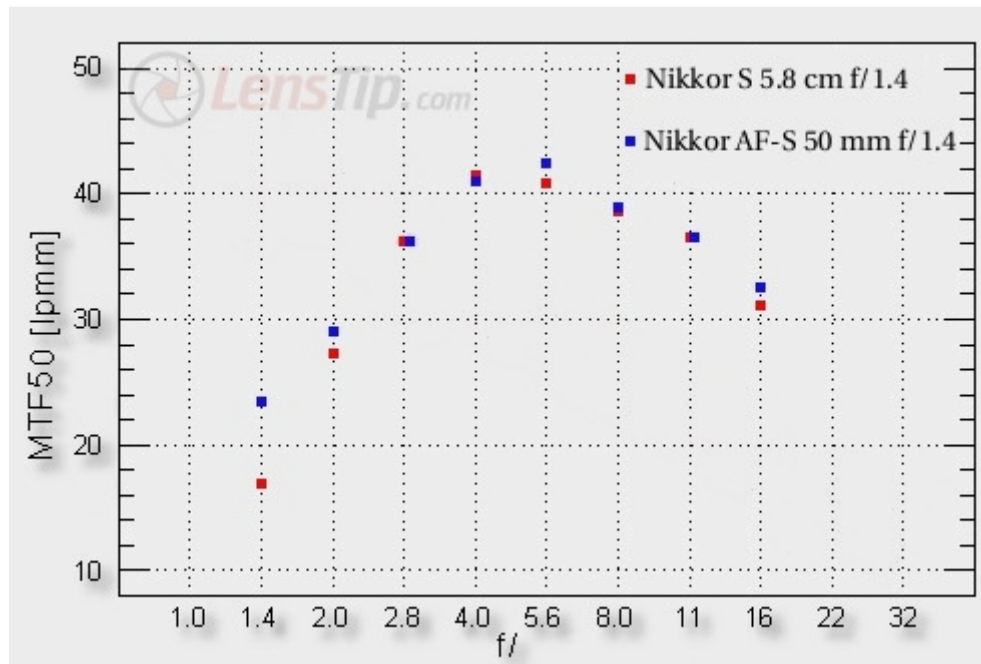


4. Image resolution

Let's move now to discussing image quality that both lenses mounted on a full-frame Nikon D3x give us. The test procedure is exactly the same as in all our lens tests – i.e. we take pictures writing simultaneously RAW and JPEG files, and then we convert RAWs, without sharpening, using dcrw program and saving them as TIFF files. We then measure MTF50 values using Imatest software.

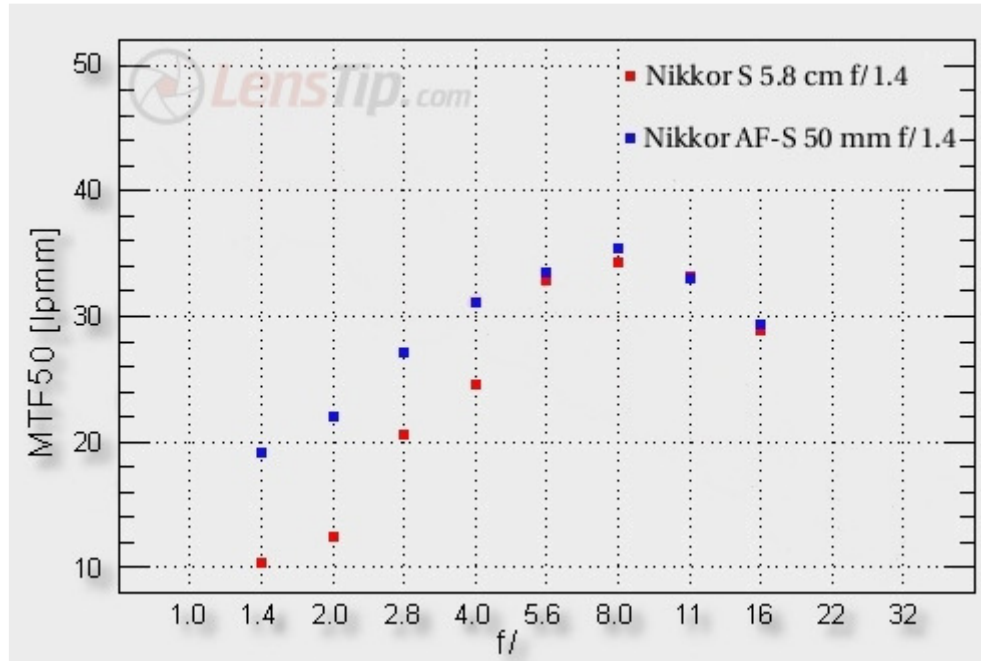
The picture below shows the center of the frame performance.



