

# Mastering the EOS 77D

Especially written for **Canon EOS** users

A simple, modern approach to mastering all the advanced features on your Canon EOS 77D camera which allows you to take even better images



Written by Nina Bailey

## About this book

This book is designed for photographers who have used EOS cameras for a reasonable length of time and have recently upgraded or as a follow on volume from the Getting started with your EOS 77D (illustrated bottom left) which looks at the basic features and key operation of the camera and also explains the basic settings that are generally used within photography today.

This book sets out to look at the advanced features that are offered by the camera and teach you how to use the camera to its very fullest extent. There is a very small amount of overlap at the start of the books as it is important for all photographers to familiarise themselves with some of the basic controls the camera has. The book assumes a good understanding of the terms used within photography and that you will understand when and how the modes the camera offers are used, as these are covered in depth

in the Getting started with your EOS 77D book.

The EOS 77D sets new standards for focusing and overrides for a camera that is targeted into principally the novice market. The extensive range of features presented allows you to cope with a very wide range of subjects and make it a camera that you will not outgrow in the near future.

However, as is so often the case with modern technology, this flexibility with the ways that it can be used inevitably increases the complexity of the camera. Therefore to use it to its fullest extent the photographer will require a good understanding of the features that it has and when they should be used.

With any of the EOS cameras, no photographer uses all the features, in fact most photographers will only ever use about 25% of the features their cameras

have. However, each photograph has its own features and settings which are so specific to the subjects that they photograph.

There is no one setting that works for every situation that you are likely to tackle, you get the best results by learning to use the settings that are relevant to the images that you shoot. This book sets out to give you the knowledge you need to confidently use the features necessary for your photography.



### Getting started with the EOS 77D

Especially written for Canon EOS users

A simple, modern and non-technical approach to learn how to use your Canon EOS 77D camera to take great images



Written by Nina Bailey

Written, designed and images by Nina Bailey

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## About the author



Nina started her career in the retail sector of the photographic industry and then moved to Canon UK 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 not only of 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 developed and produces content for new Online EOS Training Academy after also writing and producing a range of 23 training DVDs especially for Canon EOS photographers which the Online training academy now supersedes.

In 2015 EOS Training academy merged with EOS Magazine and Nina is Technical Editor of EOS

