

Understanding the EOS M50



A fast track guide to understanding how to use the EOS M50's key controls and functions

Contents include:

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

Especially written for **Canon EOS** users

Written by Nina Bailey

About this book

The EOS M50 is a well specified mirrorless body that is light, yet still features an electronic viewfinder 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 and click on the links for books.

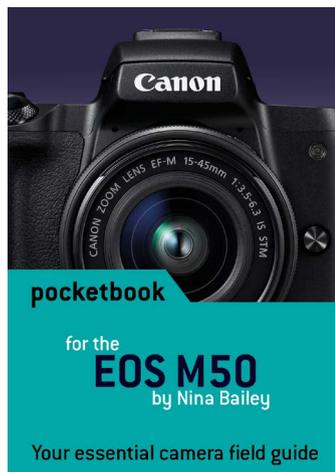
Written, designed and images by

Nina Bailey

www.ninabailey.co.uk

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Some of the test images shot on the EOS M50 whilst producing the books on the EOS M50 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 career in the retail photography industry, then moved to a role where she had a successful nine years looking after training, exhibitions and marketing both in the UK and also within Europe. This gave Nina an unrivalled knowledge of not only the Canon EOS system but also how to develop and enhance the skills of photographers of all ability levels.

Nina started her own business in 1999, concentrating on training for amateur photographers. 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.

Contents

New Guided Displays	6	Creative filter effects - Toy camera effect	56	About the EOS M50's ISO range	
New guided options on the EOS M50	7	Creative filter effects - Miniature effect	57	Exposure compensation - correcting light	
What each option displays	9	Creative filter mode - About the HDR options	58	AEB - Auto Exposure Bracketing	
Basic Camera Layout	10	Creative modes	59	About Picture Styles	
Rear camera controls	11	P - Program mode	60	Auto picture style	
Top camera controls	13	Understanding when to use TV mode	61	Standard picture style	
Touch controls	14	How to use TV mode	62	Portrait picture style	
Viewing options	15	Understanding when to use AV mode	63	Landscape picture style	124
M50 power saving options	16	How to use AV mode	64	Fine detail picture style	124
Other viewfinder options	17	M - Manual mode	65	Neutral picture style	125
Shooting information display	18	Movie mode	67	Faithful picture style	126
Viewfinder information	20			Monochrome picture style	127
Understanding Key Settings	21	Understanding the settings we use	68	White balance system and overrides	128
Understanding the shooting modes	22	About the settings we use in photography	69	White balance - AWB options	129
What ISO means and controls	23	ISO - What it sets and how to use it	70	About the K values	131
What shutter speeds mean and control	24	ISO Auto options	71	White balance - WB preset overrides	132
What the aperture does and controls	25	About the high ISO settings	72	Custom white balance	135
What the lens you use controls	26	Exposure settings - Shutter speeds and their usage	73	The K setting	137
Lens jargon and terminology	27	All about slow shutter speeds	74	Auto lighting optimizer	138
Explanation of sensor size	30	General shutter speeds	76	Metering - measuring the light	140
Understanding Exposure Modes	31	Using the high shutter speeds	77	Understanding metering	141
Focus lock - an essential control	32	Apertures - what they are and how to use them	78	What we see versus what we get	142
Auto plus or scene intelligent auto	33	What do the aperture numbers mean	80	AE Lock - how to use it	145
Hybrid Auto mode	37	Depth of field	81	Evaluative metering	146
Scene or SCN modes	37	Depth of field - Focal length effect	82	Understanding partial metering	147
SCN mode usage - Self Portrait	38	Depth of field - Portraits and framing	84	Understanding spot metering	147
SCN mode usage - Key override controls	39	Depth of field - Apertures and their effect	85	Understanding centerweighted metering	148
SCN mode usage - Portrait	40	Depth of field - Background distances	87	Drive settings	149
SCN mode usage - Smooth skin	41	Exposure settings - putting the settings together	90		
SCN mode usage - Landscape	42	Key camera overrides	92	The Menu System	150
SCN mode usage - Sports	43	Understanding the Q screen display	93	Menu navigation	151
SCN mode usage - Close up	44	Why these controls are so important	97	The Shoot Menu	152
SCN mode usage - Food	45	Camera overrides and RAW processing	98	The shoot menus - Shoot 1	153
SCN mode usage - Panning	46	Image quality and file formats	99	Image quality	
SCN mode usage - Handheld night scene	47	New - CRAW format	101	Still image aspect ratio	
SCN mode usage - HDR Backlight control	48	RAW vs JPEG shooting	102	Image review	
SCN mode usage - Silent mode	49	File formats - RAW	103	Lens aberration correction	
Creative filters	50	File formats - JPEG	104	Peripheral illumination correction	154
Creative filter effects - Grainy black and white	51	RAW vs JPEG - Which is best	106	Distortion correction	155
Creative filter effects - Soft focus	52	About focusing on the EOS M50	107	Chromatic aberration correction	156
Creative filter effects - Fish eye effect	53	Focusing methods	108	Diffraction correction	157
Creative filter effects - Art bold effect	54	Focusing modes - One Shot AF	109	Digital lens optimizer	158
Creative filter effects - Water painting effect	55	Focusing modes - Servo AF	110	Digital lens optimizer - what it does	160
		Focusing mode - Manual focusing	111	The shoot menus - Shoot 1 cont	161

PREVIEW
EDITION

Contents

Flash control				
Drive mode				
The shoot menus - Shoot 2	161			
Expo.Comp/AEB				
ISO speed settings Camera				
ISO speed settings Movie				
Auto lighting optimizer				
Highlight tone priority				
The shoot menus - Shoot 3	162			
Metering mode				
Metering timer				
Expo. simulation				
The shoot menus - Shoot 4	162			
White balance				
Custom white balance				
WB Shift/Bracket				
Colour space				
Picture style				
The shoot menus - Shoot 5	163			
Long exposure noise reduction				
The shoot menus - Shoot 5 continued	164			
High ISO noise reduction				
Multi shot noise reduction	166			
The Shoot menus - Shoot 5 continued	168			
Dust delete data				
Touch shutter				
Touch and drag AF settings				
The shoot menus - Shoot 6	169			
AF operation				
AF method				
AF frame size				
Eye detection AF				
Continuous AF				
Shoot 7 Menu	169			
AF assist beam firing				
MF Peaking settings				
IS settings				
Movie Digital IS				
Movie Auto level				
Movie rec. size				
The shoot menus - Shoot 8	170			
Movie record size				
Sound recording				
Movie servo AF				
AF with shutter button				
Auto slow shutter				
Playback Options / Menus				
Playback options and controls	171			
The playback Q button options	172			
The playback menus - Playback 1	173			
Protect images	176			
Rotate				
Erase				
The playback menus - Playback 1 continued	176			
Photobook set up				
Print order				
Creative filters				
The playback menus - Playback 2	177			
RAW image processing				
Creative assist				
Quick control RAW image processing				
The playback menus - Playback 2 continued	178			
Red eye correction				
Cropping				
Resize				
The playback menus - Playback 3 menu	179			
Rating				
Slide show				
Set image search conditions				
Image jump with main dial				
The playback menus - playback 4	180			
Playback information display				
AF point display				
View from last seen				
How to see the image settings on a computer	181			
The Set Up Menus	182			
Set up menus - Set up 1 menu	183			
Select folder				
File numbering				
Auto rotate				
Format card				
Set up menus - Set up menu 2				
Display brightness				
Date/Time/Zone				
Language				
Set up menu - Set up menu 3	184			
Video system				
Touch operation				
Beep				
Set up menu - Set up menu 3 continued				
Sensor cleaning				
HDMI resolution				
HDMI HDR output				
Set up menu - Set up menu 4	185			
Shooting information display				
Reverse display				
Display performance				
VF display format				
Display settings				
Set up menus- Set up 5	185			
Custom functions				
Clear settings				
Set up menu - Set up 5 menu continued	186			
Copyright information				
Manual/software URL				
Certification logo display				
Firmware				
Camera customisation	187			
The custom functions	188			
The custom function menus - Custom controls	189			
Custom controls - Shutter button	190			
Custom controls - AE Lock/FE Lock	191			
The custom function menus - Custom controls	192			
The My Menu Options	195			
The My Menu options	196			
Using the built in flash	198			
Flash and the EOS M50	199			
Understanding using flash	200			
Exposure modes and flash	201			
The flash control menus	203			
Basic Wi-Fi usage	205			
Introduction to Wi-Fi functions	206			
Connecting to a smart phone - Bluetooth connection	208			
Connection to a smart phone - Wi-Fi connection	209			
Remote camera operation	210			
Other produces and services	211			

