

# Understanding the EOS M6 Mark II



A fast track guide to understanding how to use the EOS M6 Mark II's key controls and functions

Contents include:

- Exposure modes
- Camera layout
- Menu options
- Key camera overrides
- Feature use
- Customisations

Especially written for **Canon EOS** users

Written by **Nina Bailey**

## About this book

The EOS M6 Mark II is a well specified mirrorless body that is light and compact, and has an optional electronic viewfinder available for ease of use. This model has a wide range of features, many of which will be very familiar to photographers that have used the DSLR EOS models. Yet as similar as it is, it is quite different in operation, with a very different viewing and focusing system.

Designed to be ultra small and light and with its own range of EF-M lenses, also designed for compactness and light weight, the camera also has an adaptor that allows it to take the extensive range of EF and EF-S lenses, making it an attractive compact option for those that already have these lenses.

This book will look at all of the key features that are found on this model and explain what they do and how they can be used. It is designed to present the information in a much more accessible way than is found in the manual and is liberally illustrated throughout with screen images and also images to show what the features actually do to the images that you take. The camera is very versatile and can tackle most types of photography easily as it has an extensive range of overrides that will enable you to cope in almost any shooting conditions.

There is also a companion Pocketbook available to provide a small A6 size 40 page guide that is easy to take with you when shooting to help you remember how to set the key features on the camera. This is available from the EOS magazine shop.

Click here to find out more about the range of Pocketbooks or go to [www.eos-magazine-shop.com](http://www.eos-magazine-shop.com) and click on the links for books.

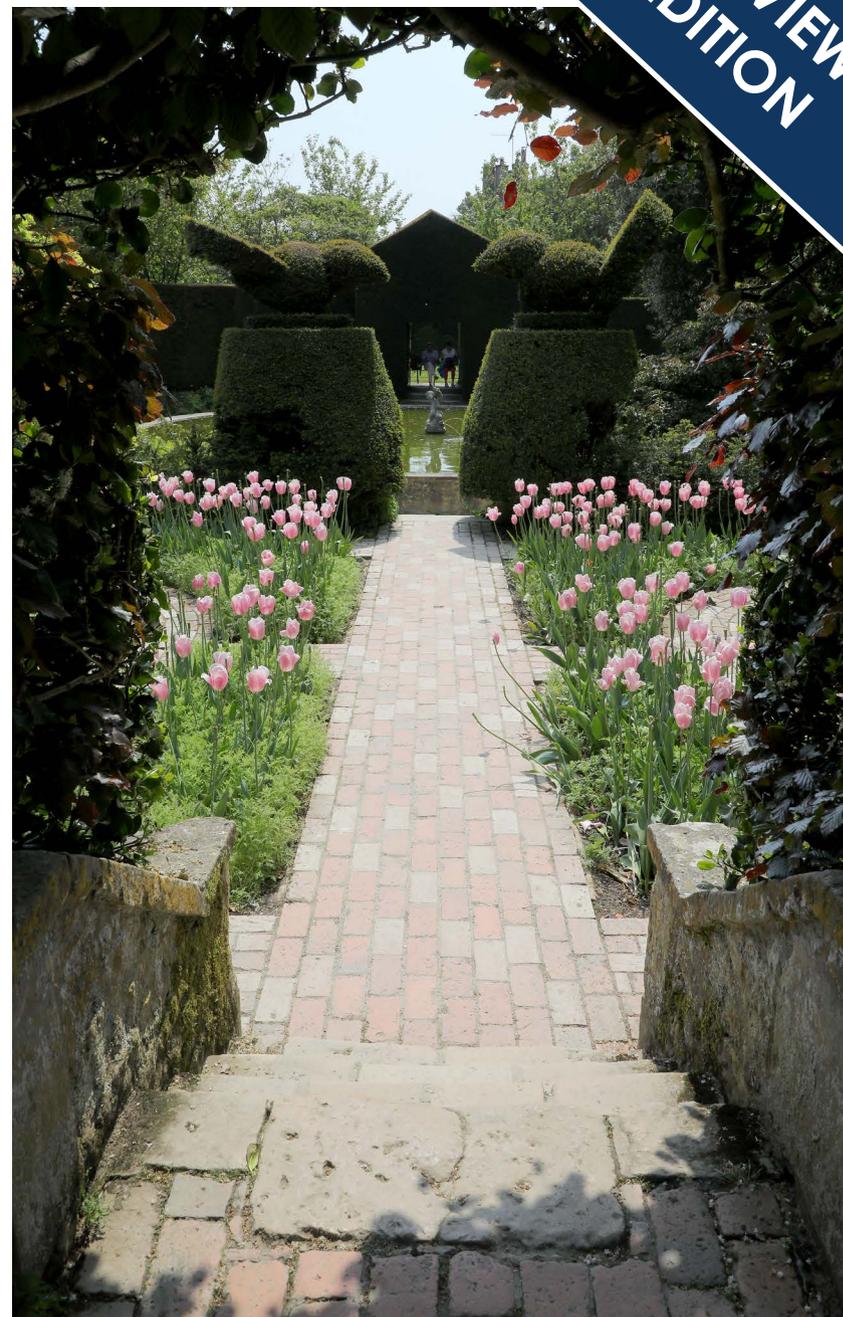
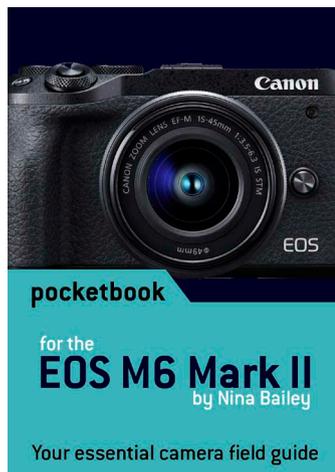
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Some of the test images shot on the EOS M6 Mark II whilst producing the books on the EOS M6 Mark II showing the great images that can be achieved. These images are straight out of the camera, shot as a JPEG files and have had no postproduction done to them.



