Focus Assist

Paints a highlight around in-focus edges, enabling very fast and accurate focusing on-the-fly without needing any additional tools.
We have some Tips for focusing here.

Focus Assist - Overview

If configured properly, Focus Assist makes finding your focus point extremely easy- simply **roll focus** until your subject is displaying **bright edge highlights**. Focus Assist is a method to find your focus point because of its pronounced effect on in-focus edges.

Focus Assist is versatile and accurate, only at a slight disadvantage to Pixel Zoom in its overall utility since it doesn't allow for as much direct scrutiny of the underlying image, but at the advantage of speedy usage. The way it works is that the filter is looking for hard, crisp edges. When it sees crisp lines, it will add digital noise over the top, giving you a visual cue that those areas are in focus.

*FOCUS ASSIST is a tool that can be very useful for critical focus. It is best used when your depth of field is shallow and you want to be sure that your subject falls within the goldilocks zone. Focus Assist will not be very helpful when used in shots where you have a large depth of field. You will be better off to use calculations based on your Stop, distance and lens.

Depending on how it is set up, Focus Assist generally has a pronounced enough effect on the image that it tends to require its own page to not confuse readings with another feature or other aspects of the image. If you wish to, for example be able to focus and expose your image on the same page with minimal overlays, perhaps try a combination of Peaking and Zebra.

Focus Assist - Settings

On

Enable/Disable Focus Assist tool. You can also do this on the tool bar. Select the tool and activate or deactivate it as desired. Green tools are active, they are Grey when inactive.

Color

Choose the edge highlight color of the Focus Assist- this can be useful to modify if the current color isn't visible enough against your footage.

*If this is still an issue after adjusting color, try lowering the Brightness and/or Contrast

Sensitivity

Sensitivity adjusts the intensity of Focus Assist - a low number causes a faint edge highlight, high numbers cause many more edges to be detected.
In essence this will increase how many edges it will highlight.

Peak Threshold (Peak Thresh)

Peak Threshold is like a 'confidence' slider, the higher the Peak Threshold, the more confident Focus Assist needs to be about an area to paint it as 'in-focus'. Increase this setting to taste after increasing Sensitivity for best results.

B&W Background

Makes the underlying image monochrome so that the highlight color is more visible. This can be useful when you have trouble finding a color for the highlight that will not separate from your background.

Brightness

Adjust the brightness, which will affect black levels and luminance. (ie not a flat log signal) source, translating into a clearer view of what is in focus.

> ⚠ Any active exposure tools will respond to changes in brightness and contrast made here unless "Ignore Look" has been applied on each exposure tool - we recommend leaving these settings checked so that you are making exposure judgements off your original un-manipulated footage.

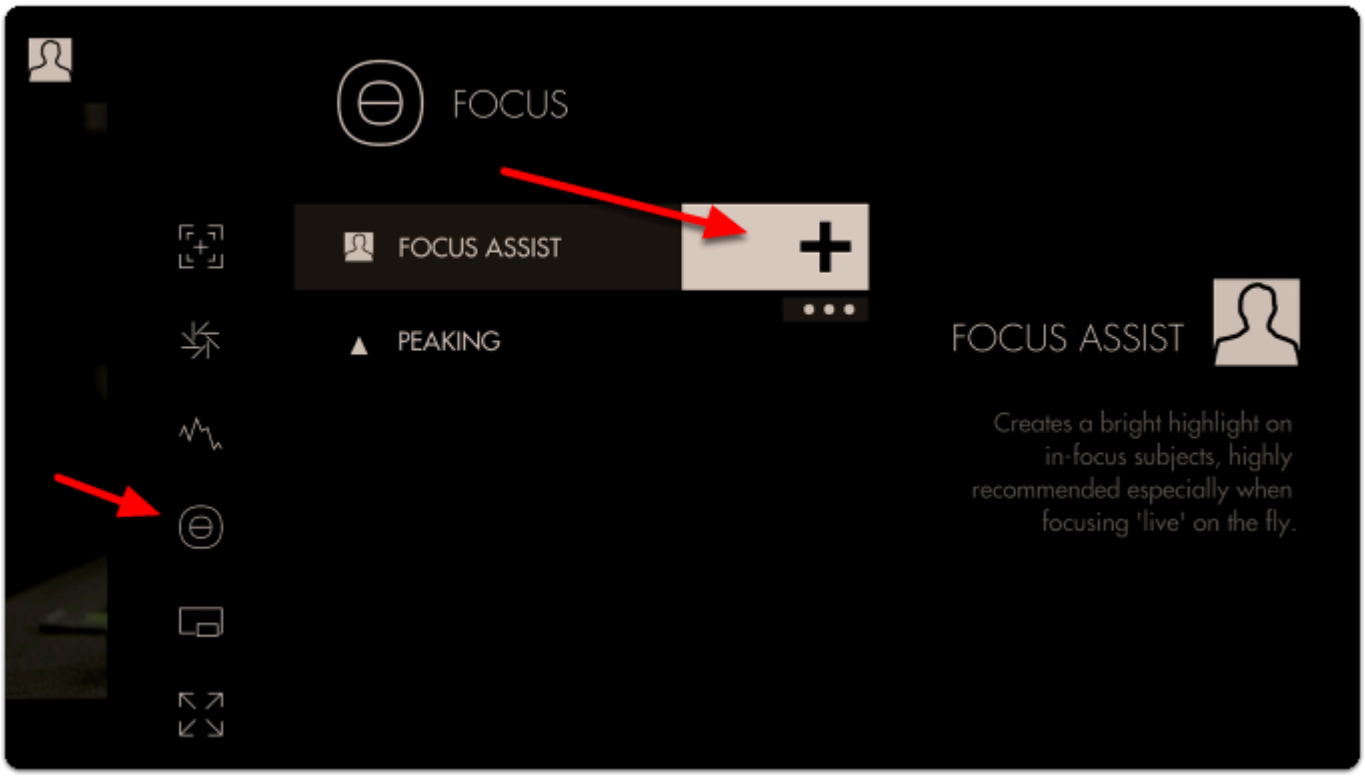
Contrast

Adjust the contrast of the image, affecting gamma levels.