PREVIEW
EDITION

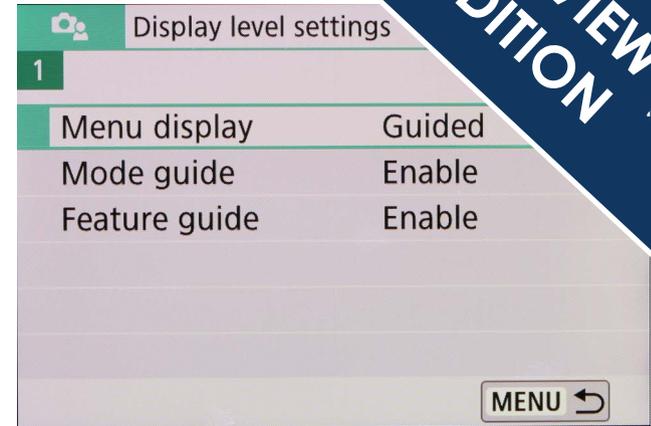
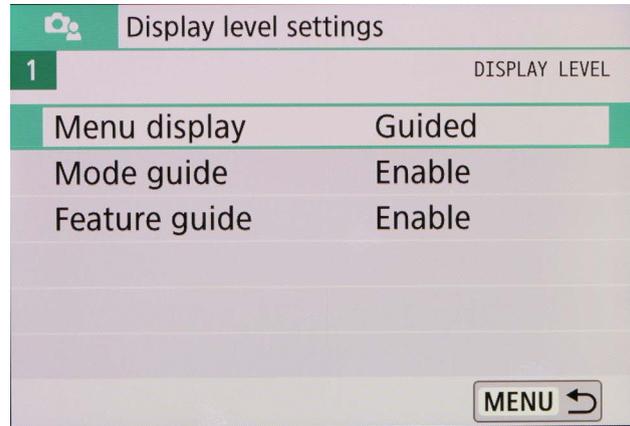
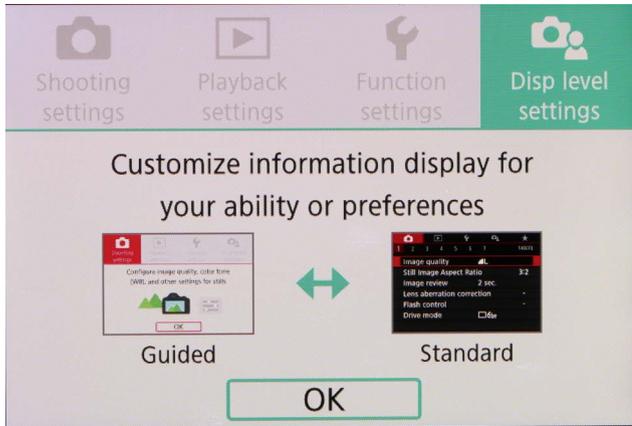


PREVIEW
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New Guided Displays

New Guided options on the EOS M50

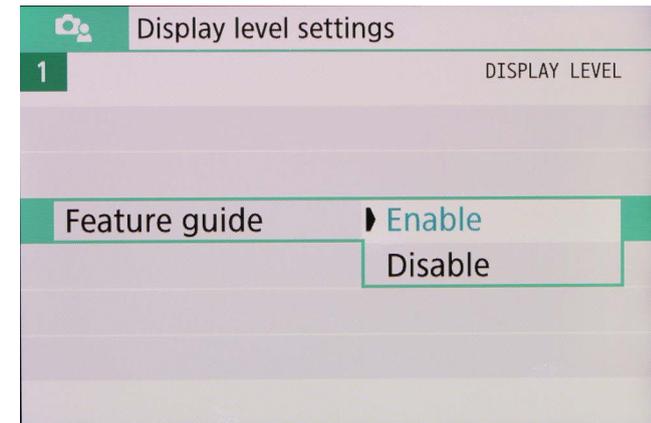
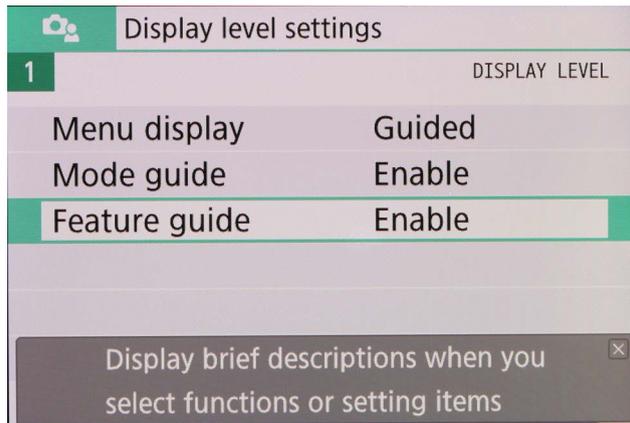
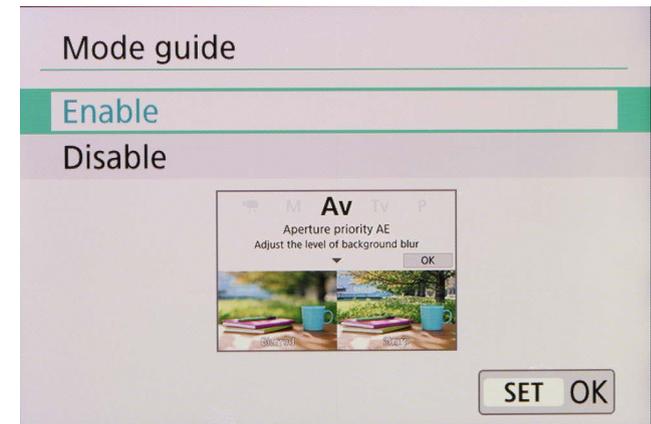
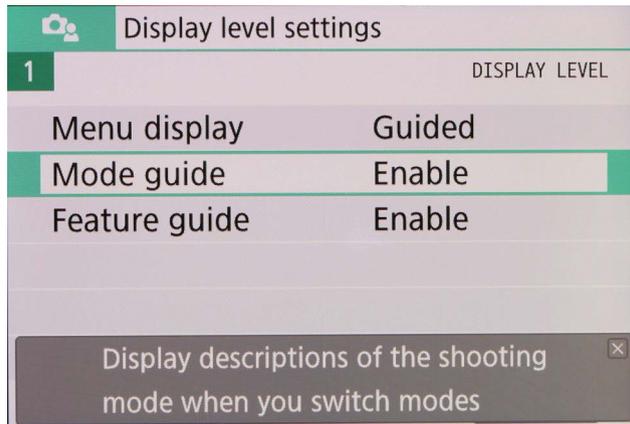
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The EOS M50 has some features designed to make its operation easier for the newcomer to photography.