Nina started her own business in 1999, concentrating on training for amateur photographers. 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. In 2017 Nina also launched a range of printed compact pocket books for the EOS range.

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.

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**Displays options**

# Feature and mode guides on the EOS M6 Mark II

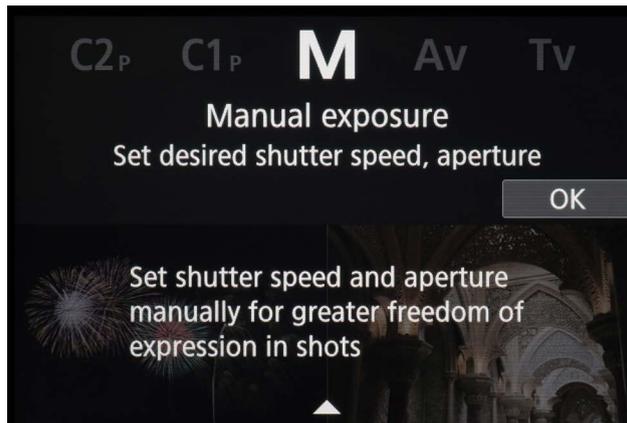
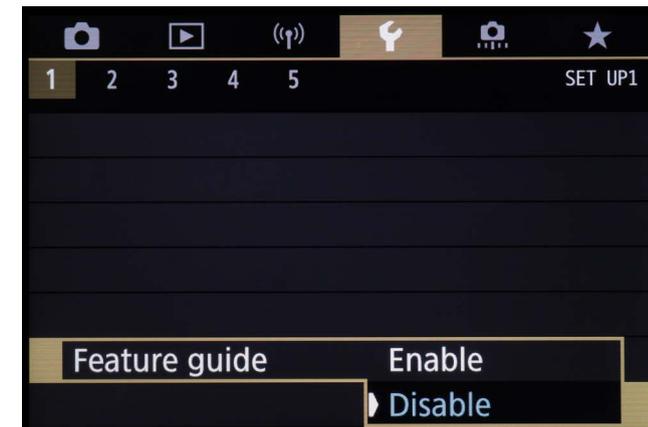
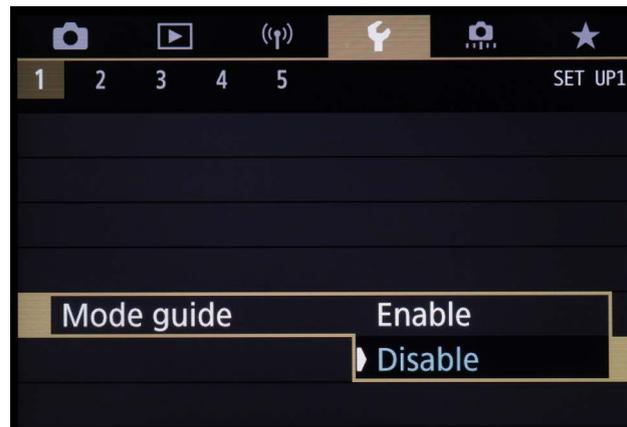
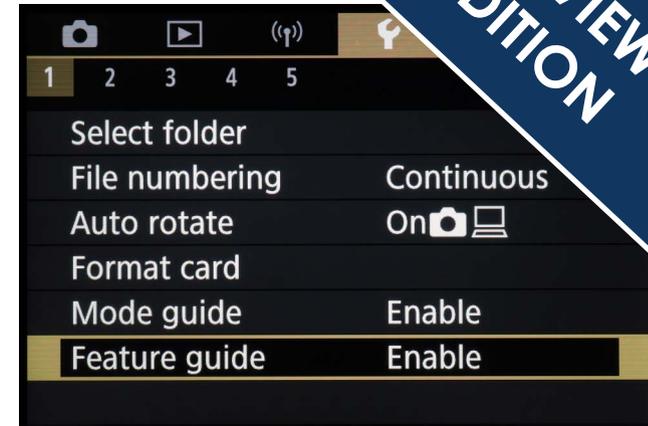
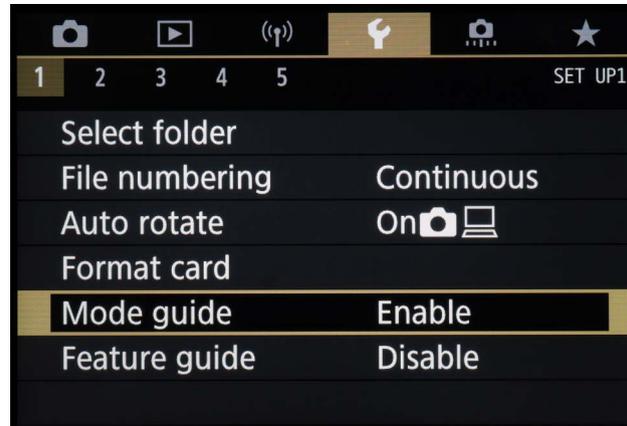
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The EOS M6 Mark II has some features designed to make its operation easier for the newcomer to photography.

