

Generelt indtryk

Takumar 135mm f/2,5 was produced in two different optical versions. One with 5 lenses in four groups and a latter lens with six lenses in six groups. This review covers the latter version.

Asahi Super Takumar 135mm, f/2,5 has a little brother (At right in the pictures below) – I have previously reviewed the 135mm, f/3,5 and gave that lens the 3,5 mark (out of 5). 135mm, f/3,5 is a good lens – but 135mm, f/2,5 is even better. Just keep on reading.



135mm f/2,5 is not a small lens. The weight is 470 gr. The lens uses 58mm filters and extends between 80,5 and 100mm out of your camera. Max. aperture is f/2,5 – it is a fast lens.

But besides the weight and the size, it is a very pleasant lens to work with. It is high quality craftsmanship; metal and glass and a feeling of “it can withstand anything”. The balance is good and the aperture ring and focus ring is running like a dream. The focus ring feels like it’s softened with oil. The aperture ring moves in clear clicks and the manual-auto switch has a wonderful firmness.

The focus ring is all metal. That might get slippery and cold. But the ribs are very good providing lots of grip. When you focus, the end lens doesn’t move, so using a pol-filter is easy.

You have about 240 degrees of turning from min. focus to max. Nice. The focus point between 1.5 meter and 5 meters has 180 degrees which makes it very easy to focus. And the 60 degrees for the rest is also very nice.

Aperture is from f/2.5 to f/22. The ring is thin, but still easy to operate. The has nice ribs and the movement is light with clear clicks. The lens has a switch for changing between manual and auto aperture. There are 8 blades.

It is a M42 lens. That means you need an adaptor ring before you can mount the lens on your DSRL. It is possible to get apator rings with focus assistance. That´s a contrast sensor letting the camera give the characteristic beep sound when focus is found. That is a great help, if you haven´t got superman skills in the art of focus. And it is a very useful help since your cameras viewer darkens when you step down the aperture.

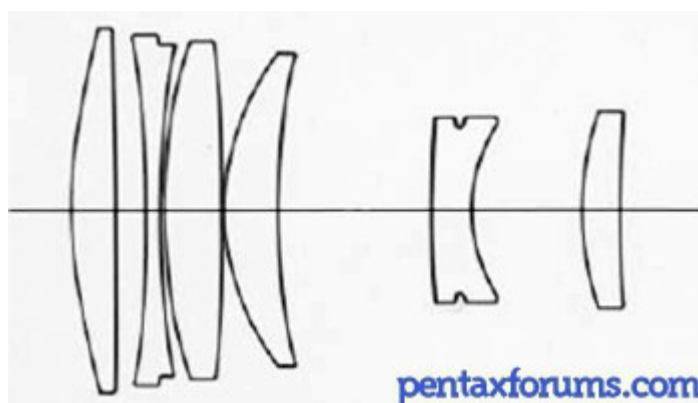
It´s not a lens with macro capabilities. Min. focus is about 1.5 meters.

Data

1972: Super-Multi-Coated TAKUMAR 1:2.5/135 (model 2)

Weight	Diam x Length	Filter Size	Min. Focus	Max. Magnification
470 g	66mm x 80.5mm	58 mm	150 cm	0.11x (calculated)
Diagonal FOV (APS-C)	Horizontal FOV (APS-C)	Min. Aperture	Max. Aperture	
12 degrees	10 degrees	f/22	f/2.5	
Diagonal FOV (24x36)	Horizontal FOV (24x36)	Diaphragm	Optical Construction	
18 degrees	15 degrees	Automatic	6 elements in 6 groups	

Takumar 135mm f/2,5 was produced in two versions with different optical layout. One version with five lenses in four groups, and one version with six lenses in six groups. The latter version is the most sought off. You can tell them apart knowing that the latter has printed "35" in the focus scale and has printed the number "43812" at the manual-auto switch.



Price

The latter version of the lens was produced from 1972, so it is an old lens. But the quality of the lens and some proper care for the lens has saved many lenses. My lens looks almost new. No paint has come off, the glass is clear and clean and the blades are dry and oil free.

The prices are often from £160 and more. It is not a cheap lens. And you often have to get the lens hood on top of that. A lens hood will easily set you back £20. But you need a lens hood. It really does give you a better contrast and protect your pictures from flares.

The pictures

All pictures are taken using Olympus E-520.

Let's start from my balcony:



The picture is resized and the purple line is a mark of the sample lines I have used in the test of sharpness and bokeh (see picture next page).