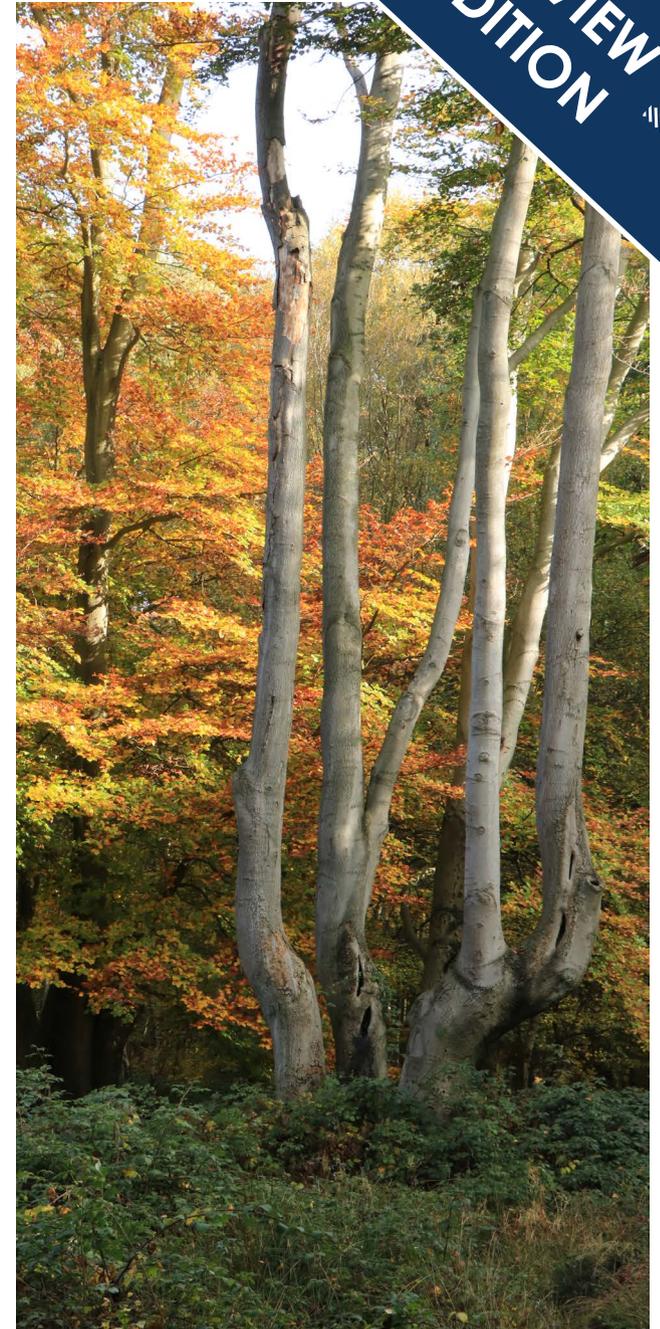
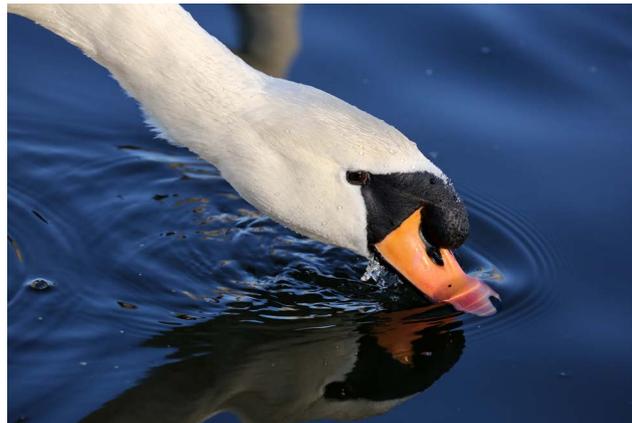
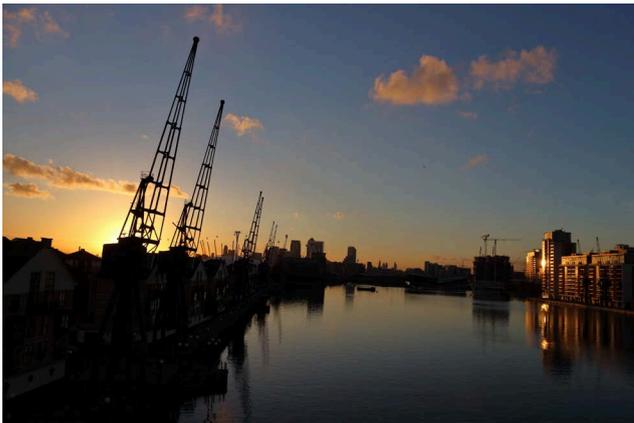
Magazine and Senior Lecturer of EOS Training Academy. As technical editor Nina writes of lot of the magazine's features and her images appear regularly in the magazine.

In 2014 Nina started producing her own range of ebooks to bring photography training to an ever wider audience and now has a range of over 45 books which are available as PDF ebooks.

A lot of the inspiration for these books comes from the experienced gains on the many courses Nina runs and understanding the things that the many photographers struggle with when getting to grips with a new EOS model.

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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About the EOS 77D

## About the EOS 77D

The EOS 77D is a new model to the Canon range, although in many ways it's an evolution of the EOS 760D. This model adds the 45 point AF system that was first seen in the EOS 80D.

In the past there was a need to go to a heavier bulkier camera to get the type of focusing system that can cope with action photography, whether it be shooting football, birds in flight, air shows, kids playing or anything else that moves.

The EOS 77D changes this by offering a focusing system with 45 AF points which will make tracking movement far easier and all without the complications of needing to understand the high degree of customisation that is found on the higher level models in the range.

This model also adds the f8 focusing capability that has been only seen on the heavier and more costly models, though with a slightly more limited lens compatibility, which I will look at within the focusing chapter. Even with this limited compatibility this still makes this model one of the most affordable options for wildlife photography that we have seen to date.