The EOS M6 Mark II as supplied in the box will have the Mode guide and the Feature guide enabled by default. This makes the camera much more user friendly to use and prevents common errors occurring when shooting.

The mode guide (image bottom left) will display brief descriptions of the mode at the time you turn the mode dial on the top of the camera. Plus there will be options on some of the screens to show more detailed information about what that mode actually does. Although useful at first it can quickly become irritating and so there is the option to turn it to disable within the Menu. To do this press the menu button on the rear of the camera, tap on the set up menu (Yellow tab) at the top and go to the sub tab that has a 1 on it. It should appear by default once in the Set up menu. Then tap on the mode guide and then tap the disable option.

The feature guide (image bottom right) will bring up a box that tells you briefly what the feature that is highlighted within the setting you have highlighted when using the Q button options regardless of the setting screen that you are using. It is worth leaving these on whilst learning the camera as they will give you helpful tips whilst out and about shooting. However, very quickly they can become annoying and so the option to turn them off is immediately below the mode guide options and is turned off as described above, except by picking the feature guide option.



# Key setting options

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The main control for setting options on the camera is the Q button. This is either an actual button on the rear of the camera or it also appears on the main rear screen when shooting in the top right hand corner(as shown at the top above) and this turns on the settings by simply tapping it. Once activated in either of these ways the screen above will appear with all the main controls you need to set things on the camera. The amount of settings you have available depends on the mode you are set to. The displays I am showing are always from the Creative modes, that's the FV, P, AV, TV, M, C1 or C2 modes.



The easiest way to set the controls is using touch control. All the normal taps and gestures that work on any smart phone or tablet also work on the camera. The items down the side are the key controls and once you select one the options available for it are displayed along the bottom.

Most of the time these will be the only controls that you need. However, for more detailed settings you simply go to the menu system, the button is shown on the back of the camera above. I will look in depth at both the Q screens and menus later in the book. If you use the optional electronic viewfinder most of the time it is possible to use the more traditional Black Q screen (right) on the rear of the camera.



# What each option displays

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The INFO button is an important button as it changes the information you are seeing on the rear screen or in the optional viewfinder.

Each time you press the INFO button on the rear of the camera it will enable a different variation of the display that you are seeing. The displays can range from no information at all to lots of details including levels and live histograms. Be aware that the AF method that you are using may affect how many of the displays you are able to use. The information on the displays and how many options there are can be changed in the Set up menu which I look at later.

One of the options that can be brought up is a black Q screen. If you are using the camera without the electronic viewfinder this does not really make sense to use as you are preventing yourself seeing the image. However, if you use the electronic viewfinder all the time then this can make a lot of sense, especially if you have used the Canon DSLR range as it gives you a familiar setting screen which is almost identical to the ones that you have used before.

If playing back images there again is a choice of displays that can be used, again changed by pressing the INFO button on the rear of the camera.

