

Mastering the EOS 200D

Especially written for **Canon EOS** users

A simple, modern approach to mastering all the advanced features on your Canon EOS 200D 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 200D (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 200D book.

The EOS 200D offers the versatility of the Canon EOS system in a small and compact unit, similar in size to the mirrorless models but with a much better focusing performance. The great 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 that they have. However, each photographer will use a different set of features and settings which are so often determined by the subjects that they photograph.

There is no one setting that works for every subject, 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.



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Getting started with the EOS 200D

Especially written for Canon EOS users

A simple, modern and non technical approach to learn how to use your Canon EOS 200D 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

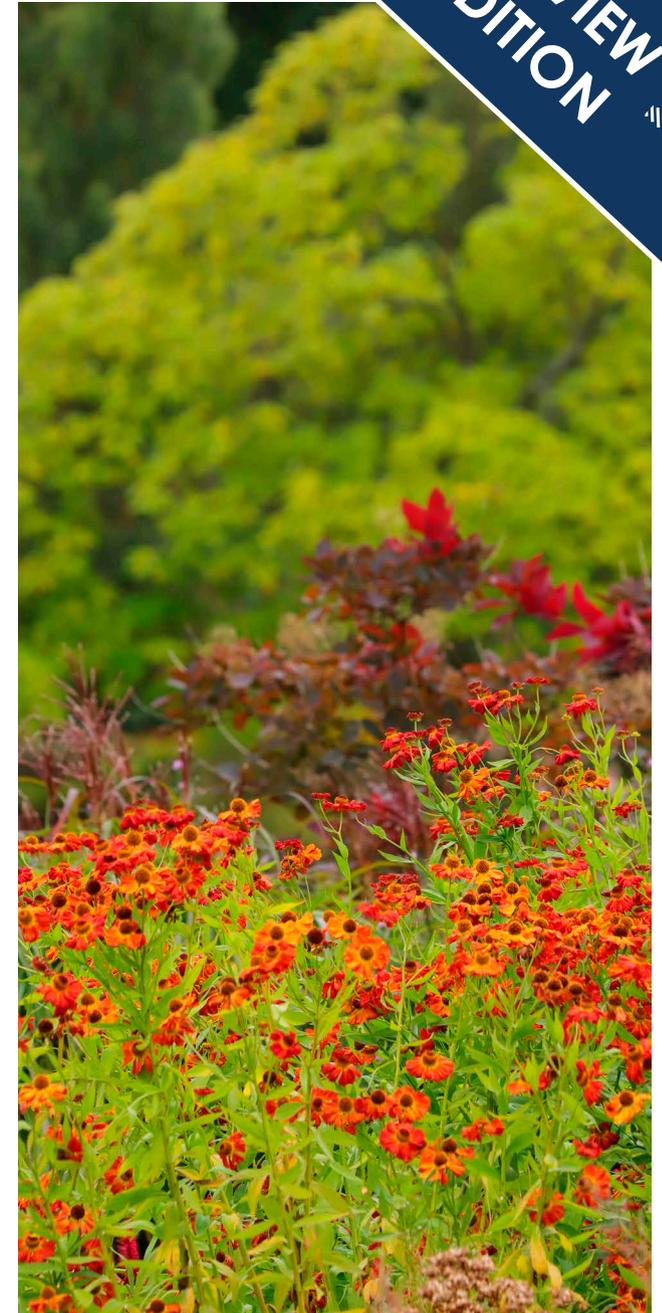
Magazine and Senior Lecturer of EOS Training Academy. As technical editor Nina writes of lot of the magazines features and her images appear regularly in the magazine.

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 now shoots exclusively to illustrate her books and articles.



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About the EOS 200D

About the EOS 200D

The EOS 200D is an evolution of the EOS 100D. This model is designed for light weight and compactness, and rivals some of the mirrorless cameras in its small size and light weight.

The camera has been simplified with a number of the control buttons disappearing and moving to the settings being controlled on either the Q screen or within the menus. There has also been added a new menu system which can be adapted according to the experience of the camera user.

