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af 18 270 pzd tamron usa

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Introduction

When it comes to a versatile zoom lens that can cover a wide range of focal lengths, the **af 18 270 pzd tamron usa** has become a favorite among hobbyists and semi professional photographers alike. Offering a 1:1 macro capability, a compact design, and a solid image quality, this lens is an excellent choice for those who want to explore everything from sweeping landscapes to detailed close ups without constantly swapping lenses. In this article, we'll dive deep into what makes this Tamron lens stand out, how it performs in real world shooting scenarios, and why it's a compelling option for photographers in the United States.

Overview of the Tamron 18 270mm F/3.5 5.6 PZD Lens

The Tamron 18 270mm f/3.5 5.6 PZD (Power Zoom Drive) is a super zoom lens that bridges the gap between everyday photography and specialized macro work. It was first introduced in 2011 and has since been updated to include modern features such as image stabilization, a silent autofocus motor, and improved optical construction. The lens is compatible with both DSLR and mirrorless cameras, making it a versatile addition to any kit.

Key Technical Specifications

- Focal Length: 18 270mm (equivalent to 28 420mm on APS C, 28 420mm on full frame)
- Aperture Range: f/3.5 5.6
- Optical Design: 19 elements in 14 groups, including 5 ED (Extra Low Dispersion) elements
- Macro: 1:1 (true macro)
- Focus Drive: PZD (Power Zoom Drive) for silent and fast focusing
- Image Stabilization: 5 stop optical IS
- Build: Weather sealed metal barrel with rubber grips
- Dimensions: 86 /mm × 103 /mm; Weight: 565 /g (1.25 /lb)
- Filter Thread: 67 /mm
- Mounts: Canon EF, Nikon F, Sony E (with adapter), and others via adapters

Image Quality: How the Lens Performs on the Field

One of the biggest selling points for the **af 18 270 pzd tamron usa**is its consistent image quality across the zoom range. While super zoom lenses often sacrifice sharpness or introduce distortion, this Tamron model manages to strike a balance that satisfies most photographers.

Sharpness Across the Focal Length

At the wide end (18mm), the lens delivers excellent edge-to-edge sharpness, especially when stopped down to f/8. The center remains crisp, making it ideal for landscape or architectural shots. As the focal length increases, the sharpness slightly drops at the extreme telephoto end (270mm), but remains acceptable for casual use and portrait work. The 1:1 macro mode is particularly impressive, offering fine detail and minimal distortion.

Color Rendition & Contrast

Thanks to the ED elements, the lens reduces chromatic aberrations and delivers vivid colors with good contrast. The color balance is natural, and the lens performs well in high contrast situations like sunsets or backlit scenes.

Image stabilization helps keep the images sharp even when shooting handheld at slower shutter speeds.

Distortion & Vignetting

Like most super zoom lenses, the Tamron 18 270mm can exhibit barrel distortion at the widest setting and pincushion distortion at the telephoto end. Vignetting becomes noticeable at f/3.5, but the effect can be easily corrected in post processing. For most users, these optical artifacts are minor and manageable.

Autofocus Performance and Power Zoom Drive

The Power Zoom Drive (PZD) is one of the standout features of this lens. Unlike traditional manual zoom rings, the PZD allows the zoom to be driven by an integrated motor, which keeps the zoom operation quiet and smooth.

Fast and Silent Autofocus

The internal autofocus motor is a stepping motor that offers a silent focus experience—critical for wildlife, wedding, or any situation where noise could be disruptive. The focusing speed is adequate for most everyday shooting scenarios, though it may lag slightly when chasing fast action at the telephoto end.

Manual Focus Override

Photographers who prefer manual focus can easily switch to it by pulling the focus ring to the left. The focus ring is smooth, and the lens offers a clear feel for fine adjustments, especially in macro mode where precise focus is essential.

Macro Capabilities: 1:1 Macro Mode

True macro capability is a rarity in super zoom lenses, and the **af 18 270 pzd tamron usa** delivers a 1:1 magnification ratio. This means that the subject can be captured at life size on the sensor.

Macro Shooting Tips

1. Use a tripod: Macro shots are sensitive to camera shake, so a stable platform is essential.
2. Set a low ISO: Keep the ISO as low as possible to reduce noise, especially when shooting in low light.
3. Choose the right aperture: While f/5.6 provides a decent depth of field, using f/8 or f/11 can increase the depth of field for more detailed macro work.
4. Employ a remote shutter release: This further minimizes camera movement.