The Q button on the rear of the camera also works in the playback mode and will display options that you can use to control the image when playing back as shown immediately right.

Far right is the normal Q screen when using the rear screen display. It is important to be good at using these controls to successfully use the camera.

## SHOOTING DISPLAYS



## PLAYBACK DISPLAYS





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# Basic Camera Layout

## Rear camera controls

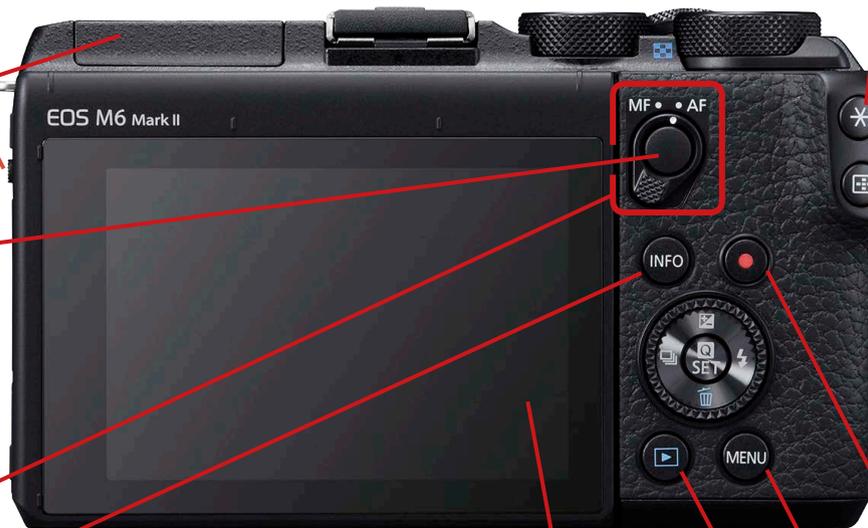
It is important to understand the controls on any camera as this will help you set the controls quickly and efficiently. If you have used any DSLR EOS models the controls will look very familiar but be aware that there are a number of differences in how many of the controls operate.

**BUILT-IN FLASH** Turned on using slider on side of the camera body. Once popped up, the operation of the flash is controlled via the flash button on the Cross keys (opposite) and via the SHOOT1 menu.

**AF-ON BUTTON** When pressed this activates the focusing and metering (like the shutter button). The use of this for focusing when shooting in Servo AF is often referred to as back button focusing. Note that the button is not labelled on the camera – the button is positioned inside the AF/MF switch.

**AF/MF SWITCH** This switches between AF (autofocus) and MF (manual focus).

**INFO BUTTON** Toggles between displays when the camera is active. Five displays available, which are all enabled by default. Additionally, pressing the INFO button does as follows when in certain screens: when in the menu it allows you to jump between the main menu tabs; it brings up additional information and settings when it appears as a prompt on-screen (right); it gives you different information displays during playback.



**REAR SCREEN** Image and settings can be viewed here; screen can be tilted for use at low angles and taken through 180° so that you can see yourself if shooting selfies or vlogging.

**AE LOCK** Press to lock the exposure and Evaluative metering. In Single Shot AF, the exposure is locked automatically at the same time as the focusing with a half-press of the shutter button. Using this button separates out their operation. Use also to lock Spot or Partial metering onto the correct area.

**AF POINT SELECTION BUTTON** This allows selection of your chosen focusing method. Prompts are shown on-screen after pressing the currently selected AF area icon on-screen or the M-Fn button.

**MOVIE SHOOTING BUTTON** Starts and stops video recording when in any shooting mode or when using Movie mode.

**MENU BUTTON** Press to access the camera's menu system where many options are set.

**PLAYBACK BUTTON** Will show the most recently taken image; use the Cross keys to scroll.

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## Top camera controls

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**MANUAL FOCUS RING** Turn to manually focus once AF/MF switch is on MF (manual focus) position.

**ZOOM RING** (Only on zoom lenses, i.e. with variable focal length.) Turn to adjust the focal length – to zoom in on the subject or pull further away.

**LOCK BUTTON** (Only on selected lenses.) Locks the zoom in place to prevent the barrel moving when being carried. Must be unlocked to shoot.

### LENS ALIGNMENT MARK

To attach a compatible lens (or adapter), line up with the same mark on the camera body to mount the lens. EF-M lenses – which natively fit the EOS M6 Mark II – have a white dot; EF and EF-S lenses – which can be attached via Mount Adapter EF-EOS M – have a red dot and a white square respectively.

### LENS RELEASE BUTTON

Push and hold this in to unlock the mechanism, then turn the lens to release.

### HOT SHOE

Attach the optional Electronic Viewfinder EVF-DC2 or an external Speedlite flash.