One of the features 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. Indeed it is fair to say that this is possibly the first EOS model where many of the controls really need to be set using the touch controls for ease of use.

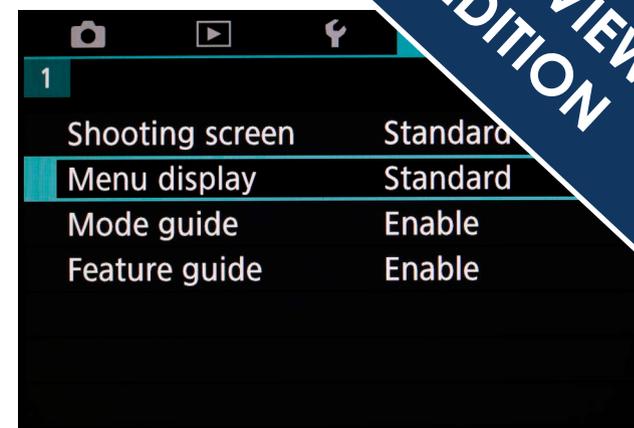
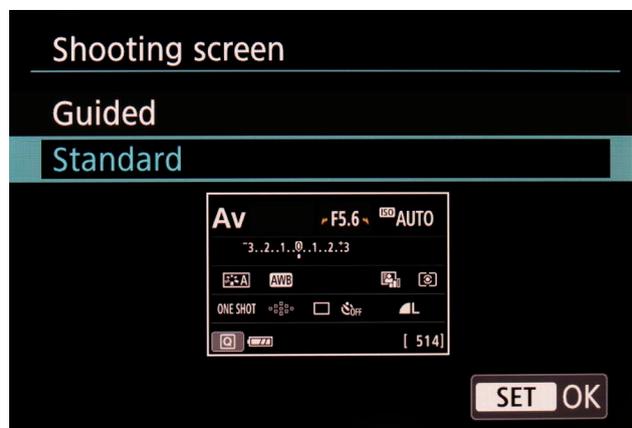
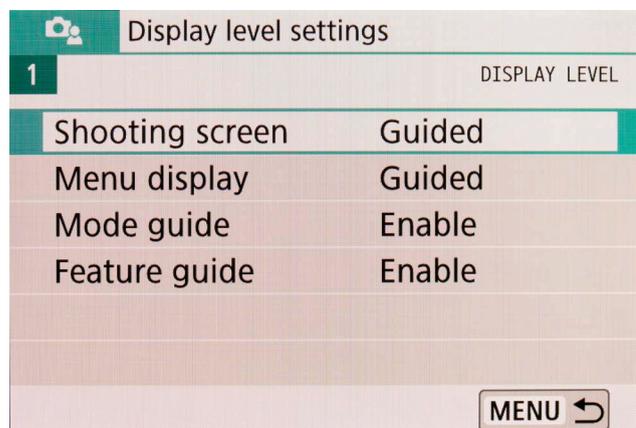
The 200D is designed as a 1.6x crop sensor model suitable for all areas of photography, the crop factor allowing more reasonably sized and priced lenses to be used.

For those new to the EOS models this is a great camera to learn on and the simplified controls will be great to learn with. For others who have been used to models further up the range and who have moved to this model for its small size and weight, it will be a little more challenging to get use to, as there are some slight but significant changes within its Q screen and menu operation.



New menu options on the EOS 200D

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The EOS 200D has some features designed to make its operation easier for the newcomer to photography. The EOS 200D as supplied in the box will have the Shooting Screen and Menu display set to guided and the Mode guide and Feature guide set to enable as shown above. In the Getting Started with the 200D book I left all these options set to their Guided or Enable settings

you used to the way that the EOS further up the range operate so that if you decide to upgrade to other models you will already understand all the key controls.