One of the things that I have really enjoyed using are the touch controls, which although not new to the EOS range, work well for speeding up and simplifying the setting of many of the options.

The EOS 77D is designed as a 1.6x crop sensor model suitable for all areas of photography, the crop factor allowing more reasonably size and priced lenses to be used.

However, despite a lot of upgrading on the focus



system, the camera has retained its ease of use and familiar feel of the EOS range, adopting a layout which echoes the other higher level models in look and feel to make the camera easier to use for more advanced users. This has made it more user friendly for the novice and enthusiast photographers to get

to grips with.

There has also been added a new menu system which can be adapted according to the experience of the camera user.





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Layout changes

## About the layout

The EOS 77D has a similar layout to the mid range or advanced models that have been produced from about 2009. So if you have used some of the higher models at some stage, it may well at a first glance look very similar to what you are used to.

If you have previously been using a more basic or introductory model such as the EOS 500D, 550D, 600D, 650D or 700D then its layout is going to be very different and it is the change from these models that is the hardest to acclimatise to. So the model that you have used before will change how much of the camera is strange in operation to you. If you are new to the EOS range then the good news is that all the other current models in the range have much the same layout.

The items that are outlined in red will be in either a different position or new to many photographers. The items in green will be new to those that have only used the more basic models and are either in a different location or did not exist at all on the camera you have been used to using.

As you might notice that's a lot of the camera's features and functions covered by those outlines which is why in this first chapter I want to look at the basic layout and key controls that the camera has on it.

For some of these options many will be familiar with what the feature does, it's simply where it has been moved to that is different.

Some of these changes have been caused by the flip screen, others simply reflect the newer ways of setting the camera. If you have not had a camera with touch controls on before it is worth getting used to them as it can make the operation of the camera quicker and simpler.



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## Top plate

**Mode Dial** - This has a lock button in the centre that needs to be pressed and held down before the dial is rotated. The familiar PIC modes are still on the mode dial, there is now a SCN option on the dial, then the additional modes are chosen from the screen on the rear of the camera. There is now a choice of 11 PIC/SCN modes. The traditional Portrait, Landscape, Action, Close up are still there in the dial but are joined by Night portrait, Kids, Groups, Food, Candelight, Handheld Night Scene mode and a HDR backlit modes within the scene settings. There is also a new Creative filter mode. I looked at the operation of these models within the Getting started with the EOS 77D book.

In addition to the normal P, AV, TV and M shooting modes, the B or bulb mode is found within the manual mode option. This allows shutter speeds of longer than 30 seconds to be used when controlled and timed manually by the photographer. It has its own setting for speed of accessing the option.

**Top buttons** - The top buttons have been very much simplified on this model, with only the AF area selection button, ISO and light options being on the top of the camera. It is worth noting that the ISO button is marked with a pimple on it making it easy to find and use to activate the setting of the ISO whilst looking through the viewfinder. This makes it the only one of the buttons I now use on a regular basis.

**LCD top display** - This is used when setting things using the function buttons. It is also useful as a quick check about what is set on the camera. However, the



display does not give as much information as the Q screen and is much more difficult to read.

**AF area selection mode button** - This button is set as a default to allow the changing of the focusing area. Though many photographers will find this easier to set from the rear quick screen using the touch controls. The camera offers four focusing areas

allowing the camera's set up to be changed according to the type of subject that you are shooting.

**Dioptic adjustment dial** - This can be rotated and will change the optical viewfinder to suit various eyesight requirements. To adjust it, point it at a subject and get the camera to focus and then rotate the dial till the image looks sharp. Also check the numbers at the bottom of the viewfinder are sharp.

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## Rear of camera

The rear of the camera is where all photographers are going to notice some differences regardless of the model that they are familiar with.

**Live view** - The live view option on the camera is switched on by just pressing the button. Pushing the button will also start and stop the movie recording if the camera is switched to the movie position on the On/Off switch.

**Quick control dial** - This is a standard feature on the mid range EOS cameras. If you have used the introductory models previously this is used to navigate in the menus and set various functions on the camera. Inside of the rotating part of the quick control dial are some function buttons that allow some features to be directly accessed. This control also works as a navigation control moving left, right, up and down to select things on the quick screen or within the menus. If you have used the more basic models this will be a new feature.