**MODE DIAL** Where you choose the shooting mode.

**SHUTTER BUTTON** Half-pressure activates metering. Same half-press escapes and menus. Fully depress to take the photo.

**MAIN DIAL** Turn to adjust shutter speed or aperture within relevant shooting mode. Can also change settings on Q screen.

**M-FN BUTTON** A multi-functional button which brings up a specified function on the rear screen. The default function is the ISO setting. As with most buttons it can be customised.

**QUICK CONTROL DIAL** A multi-functional dial which has a number of different uses. It can be used to set exposure compensation in Program, Tv and Av modes when the camera is active. (Note that exposure compensation remains set even when you turn off the camera – there is no automatic reset.) In Fv mode use the Quick Control Dial to scroll between settings, then the Main Dial to change the relevant value. When setting functions on the Q screen, the Quick Control Dial will adjust settings for the highlighted function. During playback turning this dial activates the zoom/magnify function.

**ON/OFF SWITCH** Can be left on during a shoot as the camera goes onto standby after one minute to save power – to wake the camera up press the shutter button.

**DIAL FUNCTION BUTTON** Press to bring up a range of options on rear screen or in the viewfinder (if attached). Defaults are ISO, Drive, AF mode, White balance and flash compensation settings. This button can be customised to bring up different functions (max. five), such as Exposure compensation, AF method, metering and Picture Style.

## Rear camera controls

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**CONTROL DIAL** Rotate to scroll through menus and through images during playback.

**CROSS KEYS** Used for navigation within menus, with directional buttons for up, down, left, right. Each button also has a default function, as follows:

- ▲ Exposure compensation.
- ◀ Drive setting.
- ▶ Flash setting.
- ▼ 1) Erase images in playback: 2) When shooting in Fv mode, press to reset all settings back to Auto.

**Q SET BUTTON** Pressing this activates the Quick Set menu where the main settings are made. It's also used within the menu system to apply settings; within the Q screen pressing it allows you to see a more detailed screen.



### **DIOPTRIC ADJUSTMENT**

A rotatable wheel to the rear of the rubber eyecup which you can use to adjust the sharpness to suit your eyesight.

The built-in contacts allow for two way communication with the camera, making it 'hot'. To release it, press this button and then slide off to remove.



## Touch controls

As we go through the book I will explain the manual navigation controls found on the EOS M6 Mark II, however, by far the easiest way to operate this model is using the touch controls that the camera offers.



Most of the key camera functions can be set directly on the screen on the rear of the camera, they are activated by pressing the Q/Set button, highlighted above. Once this is done a display will superimpose itself over the viewing screen (two top images) where you can select the items that you want to set by simply tapping on them and to choose the control you want, you simply tap on the option at the bottom of the screen. The display adapts to the mode that you are shooting in so if playing back you get different controls to shooting. Also the Exposure mode that you have selected on the top of the camera will control the number of options that you have and what they are.

The other options on the camera are set using the camera's extensive menu system. Once again this adapts according to the mode that you are in and



when using the basic zone modes there will be far less items to select from. To bring up the menu simply press the menu button on the rear of the camera, also highlighted on the image to the left.

Once the menu is showing, (bottom two images above) tap on the tabs at the top to select the one that you want, tap the numbers underneath to choose which menu you want and then tap on the item that you want which will take you into another menu where you can select from the options shown.



Sometimes you simply tap on the item that you want, at other times once you select the item you want you will need to tap the SET or OK button at the bottom of the screen to confirm your choice.

If playing back images the normal swipe, stretch and pinch options commonly found on smart devices will also work to change, zoom in and zoom out on the images that you are viewing.

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## Touch shutter

Every time I write one of these books I seem to be adding in additional pages, which are normally prompted by problems that I see whilst working out on events.

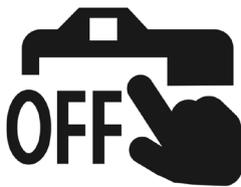
All of the mirrorless models have a feature called touch shutter. It's not a new feature it's been around since touch controls appeared. What it is designed to do is to turn on a system that when you tap on the screen indicating where you would like the camera to focus, once the camera has achieved focus on that subject the image is taken automatically.

The symbol is found on the screen of the camera and appears to be knocked by accident all too easily. I regularly see customers trying to tap to focus the camera and it keep firing and they do not understand what is causing it.

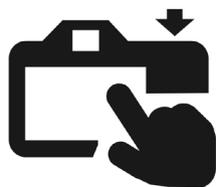
For me the symbol is fairly obvious, though it has been on the cameras for a number of years.

There are two symbols that you will see:

One shows the back of a camera with somebody tapping it with the word off by it, this indicates that the touch shutter is disabled.