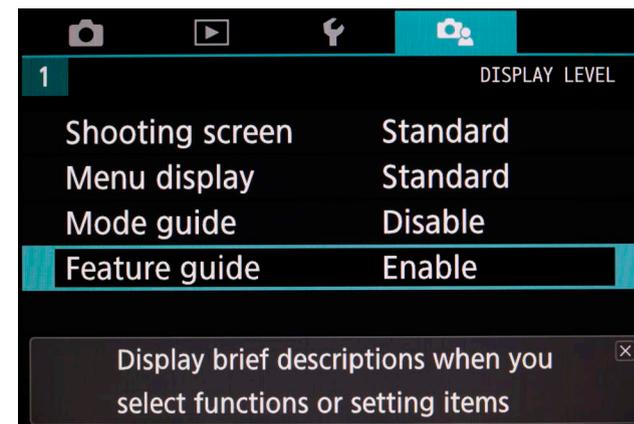
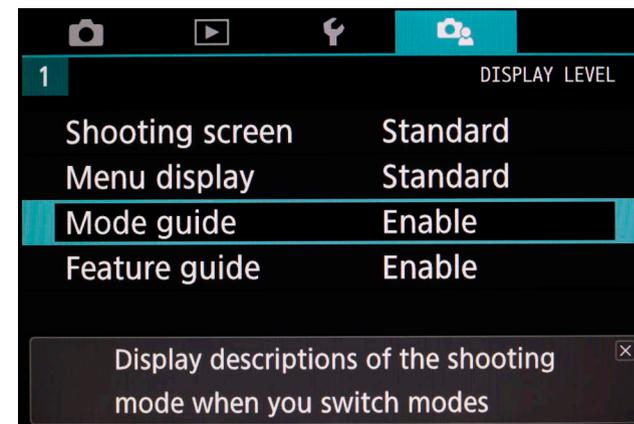
The Mode guide and the Feature guide can be left on if you prefer but as you become more familiar with the camera's operation is more convenient to have both these options set to disable as it can speed up the operation of the camera.

Once you take the Shooting screen and the Menu display into the standard settings the screen will display with a black background rather than the white one that you will have been used to using up until now. This brings the camera in line with all the other EOS models within the range.

To change the settings simply tap on the item you want to change and then tap the option that you want to use to apply it. Tapping on the set button at the bottom right of the screen will apply it and return you to the main screen.

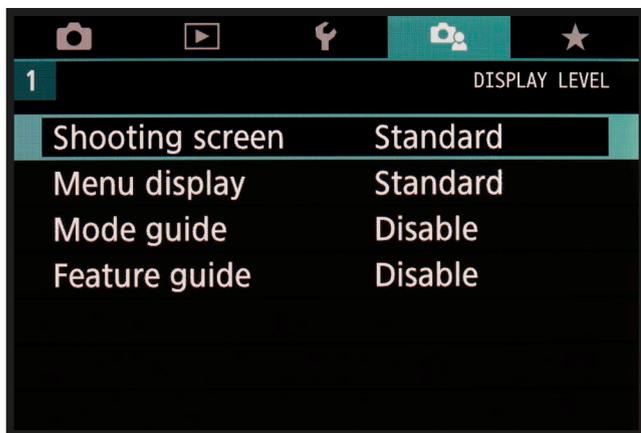
For the things that we are talking about in this book it is important that both the Shooting screen and the Menu display are set to the standard and not the guided settings so that the menus are black and look as shown to the right for the menus on your camera to match what I am showing. It is also only by doing this that the full range of options that the camera offers are enabled for you to set.

The simplification of the shooting screen and menus is a good thing for the newcomer to this model. However, if you want to become more serious with the subjects that you shoot you will need the additional options and functionality provided by these more advanced screens and it will start to get