**Lock** - This can be used to lock the camera's dials to prevent accidental setting of the features.

The default on the camera is for the lock, to only lock the quick control dial to prevent its accidental use. However it is possible within the camera's menu to change its function so that when locked the main dial and touch controls can additionally be locked so that the camera settings cannot be changed by accident.

It is a good option to have, however, you need to remember that the camera has the function as when it is locked some features on the camera may not be able to be dialled in at all.



**Q button** - This is a button on the rear of the camera that not all photographers will be familiar with. This started to appear on models about 2010/2011 and now features on all the models in the range. However, there are still photographers who have it on their cameras who do not truly appreciate how much easier it has made the cameras use.

A key feature of the Q button is that it has standardised the way that all EOS models are set, making it much easier to change between various models in the range.

# Using the Q button to set the camera's key functions

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Q screen

Q button

Quick control dial and function buttons

The Q button allows all the main functions on the camera to be set from the screen. The Q screen only appears like this if the camera is set to one of the Creative modes. That's P, TV, AV or M mode on the EOS 77D. If you are in the Auto or SCN modes the display will be different, as the only options selectable will be ISO speed, the file format and a few creative option within the PIC/CA modes and the one that is displayed.

When you press the Q button on the rear of the camera the screen appears with a highlighted box.

To navigate around the screen, the function buttons are used. Once the item is highlighted then you set the feature using the main dial on the top, or for most controls the quick control dial on the rear of the camera also works. To see what options you have press the set button. Most options then are set using the quick control dial or the function buttons.

On some features the main dial may also operate some options. To get out of the setting screen either wait a few seconds, or touch the shutter button which will return the camera to its normal shooting operation.

The function buttons also allow direct access to some of the camera's other key functions without the need to go to the Q button. These functions are WB-White balance, AF- Autofocus mode, Picture Style and the drive and self timer settings.

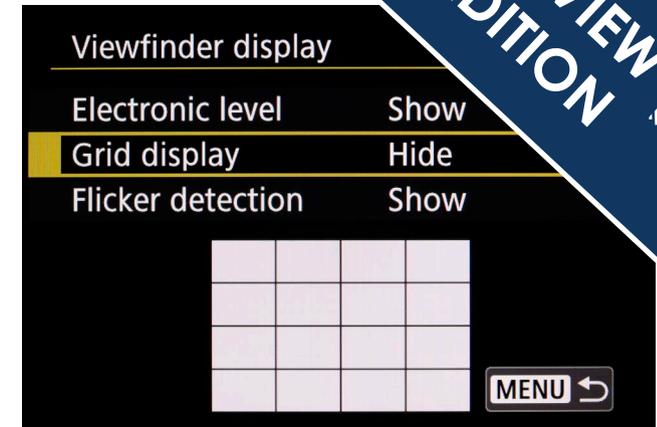
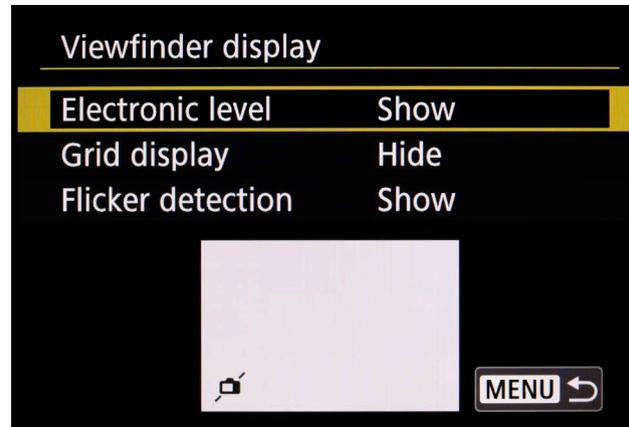
## INFO button options

As standard the display comes up automatically when the camera is on. If the INFO button gets pressed it is possible to switch to a level display or turn the display off. If this happens just press the INFO button again to bring the screen back up. To set things on the screen with the touch controls press the Q in the bottom left corner to activate the screen or you can press the Q button on the rear of the camera and navigate using the function buttons to the item you want to set and then use the quick control dial and main dial to set the item you want. Generally the touch controls are the easiest way to set anything on the camera.