The other is the back of a camera with a finger by it indicating that the touch shutter is enabled.



This option can also be turned on or off within the shoot 6 menu. However, there is no way to permanently disable the option, which is a shame given the amount of times it gets turned on by accident. The quick way to turn it on and off is to simply tap on the symbol on the screen.



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## Viewing options

The main viewing display on the EOS M6 Mark II is the rear screen. With its direct feed from the sensor, you get a live view of what you'll be capturing, including real-time feedback from changes to camera settings. If you attach the electronic viewfinder, the same feed is viewable through the viewfinder.

The rear screen is tiltable through 180° and provides the means to view and compose your image on the rear of the camera, giving you a large view. The screen is turned on automatically when the camera is switched on (and when not on standby). If it goes to sleep, reactivate it by simply pressing the shutter button partway. This screen is normally used pushed flat against the camera, but it can be tilted out for low-angle work or flipped up.

When the EVF-DC2 is attached (see right), you get a similar level of information within the viewfinder display to what appears on the rear screen. Using the optional electronic viewfinder makes handling better, giving you a third point of contact when shooting handheld. It also makes finding subjects easier when using a longer lens and is far easier to see in bright light levels. When fitted, a number of extra viewfinder-related menu items are enabled – SETUP4 menu.

The viewfinder and screen cannot both be active at the same time. The viewfinder sensor will automatically pick up anything that's within 5cm, so if your screen suddenly goes blank, check you're not blocking the sensor.

The batteries on the EOS M6 Mark II are also quite small and lower capacity than many of the



**VIEWFINDER** This turns on automatically when the camera is switched on and not on standby. The camera is raised to your eye.

**DIOPTRIC ADJUSTMENT** a ring that rotates to allow the viewfinder to be adjusted to your eyesight.

**CAMERA SCREEN** allows you to view and compose the image on the rear of the camera. Turns off automatically if you look through the viewfinder.



batteries that we are used to within the larger EOS models, so it may come as a shock to those who are used to models such as the EOS 90D, 80D, 7 and 5 series models, just how quickly this camera can go through a battery on its normal default settings. Though it needs to be said that the M6 Mark II is lower on power consumption than the earlier M series models by a significant amount.

There are two ways to deal with the issues of the higher power consumption, the first is to simply invest in a spare battery or two depending on how much you shoot within a day. This works well providing you have access to charge the battery.

The second option, which if you shoot a lot of images, or have limited access to charging, is to understand and utilise the power saving options that the camera offers, which may be needed as well as several spare batteries.



PREVIEW  
EDITION

## M6 Mark II power saving options

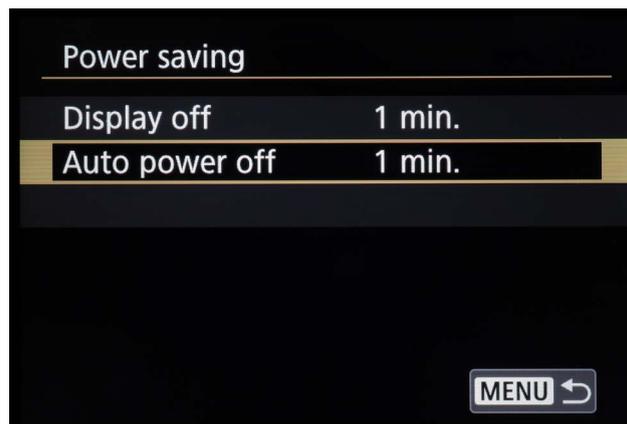
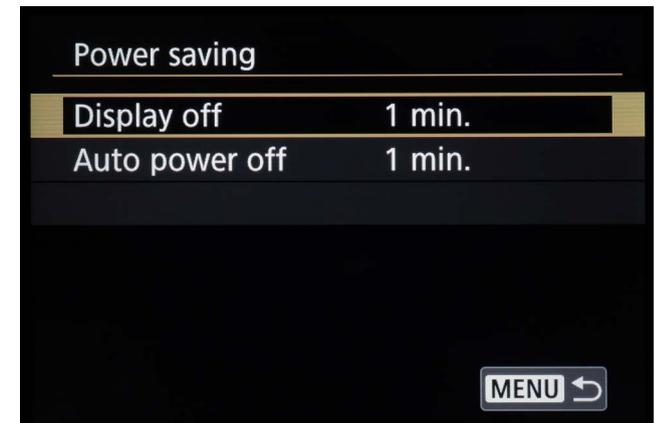
There are several different options that can be used to reduce the amount of power that is being used:

**ECO MODE** The displays consume a lot of power and one way to extend the life of the battery is to turn on the Eco Mode. This is found within the set up 2 menu. This has a simple on or off option. This is set to Off as a default.