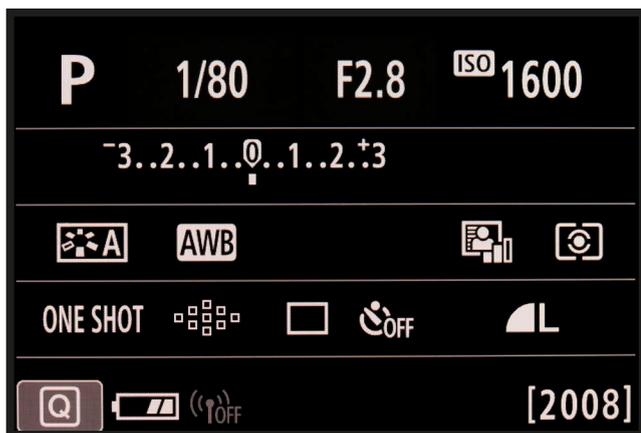


New Guided options on the EOS 200D

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If you have followed the instructions on the previous page correctly your menu screen will look like the one above. To return to the normal camera screen simply press the shutter button part way and it will take you back to the normal shooting operation. The screen will look like the image below if your mode dial is set to the program setting.



This model comes with touch controls and it is by far the easiest way to operate the camera. The screen on the rear of the camera is defaulted to come on and show when the camera is awake. If it goes to

sleep, you simply wake it up by a half pressure on the shutter button. It goes to sleep to prevent you having to keep turning it on and off when you are out and about using the camera.



If you touch the shutter button and the camera does not wake up and show the information on the back of the camera, it is possible that the display has inadvertently got turned off. The DISP button on the top of the camera can do this and so by pressing it again it will turn the display back on again. To set things on the rear of the camera, you wake the controls up in one of two ways, one is to press the Q button on the rear of the camera. This will make the settings active and the normal navigation controls will be active. Alternatively in the bottom left hand side of the screen there is a Q displayed, this is always active for the touch controls and once pressed the whole screen will be active again.

The screens that I have looked at assume that you will be using the camera's optical viewfinder to look through and take your images. This is the best way

to work and the most stable way to use the camera. If you want to use the Live View system on the rear of the camera you have to touch the button immediately to the right of the viewfinder.

Whilst in Live View you can access options to set up the camera by pressing the Q button to bring them up shown at the bottom of the page. However, slightly more options may appear than on the guided screen as the guided option is not fully utilised on the Live View System.



The Live View display can be useful to gauge the effect of some of the options available to you as it will display the preview as the image is going to be taken.



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Layout changes

About the layout

The 200D has similar controls to the other introductory models, however due to its small size some of the control and function buttons have been removed and more reliance has been placed on using the touch controls and Q screen and also menu controls for the main operation of this model.

If you have previously been using an earlier model such as the EOS 300D, 350D, 400D or 450D then its layout is going to be a little different from what you are used 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 it is a very easy model to get to grips with.

Like several of its predecessors this model utilises touch controls and this is by far the easiest way to set most of its key functions. In fact the camera is more designed around the use of touch controls than any model we have seen in the range so far.

If you have bought this camera to compliment a larger and heavier model then it will take a little time to get used to it, especially if your other camera does not feature a touch control system.

Some of these changes have been caused by the flip screen, others simply reflect the newer ways of setting the camera and the ultra small size of this camera which makes any buttons very small and so in fact the touch controls are that much easier to use. If you have not had a camera with touch controls on before it is worth spending time getting used to them as it can make the operation of the camera quicker and simpler.

The touch controls work just like a phone or tablet that has touch control, all the familiar taps and gestures work within the menu system. One advantage of turning off the feature guide that I looked at a few pages ago is that it speeds up the touch control operation on the Q screen on the rear of the camera.



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Top plate

Mode Dial - The SCN option on the dial replaces what used to be the PIC models, the modes are now chosen from the screen on the rear of the camera. There are now a choice of 11 SCN modes. The traditional Portrait, Landscape, Action, Close up are still there 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 modes within the Getting started with the EOS 200D 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.

ISO button - This allows you direct access to set the ISO without needing to use the menu or Q screen.

DISP button - This button simply allows you to turn the rear display screen on or off. As the camera will go to sleep after 30 seconds the screen is normally left to turn on and off automatically.

Dioptric 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 then check the figures at the bottom of the viewfinder.