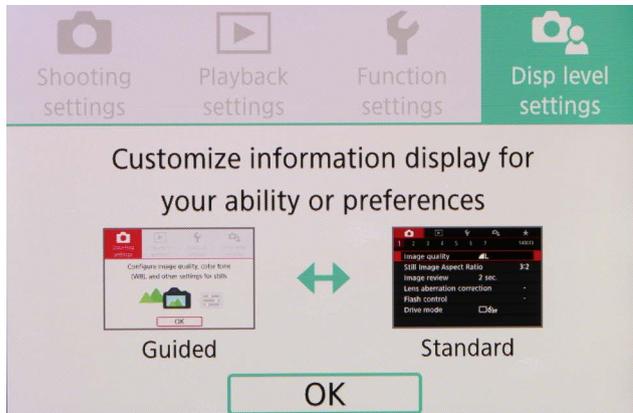
The EOS M50 as supplied in the box will have the Menu display defaulted to the guided settings and the menus will have a white background. Plus the Mode guide and the Feature guide will be enabled. This makes the camera much more user friendly to use and prevents common errors occurring when shooting.

I am going to use the default screens within this ebook as I assume that is most likely way for most M50 users to be using the camera. However if you are used to the EOS DSLR range, you may be more comfortable setting the menu display to standard so you get the black background displays which is used on most EOS bodies. The guided menu displays contain most of the options that I will look at, but if you want to use the My Menu options you have to go to the standard menu screens. The main difference with the guided menu screens, apart from the tips for the feature, is that you have to go back to a main menu screen before you can enter another menu.



New Guided options on the EOS M50

PREVIEW EDITION



To see these options, press the menu button on the rear of the camera, highlighted in the camera image to the right. The easiest way to navigate the menus is to use the touch controls. All you need to do is to tap the far right tab and these options appear. To enter the menu tap the OK at the bottom and you will see the menu commands, to enter and change any of them simply tap to enter and then tap on the command you want.

To manually navigate the menus the left and right cross keys will navigate along the tabs at the top, pressing the Q/Set button enters the menu and then up and down cross keys will navigate up and down to the command that you want and then the set button enters the menus. You simply then use the up and down cross keys to select the item you want and then press the set button again.

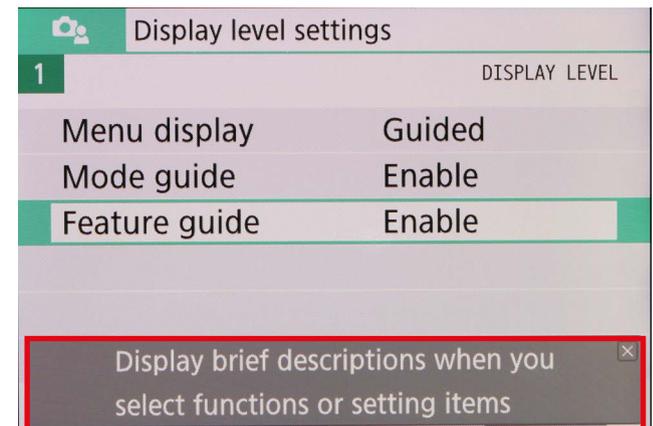
On these it is well worth getting used to the touch controls as they are much quicker and easier to use than the manual navigation. If the guided option is selected then a tip box as highlighted bottom right displays when you enter the options, it will go off



after a few seconds, through you can tap the close X at the top right hand corner to make it close. When working in guided screen a second tap might be needed to enter the menu if the tip is still showing.

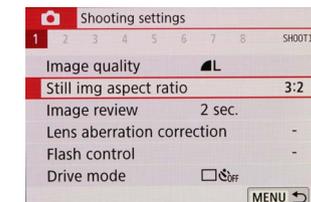
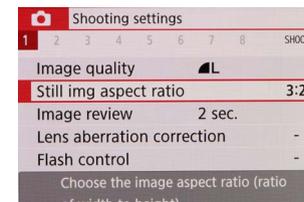
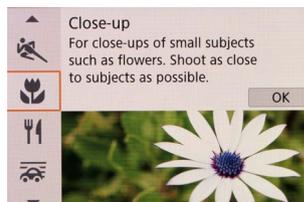
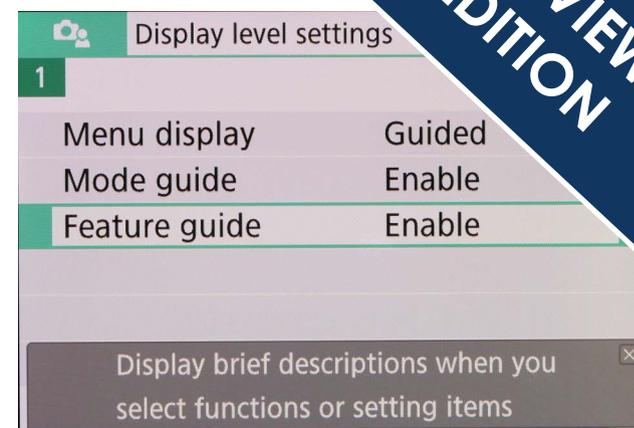
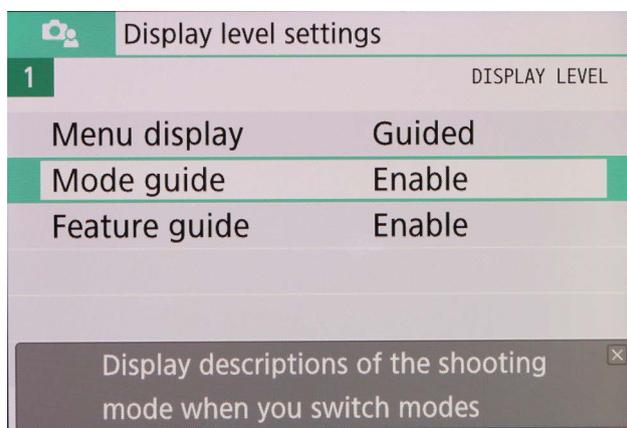
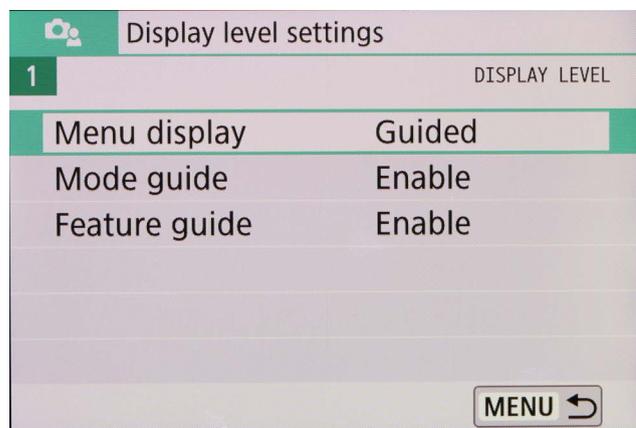
If you find this slows down your operation and you do not need the tool tips then turning them off may make the camera faster to use.

