

Getting started with the EOS 760D

Especially written for **Canon EOS** users

A simple, modern and non technical approach to learn how to use your Canon EOS 760D camera to take great images



Written by Nina Bailey

About this book

This book is designed for photographers for whom the EOS 760D is their first model in the Digital EOS range, and is designed to gradually get you using and understanding all the basic settings on your camera. The companion volume *Mastering your EOS 760D* follows on and looks at the more advanced features that the camera has.

This book is split into two distinct sections, the first part, getting started, looks at all the key features you need to use to shoot with the camera, but sticks to the easier to use Basic modes, where little photographic understanding is needed. Even within the Basic modes there are some overrides available on this model and I will look at how these can be used to correct errors the camera may make or to produce more creative images.

The second part, moving on, looks at the creative modes, where you have more control over how the camera is taking the image, but where a more in-depth understanding of the photographic settings is needed. I will look at the settings in depth in this section and explain what the various settings do to the images that you take.

In the second part of the book I take a look at a few of the basic overrides that the camera offers and how they can be used to produce better images. I will also take a look at some of the standard settings that can be left on their defaults whilst you get to grips with the other settings that you need to understand.

Throughout the book I have included a few practical assignments that will allow you to go out and put into practice what the book is explaining.

I hope the book enables you to get some great images with your EOS 760D.

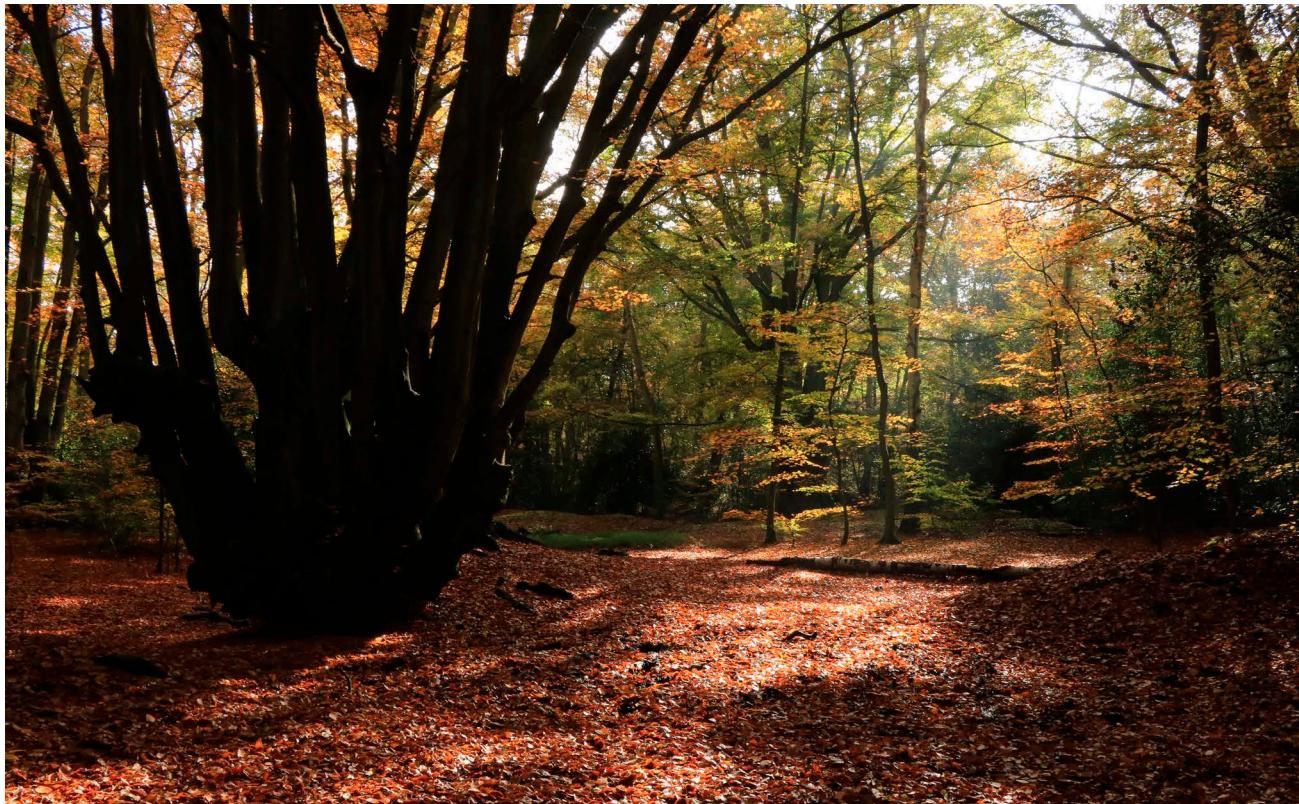
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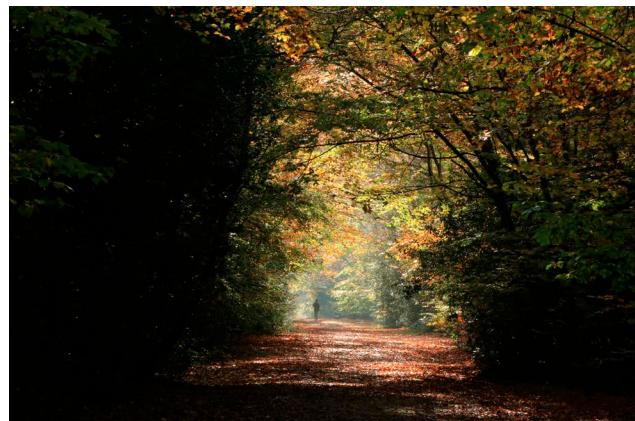
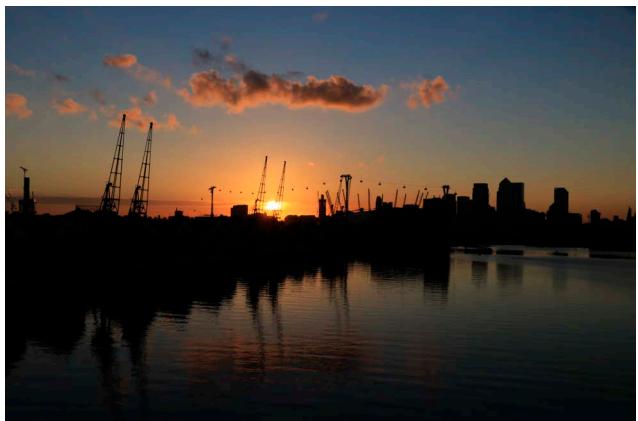
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About the author