# Viewfinder changes

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- Horizontal
- Tilt 1°
- Tilt 2° or higher

There is now a new option within the setup menu called viewfinder display, which we have just looked at for the viewfinder information. When you are in this menu there are three options provided.

The first is for the viewfinder level to be turned on or off. The viewfinder level is turned off as a default and needs to be turned on here for it to show.

The second is for the viewfinder grid display to be either disabled or enabled. The viewfinder grid is always a 6 x 4 grid. This is turned off as standard. This has been on a number of models but photographers seem to get very confused between this option and the live view options.

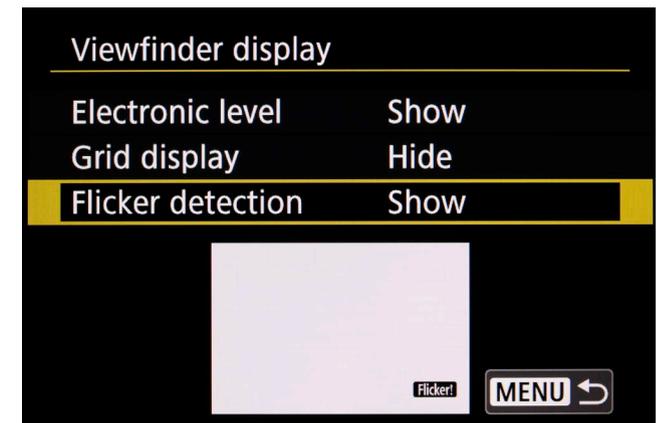


The grid in the viewfinder is turned on from the second of the setup menus. The viewfinder grid is always a 6 x 4 grid.

The option to turn the live view grid on and off is found within the live view settings in the shoot part of the menu. There are options within the live view to have a 3 x 3 grid effectively splitting the live view screen according to the rule of thirds. There is an option for the same 6 x 4 grid that is used in viewfinder and also display with diagonal lines marked as well. It is important to remember that

these are two totally separate displays and therefore are set in very different places.

The camera now also features flicker detection. This senses when fluorescent lighting is causing a problem which can give erroneous exposures and will flash to show that the camera is correcting for it in the viewfinder. This is turned on as standard.