If turned on this dims the display right down, after about 2 seconds when the camera is not in use. To bring up the full brightness display simply press the shutter button halfway. If this is turned on the power saving options are not available, which are the next item in the menu.

**POWER SAVING** These control the power down options and are also found within the set up 2 menu. Once you enter the menu you have three options. The **Display Off** controls how long before turning off the display and then the **Auto Power Down** governs how long after that the camera powers down. Both have a default of 1 minute. The Display Off can be set between 15 seconds and 10 minutes and the Auto Power Down can be set between 30 seconds and 10 minutes. There is also an option for the viewfinder which appears only if fitted.

Both options are quickly cancelled by pressing the shutter button halfway to reactivate the camera. As the camera is so quick to reactivate, these can be turned down to shorter periods if required and will help to extend the battery life. However the Eco Mode is probably going to give the greatest power saving. These other power saving options only work if the Eco Mode is turned off.



PREVIEW  
EDITION

## Other display options

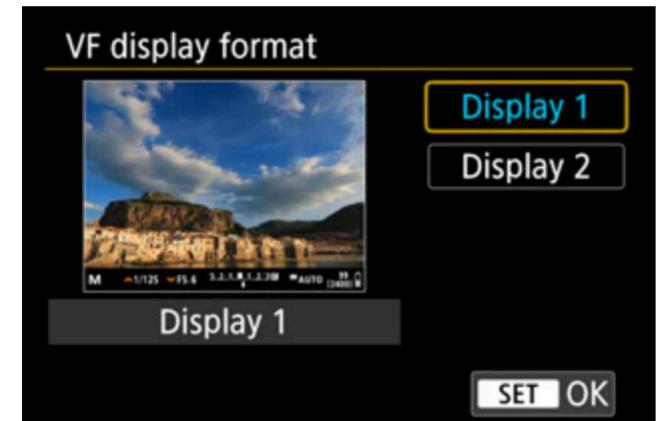
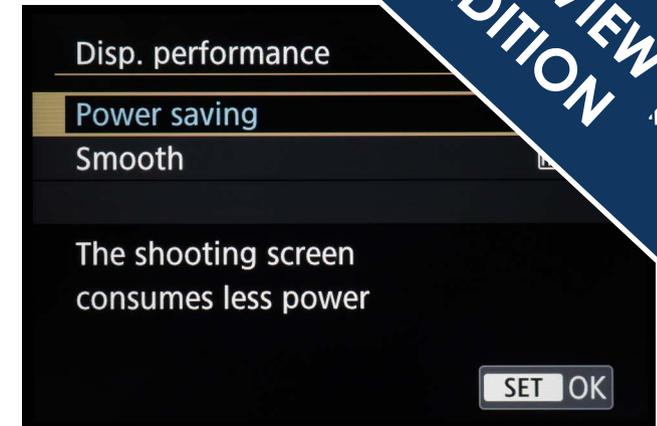
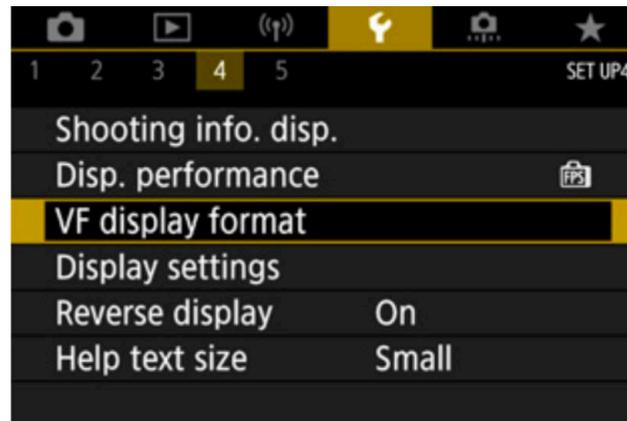
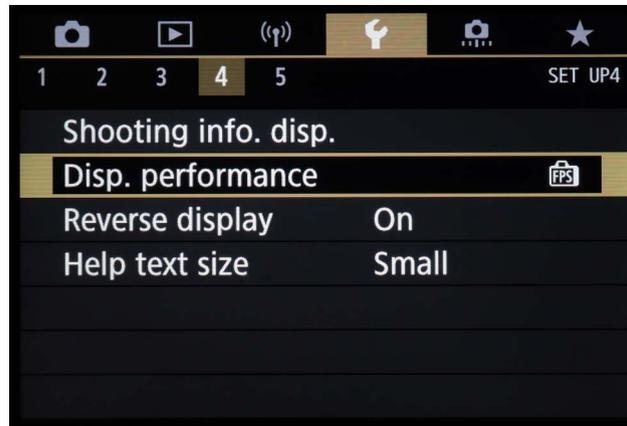
**DISPLAY PERFORMANCE** This allows you to save power by turning the rear screen or viewfinder if fitted to a setting that consumes less power but which will not be as smooth. The default is the smooth setting that gives a smoother display but consumes more power.

