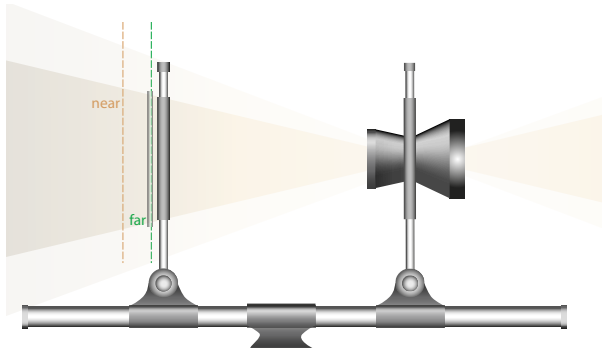
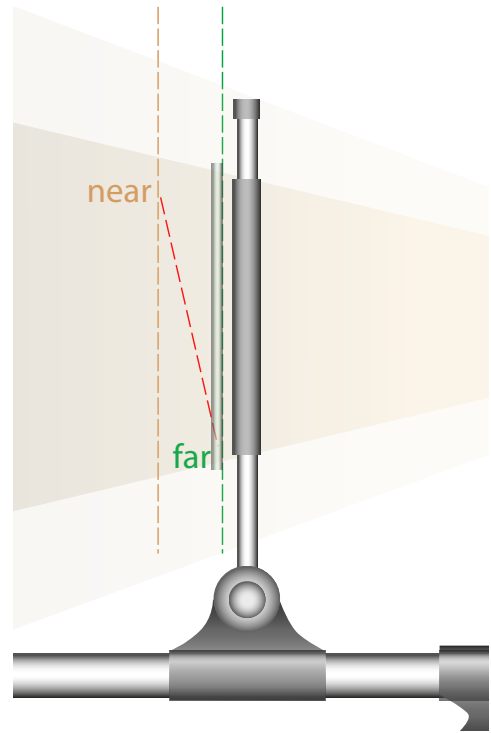


Focus: Dr. S and You

One of the main benefits of the view camera (as well as obstacles to its use) is the bewildering control it gives the thoughtful photographer over focus. Traditionally these controls have been used to make sure images were as sharp as possible, but lots of current work puts these controls to work in the opposite direction. Our goal is to get control, not to dictate intention. Start with a solid understanding of the Scheimpflug rule.

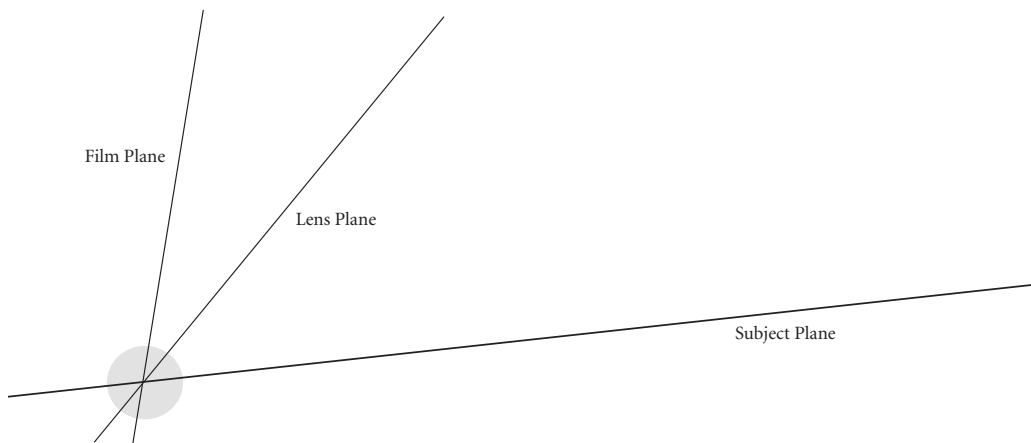


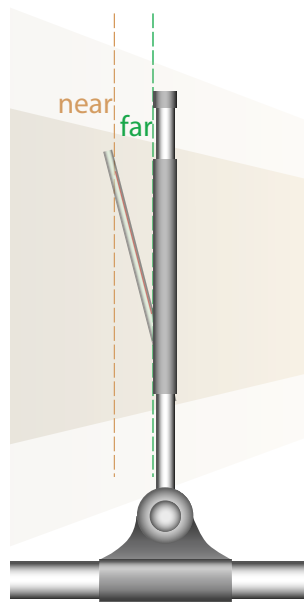
1. To focus on closer objects, you must increase the lens to film plane distance, either by moving the front away from you or the back closer. With fixed lens cameras, you must choose one or the other, or split the difference in a compromise. Not so with a view camera.



