

Re: Kohler illumination question...

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- *From:* Andy Resnick <andy.resnick@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
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justbeats wrote:

Given that the final step is to hide it behind frosted glass, why is it necessary to get a focussed image of the lamp filament when setting up for Kohler illumination?

I tried to answer this myself by taking images at different powers with the filament defocussed to varying degrees. I couldn't detect any difference in final image quality for any of the settings (as long as the filament remains nicely centered of course).

After unsuccessfully Googling for the answer, I've another (maybe related) question. Is critical illumination considered an old and inferior technique, or a modern and superior one?

Well... the semi-obvious thing to do is remove the frosted glass. Truth is, the manufacturers put it (or a similar diffracting element) in the beam to pacify people who don't know how to properly align a scope. Honestly, or at least that's what my sales rep told me. So I make sure to remove it as a matter of practice.

Critical illumination, for all practical purposes, is functionally identical to Kohler illumination. Both maximize throughput, both maximize the "performance" of the illumination system, etc. etc. Some people like critical, most prefer Kohler. Critical illumination generally means one ends up examining a magnified image of the bulb filament. (Guess which I prefer?)

Hope this helps....

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