Be wary of using screen protectors on touch control screens as they can make the controls very unresponsive.



What each option displays

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The menu display option allows you to choose between the white menus which go back to a main menu screen and have been designed to be slightly simpler to use or the more traditional EOS menu displays that users of the DSLR range will be more familiar with the appearance of.

In operation the menus are very similar, throughout the book I have kept to the white menus. The items in the black menu actually are identical so it's a matter of personal preference as to which you choose to use.

The mode guide when enabled simply brings up a screen when you change mode to explain the operation of that mode. Once you click on the OK on screen it will go to the normal display. These screens if enabled only come up if you change the mode on the mode dial on the top of the camera.

If you use the SCN modes it can be slightly easier to select the options when using the mode guide enabled. For those that are very familiar with the exposure modes and what they do, disabling the mode guide can speed up the operation of the camera slightly.

The feature guide when enabled brings up a small box on the screen that gives a brief explanation of that feature or control. The box will go off after a few seconds or it can be closed by tapping the X in the top right hand corner. When it displays it requires a second tap at times to then enter the menu. If it is turned off the second tap is no longer needed. So for the more experienced users who are familiar with the camera, disabling the feature guide makes a lot of sense as it significantly speeds up the setting of options. For the novice leaving it on will help with the understanding of the controls.



PREVIEW
EDITION

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.

VIEWFINDER SENSOR when this is obscured the rear screens off and the viewfinder turns on. Be careful when using the rear screen that you do not obscure this or you will not be able to use the rear screen.

ELECTRONIC VIEWFINDER easiest place to view the image especially in bright light. Viewfinder comes on automatically when you put your eye to it.

DIOPTRIC ADJUSTMENT immediately under the viewfinder there is a sliding switch that allows adjustment of the viewfinder to suit your eyesight

SCREEN allows the viewing of the image when not looking through the viewfinder. Turns off as soon as the viewfinder activates. Can be pulled out and rotated to allow the taking of selfies and also can tilt to allow shooting at a high or low angle.



MODE DIAL When in shooting mode.

ON/OFF SWITCH Can be locked during a shoot as the camera goes into standby after 1 minute (wake up with the shutter button).

AE LOCK BUTTON Press to lock the exposure. In evaluative metering with One shot AF the exposure also locks automatically on half pressure of shutter button. This can separate out their operation. Needed to lock Spot or Partial metering onto correct area.

AF FRAME SELECTOR BUTTON This allows the options for the chosen focusing mode to be selected. Prompts are shown at the bottom of the screen. If the area is not centred, pressing and holding will return it to the centre.

INFO BUTTON Toggles between displays when the camera is active. 4 displays, 4th one is the Q screen.

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

PLAYBACK BUTTON Will show the last taken image; use the left and right navigation buttons on the rear of camera to scroll one image at a time. The main dial on the top of the camera will jump through the images initially set to 10 images per click.

PREVIEW
EDITION

Rear camera controls

CROSS KEYS Used within the menu system and Q screen for navigation, acts like a rocker switch to go left right, up or down.

Also used with playback to go quickly through the images being viewed if not using the touch controls.

CROSS KEYS These also have access certain key controls.

Left also allows switching between Auto and manual focus, be careful of this as it's easy to end up on manual focus by error.

Up allows you to set exposure compensation using the main dial on the top of the camera, press again to go back to the normal setting.

Down This allows you to erase the image you are currently looking at. Only works when the image is being played back. The colour, blue - indicates it is only a playback control.

Right This brings up the flash option for the mode you are currently shooting in. This model does not automatically turn flash on in any mode, however a flash symbol will flash on the screen and viewfinder display if flash is required when shooting in the full auto modes.



Q/SET BUTTON This is used within the menu system to apply settings; within the Q screen it allows you to see a more detailed screen.

Q/SET BUTTON Pressing this will activate the display the main settings are made. The Q button brings up setting in the shoot and playback displays. The display adapts according to the mode the camera is set to. This can be directly from the shooting screen or via specific Q screen.

PREVIEW
EDITION

Top camera controls

PREVIEW EDITION

FOCAL PLANE INDICATOR This shows the actual position of the sensor.

FLASH hold the flash here to manually raise the flash ready for use. To turn off simply press down again.

MAIN DIAL Turn to select shutter speed or aperture within a shooting mode, normally operated with the index finger. Can also change settings on

SHUTTER BUTTON Half pressure activates focusing and metering. Also half pressure will escape from playback mode and from within menus.

VIDEO RECORD BUTTON press once to start recording and then again to stop recording. Works in any mode but in reality uses Auto+ settings unless you set to the specific movie mode where more controls are available.

M-FN BUTTON The default option for this button is to allow the setting of the ISO. Can be programmed within custom controls to perform a number of different options. See Custom controls for more details.

ON/OFF SWITCH Can be left on during a shoot as the camera goes onto standby after 1 minute (wake up with the shutter button).

MODE DIAL This allows the setting of the modes on the camera.



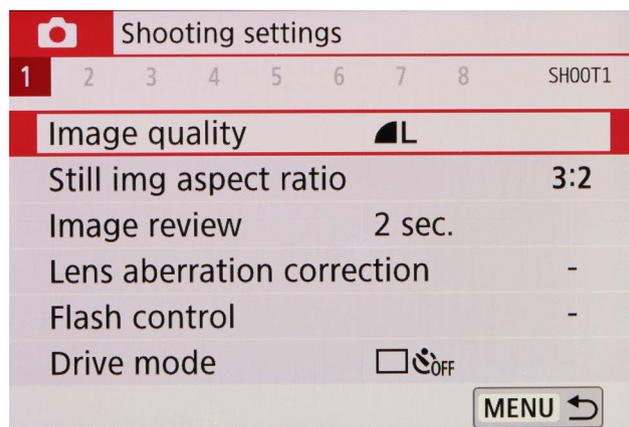
Touch controls

As we go through the book I will explain the manual navigation controls found on the EOS M50, however, by far the easiest way to operate this model is using the touch controls that the camera offers.



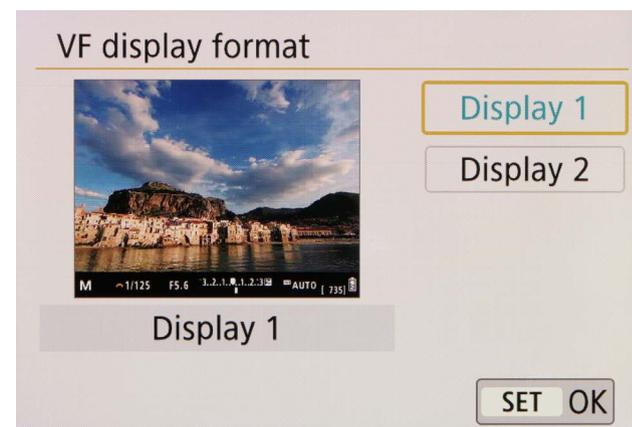
Most of the key camera functions can be set directly on the screen on the rear of the camera, they are activated by pressing the Q/Set button, highlighted above. Once this is done a display will superimpose itself over the viewing screen (two top images) where you can select the items that you want to 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 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.

