

## Camera Features and Functions

Setting up your new camera once you have unpacked it from the box, make sure your battery is charged or put it on to charge while you take time read the manual.

Understand the function of external buttons, and how to navigate through the menu system. Keeping your manual in a zip lock bag with your camera provides a ready reference when you need it. The zip lock bag helps to prevent it looking dog eared and out of the elements.

Your camera provides multiple menus of mostly more than one screen. Some cameras include a help/info button with a brief description of the selected function and what it does.

Automatic, semi Automatic and Manual mode are the main choices for settings. Auto or Program mode provides the greatest ease of setting but with the least amount of choices. There is nothing wrong with using these modes if you are achieving the results you want, or in the early stages of understanding your camera before looking for more creativity.

Shutter priority is a semi automatic mode where you select the shutter speed to freeze or blur the action, and the camera will attempt to provide a correct exposure. The exposure is a combination of shutter speed, available light and ISO value. If the camera is not able to achieve a correct exposure some kind of warning will be displayed in the viewfinder, either a flashing value or a text message like Hi or Low.

Aperture Priority is a semi automatic mode where you select the Aperture (F stop) for the Depth of Field (DOF) you want. A **small** 'F' stop like F2.8 will produce a **shallow** DOF. A **LARGE** 'F' stop like F16 will provide a **LARGE** DOF. The exposure is a combination of Aperture, available light and ISO value. If the camera is not able to achieve a correct exposure some kind of warning will be displayed in the viewfinder, either a flashing value or a text message like Hi or Low.

Manual Mode puts you fully in control, where you select shutter speed, 'F' stop and ISO, while adjusting them to achieve a correct exposure. A light meter is always visible in Manual mode, showing the amount of exposure. Adjusting your settings to bring the light meter into the center will provide a correct exposure, and over or under exposure if the meter is not centred.

Custom Control settings like, Portrait, Landscape, Macro, Sports Action and Night Portrait can be selected to provide optimal settings for these conditions. Using EXIF data saved with the image, you can look at the results and use them as a tool to understand how to achieve similar results as you advance your skill.

Exposure compensation allows you to modify the Semi Automatic programs when they are unable to achieve the result you are looking for, like a strong back lit Portrait that produces a silhouette. Adding positive Exposure Compensation (EV+) will bring light to the subject while possibly blowing out other parts of the image, this is a case of deciding what is important in the image.

The menus provide ways of setting up your camera for specific conditions, that allow you to switch easily to different settings or combinations. If your camera has a 'My Menu' this is another way to put regularly selected menu items in a place that makes changes simple.

Settings like White balance and Picture Control (Picture Styles – Canon) may have an additional screen to fine tune the setting, this could allow correction of a colour cast or changing the look to match your personal style. White Balance and Picture Styles in combination are a way to achieve the look you want in camera. Some software will remove these settings when RAW files are being imported.

Regardless of how many images you take, it is not possible to please everyone. Each of us have and will over time develop a style of photography, some will specialize while others will capture a wide variety of images and subject matter. At the hobby level it is very important that you are satisfied with your results, there will be days when the percentage of good image will be low, there are other days when that percentage will be high. We are surrounded by all things magnificent, so travelling to exotic locations is not necessary, that is the reason come to the city you live in. Taking pictures regularly is like any skill we practice, over time we will get better. Go out there and enjoy your new hobby.

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