## Using the Q button to set the playback functions

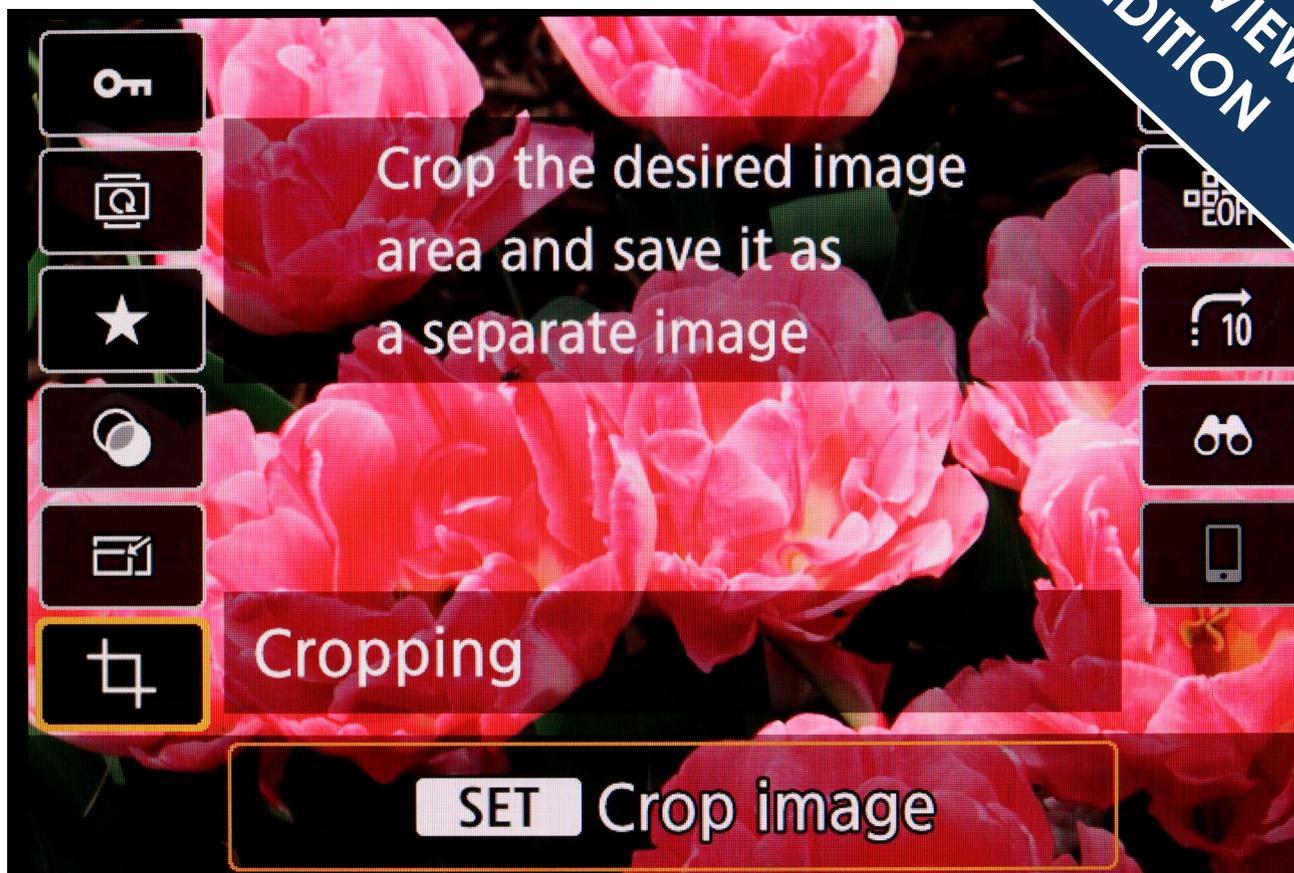
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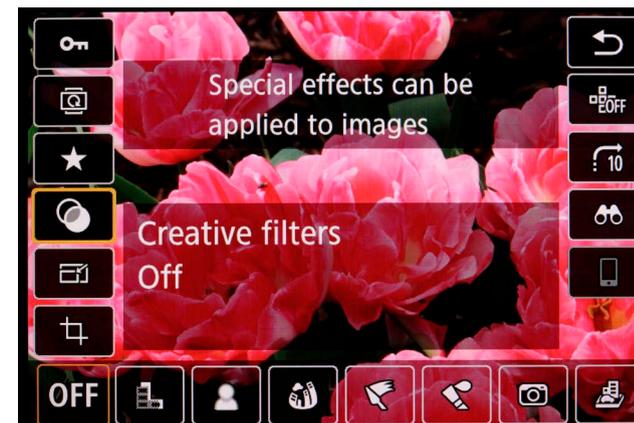
On the EOS 77D, the playback functions are also available via the Q button as shown in the images on the page. When playing back an image, simply press the Q button on the rear of the camera and the menu options will be listed down the sides of the screen.

Navigation through the menu items is via the function buttons. As soon as the item is selected, all the items that are available are listed along the bottom of the screen. To change the settings it is the main dial on the top of the camera or the quick control dial on the rear. The touch controls can also be used to select and set items in this screen. All of these commands can also be accessed through the playback menus.

Some of the commands are easier to use from this screen whilst others are more commonly accessed through the playback menu. Most of the options will be familiar as they appear on all the EOS models. One that makes a lot of sense to access from this screen is the creative filter option that the camera offers.



This will be a new option to many photographers as it has not been found within the Canon range for very long. This allows special effects to be added to images that you have on the memory card and then for that special effect image to be saved as a new file. I look at them and the new creative filter mode in depth in the Getting started with the EOS 77D.



## Using the Q button to set the live view functions

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On the EOS 77D, the live view functions are also available via the Q button as shown in the images on the page. Live view is turned on by pressing the live view button to the right of the camera viewfinder.