Some of the test images shot on the EOS 760D whilst producing these books on the EOS 760D showing the great images that can be achieved, these images are straight out of the camera, shot as a JPEG file and have had no postproduction done to them.



Nina started taking images when she was very young and is still a very keen photographer both professionally and personally. Nina loves travel, landscape and wildlife photography and still shoots commercially within the travel photography market. Nina also leads photographic trips, the latest one being to Madagascar in conjunction with Exodus tours.

Nina in the recent past has been a professional photographic tutor, then moved to London where she had a successful nine years looking after training, exhibitions and marketing both in the UK and also within Europe. This gave Nina an unrivalled knowledge of not only the Canon EOS system but also how to develop and enhance the skills of photographers of all ability levels.

Nina started her own business in 1999, concentrating on training for amateur photographers. She is also at the forefront in developing and producing the new Online EOS Training Academy. As well as developing the online training academy and direct training of photographers, Nina is a prolific professional photographer producing images not only for the EOS Training Academy but for a variety of outside organisations. In 2014 Nina started producing her own range of ebooks to bring photography training to an ever wider audience.

Nina started taking images when she was very young and is still a very keen photographer both professionally and personally. Nina loves travel, landscape and wildlife photography and still shoots commercially within the travel photography market. Nina also leads photographic trips, the latest one being to Madagascar in conjunction with Exodus tours.

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PREVIEW
EDITION



Part 1 - Getting started

Getting started with the EOS 760D

The EOS 760D is a great EOS model to use to learn photography. It has a range of modes that will allow you to shoot most subjects with the settings remaining under the camera's control. This gives you chance to become familiar with your lenses and what they do, and understanding the lighting that will give you the best images before you need to start understanding some of the settings used within photography.

Some of the fully automated modes, give you some control over how the image is going to look and this is an excellent way to start to understand what photography with a digital EOS is all about, which is creativity. The ability to control how the finished image looks, something that many compacts and phone cameras give you little control over at the time of shooting.

Photography has always had a steep learning curve, and in this modern digital age this has become steeper, as there are now far more controls on the camera. This is why I have tried to break the book into sections that allow you to get some great results and build you confidence before tackling the areas that are by nature more technically challenging.

I always try and teach photography in a very modern way, starting off by taking images using the basic modes and building confidence that you can get great images without needing to take control of everything on the camera. Then as time progresses and you start to shoot more challenging areas, it becomes time to start to use the camera on modes with more controls, where more understanding is needed.



Far too often I come across photographers that are on the verge of giving up photography as they have been told to shoot manually because a photographer, whose techniques are well out of date, has told them that its the only way to shoot.

It's far from the truth as most of the images you will see in this book are shot on one of the camera's automatic or semi automatic modes. A handful will be shot manually as in those situations it may be the only way to get consistent results, but those

occasions are few and far between. I originally learnt on a fully manual camera, but today choose not to shoot that way, as most of the time the camera makes the same decisions as I would and usually a lot quicker.

