

Mastering the EOS 6D Mark II

Especially written for **Canon EOS** users

A simple, modern approach to mastering all the advanced features on your Canon EOS 6D Mark II 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 6D Mark II (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 book 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 6D Mark II book.

The EOS 6D Mark II sets new standards for focusing

and overrides for a full frame camera that is targeted into the enthusiast 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 easily outgrow.

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 photographer will use different features and settings which are so often defined by the subjects that they photograph.

There is no one setting that works for every subject

that you are likely to tackle, you can improve your images by learning to use the settings that will give you 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.



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Getting started with the EOS 6D Mark II

Especially written for Canon EOS users

A simple, modern and non technical approach to learn how to use your Canon EOS 6D Mark II 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 Principal Lecturer of EOS Training Academy. As technical editor Nina writes a lot of the magazines features and her images appear regularly in most issues.

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 50 books which are available as ebooks.

Nina started taking images when she was very young and is still a very keen photographer both professionally and personally.

In 2017 Nina launched a new range of Pocketbooks for the more recent Canon EOS range of cameras. These are a concise guide to the most used and confused features and controls on your camera, based on Nina's vast experience as lecturer at EOS Training Academy – hearing first-hand what photographers want to know and understand about how their EOS camera operates. The guides are available through the EOS Magazine online shop.



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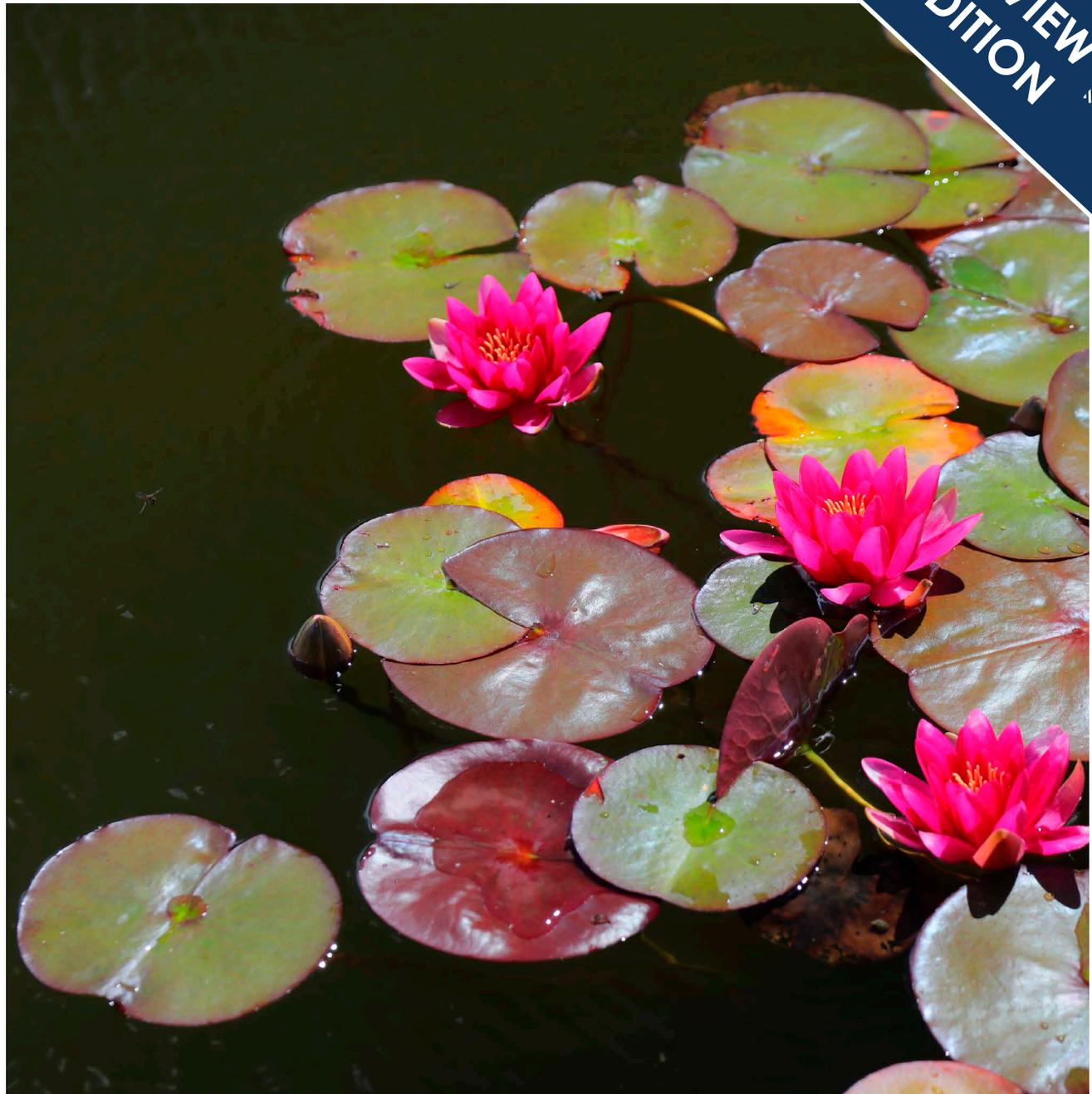
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About the EOS 6D Mark II

About the 6D Mark II

The EOS 6D Mark II is much more than just a revamped version of the EOS 6D. It has a number of significant changes and offers a much more sophisticated focusing system than its predecessor.

The 6D Mark II introduces a high performance auto focusing system to the full frame enthusiast range, allowing even more photographers to tackle action photography successfully.

Featuring 45 autofocus points and the ability to use 27 AF points at f8 apertures with selected lenses and extender combinations, this has the type of focusing system that can cope with all action photography, whether it be shooting football, birds in flight, air shows, kids playing or anything else that moves.

