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Canon EF-S 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 Lens Review

The Canon EF-S 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 Lens is a **really cheap lens** if purchased as part of a Canon DSLR kit.

But the price is not the only cheap thing about this lens.

The lens mount is **plastic**. In fact everything on the outside is plastic except for the glass on the Canon EF-S 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 Lens. There are advantages to this construction - light weight (the 18-55 is extremely light) - and of course cost.

There is no distance window on the Canon EF-S 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 Lens. The tiny manual focusing ring is barely usable and is located on the end of the extending objective end of the lens. There is no USM focusing motor (on the kit model) which means there is no FTM (Full Time Manual) focusing.

Even without USM, focusing is not slow or loud. It is not going to break any records, but it seems fine for its intended market.

The Canon EF-S 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 Lens exhibits barrel distortion on the wide end of the focal length range. The distortion disappears at around 28mm.

The Canon EF-S 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 Lens has noticeable light fall-off with a wide open aperture - especially on the wide end of the focal length range. I would expect more vignetting from an EF-S mount lens than an EF mount lens mounted on the same 1.6x [FOVCF](#) body, and there is. However, the 18-55 performs better than the [Canon EF-S 17-85mm Lens](#) at the lower focal lengths in this regard.

The Canon EF-S 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 Lens has reasonable center sharpness, especially when stopped down. Corners are very soft on the wide end of the focal length range. Even with the lens stopped down, corners are still soft. This lens performed especially well at short distance on the ISO 12233 chart.

With narrow wide apertures and no IS (image stabilization), the Canon EF-S 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 Lens is a slow lens for stopping motion (subject or camera). Expect to need good light or a bright flash for this purpose. It also does not easily create a [blurred background](#).

The Canon EF-S 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 Lens exhibits CA (Chromatic Aberration).

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Pictured above from left to right are the [Canon EF-S 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 Lens](#), [Canon EF-S 60mm f/2.8 USM Lens](#), [Canon EF-S 10-22mm f/3.5-4.5 USM Lens](#), [Canon EF-S 17-85mm f/4-5.6 IS USM Lens](#) and [Canon EF-S 17-55mm f/2.8 IS USM Lens](#). The same lenses are pictured fully extended below.

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Useable only on a Canon EF-S-compatible DSLR, the Canon EF-S 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 Lens equates to a 28.8-88mm field of view on these 1.6x field of view crop factor DSLRS. This covers the focal lengths Canon targets for their [general purpose lenses](#).

For the additional price of a DSLR kit over the DSLR body alone, the Canon EF-S 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 Lens is not a bad value. But you might be surprised by what your DSLR can do with some of the better lenses!

Please note: As far as I know, the Canon EF-S 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 Lens is only available as part of a Canon EOS camera body kit - or used. The buy button will point you to the USM version which should have a better focusing motor.

Another note: There is now a Canon EF-S 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 Lens "II" shipping in some Canon EOS body kits. My understanding is that only cosmetic changes were made for the "II" designation. According to Canon, "The major changes are the shape of the zoom ring rubber grip and the tapered area at the front of the lens." The two Canon lenses share the same MTF charts.

Recommended Shopping Resources (Using these links to make your purchase supports this site)

[Canon EF-S 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 Lens at B&H Photo](#)

[Canon EF-S 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 Lens at Amazon.com](#)

[Canon EF-S 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 Lens at Adorama](#)

[Canon EF-S 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 Lens at J&R](#)

[Find the best price on the Canon EF-S 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 Lens](#)

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[Canon Camera Museum Technical Report](#)