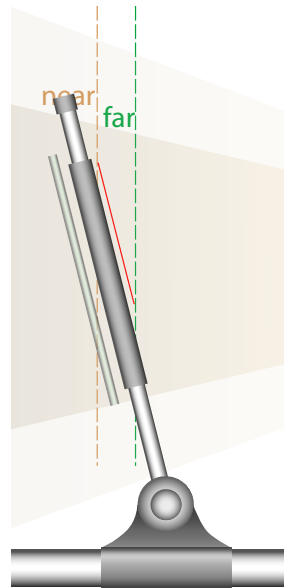
2. If you are focusing on a plane, you can map what happens to the focal distance with the diagonal line above *near—far*. If you join the point of farthest focus to the point of nearest focus, you map a plane that will be entirely in focus. The trick is to make this plane coincide with the plane of the film. This adjustment can be made with either the front or the back of the camera. Each method has its advantages and disadvantages. You can also make the correction with a combination of the two. Before you do, make sure to understand the following principle inside out and upside down.

3. Somewhere in the history of the view camera a clever gentleman named Dr. Scheimpflug put all of this together into a handy way to visualize what is happening when you make adjustments to focus with the lens and back of the camera. Here is a picture of his handy rule, which simply states that to focus on a plane, the film plane and the lens plane will intersect along the subject plane.

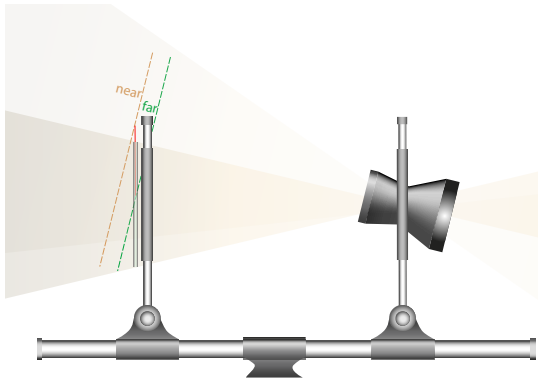




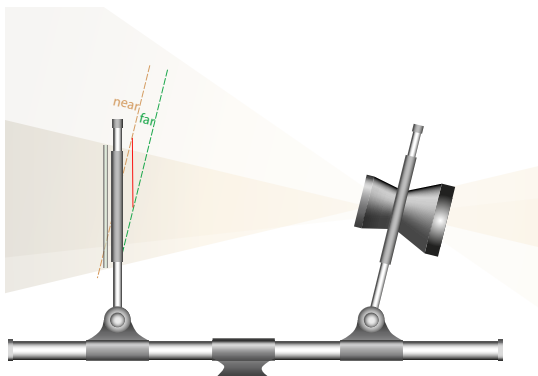
Axis Tilt Back
Focus on the axis, then tilt the back so the near and far subjects are in focus.



Base Tilt Back
1. Focus on the part of the subject nearest to the base, then bring the subject at the top of your ground glass into focus. 2. Refocus the bottom of the ground glass, then fine tune the top, repeating as necessary.



Axis Tilt Front
Focus on the axis, then tilt the front so the near and far subjects are in focus. You will usually need to reposition the back slightly.



Base Tilt Front
1. Roughly tilt the front to approximate the tilt angle you'll need. Know Dr. S.
2. Reposition the image with rise and fall. Determine the next tilt correction.
3. Reposition, refocus, re-tilt if needed.

Note that tilting the back does not change the coverage of the lens the way tilting the front does!