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 option to use touch controls also simplifies the new menu system.

The overall ease of use has mostly been retained, and although the camera features many of the customisations and configuration options found on the more advanced models, they have a good general default and so do not have to be used unless the photographer wishes, making this a much easier camera to get to grips with than the 5D Mark IV that sits above it in the range.

The 6D Mark II is designed as a full frame sensor model suitable for all areas of photography.



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01 - Layout changes

Top plate

Mode Dial - The mode dial now has a push button in the middle to prevent it moving accidentally. This needs depressing before the mode dial can be turned. However, the most noticeable difference is that many of the familiar modes will have disappeared. The Auto+ and Creative Auto mode are still on the mode dial but the SCN mode now contains all the PIC modes that were on the dial on many earlier models.

In addition to the normal P, AV, TV and M shooting modes there is a B or bulb mode, found on some cameras within the manual mode options. 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.

The camera also has two C modes, C1, C2 which can be programmed to the photographer's specific requirements. They are designed to allow the saving of specific set ups of the camera to allow quick and easy setting for regularly shot subjects. I will look in a later chapter at their use and how to set them up, as you need to understand the camera's settings fully before they become a really useful option.

Focusing area selection button - This is used once the focusing point selection button has been pressed to change the currently selected focusing area. Each time the button is pressed the focusing area will change. It is easiest to view this on the rear of the camera rather than through the camera's viewfinder as the area being set is much more obvious.

Function buttons - This model still has the function buttons on the top of the camera but they each only

do a single function. Today these are rarely used as most photographers adapt quickly to the use of the Q buttons and the rear LCD screen to set the functions available rather than use these buttons.

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, making 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-ON button - This effectively repeats the function of the shutter button to activate the focusing and metering on the camera, allowing what some photographers call back button focusing. Its been found on all mid and high level models since about 2009.



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/movie control - If this switch is in its vertical position the live view option on the camera is switched on by just pressing the central button. Pushing the button a second time will also turn the live view off. The Live view menu is only available when the camera is switched into the live view mode.

If the switch is pushed to the left then this takes the camera into the movie shooting mode. In this mode pressing the central button starts and stops the movie recording. This is now becoming fairly standard on the mid and top end models. The movie menu can only be accessed when the camera is set to the movie mode.

Multi controller - A multi controller has been found on all the mid range models for a long time. If you have used the more basic models this will be a new feature. Its main use is for navigating within the menus, but it can also be used to set some of the camera's other features.

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. It often duplicates the functionality of the multi controller, although at times they will set different functions.

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 custom function to change its function so that when locked either the multi controller or main dial can additionally be locked so that the camera settings cannot be changed by accident.

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. Though there are still photographers who have it on their cameras

that 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.

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

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The Q button allows all the main functions on the camera to be accessed from the screen. The Q screen only appears like this if the camera is set to P, TV, AV or M modes. That's P, TV, AV or M mode on the 6D Mark II. If you are in C, S, A or the SCN modes the display will be different, as the options selectable will be limited within these modes and this is all that is displayed.

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

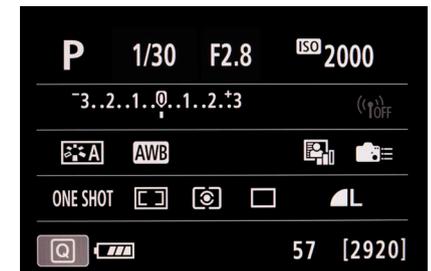
To navigate around the screen, the multi controller is used. Once the item is highlighted then you set the feature using the main dial on the top, or for most controls the quick control dial on the rear of the camera also works. To see what options you have, press the set button. Most options then are 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 AF-Autofocus mode, Drive settings, ISO and Metering.

INFO button options

As standard the display only comes up when the Q button has been pressed. However, by pressing the INFO button several times (how many depends on what it has been set to previously) it is possible to get a screen that looks the same just without the highlighted box, as shown in the small image below. This provides a quick and easy way to see the camera's set up at any time and only has a very small effect on the camera's overall battery life.