The picture was taken in JPEG with all settings in neutral. No further editing.



100% crop.



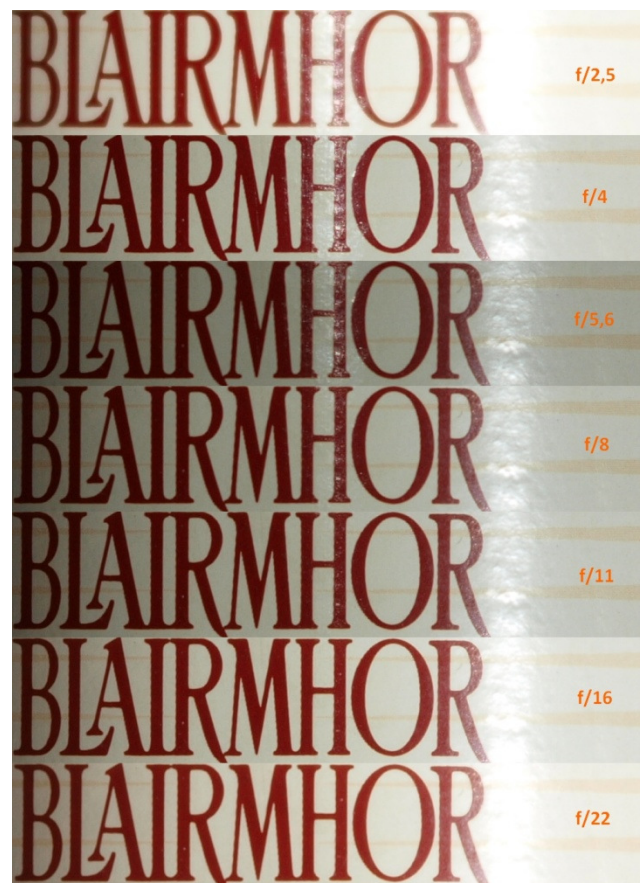
The distance is about 1.7 meter. With f/2.5 that gives a DOF at just 1 cm and with f/8 DOF is 4 cm.

Right: Another test. Distance is 1.5 meters, the camera is in A (aperture priority) and the light is flash using TTL.

In my eyes the sharpness is very good. Above the sharpness is very good wide open, but looking at the whiskey bottle, sharpness is “razor” from f/4.

f/2.5 does provide a somehow soft image.

Bear in mind that DOF is 1cm..



At distance the lens performs very very nice. Here the caretaker is running the lawn mover and the distance is about 50 meter. f/4.

The red area illustrates the size of a 1000 x 750 pixels crop.

Below: The 1000 pixels crop clearly shows how nice the lens handle distance and light. It is handheld at 1/800 sec. IS was not used and the mover is running.



No barrel distortion is to be found. The red line is a control line.



F/4 and the sky is cloudy. The lens points into the bright part of the sky.



Focus is on the second beam. The distance to focus point is 4-5 meters.





Above: Focus on the pole. Distance is about 20 meters. Above right and right: Distance is about 100 meters.

Notice how great the lens handles the clouds.



The dove is about 5-8 meters away. No flash was used. The weather was all cloudy and it was raining. F/4, ISO 400 and 1/160 sec.





Above: Margerits from my balcony. f/4. Sharpness, bokeh and colors are just beautiful in my opinion.

Right: Wall in the last sunlight of the evening. Focus is a little high in left corner. A smooth bokeh and a great handling of the evening light.



The dove is about 7-8 meters away. The sky is cloudy, but very bright.



Conclusion

I do like to use old lenses. They often give a very special feeling. And the Asahi Takumar 135mm, f/2,5 does not let me down. I knew it before I got the lens. Just read here:

"The 6 lens/6 element version of the SMC Tak 135/2.5 is the highest-performing M42 lens at this focal length. It outperforms the legendary Carl Zeiss 135/2.5 in terms of resolution and contrast. A truly incredible lens. If you really want to see how good a picture your camera can take, throw one of these on it and prepare yourself to be amazed at the detail you'll see."

These words are from the pentax forum and such words will increase my expectations.

Asahi Takumar 135mm f/2.5 is a great lens. Sharpness, bokeh and colors are given and handled with excellence. From f/2,8 the sharpness is good and from f/4 it's a razor sharp lens.

On a scale from 0 to 5; (5 being the best), I give the lens: 4.5