Wi-Fi button - This allows you direct access to set the Wi-Fi options without the need to enter the menu.



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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.

Cross keys - This is a standard feature on the introductory EOS cameras. The cross keys are used for up, down, left and right navigation. They also 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.

Q/Set button - This has changed slightly from other models in the range with the Q function for entering the setting screens and the set button being the same button. This has caused slight changes in the way the menus operate from other models in the EOS range.

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

The combining of the set and Q buttons has much more to do with the very small size of the camera and lack of space to put the buttons rather than any desire by Canon to change the way things work. The addition of the flip screen to this model has taken up a lot of space and given less space for placement of buttons compared to its predecessor the 100D.



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

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Q screen

Cross keys and Q/Set button

The Q button allows all the main functions on the camera to be accessed from the rear screen. The Q screen only appears like this if the camera is set to a basic mode and you have come away from the guided options as I showed at the end of the book. That's P, TV, AV or M mode on the 200D. If you are in the Auto +, CA or SCN modes the display will be different, as the only options selectable will be the drive mode, the file format and a few creative options within the SCN/CA modes and this is all displayed.

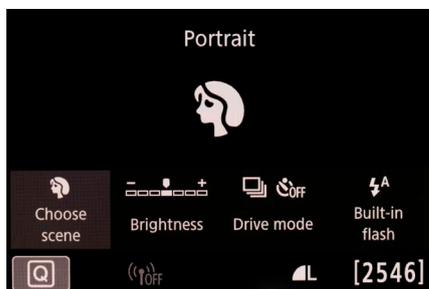
When you press the Q button on the rear of the camera, or tap the Q at the bottom left of the screen, the screen appears with a highlighted box, in this example left the ISO is highlighted, top right. I have given the manual navigation options below but on this model the touch controls are by far the easiest to operate.

To navigate around the screen, the touch controls or the cross keys are used. Once the item is highlighted then you set the feature using the main dial on the top, or for most controls the cross keys on the rear of the camera also work. To see what options you have press the Q/Set button. Most options then are set using the cross keys or the touch controls. 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.

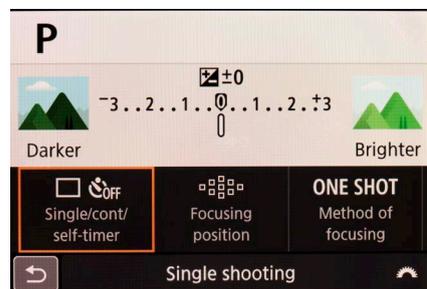
DISP button options

The Q screen stays on normally at all times. If you press the DISP button on the top of the camera the display will disappear. To bring it back up simply press the DISP button again. The DISP button causes a lot of problems on these models as it gets pressed when the photographer is panicking about clearing a menu or screen and then they do not know how to get the rear display to operate again.

If you want to escape from any screen or menu - it is actually very simple - press the shutter button halfway and you will be back to normal shooting operation.



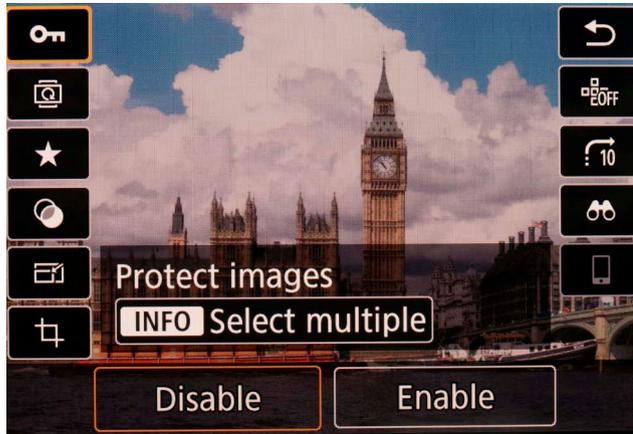
Basic mode non guided Q screen



Creative mode guided Q screen

Using the Q button to set the playback functions

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On the EOS 200D, 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.