Advantages of having the INFO screen displayed

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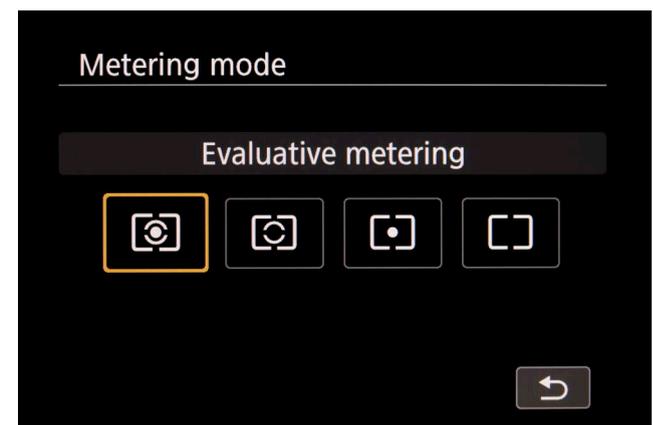
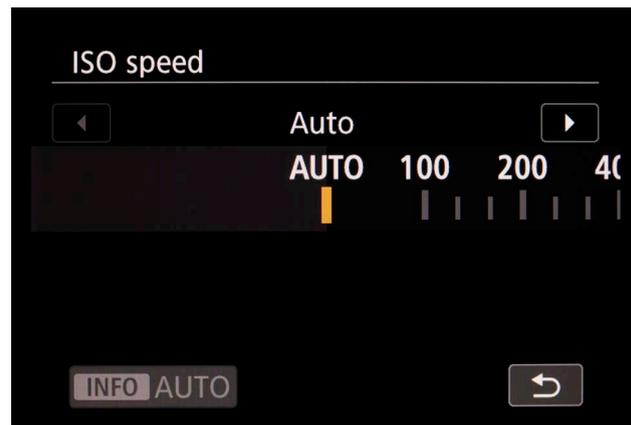
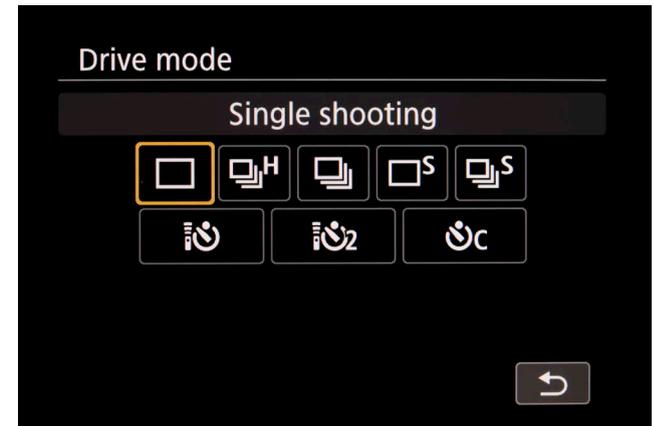
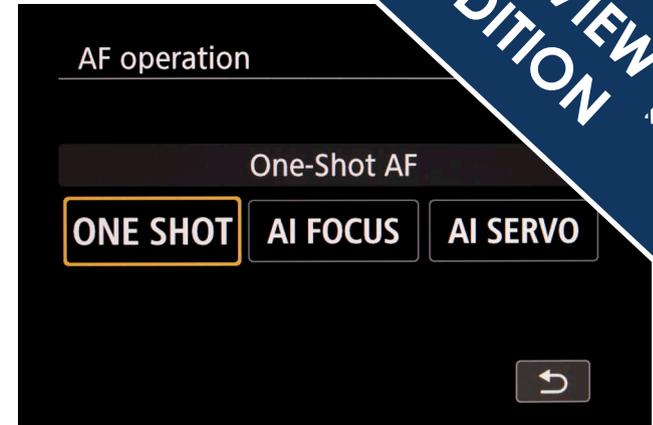
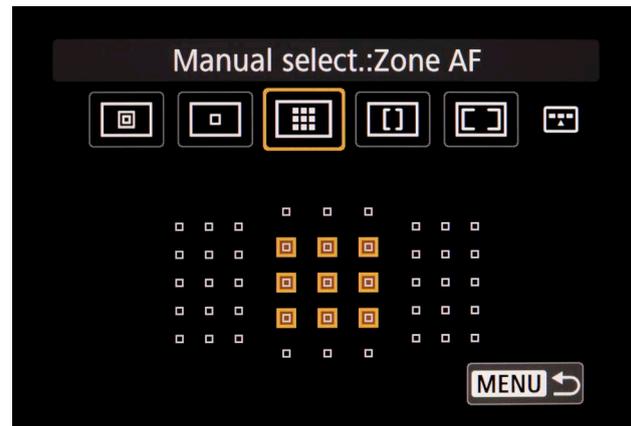
Function buttons

Focusing point selection button

show the options available for that button on the rear screen.

If the focusing point selection button is pressed on the rear of the camera the options for the focusing will also be displayed here.

This can make setting up the focusing options a lot easier to see and understand.



There are advantages of having the display showing the key camera functions permanently displayed.

Firstly it allows you to check at a quick glance the current setting on the camera without the need to push the Q button.

But it also allows the function buttons on the top of the camera to be used to set the functions but not needing the top LCD panel to be used, which is difficult for many photographers to read, especially those of us that need glasses for reading.

When the info screen is showing, if any of the function buttons on the top of the camera are pressed it will

Using the Q button to set the playback functions

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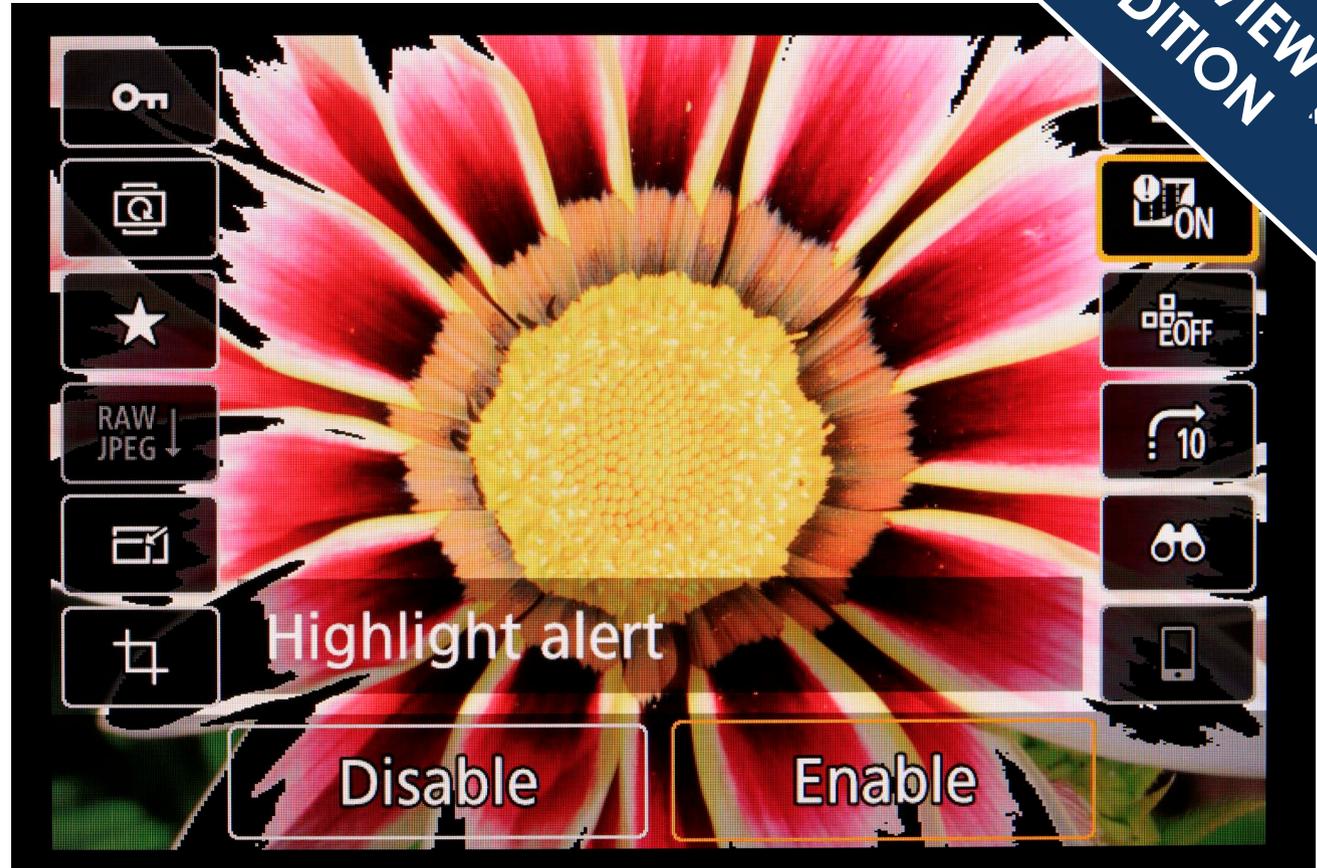


