

MTF (resolution)

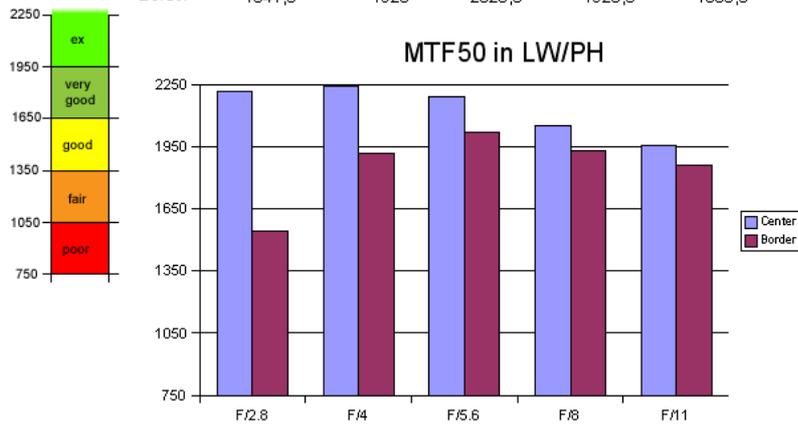
The AF-S 17-35mm f/2.8 ED produced very good to excellent resolution figures in the MTF lab. The center resolution is excellent throughout the tested aperture range and at all focal length - it scratches and may possibly even exceed the sensor resolution of the D200 at f/4 here (at 17mm and 24mm). The borders suffer from a performance penalty at large aperture settings at 17mm (still *good*) and to a lesser degree at 24mm (already *very good*). Nonetheless the quality increase when stopping down peaking in an excellent performance around f/5.6. There's a slight decrease in quality at 35mm primarily at the borders which are no longer capable to leave *very good* territory here.

The lens suffers somewhat from field curvature specifically at 17mm only.

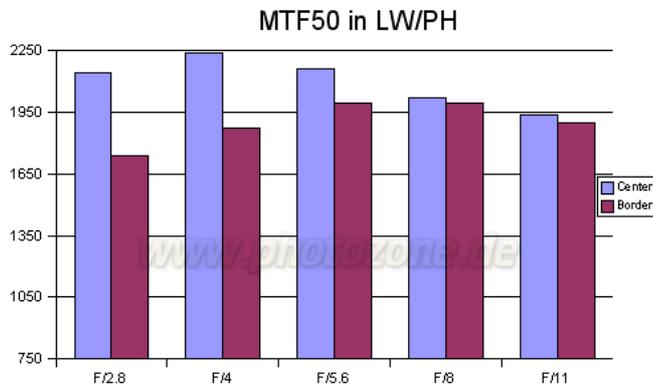
Below is a simplified summary of the formal findings. The chart shows in line widths per picture height (LW/PH) which can be taken as a quantity for sharpness. The chart is limited to the visually relevant LW/PH range of [750, 2250]. If you want to know more about the MTF50 figures you may check out the corresponding [Imatest Explanations](#).

Rating Scale: **Nikkor AF-S 17-35mm f/2.8 IF-ED D**
Nikon (10mp)

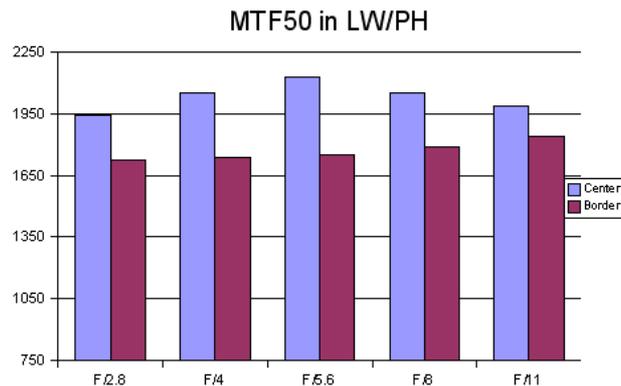
	F/2.8	F/4	F/5.6	F/8	F/11
17mm					
Center	2215	2244,5	2189,5	2053,5	1956,5
Border	1541,5	1920	2020,5	1928,5	1863,5



	F/2.8	F/4	F/5.6	F/8	F/11
24mm					
Center	2143	2236	2161	2019,5	1940
Border	1740,5	1875,5	1992,5	1995,5	1897



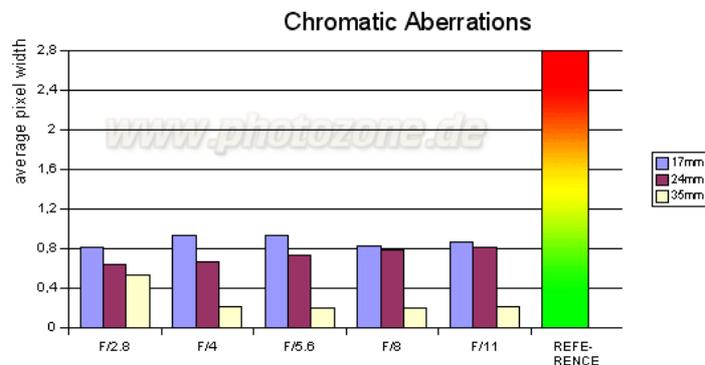
	F/2.8	F/4	F/5.6	F/8	F/11
35mm					
Center	1944,5	2049	2127	2054	1986
Border	1726	1737	1751,5	1786,5	1841



Chromatic Aberrations (CAs)

Chromatic aberrations (color shadows at harsh contrast transitions) are very well controlled for such a zoom lens. The issue remains below 1px on the average at the image borders.

Border CA	F/2.8	F/4	F/5.6	F/8	F/11
17mm	0,81	0,94	0,93	0,83	0,86
24mm	0,63	0,67	0,74	0,78	0,81
35mm	0,54	0,22	0,2	0,2	0,21

**Verdict**

The Nikkor AF-S 17-35mm f/2.8D IF-ED is a professional grade lens and it delivers accordingly specifically regarding its superb build quality. The optical quality is on a very high though not unprecedented level. The center resolution is superb followed by generally very good borders. Distortions are quite pronounced at 17mm but not a real problem beyond. Vignetting is very well controlled except at 35mm @ f/2.8. CAs are very low for a zoom lens. All-in-all the performance is very similar to the AF-S 17-55mm f/2.8G IF-ED DX in the overlapping range so for (APS-C) DSLR-only users it may make sense to stick to the dedicated lens. For a dual-use strategy (film + digital and possibly full frame DSLRs in the future) the AF-S 17-35mm f/2.8D IF-ED remains a quite obvious choice.

Optical Quality: ★★★★★
 Mechanical Quality: ★★★★★
 Price/Performance: ★★★★★

[What does this mean ?](#)

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