The automation on the camera works incredibly well, providing you understand what it is doing. The art is using the right mode at the right time, the key to using the camera, is to understand it fully, and simply pick the right setting at the right time.

Understanding the terms used in photography

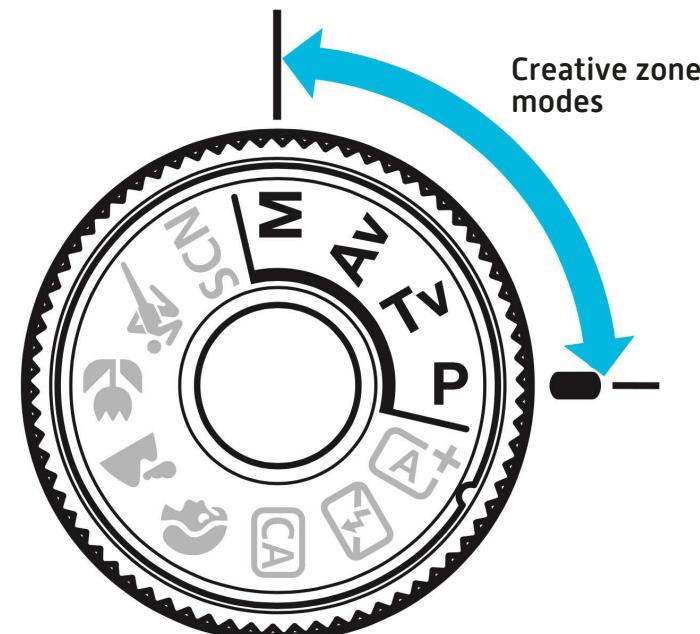
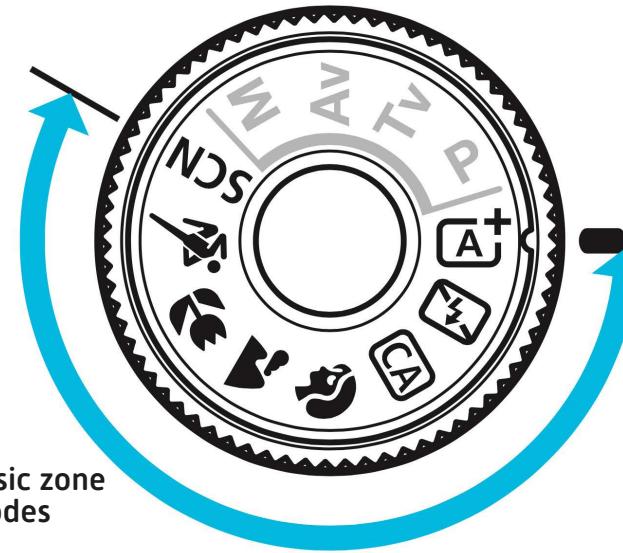
It is impossible in photography to discuss any part of modes on the camera without using a few terms, which many might consider to be technical jargon.

So I am going to explain in a simple way what the key terms mean and basically how they are affecting the image we shoot. I will look in more depth at these later in the book in the section *Moving on*, as once you start to utilise the creative modes you need a more in-depth understanding of how to use them.

In this first part of the book it is only necessary to have a basic grasp of what they are controlling and accept the fact that the camera will be setting all of them for you. Be assured that the camera actually does a very good job of choosing the settings, but what is interesting in these more basic modes is to actually look at what the camera is choosing and learn from it, the settings that are needed in various conditions.

The camera's exposure mode dial is actually split into two halves as well. The dial top right shows the Basic zone modes which are designed to make the camera as simple to operate as possible, yet still allow a good range of subjects to be tackled. There are lots of safety features present when these modes are in use to prevent you making errors that will affect the images that you are taking.

The bottom right hand dial shows the more advanced Creative zone modes, which I will be looking at in the second part of the book.



What ISO means and controls

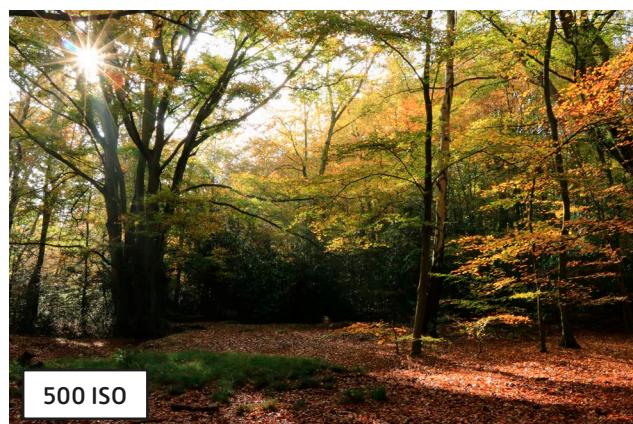
ISO - Changes the sensitivity of the imaging sensor to light

ISO stands for international standards organisation, a meaningless term. If you were born before the 1970s then you may have come across this setting under a different name. In the UK it was commonly called ASA (American standards association) and in Germany and many of the eastern block countries it was called DIN (Deutsche Industrial Norms).

