magnification for best results.
- Adjust sensitivity levels to avoid too much peaking overlay.
- Choose a highlight colour that strongly contrasts your subject.
- Practise using vintage lenses to develop fine control.
- Zoom in on critical areas when shooting wide apertures.

## Testing & Hands-On Experiment

1. Set your camera to manual focus mode.
2. Enable focus peaking and select a bold peaking colour (e.g., red).
3. Focus on a detailed subject like a book spine or textured object.
4. Adjust the focus manually and watch how the highlighted areas shift.
5. Experiment with different peaking sensitivities.
6. Review your shots to assess how well the peaking aligned with actual focus.

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## Camera Manufacturer Symbols Table

Manufacturer	Focus Peaking Setting/Symbol	Additional Notes
Canon	Focus Peaking (Enable via MF Assist)	Available mainly on mirrorless models like EOS R series.
Sony	Peaking Level & Peaking Colour	Highly customisable in Alpha mirrorless range.
Nikon	Focus Peaking (Peaking Highlights)	Strong on Z-series mirrorless cameras.
Fujifilm	Focus Peak Highlight	Colour and strength adjustable on X-series models.
Panasonic	Peaking (Highlight Display)	Works in both stills and video modes across Lumix cameras.