On the EOS 6D Mark II, the playback functions are also available via the Q button as shown in the images on the page. When playing back an image, simply press the Q button on the rear of the camera and the menu options will be listed down the sides of the screen.

Navigation through the menu items is via the multi controller or touch controls. 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, the multi controller 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 menu.

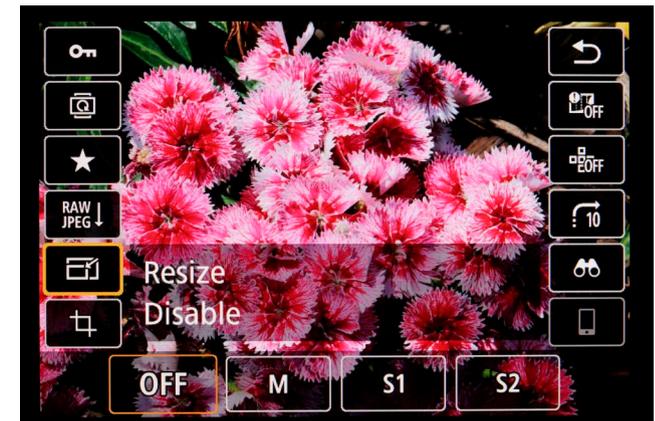
Some of the commands are easier to use from this screen whilst others are more commonly accessed through the playback menu. Most of the options will be familiar as they appear on all the EOS models.

One that makes a lot of sense to access from this screen is the highlight alert option that the camera offers.



Some of the newer options you may not have seen before include a resize option, a cropping feature and a new search option.

These are all much easier and simpler to access directly from the playback screen when you are reviewing images rather than having to go into the specific playback menus.



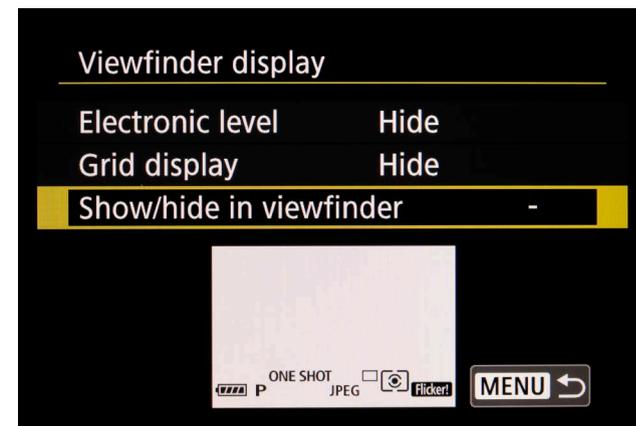
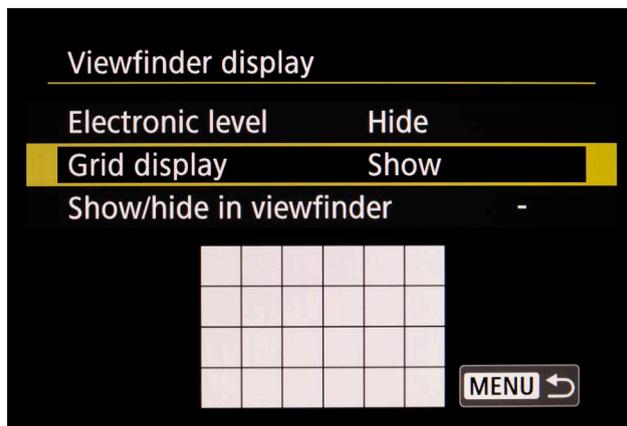
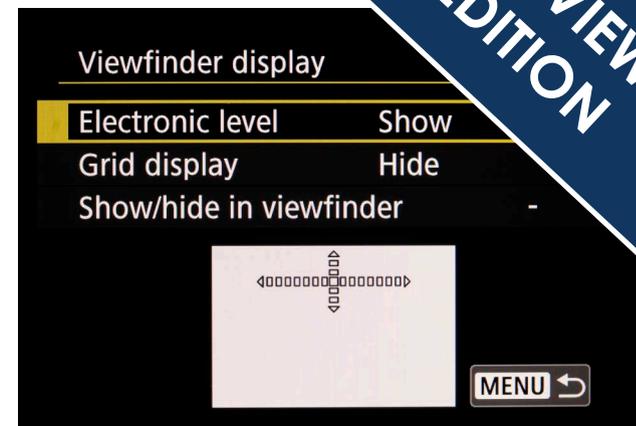
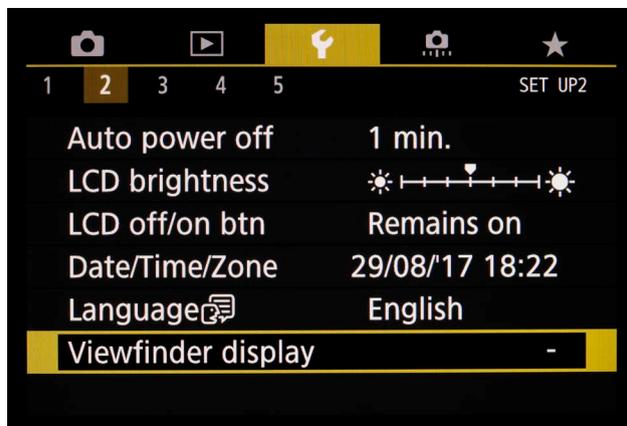
New Viewfinder Displays