The only standard used today is ISO, the difference is that today it is produced on the imaging sensor electronically, and therefore can be varied frame by frame whereas on film it was set by how the film was manufactured and so the film had a specific ISO speed.

The ISO allows you to shoot in a very wide range of lighting conditions. The ISO range on the 760D in the automatic settings goes from 100 ISO up to 6400 ISO as a default. In bright light you will find the camera choosing the lower settings 100-400 ISO and the light levels get lower then the camera will choose higher settings.

As the ISO goes higher there is a small drop on quality for each increment that it goes up. From 100-800 there is no really visible effect on the image. Above this the image can start to look slightly grainy if you zoom into it but the printed quality will still be very good. However, the quality at the high ISO settings far exceeds anything that was possible with film and so even the very highest settings can be used to give great images. The images to the right were taken with the camera choosing the ISO to use for the light levels they were taken in.



What Shutter speeds mean and controls

Shutter speed - changes how long the light enters the camera for

The shutter speed is one of two key controls that affect the brightness of the image that you take, better known as the exposure.

The shutter speed has settings from 30 whole seconds up to 1/4000th, though on the fully automatic modes these extremes are seldom used.

The shutter speed has two things that it is used for within photography, the key one is for preventing camera shake occurring. The camera will always try and achieve a shutter speed that will prevent camera shake occurring in the Basic zone modes, the only exception being the Night portrait mode where the use of a tripod is always recommended.

The shutter speed becomes important in action photography where taking the shutter speed up to its higher settings will freeze action, which is what is being done automatically if you use the sports or kids mode on the camera.

On the Basic zone modes, the camera will think about handholding for you automatically which will prevent most camera shake occurring. Most of the time it does this by increasing the ISO setting it is using, but it can also turn on the built in flash to provide light in the very lowest of lighting conditions.

If in the sports mode the camera will set a shutter speed that will freeze the action but you cannot actually set a specific shutter speed. For that you need to be in the creative zone modes which I will look at later on.



What the aperture does and controls

Aperture - The opening in the lens that controls how much light enters

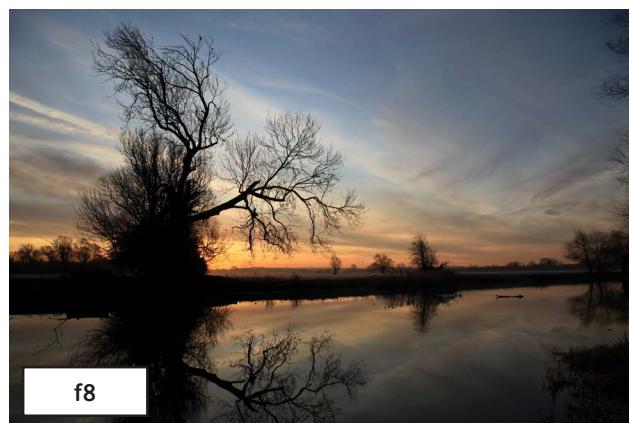
The aperture is the second of the two key controls for how bright the image is, or exposure as it is correctly known.

The aperture is basically the opening in the lens, it's the hardest of the controls to understand due to the numbers that are used to describe it. The larger the opening, the nearer to 0 the number will be. The aperture range you have available depends on the lenses you have. Most zoom lenses have a range of apertures from f4 which lets in the most light with settings including f5.6, f8, f11, f16 down to f22 which lets in the least light.

The camera tends to keep the aperture towards the wider settings of f5.6 or f8. If you shoot a lot of landscapes in the Landscape mode in bright light you may see it go to the narrower settings than this.

The aperture also has a modifying effect on something called depth of field. I will look at this in more detail later, but this is how much is sharp in the images that you take. That said the thing that will have the biggest effect on things such as getting good background blur will be the lens you choose to shoot with and not the aperture which is being used.

Out of the three main controls, ISO, shutter speed and aperture, the aperture is the least important setting to worry about, especially when starting out in photography. There is a relationship between the three settings that I will look at later, for the time being the camera will look after that for you.



What the lenses you use controls

It's commonly said that the D-SLR or Digital Single Lens Reflex camera, of which the EOS 760D is a great example, will take much better images than the compact models in the market. Although this is true, what is often not explained is why this is the case. The thing that sets cameras such as the EOS 760D apart is the range of lenses that they can be used with it.