PREVIEW EDITION

Viewing options

The EOS M50 is one of only two of the EOS M series at the time of writing to have both a rear screen and an electronic viewfinder to view the image.

The electronic viewfinder is much better for viewing in bright conditions and also often easier to use when finding subjects with longer lenses. Compared to the DSLR models this is an electronic viewfinder and so allows you to preview how the image will actually look. The viewfinder automatically turns on as soon as you put your eye up to it. At the same time the rear screen will also turn off.

There are lots of advantages to shooting with the viewfinder, especially for those that are used to the DSLR models. One key advantage is that the viewfinder has a dioptic correction that allows the viewfinder to be set up for your eye sight.

On the rear of the camera is the large LCD display which is turned on automatically when the camera is switched on and not on standby. If it turns off as the camera goes to sleep, reactivate it from standby by simply pressing shutter button part way. This is normally used pushed flat against the camera but it can be angled or even rotated through almost 180° which is useful when shooting selfies. It can also be rotated when folded back into the camera so that the screen itself is facing into the camera body and therefore protected from damage.

Being able to preview how an image is going to look is an obvious advantage, and one that will appeal to many photographers. However it does come at a cost and that is that both displays will



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

DIOPTRE ADJUSTMENT a sliding lever that allows 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.



use a lot more power when they are working than a more traditional optical viewfinder.

The batteries on the EOS M50 are also quite small and lower capacity than many of the 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 80D, 7 and 5 series models, just how quickly this camera can go through a battery on its normal default settings.

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.



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M50 power saving options

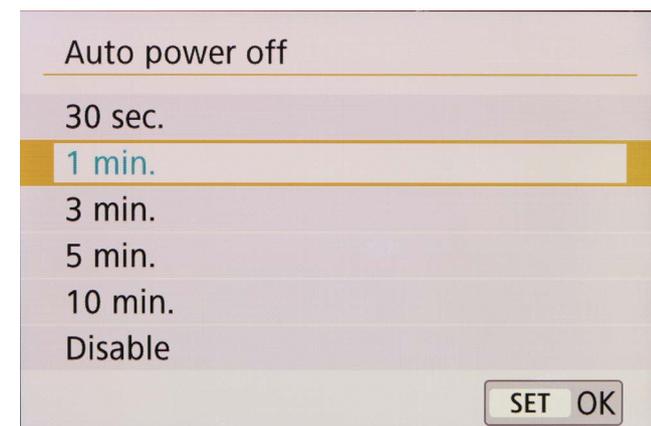
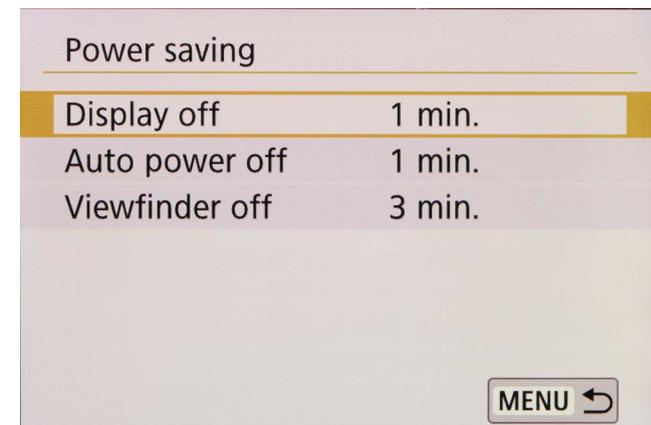
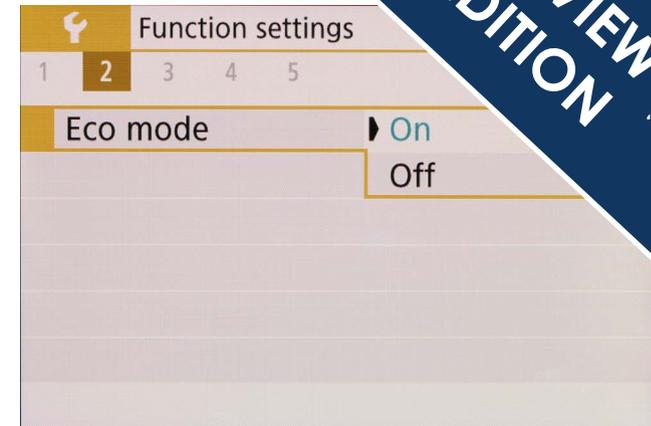
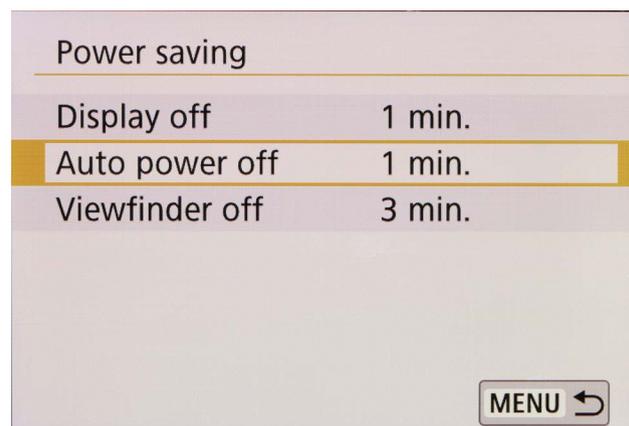
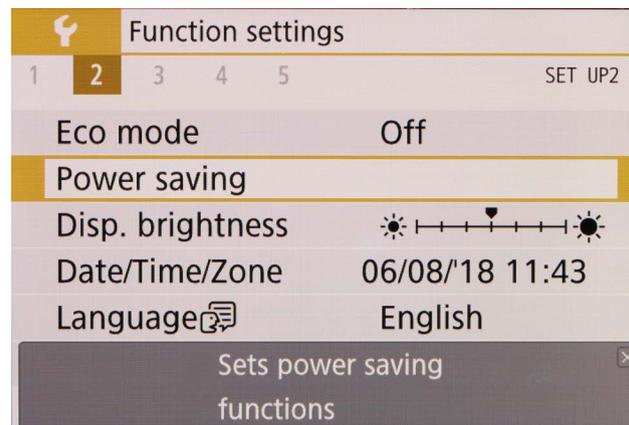
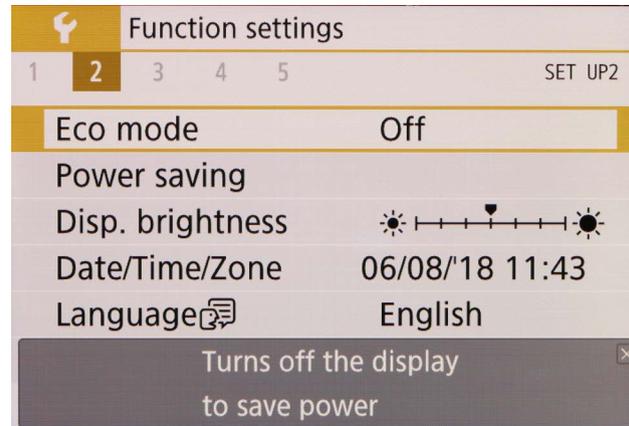
There are several different options that can be used to reduce the amount of power that is being used:

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, set to 3 minutes as a default but can be set to 1 minute or disabled.

