



HP Photosmart Digital Cameras Technical Backgrounder

HP Steady Photo Anti-Shake Mode



What is HP Steady Photo?

HP Steady Photo is an anti-shake¹ capture mode included in the HP Photosmart R967 and R827 Digital Cameras. Using a combination HP image processing and capture settings, HP Steady Photo helps you to take sharp and clear pictures under lower light without motion blur due to either camera shake or subject motion. Motion blur happens when either the camera itself, or the subjects of a photograph, move during the exposure. Motion blur is a problem when lower light levels cause the camera to use longer exposure time or when the subject or camera is moving quickly. The images on the next page illustrate how HP Steady Photo helps limit both motion blur and camera motion.

How Does Steady Photo Work?

HP Steady Photo works by operating the camera in a high sensitivity mode and using a modified camera exposure program to cause camera to operate at shorter exposure times. This helps freeze motion, either camera or subject, in the photo. HP Steady Photo mode is similar to operating the camera in shutter priority or setting the ISO to 400, but goes beyond what can be achieved using manual modes. Working in conjunction with HP's advanced in-camera processing, HP Steady Photo will help capture important moments that would otherwise be lost.

¹ For more information see "Anti-Shake Technologies and Optical Image Stabilization" on www.hp.com/go/cameratechnology

Does it work?

These photos show how HP Steady Photo can help eliminate blur due to both camera motion and subject motion. The photo on the left was taken without HP Steady Photo. Notice how the swinging exercise bag is blurred because of its motion. More subtly, the detail in the hanging lamp (inset) is blurred because the camera moved slightly while taking the picture.



In the photo on the right, the blurring of the exercise bag is nearly eliminated and the lamp is sharper, demonstrating how HP Steady Photo helps both problems.

Is HP Steady Photo the same as Optical Image Stabilization?

No. Optical image stabilization works by using motion sensors in the camera to measure camera shake, then moving an optical component to correct for that motion. Optical image stabilization helps with camera shake, but can make subject motion blur (the exercise bag in the photo above) worse because it will actually allow the camera to use longer exposure times. HP Steady Photo is an anti-shake technology that addresses both camera shake and subject motion.

When Should I use HP Steady Photo?

HP Steady Photo is best used when:

- Lighting is at low level such as inside a home or office, typically conditions where the flash may fire.
- The subject of the photo is moving.
- You cannot use the flash. Note: HP Steady Photo does not turn the flash off so if you do not want the flash to fire, you should turn it off.

While HP Steady Photo will help blur in many typical situations, it does not allow the camera to function in the dark. In very dark situations, the flash will be used with Steady Photo.

Is HP Steady Photo the same as HP Theatre Mode?

No. HP Theatre Mode² is quite different than Steady Photo. For instance, HP Theatre mode turns off the camera sounds, flash and focus assist light so that people around you will not be disturbed. Steady Photos does not. The following table shows the differences between HP Steady Photo and HP Theatre mode.

	HP Steady Photo	HP Theatre Mode
Flash	Will fire	Forced off
Focus Assist Light	Used	Forced off
Camera Sounds	Used	Forced off
Shutter speed	Shorter shutter speeds used	Longer shutter speeds used
Camera Sensitivity (ISO)	High	High

Is HP Steady Photo the same as Action Mode?

In many ways HP Steady Photo is similar to Action mode in that short exposure times (fast shutter speeds) are used, however, Action mode does not increase the camera sensitivity.

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² For more information on HP Theatre Mode, see www.hp.com/go/cameratechnology.