Build Quality & Ergonomics

The Tamron 18 270mm is built to withstand regular use. Its metal barrel, weather sealed construction, and rubber grips make it suitable for outdoor shooting in various conditions.

Weather Sealing

The lens features a robust weather sealed design that protects against dust and moisture. While not as rugged as dedicated weather sealing lenses from some manufacturers, it provides adequate protection for most field conditions.

Size and Weight

Weighing 565 g and measuring 86 mm in diameter, the lens strikes a good balance between portability and performance. It's heavier than a standard prime but lighter than many other super zoom options, making it convenient for travel and everyday use.

Compatibility & Mounts

The Tamron 18 270mm is available in multiple mounts, including Canon EF, Nikon F, Sony E, and others via adapters. This makes it a versatile choice for users who own or plan to switch between camera systems.

Canon EF Mount

For Canon DSLR users, the EF mount version is fully compatible with both full frame and APS C bodies. The autofocus and image stabilization work seamlessly on Canon bodies.

Nikon F Mount

Nikon users can enjoy the same level of performance, although the autofocus speed may be slightly slower on older Nikon DSLRs that lack a dedicated motor in the camera body.

Sony E Mount & Mirrorless Compatibility

With an adapter, the lens can be used on Sony E mount mirrorless cameras. While the autofocus may not be as fast as on native lenses, the image quality remains consistent.

Comparison with Competitors

When evaluating the **af 18 270 pzd tamron usa**, it's helpful to compare it with other popular super zoom lenses in the same price range.

Tamron 18 270mm vs. Canon 18 135mm

- Focal Range: Tamron offers a longer reach (270mm vs. 135mm).
- Macro: Only Tamron provides true 1:1 macro.
- Image Stabilization: Both lenses feature stabilization, but Tamron's 5 stop system is slightly more powerful.
- Price: Tamron is typically more affordable.

Tamron 18 270mm vs. Sony 70 350mm

- Focal Length: Sony's telephoto range is longer, but Tamron's wide end is more versatile.
- Build: Sony's lens is heavier and more expensive.
- Macro: Sony does not offer macro, whereas Tamron does.

Pros & Cons

Pros

- True 1:1 macro capability
- Power Zoom Drive for silent, smooth zooming
- 5 stop optical image stabilization
- Weather sealed construction
- Versatile focal range suitable for most shooting situations
- Competitive price point

Cons

- Variable aperture (f/3.5 5.6) limits low light performance
- Zooming can be slightly slow at the telephoto end
- Image quality is not on par with dedicated prime lenses
- Limited depth of field control at the widest aperture

Buying Guide: How to Choose the Right Tamron 18 270mm Lens

When deciding whether the **af 18 270 pzd tamron usa** is right for you, consider the following factors:

1. Primary Use: If you need a single lens that covers everything from wide landscapes to macro shots, this lens is a solid choice.
2. Camera System: Ensure you have a compatible mount or are willing to use an adapter.
3. Budget: It offers great value for the price, especially compared to dedicated zoom or macro lenses.
4. Image Quality Needs: If you demand the highest image quality, you might still consider a prime lens for specific focal lengths.
5. Portability: The lens is lightweight enough for travel but heavier than a prime. Consider how often you'll be moving around.
6. Future Expansion: If you plan to upgrade to a higher end lens later, this model can serve as a reliable stepping stone.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Is the Tamron 18 270mm compatible with mirrorless cameras?

Yes, with a suitable adapter, it works on Sony E mount and other mirrorless systems. However, autofocus performance may vary.

Can I use this lens for wildlife photography?

While the telephoto end offers decent reach, the variable aperture and slower autofocus might limit performance for fast-moving subjects. It's best suited for stationary wildlife or for casual observation.

Does the lens have a built in micromirror for macro?

No, it uses a standard optical design, but the 1:1 macro capability is achieved through the lens's internal optics and focus range.

What is the warranty on the Tamron 18 270mm in the USA?

Tamron typically offers a 2 year limited warranty in the United States, covering manufacturing defects and mechanical failures.

Can I use a lens hood with this lens?

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