A distinct difference between the tested lenses we can only see at maximum aperture, where the younger instrument is noticeably better. From f/2.0 up results equalize and further on the lenses go neck and neck.

What's interesting, maximum recorded results for apertures of the range f/4.0-5.6 are also very similar. It's worth to mention that they're not record-breaking, but still reach a good level.

If you want to see what 50 years of technological progress gave us, we need to become interested in the edge of the frame. The picture below shows how the situation looks there.

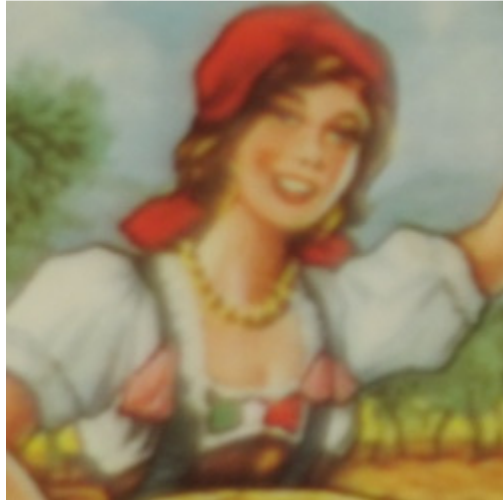


This time the advantage of Nikon AF-S 1.4/50 is very clear. The lenses start behaving similarly after stopping down to f/5.6 values. At wider apertures the results of the younger Nikon are much better.

Tables are just tables, it's worth to check how the situation looks in clippings of real pictures. Quite a vivid comparison (based on unsharpened JPGs) is presented below. In principle, it fully confirms what we wrote above.

Frame center - f/1.4

Nikkor-S 5.8 cm f/1.4



Nikkor AF-S 50 mm f/1.4G



Frame center - f/4.0

Nikkor-S 5.8 cm f/1.4

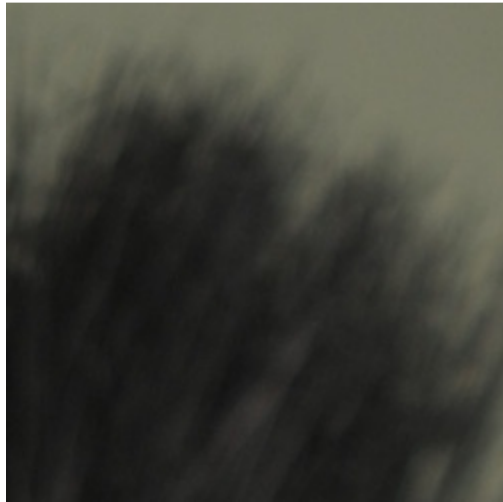


Nikkor AF-S 50 mm f/1.4G



Frame edge - f/1.4

Nikkor-S 5.8 cm f/1.4

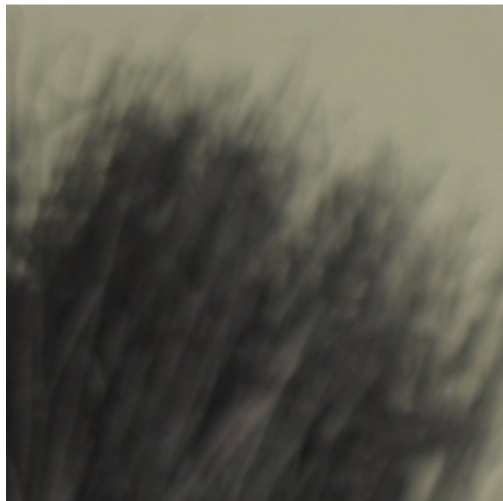


Nikkor AF-S 50 mm f/1.4G



Frame edge - f/4.0

Nikkor-S 5.8 cm f/1.4



Nikkor AF-S 50 mm f/1.4G