The touch controls are the main way used to select and set items in this screen. All of these commands can also be accessed through the playback menus. Manual navigation is using the up/down cross keys on the rear and the left/right cross keys or the main dial to change the options.

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 200D.



Using the Q button to set the live view functions

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On the EOS 200D, 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/Set 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

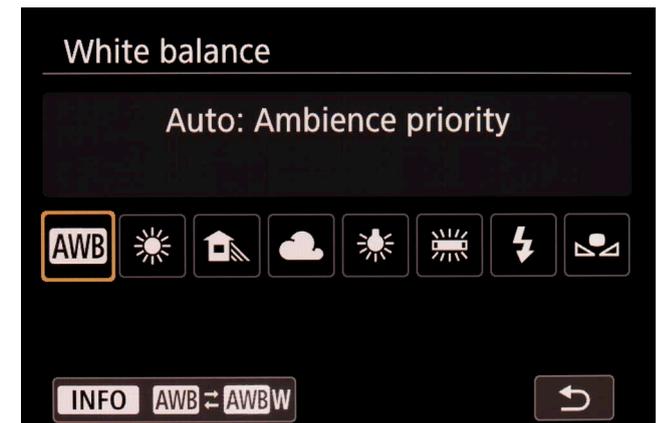
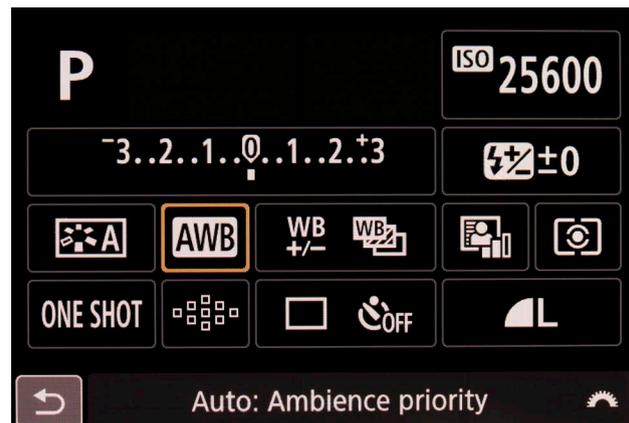
Understanding the Q screen display

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 cross keys will change the options as well. If the touch controls are used to touch the highlighted box or the Q/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 the feature guide 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. On this model it goes back to zero as a default when the camera is turned off to prevent accidentally mis-setting.

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 in different lighting conditions. 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 other WB 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.

