



► Review
 ► Vignetting 


BUY!

Canon EF 75-300mm f/4-5.6 III USM Lens Review

The Canon EF 75-300mm f/4-5.6 III USM Lens is a relatively **small**, very **light** and very **cheap** lens for this focal length range.

The Canon EF 75-300mm f/4-5.6 III USM Lens is really cheap. Usually you get what you pay for - unfortunately this is the case with the Canon EF 75-300mm f/4-5.6 III USM Lens.

Build quality of the Canon EF 75-300mm f/4-5.6 III USM Lens is **mediocre** (and this may be a generous rating). Lightness is the benefit, but you won't find smooth zoom and focus rings. I wouldn't want to subject the Canon EF 75-300mm f/4-5.6 III USM Lens to any abuse as I doubt it would survive.

Image quality from the Canon EF 75-300mm f/4-5.6 III USM Lens is also **mediocre**.

The Canon EF 75-300mm f/4-5.6 III USM Lens is soft wide open at all focal lengths. Sharpness decreases as it zooms from 70mm to 300mm. However, the corners are softest at 70 and getting better by 300.

Corner and center softness decrease as the Canon EF 75-300mm f/4-5.6 III USM Lens is stopped down.

Stopping down a relatively slow lens means a lot of light (or a flash) is necessary for handheld photos. Handholding a slow lens at 300mm requires a lot of light to begin with.

A 7-blade aperture is a decent feature for a lens in this price range.

The Canon EF 75-300mm f/4-5.6 III USM Lens is most comparable to the Canon EF 75-300mm f/4-5.6 IS USM Lens. Image quality is very similar between the two. Of course, IS can offset part of the handholding dilemma.

The Canon EF 75-300mm f/4-5.6 III USM Lens suffers from CA (Chromatic Aberration). Pincushioning is visible at 300mm. Vignetting is well controlled. Focus speed is OK, but not fast.

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From left to right in the comparison picture above are the Canon EF 24-70 f/2.8 L USM Lens,

Canon EF 75-300 f/4-5.6 III USM Lens, Canon EF 75-300 f/4-5.6 IS USM Lens **and** Canon EF 70-200 f/2.8 L IS USM Lens.

The Canon EF 75-300mm f/4-5.6 III USM Lens is quite small and very light. It extends significantly when zooming to 300mm, but is very easy to carry around.

The 75-300mm focal length is very useful. A wide variety of uses can be found for this range including portraits/people, pets, nature ...

As for the price, the Canon EF 75-300mm f/4-5.6 III USM Lens is **cheap**. This is one of the reasons you might consider this lens. If you can afford no more than this lens, you will be able to capture memories forever. You might also be interested in this lens if you intend to use it very infrequently.

Otherwise, I recommend getting one of the Canon EF 70-200mm L zooms such as the Canon EF 70-200 f/4 L Lens. The image and build quality of these lenses are much better. A 70-200 L lens with the Canon Extender 1.4x II resulted in better image quality than the Canon EF 75-300mm f/4-5.6 III USM Lens alone.

If you care about great image quality and sharp photos, the Canon EF 75-300mm f/4-5.6 III USM Lens is not for you. And Photoshop cannot enhance details that are not there.

I'll leave you with the word directly from Canon Marketing:

Compact and lightweight 4x telephoto zoom lens ideal for shooting sports, portraits, and wildlife. The newly developed Micro USM makes autofocus quicker and quieter. The improved zoom mechanism also makes zooming smoother. The front part of the zoom ring now sports a silver ring for a luxury touch.

I love that part about the "silver ring for a luxury touch." :)