Focus Assist - Quick Start

> Focus Assist benefits from being **configured** for each camera due to differences in **noise levels** which can affect readings and exhibit false positives.

'Add New Tool'. Navigate to **Focus > Focus Assist** and select to add it to the current page.

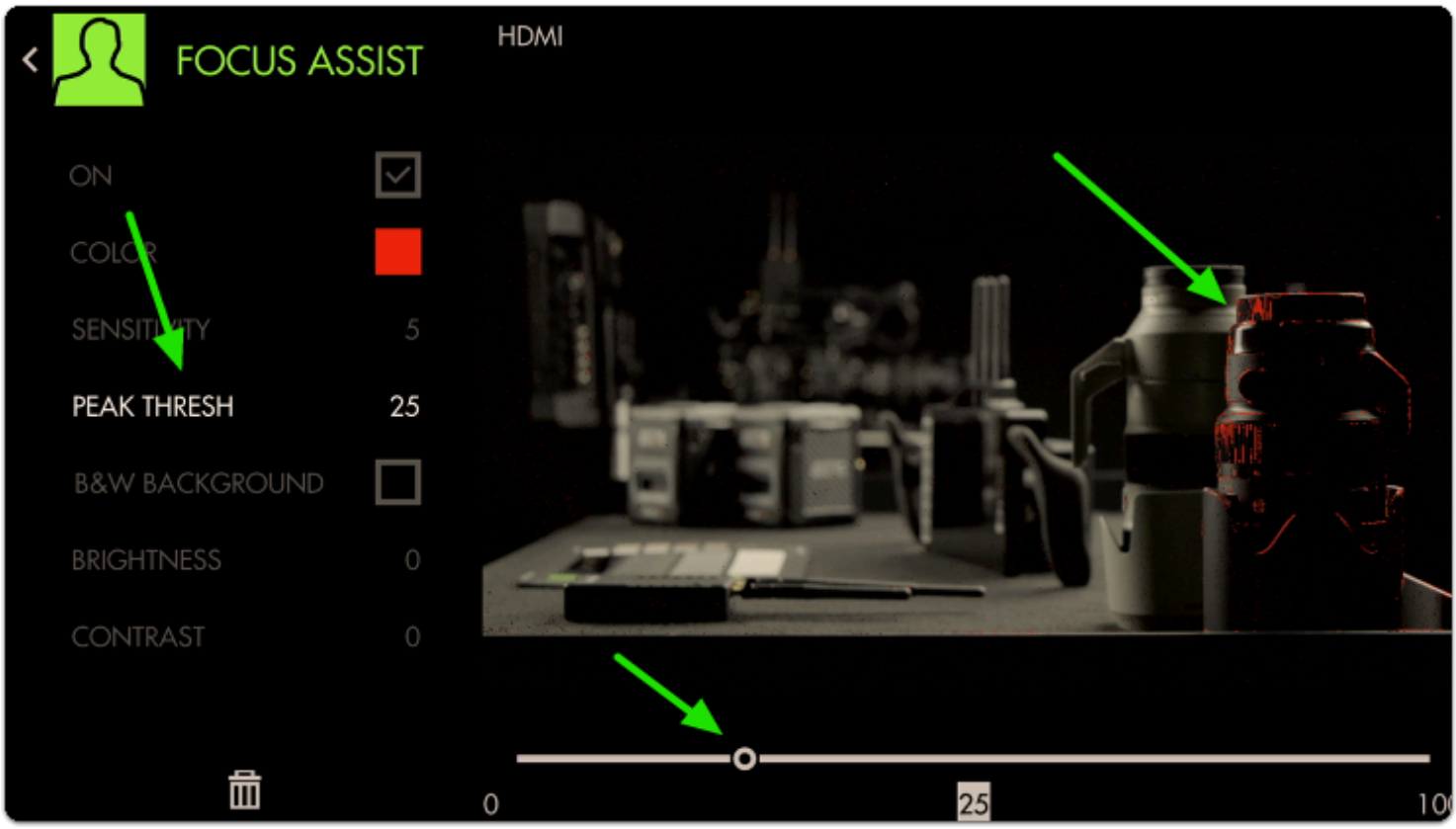


Once added you can **edit the settings** by **navigating right** or **tapping the right arrow** when ‘Focus Assist’ is highlighted.

The default **sensitivity** is usually a good starting point but if you are **not** seeing enough **edge highlighting**, give this value a **boost**.

Notice how we are picking up many edges that are **not in focus** in addition to the areas that are in focus.

Increase the next slider labeled '**Peak Thresh**' to help eliminate the false positives.



Now we are getting a **much more isolated** area of focus with this particular setup.

> A good rule-of-thumb for sensitivity/threshold is to adjust until image noise is *just* out of range of affecting the filter drastically. Some false positives will almost always be present and proper usage is generally about looking at the 'center of mass' of the colorized area as the focus distance.

You can check 'B&W Background' to make the colorizing effect stand out more if view ability is compromised.

Accurately rack focusing on-the-fly is now made vastly less tricky by way of Focus Assist!