Electronic viewfinders/Rear screens are very different to an optical viewfinder to use as they can have a slight lag as the display refreshes. If shooting static subjects this is not a problem and the power saving option can be used, but if shooting action or any type of moving subject it should be returned to the smooth setting.

**VF DISPLAY FORMAT** If the viewfinder is attached this allows you to choose between two options for the viewfinder display.

The default display offers a larger area for the image, which if you can get close enough to see it, makes the viewfinder appear to have a very large area. Display 2 gives a slightly smaller area, which may be easier to see right to the edge for those that need to wear glasses when shooting with the camera.

**REVERSE DISPLAY** This allows the display to reverse so that you can see the image exactly as taken when using the camera to take selfies with the screen flipped to 180° to allow you to operate the camera when looking at the front. If it is turned off then everything will be opposite to what you are doing, so if you raise your left hand it will appear to the right of you. Regardless of which option you choose, the images will still come out identically.



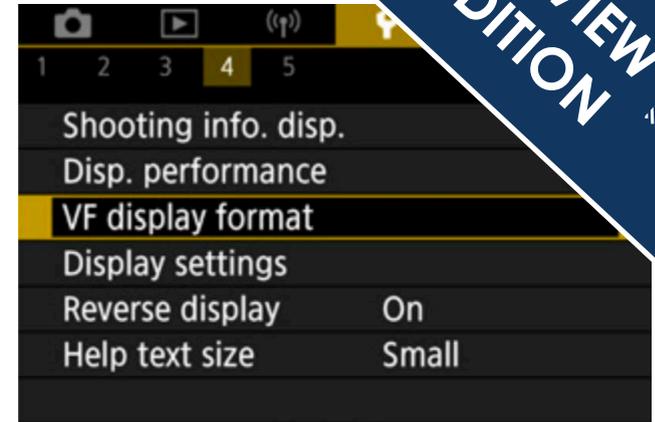
PREVIEW EDITION

# Shooting information display

PREVIEW EDITION



This allows you to set up the options for how the rear screen and viewfinder are going to appear. The exact menu changes according to if the optional viewfinder is attached or not. If not, then any of the viewfinder options will vanish. When you tap on this menu item the camera will bring up another menu that has three items within it.



**SCREEN INFO. SETTINGS** allows you to set the options that will display on the rear screen of the camera, the options that are enabled here are scrolled through by pressing the INFO button on the rear of the camera. Each press will advance to the next display setting.

You have options to turn each display on or off. As

a default all 5 options are enabled. Possibly the most significant for those that shoot using the viewfinder and who are used to using the DSLR EOS models is the ability to make the normal Q screen appear on the rear of the camera (option 5) which will make setting a lot of the options much more familiar.

The other 4 options allow you to choose from displays that show very little information to have the full information plus a live histogram showing.

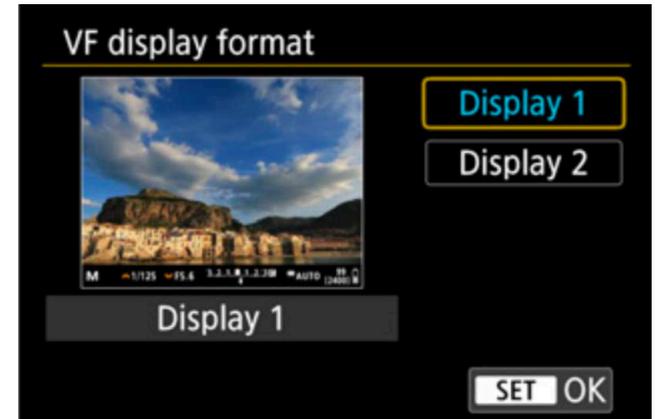
At the bottom of options 1, 2 and 3 the screen shows that pressing the INFO button or tapping the INFO option on the screen will bring up more options.



This option allows you to customize what will be showing on the screen at the time of shooting.

These options only affect the screen on the rear of the camera and not the camera's electronic viewfinder.

**VF DISPLAY FORMAT** allow you to set up the options



for the electronic viewfinder if it is fitted. There are only three options this time as the Q screen is not available in the viewfinder.

If the viewfinder is not fitted then these options disappear from the menu.

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