The camera is often supplied with a fairly basic kit lens, the EF-S 18-55mm f3.5-5.6 IS STM lens is by far the most frequently seen model. This can give great results, but will be limited in the type of images that it will produce great shots of. This is because it has a relatively limited zoom range. Interestingly if compared to many of the compact models on the market the zoom range is actually shorter than many of them. There is a EF-S 18-135mm f3.5-5.6 IS STM lens available but this is sadly seldom recommended with the models such as the 760D at the time of purchase due to its larger size and greater cost.

There is a reality that needs to be faced with this type of camera, which is the outfit will not fit in a pocket like a compact. The outfit will be bulkier and heavier to carry. However, the quality of the images achievable will be better and a much wider range of images can be taken due to the greater lens choice that you have.

A good second lens to start off with is the EF-S 55-250mm f4-5.6 IS STM lens, which gives a much better range to shoot with and will allow a much wider range of subjects to be successfully tackled. This lens is a manageable size and combines well with the standard kit lens.



Lens jargon and terminology

I am trying to avoid as much jargon as possible in this book, however, lenses are described in a very specific way and so I am going to look at what all the description on the lens actually means in simple terms.

The most important thing that describes a lens is its focal length. This is a number that is shown on the lens and it has mm after it. If there are two numbers, then the lens is a zoom lens and in the example shown on the right has a range starting at 18mm and going up to 55mm.

Zoom lenses are the most commonly seen in use today as they are very convenient to use and prevent having to change lens too frequently.

If there is only one number shown then it is a fixed focal length or prime lens, which does not zoom, as in the example below. In this case the lens is a 50mm lens. There are advantages to the fixed focal length lenses.



They generally let in more light, often lighter than the equivalent prime lenses, offer higher quality. However, the downside is you need more of them, which makes them larger and heavier to carry around.

For most amateur photographers starting out, the lenses of choice will be a zoom lens for the greater convenience of use and also to allow you to change the framing of the shot.

The lenses I mention on the last page an 18-55mm and a 55-250mm lens will work well for most newcomers to photography and allow you to gain experience without spending a fortune on lenses.

As you understand more about photography, many photographers start to specialise and this can lead to wanting more specialist lenses and in some instances more specialised cameras. It is wise not to spend too much on your lens outfit until you start to understand the lenses in more depth and can make a more informed choice as a result of that understanding in what you need for the subjects that you shoot.

I have a very wide range of lenses, but never take all of the lenses with me at one time, I tend to chose the equipment that I am using for the subjects that I am going to shoot.

Lens jargon and terminology

The focal length of the lens tells us the type of lens that it is and the effect that it will have on the image. Lenses can be broken down into three basic groups

Wide angle: These get more into the picture than we naturally see with the eye but they also make things look further away and smaller and so we would not use these for wildlife or most action photography. Focal lengths from 35mm down to 10mm would be considered to be a wide angle focal length.

Standard: These are lenses that give the same width and appearance as we see naturally with the human eye. However, as they do not make the subject look closer they are good for travel and landscape photography. Lenses from 36mm up to 55mm are generally considered to be a standard focal length.

Telephoto: These are the lenses that are used for wildlife, action and sports photography as well as many other things. They capture a narrower area than we naturally see with the eye and make the subject appear to be a lot closer to us. Telephoto lenses technically start at 56mm but it is not until 200mm and longer that they start to make a big difference to your images. **Telephoto lenses** can be split into two groups. The normal telephoto lenses have focal lengths from 56mm and go up to 300mm.

You then have the **Ultra telephoto lenses**, these range from 400mm up to 800mm in the current range. The word ultra also seems to mean expensive as there are none of these lenses that will be found under a thousand pounds and many will be much more than that.



The images above are taken from the same spot but with the lens focal length being changed between each shot. As the focal length gets higher you can see a smaller part being captured. The 50mm image shows the scene as it looked to the eye.

Lens jargon and terminology

This shows you if the lens is an EF or EF-S type. This will tell you what the compatibility of the lens is.

EF actually stands for Electronic Focus.

EF-S stands for Electronic Focus - Short back focus which is the way that they are making the lenses smaller.

This tells you the focal length of the lens. This lens goes from 18mm which is wide angle up to 135mm which is telephoto and in between those two extremes covers the standard focal lengths as well. These days it is quite common for a lens to cover a range of focal length types in the one lens to make it more versatile.

This is the aperture range, however, we will start with the widest aperture that the lens features. That will be f3.5 on the 18mm position. It will stay at f3.5 until the lens reaches its 135mm position. This is a common feature on the more affordable lenses. Most affordable telephoto lenses will have f5.6 when zoomed in. I will explain more about the aperture shortly.