Over the past few years we have seen the gradual introduction of additional information in the camera's viewfinder. The EOS 6D Mark II takes this to a new level, with information about the mode, white balance, drive settings, focusing mode, file format, battery status and even features like its flicker reduction. The illustration at the bottom shows everything that can be shown. For this to work it needs to be turned on within the Set up 2 menu which I will look in more depth at later in the book.

This information is in addition to the normal information displayed at the bottom of the viewfinder.

A nice addition to the camera is the viewfinder level that can be turned on to display at the top of the viewfinder. The new level comprises two scales, which increase in length according to how unevenly the camera is being held. It works well and is relatively unobtrusive and I find it can be turned on and then left on all the time.

There is also an option in the same menu to have grid lines displayed in the viewfinder to help with getting the image level and to help assess problems such as converging verticals. This is a feature that some photographers love but others find very distracting and prefer to leave it turned off. All these items need to be turned on if required as the default setting is for all to be turned off.



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INFO help display

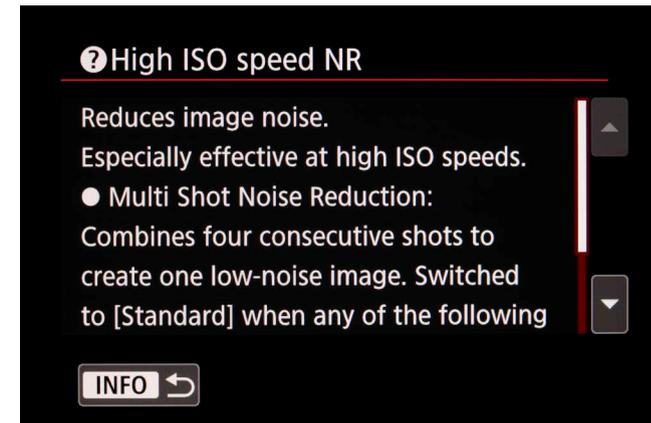
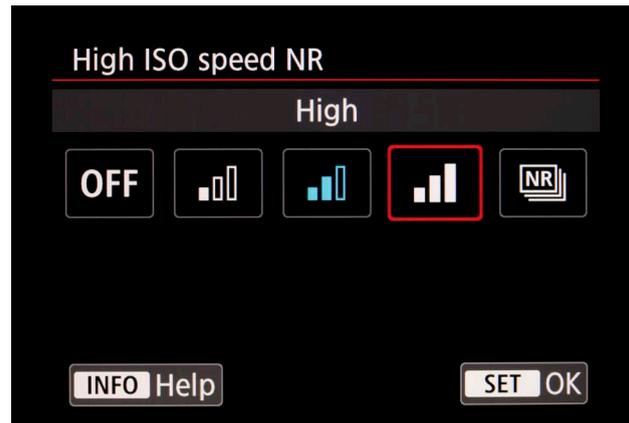
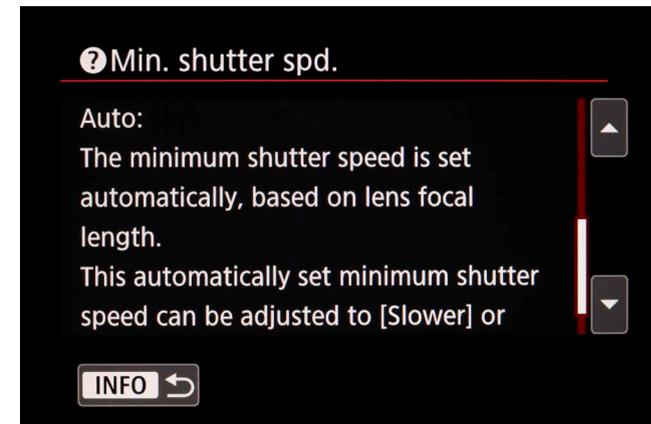
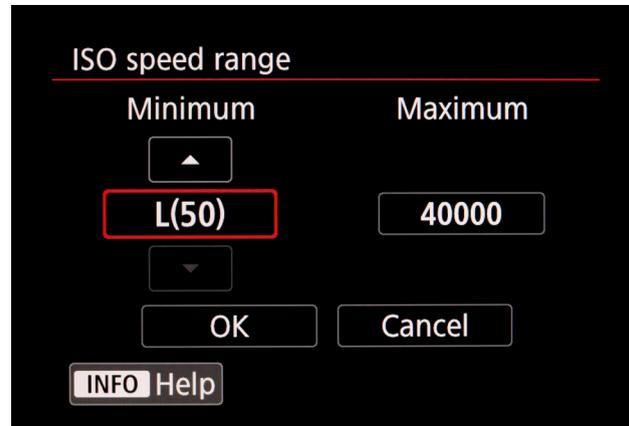
As time goes by the cameras are becoming increasingly complex. On the all the basic models, this has been overcome to a degree by something called a feature guide. Every time you go to a feature that you may need to understand what it does, the camera will display information about it. Although in principle a good idea, it is something that for most experienced photographers, quickly becomes irritating and therefore gets turned off. Therefore in the more advanced models there is a slightly more sophisticated system that has been introduced that is left on but is only active when the photographer presses the INFO button to display the information.

