Resolution Guide
Selective Softening

Selective Softening for depth-of-field effects

Digital motion cameras such as the Alexa or RED Dragon have a tendency to interpret and display items such as backdrops with a flat appearance, in part because of the reduced depth of field available when shooting in low light conditions at a low t-stop.

In the past, single levels of softening or defocussing have been applied to images to "push them back" on camera. However, this tends to be a one size fits all type solution.

Selective Softening provides a way to create the illusion of depth of field drop off within a backing. Test targets (aka blur samples) are available for Cinematographers and Production Designers to select the degree of softening to be applied to the various planes within their image. Thus greater degrees of softening read as increasing depth in the scene.

Alternatively, standard softening regimens can be applied based upon the image and intended position of the backdrop on stage.