When live view is active pressing the Q button on the top right of the live view screen or the Q button on the rear of the camera will bring up the controls.

I will take a look at the live view operation towards the end of the book as when shooting on the rear screen some of the camera's operation will change.

The most notable is the autofocus system that changes to a different system due to the camera's reflex mirror needing to be raised to allow live view to operate and therefore the camera's normal AF system is unable to operate.

The live view focusing on this model has improved a lot over earlier models but it is still slower and less responsive than the system we normally use through the optical viewfinder and so it is not recommended for use with fast moving subjects.



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# Key Camera Overrides

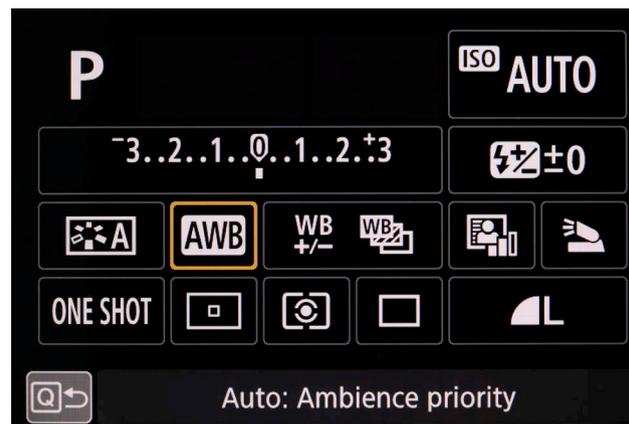
## Understanding the Q screen display

The Q screen on the rear of the camera is turned on all the time on this model. To set something you have to press the Q button or touch the Q in the bottom left hand corner (number 15 on the display to the right) to activate the screen to use either the normal or touch controls.

When the item is highlighted it can be set by simply turning the main dial or in most instances the quick control dial will change the options as well. If the touch controls are used to touch the highlighted box or the set button is pressed it will take you into a more detailed menu with all the options available displayed. You then either navigate to the one you want or simply tap the option you want. If you have the feature guide active it will bring up the description of what the control does and then you have to tap again to enter the more detailed options. This is why I recommend turning it off if you no longer need it.

The touch controls on this model work exactly the same as any other smart device, so I am not going to go through their operation in depth in this book.

It is important when you start to use the creative modes that you check the camera settings when you pick up camera the first time. In the non-guided part of the camera none of the options are re-set automatically. The easiest place to check what the camera is set up to, is to look at the Q screen on the rear of the camera. The normal settings for the items highlighted are shown to the right. I will look in more depth at most of these options later in this chapter.



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## Understanding the Q screen display