On many of the features that are set within the menus, there is now a display at the bottom that says INFO and then the word help by it. When this is showing, pressing the info button on the camera will bring up a detailed description of what the function does how it is used.

Some of the descriptions are quite long and therefore once in this setting you often see the word INFO plus an image of the quick control dial. When this is showing, whilst still holding down the info button, turning the quick controlled on the rear of the camera will allow you to scroll down the description.

This works well, as now the information is only shown when you want it to come up and therefore does not get in the way and can be left on at all times.

If items are greyed out try pressing the set button whilst they are selected as this may bring up the probable cause for not being able to set them.



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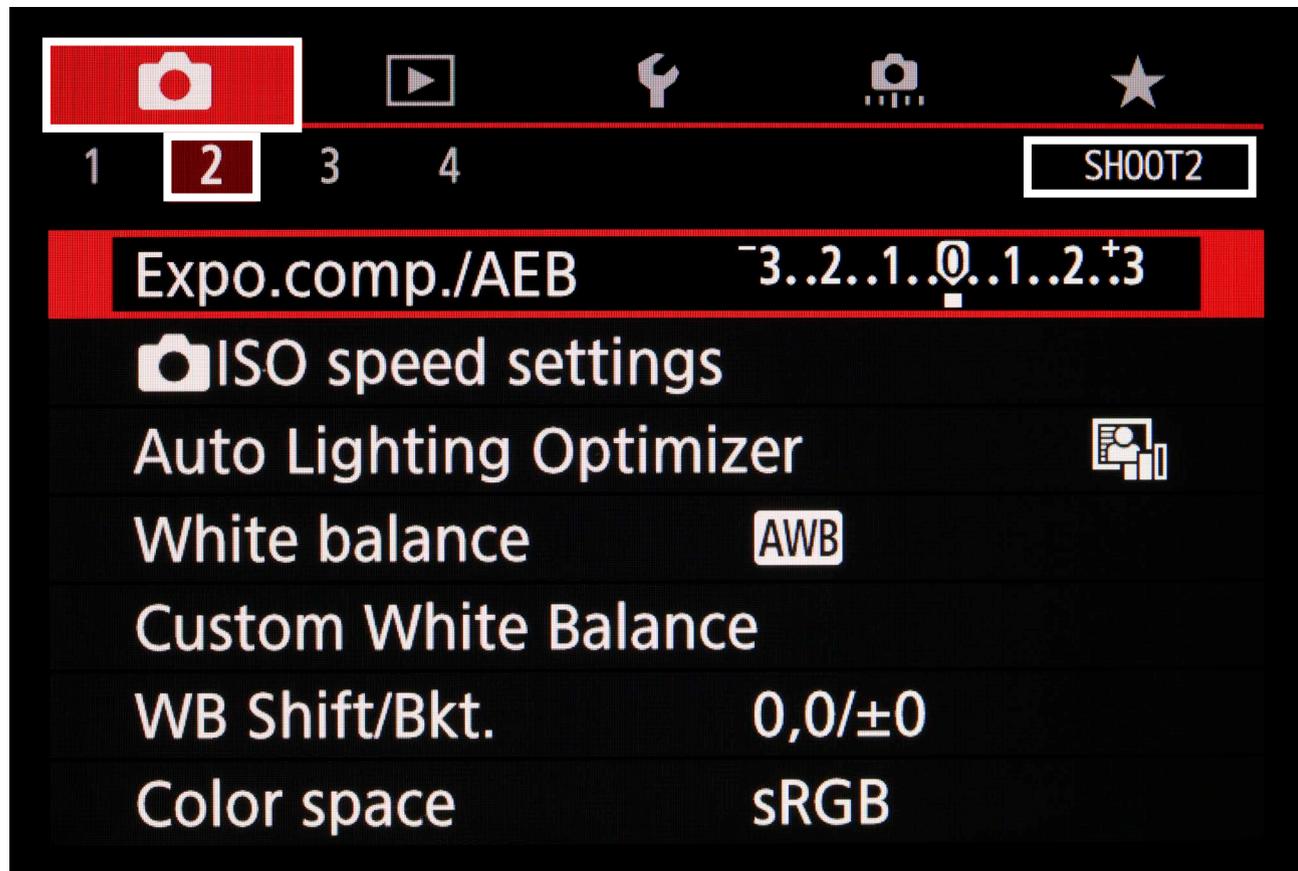
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02 - The Menu System

The menu - basic operation

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The menu system on the EOS 6D Mark II, is the part of the camera that is going to prove to be the biggest culture shock to most photographers. This is not a totally new menu it has been seen before in models such as the 80D, 7D Mark II, and the 1DX series.

At a first glance, The menu system may well look like it's been simplified a lot. You have just the five main tabs along the top of the menu screen. What is easy to miss to start with, are the small numbers underneath that signify menus in their own right. The camera can

have up to 6 submenus in each main menu tab. In total it is possible for this camera to have up to 19 different menus. The number of menus change according to the way that you're using the camera and also how many customised My menu options that you have set up.

Once you get used to it, this menu system works extremely well. To move between the main tabs at the top of the menu screen you need to use the Q button on the rear of the camera.

So the first thing I am going to take a look at is the

menu navigation. The menu is split into submenus or categories. Some of these are the same as the other models in the range but there will be some that will be new to all photographers.

