

## Lenses and filters – a quick overview

Smartphones aren't great at capturing subjects at a distance – for example, a sports match. Conventional video cameras and DSLRs, which can attach extra lenses, cope much better with that kind of shoot.

That's changing slowly as smartphone manufacturers include telephoto and ultra-wide angle lenses in their top of the range models.

**TIP:** *get as close as you can to your subject. Zoom with your feet! Although if your subject is a person, you can't get closer than 2 metres.*

### Lens types:

- Telephoto for distant objects
- Wide-angle gives you a wider field of view than a normal lens
- Anamorphic for a cinematic look
- Macro for very close-up work
- Fisheye - an ultra wide lens that deliberately produces a circular distortion

I'd recommend a telephoto lens for longer distances, and for getting good close-ups despite social distancing rules. But remember:

- Good lenses are not cheap, but cheap ones are not worth the money!
- Only buy glass lenses. Avoid plastic.
- Go for known brands, avoid cheap imports.



The Sirui 60-SA telephoto lens (£40) can be clipped on over the lens of most smartphone models (*pic left*).

Moment make a good range of lenses, but require a mounting case which varies from smartphone to smartphone.

Oloclip also make a good range. Their products clip on over your existing lens. Choose the right lens for your smartphone model

Sandmarc – I've never used them myself but they come well recommended

### **ND and polarising filters – for advanced shooters**

A polarising filter takes out glare on a sunny day while an ND filter acts rather like sunglasses for your smartphone camera, stopping so much light hitting the sensor and allowing you more control over exposure and shutter speed.

Good ones don't come cheap. Some need a case on the smartphone, so the filter can be screwed into a mount that holds the filter in front of the lens. Others are clip-on devices.

You can either buy a variable ND filter which can be adjusted by rotating the filter ring to suit any changes in lighting conditions, or buy a set of different filters for different conditions.

Good brands include Polar Pro, Moment, and Sandmarc. Try this guide from Primal Video for more info.