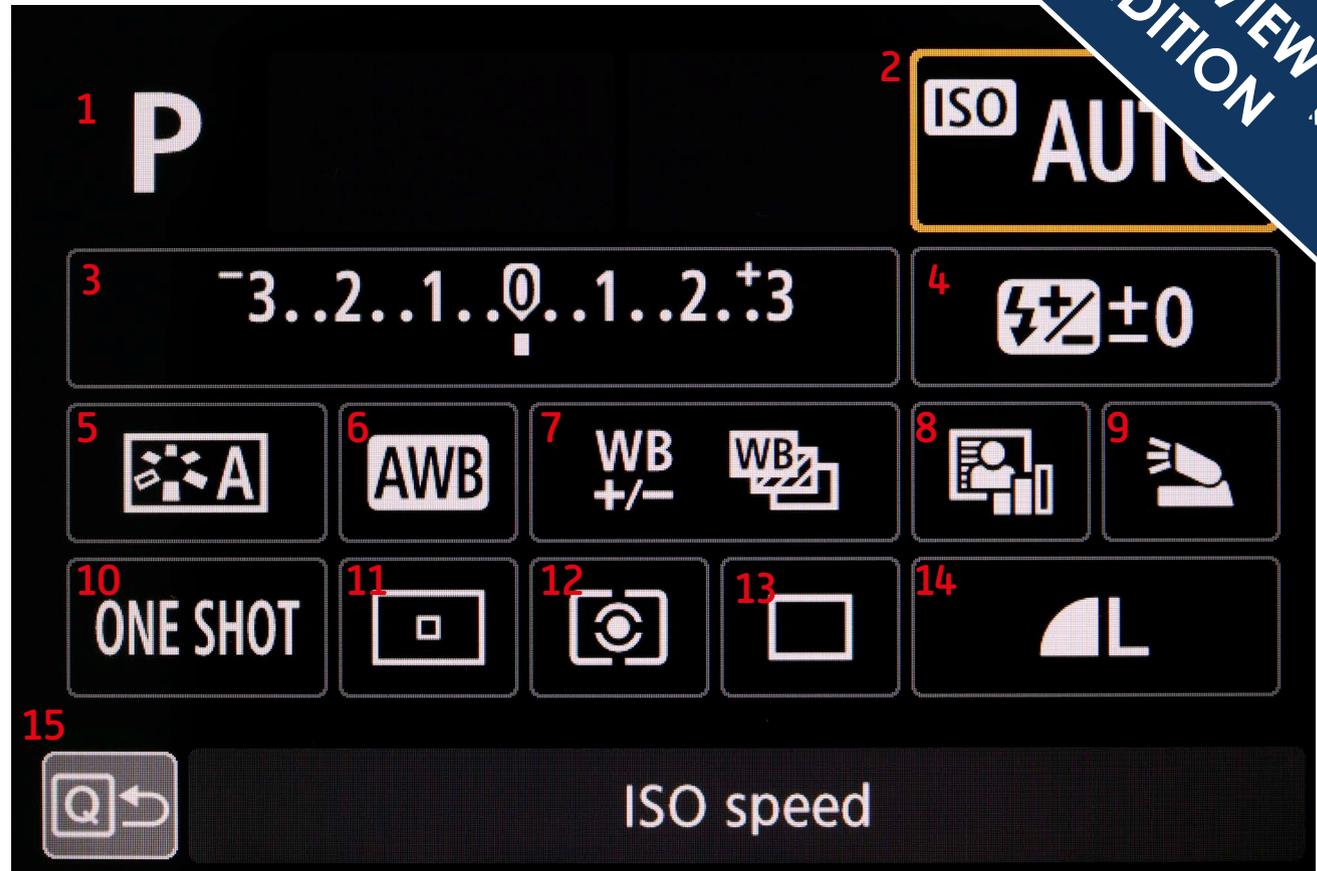
**1. Mode** - This is the only option that cannot be changed from the Q screen itself, it is simply there to remind you what the exposure mode dial is set to.

**2. ISO setting** - The auto ISO works well for those that are very new to photography. The ISO will change automatically depending on the light level that you are shooting in. As soon as the shutter button is touched it will change from showing the word AUTO to the actual ISO that is going to be used.

**3. Exposure compensation** - The exposure compensation function allows you to make the image lighter or darker. On the guided part of the camera it is referred to as the brightness control. Moving the slider to the right towards plus will make the image lighter and the other way towards minus will make the image darker. This is the most commonly used override on the camera, but it is also the most frequently mis-set item on the screen and it is essential to check it is in the zero position before shooting.

**4. Flash compensation** - This allows you to apply compensation to the brightness of the flash, either the built in unit or to an external flashgun. This only affects flash light, the exposure compensation only affects natural or ambient light.

**5. Picture style** - The Picture style is automatically optimising the image to give it the correct contrast, saturation, and sharpening for the type of image that you are shooting. For the newcomer to photography this is best left on its automatic setting indicated by



the A, where the camera does a very good job of setting this option for you. I will look in more depth at what the Picture styles do later in the book.

**6. AWB** - Auto white balance is the function on the camera that gets the right colours in the pictures when you're shooting. For the newcomer this is best left on its default AWB setting as it is never too far out from what is correct. I will look at using the AWB options in more depth later in the chapter.

**7. White balance shift/bracket** - To the right of the AWB box sometimes shows WB +/- and allows a feature called white balance shift bracket to be set but its only relevant for specialist photographers that need very precise colour accuracy and so I am not looking at it in depth in this book.

**8. Auto Lighting Optimizer** - This is part of the camera's image processing system and should be left on the standard setting most of the time. The

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