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 viewfinder options

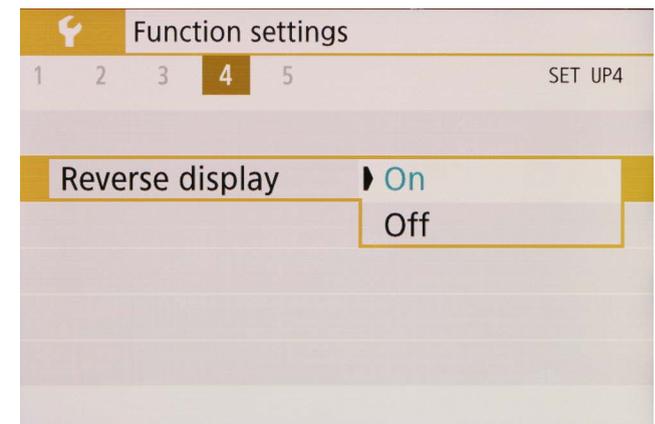
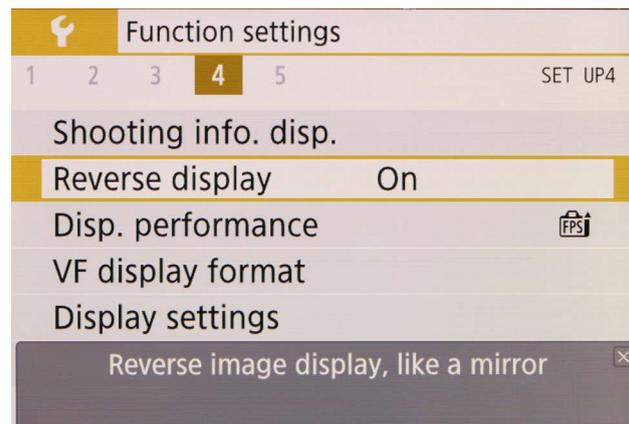
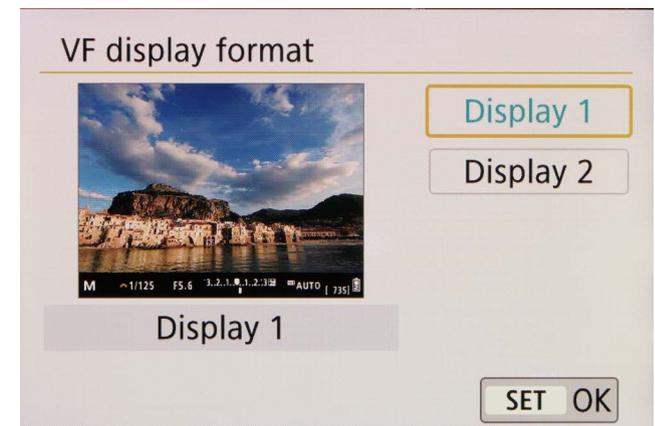
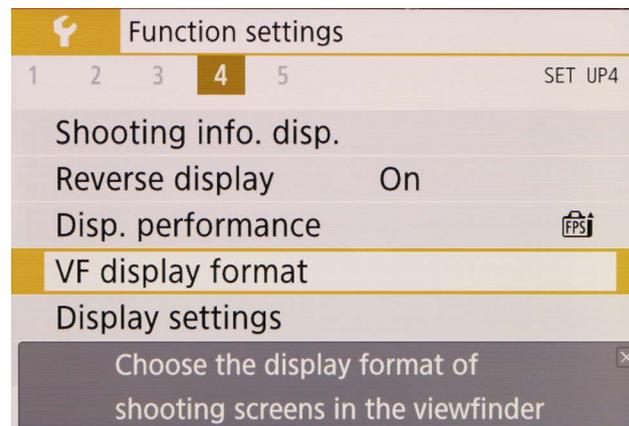
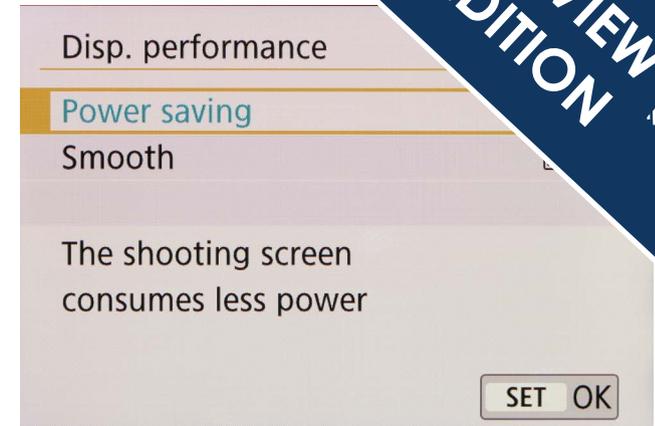
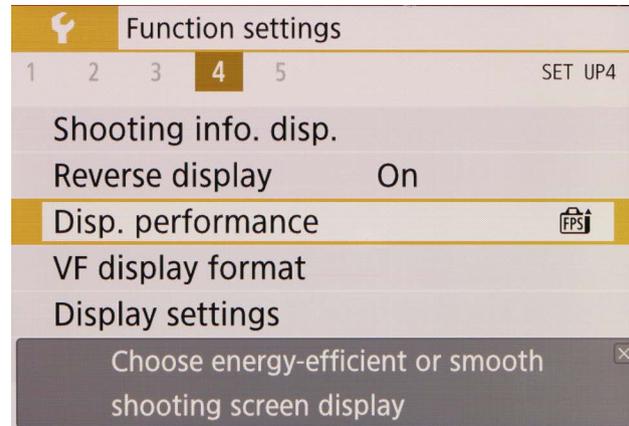
DISPLAY PERFORMANCE This allows you to save power by turning the viewfinder to a setting that consumes less power but which will not be as smooth. The default is the smooth setting that gives a smoother display but consumes more power.

Electronic viewfinders 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 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.