The first is the camera (it has an icon of a camera next to it) or now called the Shoot menu. It's the red tab at the top. You know which of the shoot menus you are in by the position of the red dot under the tab and to the right of those marks it actually tells you the name of the menu. I have highlighted the bits I am talking about in white on the image to the left.

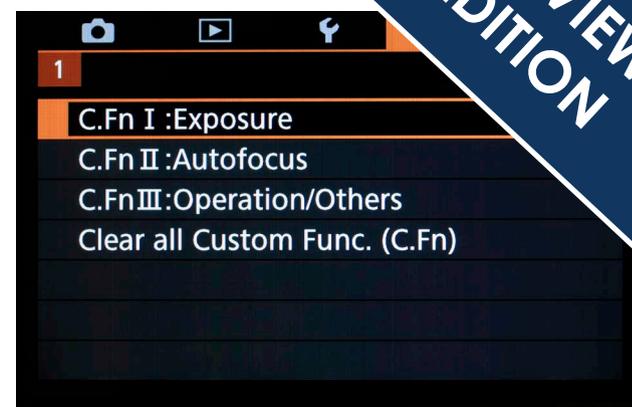
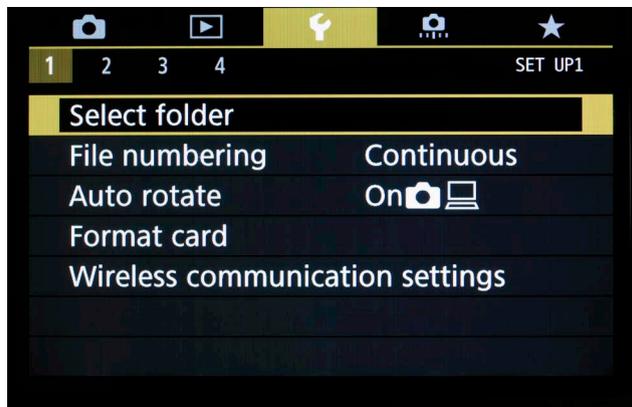
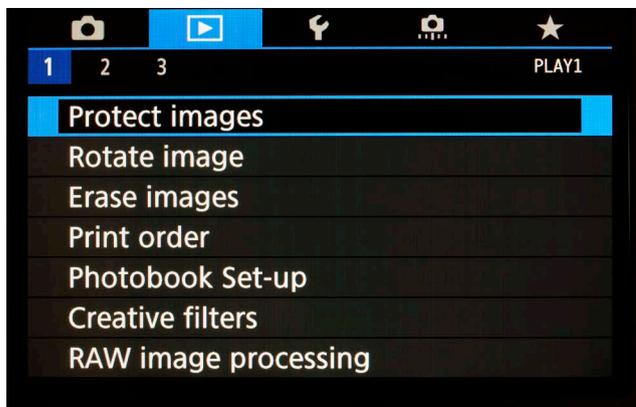
The main way to move between the main tabs or categories is pressing the Q button and that will take you along one main tab or category at a time.

It is also possible to move between the tabs using the multi controller or the main dial, however these both go along a secondary tab at a time or the touch controls can be used.

Once in the tab you want that shows the item you want to set, use the quick control dial to highlight the item you want to set and then press the set button to enter the menu. Once in the menu use the quick control dial again to select the item you want and then press the set button to apply the change. To get out of the menu system at any time simply touch the shutter button partway and the camera will go back to being ready to shoot. The touch controls work well in the menus and effectively take out the need to press the set button much of the time.

As you change between the menus the items in the menu will change. They are arranged fairly logically.

The menu - basic operation



The shoot menu, which is red in colour, contains all the settings that are most commonly used on the camera when shooting images. The first four tabs contains all the main camera settings. The Live View and Movie menus are only accessible once you have either the Live view active or the camera turned to the Movie mode.

The next category along is where the playback options will be found. Most of these will be fairly familiar to most photographers as most of these options have been featured on many other models in the range.

The next menu is yellow in colour and is the Set up menu. This often used to be called the tools menu and contains lots of features that are not accessed very often. Once again, most of what is contained in this menu has been featured on many EOS models.

The next main tab along is orange in colour and contains the camera's Custom Function menu. This used to be one of the most complex menus on the cameras with lots of options. It is now much reduced as many of the options that used to be found in the custom functions have been moved out into the Shoot menu. The

functions left are now mostly about customising the camera to accommodate individual preferences and to configure the focusing system.

The final main tab is green in colour and is a single tab and is the camera's My Menu which can be programmed in by the photographer. This has evolved on this camera to allow up to 5 tabs to be created each of which contain six of your favourite settings. If this is set up correctly it may well mean that you very rarely go into the other menu tabs.

A newly introduced feature within the menu system, is when items are greyed out or dimmed, because of other items that are set, pressing the set button will display what is causing the problem for many, though not all of the options. This is particularly applicable within the Shoot menu, as many of the image processing options can prevent other options from being set.

I am not going to explain every single menu command as most photographers who have used other EOS models will be familiar with a lot of the items in the menu system. I am however going to look at the items

that may be new to at least some photographers. If you are very new to photography the Getting started with your EOS 6D Mark II will have looked at some of the more basic menu commands.

I am not looking at the focusing options within the custom function menu as they will be looked at in depth in the next chapter which is all about the focusing system and how to configure all of its options.