The IS indicates that the lens features Image Stabilisation which helps you to hold the lens steady making it easier to track subjects and can prevent camera shake occurring when shooting in lower light levels. This is an important feature to have as it can significantly increase the number of good images that you get.

STM is the type of Motor that is fitted into the lens. STM stand for Stepping Motor which is a fast and very quiet motor. USM is even faster and totally silent in use. If there is no motor type then the lens uses the standard micro motor type which does produce a noise when working.

This indicates the filter size that the lens takes.



Explanation of sensor size

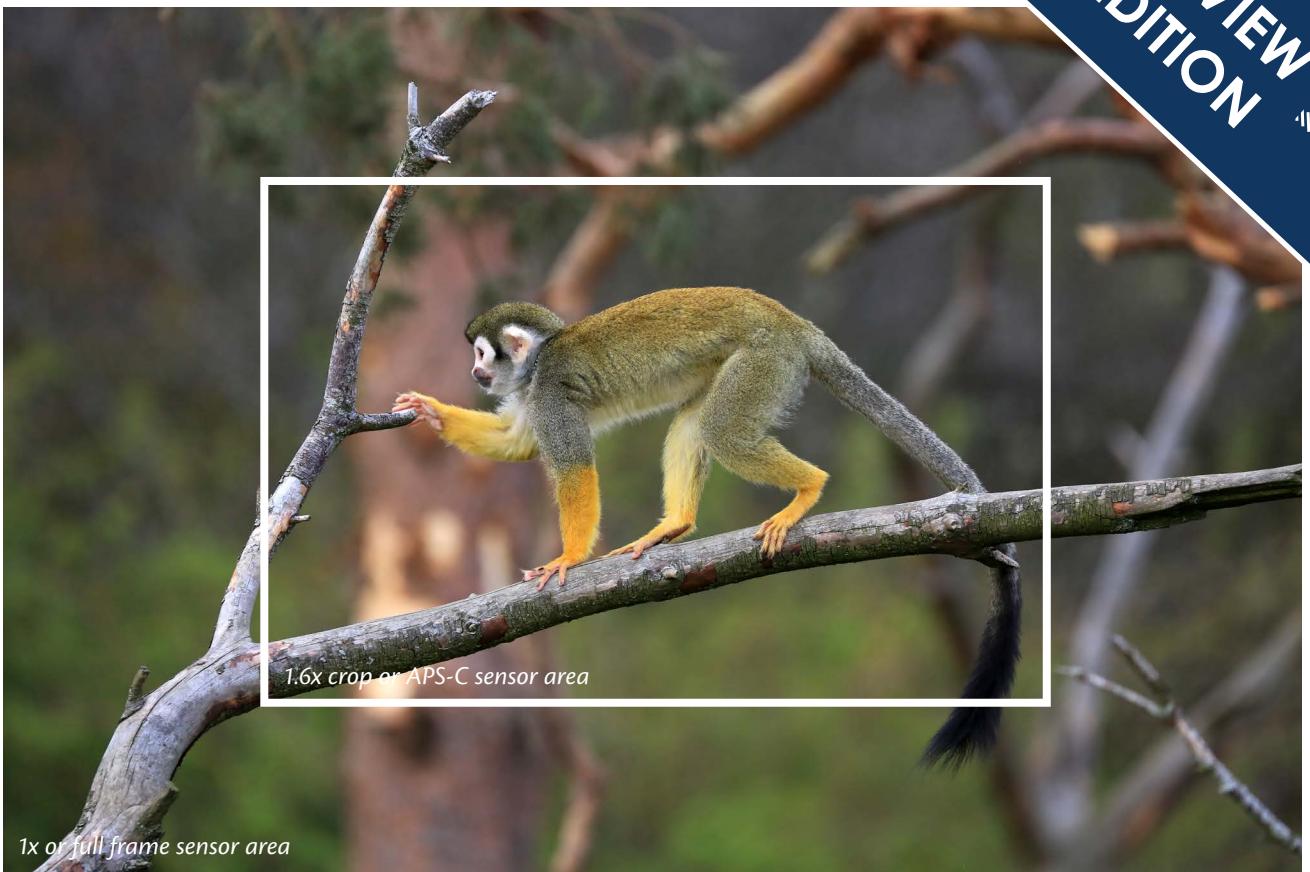
Within the EOS range there are now two types of sensor that can be found in the cameras. The sensor is effectively doing the same job, capturing the image as the film used to. The EOS 760D using the smaller of the two sizes the 1.6x crop or APS-C sensors as it is sometimes called. This has lots of advantages when starting out in photography as it makes the camera and the lenses for it, smaller, lighter and more affordable.