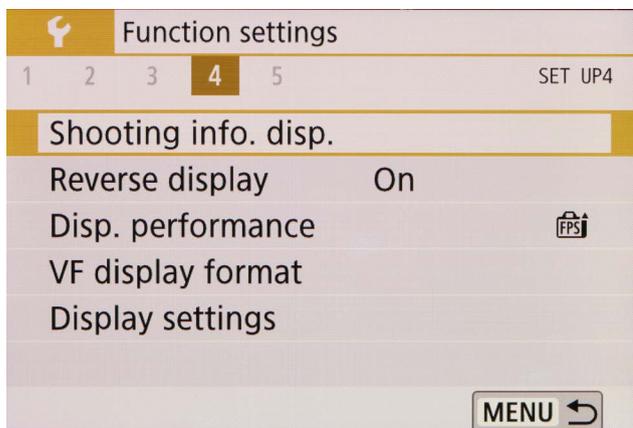
REVERSE DISPLAY This allows the display to reverse so that you can see the image exactly as taken when using the camera to take selfies with the screen flipped to 180° to allow you to operate the camera when looking at the front. If it is turned off then everything will be opposite to what you are doing, 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

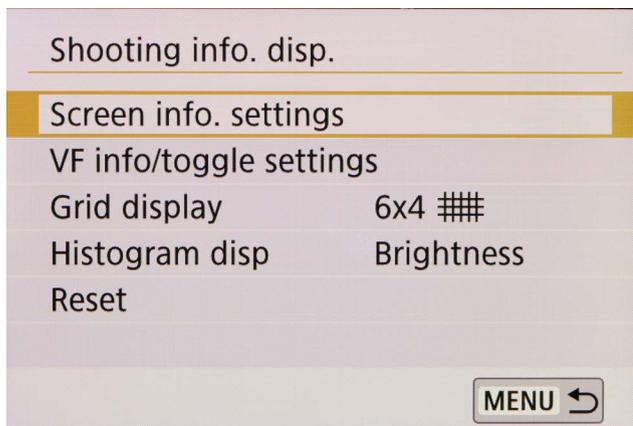
Shooting information display

PREVIEW EDITION



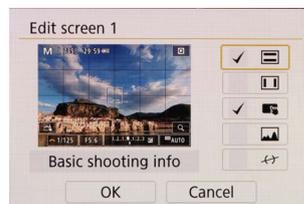
This allows you to set up the options for how the rear screen and viewfinder are going to appear. When you tap on this menu item the camera will bring up another menu that has five items within it.

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.

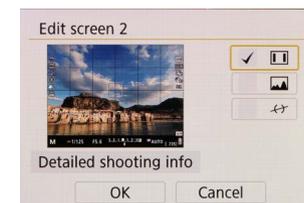
These options only affect the screen on the rear of the camera and not the camera's electronic viewfinder.



VF INFO / TOGGLE SETTINGS allow you to set up the options for the electronic viewfinder. There are only three options this time as the Q screen is not available in the viewfinder. At the bottom you have the customisation options when choosing to use display 2 or 3.

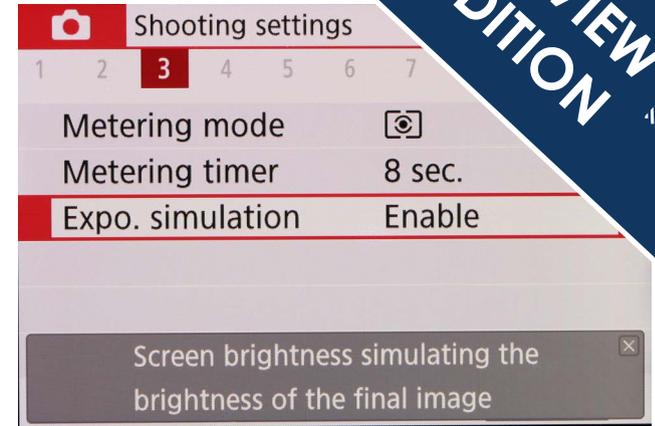
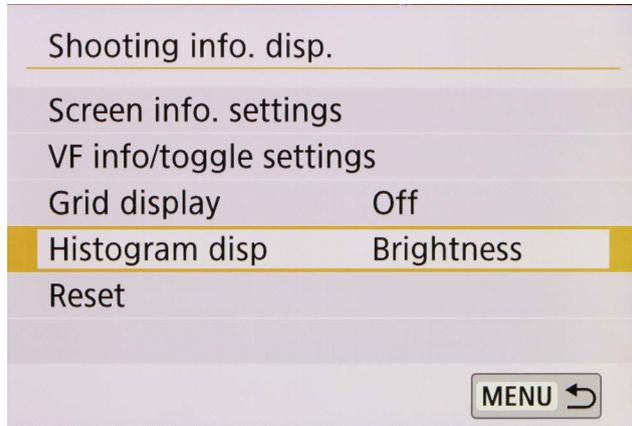
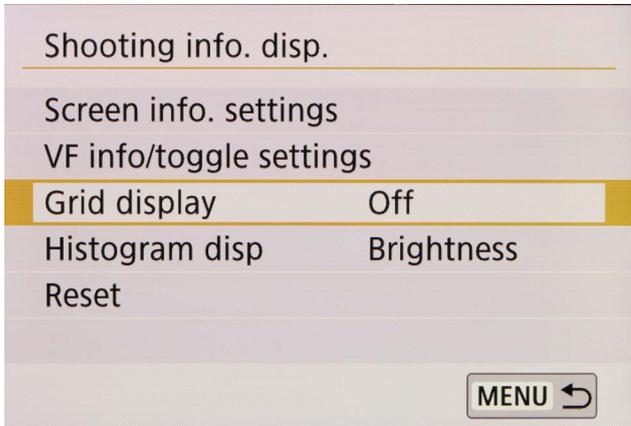
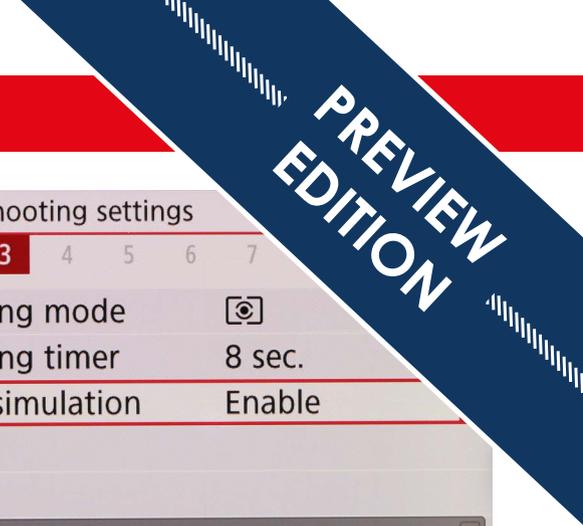


To utilise the options that are active you need to press the INFO button on the rear of the camera whilst looking through the camera's viewfinder, if it done looking at the rear screen then the options that change will be those for the rear screen.



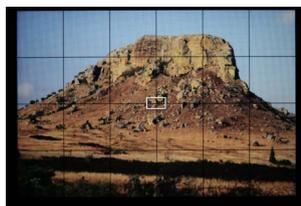
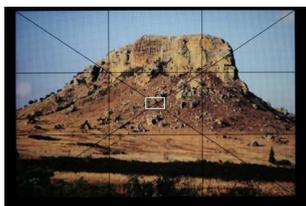
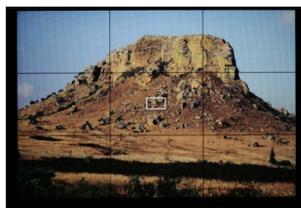
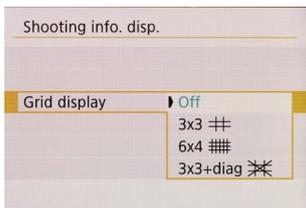
SCREEN INFO/TOGGLE SETTINGS allows you to set the options that will display on the rear screen of the camera, the options that are enabled here are scrolled through by pressing the INFO button on the rear of the camera. Each press will advance to the next display setting.