Getting started with the EOS 6D Mark II

Especially written for Canon EOS users

A simple, modern and non technical approach to learn how to use your Canon EOS 6D Mark II camera to take great images



Written by Nina Bailey

PREVIEW
EDITION



Shoot Menus

The Shoot menus - Shoot 1

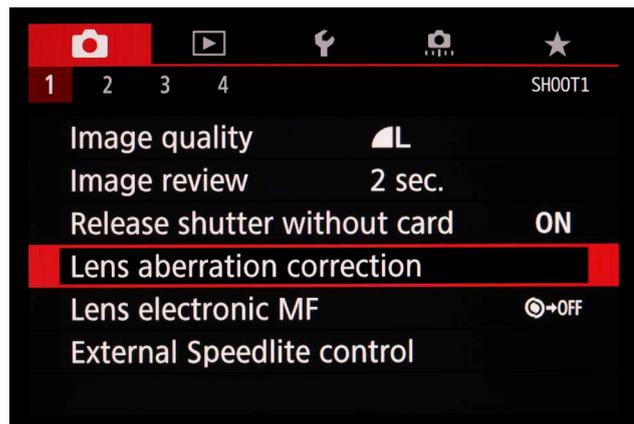
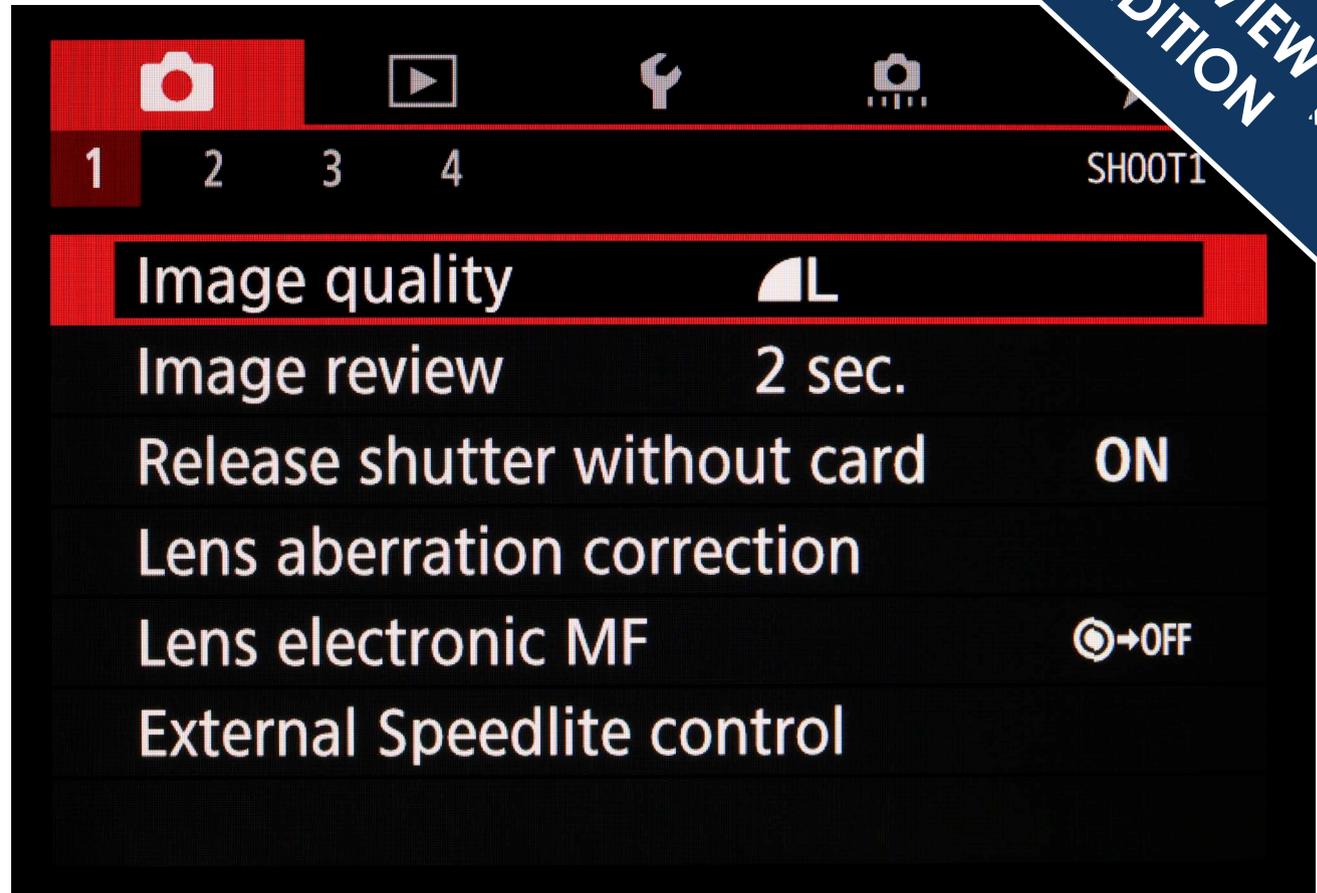
The first of the shoot menus contains the commands that are used the most.

Image quality is basically the same as on any other model except there may well be a few more options to choose from compared to more basic models.

Release shutter without card replaces the older shoot without card option. It stops you taking images without a capture card fitted. By default this is set to on and so one of the jobs when setting up the camera is to turn this to off, that way if there is no card fitted the camera will refuse to shoot.

The lens aberration correction is a new option. Those changing from earlier cameras may already be familiar with peripheral illumination correction which is contained in this menu along with the chromatic aberration correction option. I will look at these in more depth in the chapter about image processing.

The **external speedlite control** option has been on cameras for some years, though it has moved around



within the menus from model to model. This allows an external flash to be controlled from the camera's menu.

The flash needs to be a 600EX RT II, 600EX-RT, 580EX II, 430EX RT, 430EX II, 270EX II, 320EX, MR 14 EX II or a flash launched after 2012 to be compatible with this system. This option allows a lot of the wireless flash options to be set up on the camera, though the flash itself will still need to be told if it is to function as a master or slave unit.

It does offer a clear option which is not on many of the flash units, but some of the options will be easier to set on the flash rather than this menu. I am not looking at the use of external flash units as there is not the space to cover the subject adequately.

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