When digital cameras first appeared they initially only used the smaller sensor. This is approximately 22mm x15mm in size. The 1.6x is often referred to as a magnification factor, which is incorrect, rather the image is cropped by a factor of 1.6x when compared to the image given by the full frame sensor.

The other size of imaging sensor is the full frame or 1.0x sensors as they are generally referred to are the same size as a frame of film. This is 24mm x 36mm. The models that have these are mostly at the more expensive end of the range and are generally preferred by professional photographers. They are also much larger and heavier as a result of having the larger sensor.

The image to the top right shows the difference that is made by simply changing the camera body on the same lens on the area that is being captured. The area captured is smaller, effectively “cropping” the area that is being captured by the camera.

This is a big advantage if showing action and wildlife as you can use much more affordable lenses and still fill the frame.



The easiest way to tell which model is which is to look at the camera's lens mount. If there is a white square and a red dot marked for alignment of the lenses it is a APS-C or 1.6x crop model. If there is only a red dot, then it is a full frame or 1x model.

The image to the right shows the mount of a camera featuring a APS-C or 1.6x crop sensor, the fact that there is a red dot and a white square shows it takes the EF-S lenses and therefore is a 1.6x crop sensor model.



Which is the best sensor size for photography?

The APS-C or 1.6x crop sensor models offer a lot of advantages for the amateur who shoots wildlife and action photography. They fill the frame much easier and so you do not need such long lenses, which keeps the cost of the outfit you need down.

Another benefit of the APS-C or 1.6x crop sensor models is that they are smaller and lighter and designed to take the more compact range of EF-S lenses. They do give the crop factor all through the lens range and so you will need lenses much wider than we used to use in the days of film to cope with landscape and travel images. However, this is not the drawback that it used to be thanks to the ever growing range of Canon EF-S lenses.

You may well be wondering why people buy 1.0x or full frame cameras. I actually have both and choose the one that works best for the type of photography I am doing at the time. The APS-C or 1.6x sensors models, such as the EOS 760D are great for people to get going with, being easy to use and set up and smaller and lighter to carry, especially when used with the EF-S series of lenses which are designed exclusively for them.

People who have done photography for many years, tend to prefer the full frame or 1.0x models as the lenses give the same image area as they were used to with film. The full frame models having a larger sensor also have a better low light capability. However, when you start to look at the subjects tackled by these photographers you often find that they are the areas that suit the full frame models better such as landscape, travel, portrait and interior



This was taken on a 300mm lens on a APS-C or 1.6x crop sensor model. To get the same framing with a full frame or 1.0x models I would have needed a 480mm lens which would have cost up to many times as much.

photography.

For most amateur photographers the smaller sensor models such as the 760D will give them the most flexible choice of body and certainly work well for most general areas of photography, .

It can be important, especially if working to a tight budget to chose the body carefully as there is a one way compatibility of the lenses. The EF-S range of lenses are exclusive to the APS-C or 1.6x sensor

models, so if you buy a range of these and decide to change to a full frame model you will need to change all your lenses as well.

The general EF range of lenses can fit any of the EOS D-SLR bodies but are significantly larger, heavier and more costly to buy, but if you eventually plan to end up with a full frame model they can be a worthwhile investment.

PREVIEW
EDITION



Basic camera layout

Top plate

It is important to understand the controls on the EOS 760D camera, however in this first part of the book, there are a lot of controls that will not do anything as you do not have access to those overrides in the modes that we are looking at.

OFF/ON and Movie switch - this is where the camera is turned on and off. However on this model it also allows the camera to be set into Movie mode. When turning the camera on be careful not to push the switch round too far as the camera operates in quite a different way when it is shooting movies.

Shutter button - This has a two stage pressure to it. The first half pressure activates the focusing and exposure systems on the camera. Most of the Basic zone modes (except for Sports and Kids) allow the focusing to be locked and then the image can be re-framed whilst still holding the shutter button half down and then the shutter button is fully depressed to take the image.

Main dial - This is used to select items in some menus, and for general navigation in some of the options. Within the basic zone modes it is not used as much as when working in the creative models.

Mode Dial - There are now a choice of 10 easy to use basic zone modes. The traditional Portrait, Landscape, Action, Close up are found on the mode dial and are joined by Night portrait, Kids, Food, Candlelight, Handheld Night Scene mode and a HDR backlit modes within the SCN or scene settings which allow a wide range of subjects to be taken without the need for specialist knowledge.



Top plate

To prevent the mode dial getting moved by accident, there is now a lock button in the centre of it that needs to be depressed before the dial can be turned.

LCD top display - This is used when setting things using the function buttons, which do not do anything in the basic zone modes. However, the display does not give as much information as the Q screen and is much more difficult to read. There is a light button that can be pushed by the side of this that makes the panel light up to see it in dark conditions.

