

Tamron SP70-300mm f/4-5.6 Di VC USD ▼

TELEPHOTO ZOOM LENS

Review by Larry Becker

These days, lots of folks are buying entry-level and prosumer DSLRs with kit lenses that include something like an 18–55mm or 18–105mm lens. Tamron's 70–300mm Vibration Compensation (VC) zoom lens is an ideal partner to fill out the higher end of the zoom spectrum. With its built-in focus motor, it's even compatible with DSLRs that don't have their own focus motor (such as the Nikon D40, D60, D5000, etc.).

All of the switches and focus ring controls are solid and the lens itself has a nice weight and responsive feel. The lens hood is a bit deeper than I expected, so it looks a little more professional than consumer.

Keeping in mind the f/4–5.6 aperture range, it isn't the ideal lens for low-light shooting, but if you're photographing wildlife (or most anything at a distance) during daylight hours, this is a great solution. Tamron's VC claims a 4 f-stop compensation and I believe it. I've never had much success handholding any nonvibration compensated 300mm lens, so when I racked this lens out to 300mm and took close-up pictures of wildlife, I was really pleased with how sharp the images were.



The autofocus (AF) is quick and accurate, and seems to work from 5–6' to infinity. The only strange thing was extra motor noise when pushing the limits to focus on nearby objects at the 300mm zoom end. Then again, I don't plan to use this lens for things that are so close.

If you need a lens to cover the 70–300mm range and you'll be shooting (handheld or tripod) in well-lit environments, I can easily recommend this glass. ■

Company: Tamron Co., Ltd.

Price: \$449

Web: www.tamron.com

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

▲ Hot: Price; good VC; zoom range; 6-year warranty

▼ Not: Colors are a bit flatter than what I'm used to