



Nikkor 17-35mm f/2.8D AF : You may have noticed that I have both this lens, and the combination of the 28mm f/1.4D and 45mm f/2.8P, which cover very similar ranges. The reason for the overlap is that this lens offers flexibility of focal length and superb results at medium-to-small apertures at any distance. By f/5.6 the lens is very sharp, and it holds that quality to f/11, beyond which diffraction begins to reduce sharpness. There is a mild barrel distortion on straight lines near the edges of the frame at the wide end, mostly noticeable if a horizon is placed near the top of the frame at 17mm, so I of course avoid doing this. Otherwise, this lens is equal to or better than the primes it is intended to replace within this aperture range. I use the primes when shooting wide apertures (or the 45/P by itself when having a lightweight, general-purpose lens makes sense), but for travel and many other situations where flexibility of focal length is of critical importance, this lens is invaluable.

Source: http://www.digital-images.net/Lenses/body_lenses.html#17-35

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