Flash on button - this button on the side of the camera is used to turn the flash on within the creative modes. However when working on the Basic zone modes the camera will decide for you if the flash is to be fired or not. Some of the modes have options within them that allow you to override the camera's programming for the flash operation.

Lens release button - this button needs to be pushed to take the lens off the camera. When fitting a lens always make sure that it has clicked firmly into place, or it could drop off when the camera is being used.

Dioptre adjustment dial - this can be rotated to adjust the eyepiece to be correct for different eyesight. This has an adjustment range from -3 up to +1. The camera comes out of the box set to -1 as standard. The easiest way to set it up is to get the camera to focus on something and then look through the viewfinder and turn the dial till the image looks at its sharpest. It can also be set by looking at the display at the bottom of the viewfinder that appears when the shutter button is part depressed.



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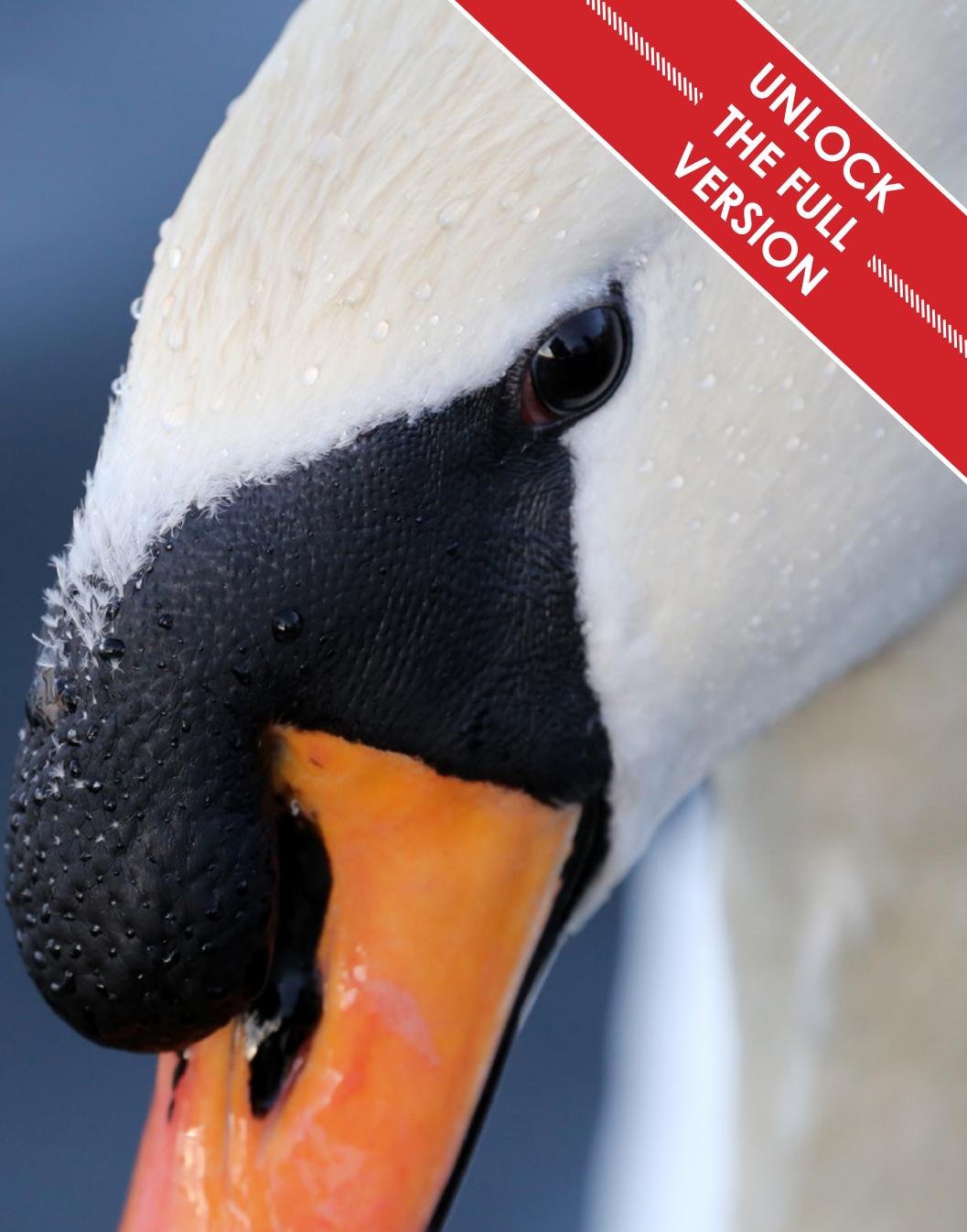
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Nina

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