Shooting information display

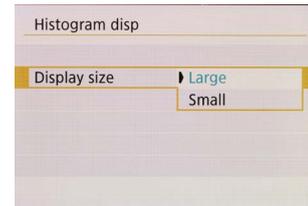
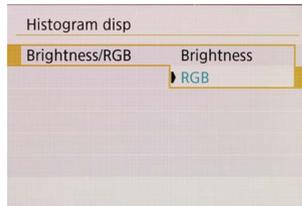


GRID DISPLAY allows you to choose which of the grid options that you have visible on both the rear screen and the electronic viewfinder.

By default the grid display is turned off but it can be turned on if required to any of the three options as shown below.



RESET This simply takes all of the display options back to their defaults.



HISTOGRAM this allows you to choose which of the two types of histogram is displayed when you choose one of the options that will display a live histogram. The normal default is for a larger brightness histogram. There are options for a RGB histogram and an option that allows you to make the histogram smaller so it does not take up so much of the viewfinder area.

The histogram will not appear if shooting in one of the Basic zone modes and some of the other shooting information may disappear according to what is supported by the mode.

Histograms are useful to assess some exposure problems such as the extent of burnout that may be happening within an image, however, they should always be used in conjunction with the image rather than being the only way to assess the image.

EXPOSURE SIMULATION this is enabled as a default and this allows you to preview what the image will look like when it is taken. This makes using options such as the manual mode very easy as you simply adjust the settings until the image looks correct.

If shooting with flash, especially if relying on the flash to provide all the light for your subject, this option can cause problems as it is showing you the exposure for the ambient light not the flash exposure. This can mean that you may not see the image as it would be too dark using the settings used with the flash, and it cannot preview the flash exposure.

So there is an option to turn it off in which instance the viewfinder or screen will no longer show a preview of what the image will look like but will allow you to see and therefore frame your image. However, if this is left on and you shoot manually the exposure errors you may be getting will no longer show up.

Viewfinder information

The screen and electronic viewfinder show the same basic information displayed mostly at the bottom of the screen.

1| CURRENT EXPOSURE MODE

2| **SHOTS LEFT** The number of images at the current quality setting that will fit on the SD card.

3| **MOVIE TIME LEFT** movie time that can be shot on current settings - cannot go above 29:59

4| BATTERY LIFE INDICATOR

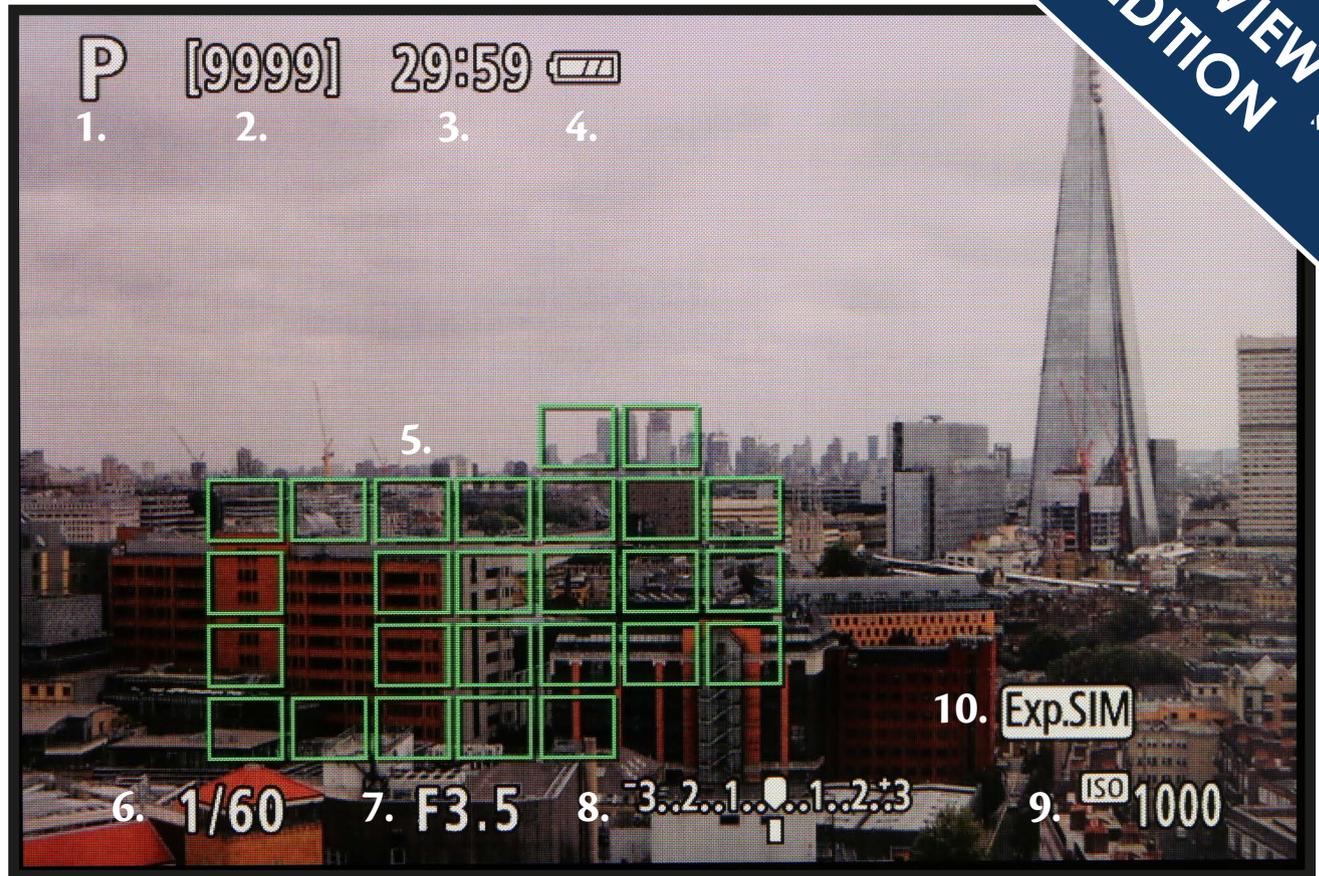
5| **FOCUSING AREA** This is the focusing area, once in focus it will turn green in One Shot AF to confirm that the image is in focus. Displays in blue if Servo AF is in use. If red indicates camera cannot focus. The size and number of boxes vary according focus set up.

6| **SHUTTER SPEED** If " appears as part of the number it indicates a shutter speed slower than 1/4 second. If shown in red, the exposure is out of range.

7| **APERTURE** If the value is red then the exposure is out of range.

8| **EXPOSURE COMPENSATION SCALE** If the marker is in the centre then no compensation is set. Set with dial on top of camera. Minus makes image darker, towards plus makes it lighter. If more than one marker shows, Auto Exposure Bracketing (AEB) is set, set via main dial. In Manual mode this display becomes your metering scale.

9| **ISO** This shows the current ISO that is being used if the camera is active. If ISO is set to AUTO, this will show 'Auto' but will change once shutter button is part depressed. 'D+' by ISO indicates



Highlight Tone Priority is set.

10| **EXPOSURE SIMULATION** providing this is not flashing the image you are seeing on screen is how the final image will look.

If using the electronic viewfinder make sure you have set the dioptre adjustment for the viewfinder as it will make the information much clearer to see and read if you normally wear glasses.

The slider to set this is found underneath the viewfinder, the easiest way to see where it is, is to look at the camera turned upside down.

PREVIEW
EDITION

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By Nina Bailey

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