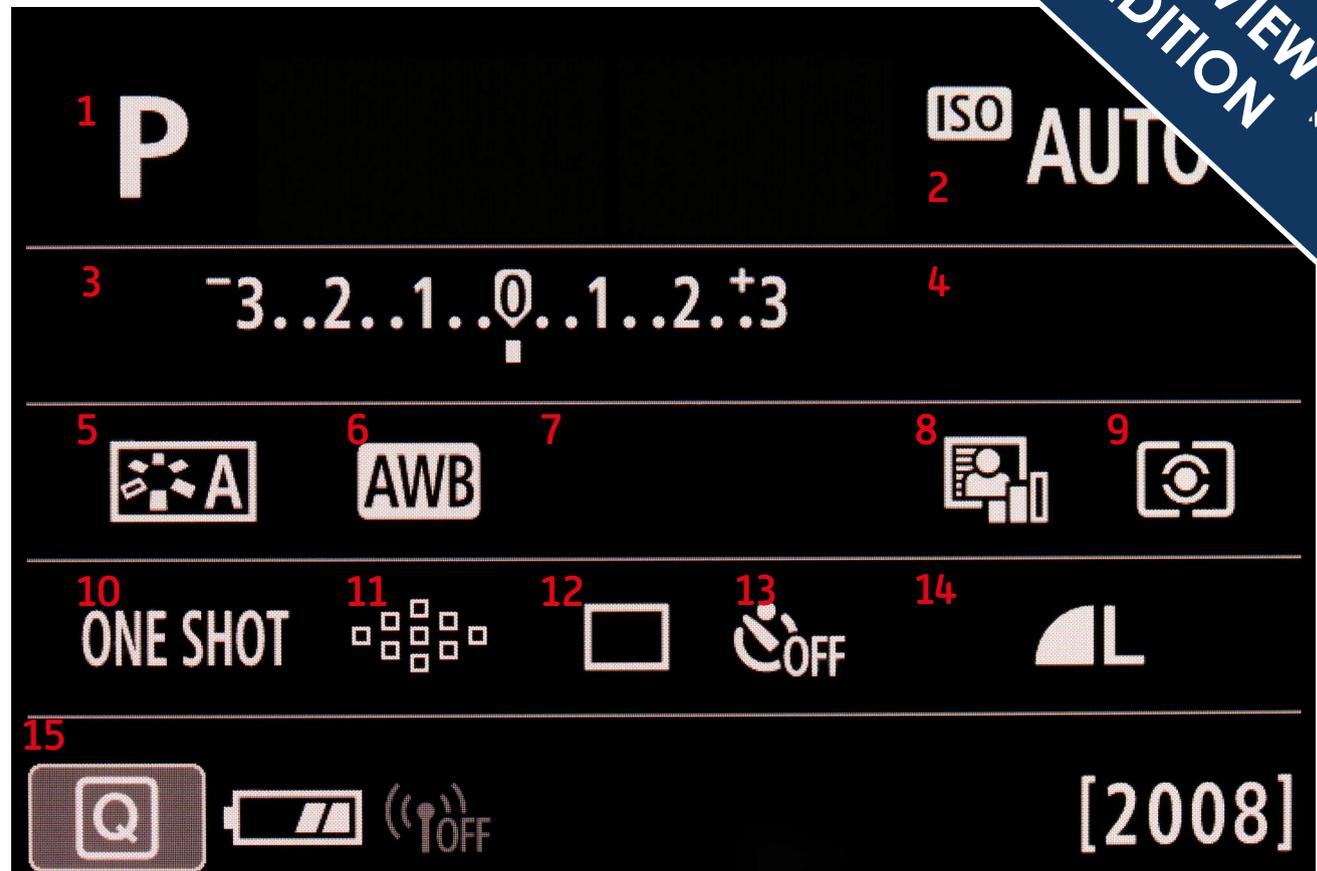
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Understanding the Q screen display

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 symbol as shown is the standard setting. If only one of the bars in the graph were shaded it would be on low and if all three bars were shaded it would be on high option. This can be left on its default option when starting out in photography. It is mainly used in connection with fill in flash and if shooting backlit portraits. I will look at its operation later in the chapter.

9. Metering mode - This allows the camera's metering system to be changed to measure light in different ways. Most of the time I leave this set to its default evaluative metering pattern which works incredibly well and is the option as illustrated. The other options are for experienced photographers who understand the implications of setting them. I will look at the metering modes and the basics of how to use them later in this chapter.

10. Focusing mode - The focusing mode allows you to change how the camera's focusing is working. The default normally set is one shot AF. This means that the camera will focus as soon as the shutter button is part depressed, allowing the focusing to be locked and the image reframed if required. This is the best option if photographing static subjects. If you're photographing a subject that is moving then this needs to be changed to AI Servo AF. I will take a look the basic focusing controls to get you started later in this chapter and look in slightly more depth



at autofocus in the specific autofocus chapter.

11. Focusing area - this control allows you to configure how the camera's 9 AF points are being used and where the active area is within the focusing area. I will look at how to set these and the best area to use later in the autofocus chapter.

12/13. Drive mode/Self timer options

The name of this feature can at times seem misleading,

as it originally referred to how the film was driven through the camera by the motor mechanism. This model now shows the symbols for the drive and self timer though they are actually set in the same place. Today it refers to how quickly the camera can take pictures.

The normal default is the symbol that is shown. This allows you to take a single picture and then the camera stops until your finger is fully off the shutter button. There will also be an option for normal and high speed

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