

# Upgrading to the EOS 70D

A fast track guide to get you up to speed and shooting

## Includes detailed explanations of

Differences in camera layout

The menu system

Configuring the camera

The focusing system

The image processing options

The custom modes

The custom buttons

The live view options

The movie options

The Wi-Fi options

Plus much more besides



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## Foreword by the author

Upgrading to a new camera is always daunting, controls have moved and often lots of new technology has been introduced which is not understood and mastered if you are going to get the very best out of your new camera.

The EOS 70D saw a real change in the range of models available to amateur photographers, bringing a high specification focusing system down to a more affordable model in the range. Many of the features had previously been seen on the EOS 7D, but they have been adapted and slightly simplified for this great specification model.

Having used a lot of the higher levels models in the range, for me the 70D was easy to adapt to using. However, when training photographers who had upgraded from the more basic introductory models in the Canon range, it became very clear, that it was a huge leap to make with so many additional features and ways of setting it up. It is a model that I enjoy using as it takes the smaller and lighter EF-S series lenses, making it an ideal model to use when I go out walking at weekends. I find matched with the EF-S 18-135mm f3.5-5.6 IS STM lens, it makes a versatile combination that allows me to shoot most general subjects.

I am assuming that you have already owned an EOS camera and so you already know the basic stuff such as the exposure modes and what the key terms such as apertures, shutter speeds and ISO do and how they are used and so will not be covering those areas. If not, try reading *The Essential Guide To Photography With EOS Cameras* first, before this ebook.

I am going to concentrate on the things that will be new to a lot of photographers. There will be a few things that if you have changed from one of the later models you may have come across, but it will be new to those changing from earlier models.

The 70D is a great camera and its superb range of features allow you to take images in conditions that you might not have dreamed were possible just a few years ago. It is also small and light making it an enjoyable camera to carry around and use compared to the heavier full frame pro series models. So enjoy getting to know yours.

Nina





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# About the EOS 70D



## About the EOS 70D

The EOS 70D is much more than just a revamped version of the EOS 60D. It has had a large amount of changes and therefore bares very little resemblance to it's predecessor.

The 70D introduced high performance auto focusing to the mid range EOS models, allowing even more photographers to tackle action photography successfully.

It is a model that has really grown on me; I previously used a 7D for most of the work I shot on the 1.6x sensor models and it was a great camera. That said, I personally now prefer the performance of the 70D for action and that is impressive when you look at the launch price of the model which was nearly half what the 7D cost at its launch.

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

The 70D is designed as a 1.6x crop sensor model suitable for all areas of photography, the crop factor allowing more reasonably size and priced lenses to be used.

However, despite a lot of upgrading on the focus system, the camera has retained its ease of use and familiar feel of its predecessor the EOS 60D. This has made it more user friendly for the novice and enthusiast photographers to get to grips with.

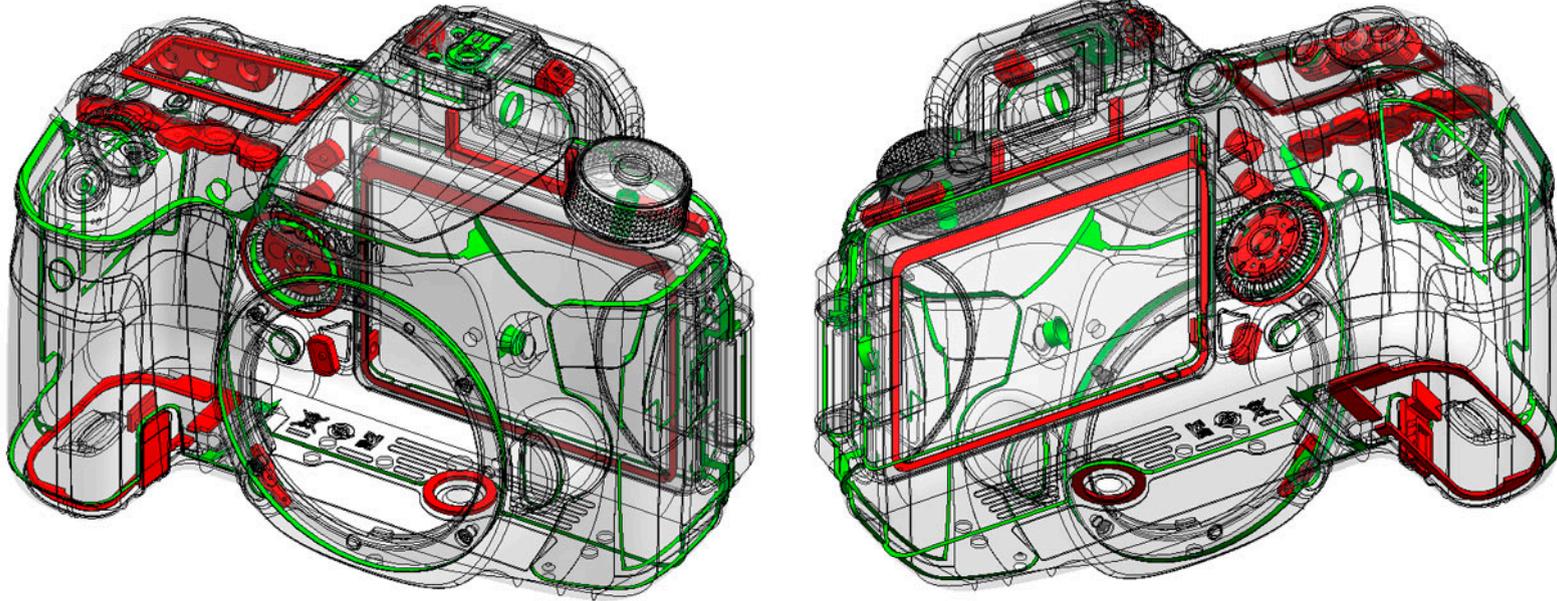


The 70D does have a lot more menus than we have seen on most models due to moving many of the image processing options that were in the custom functions, out into the camera's shoot menus and this will take a bit of getting use to

for those moving up from more basic models.

Another aspect that was looked at when the EOS 70D was being designed was its resistance to the elements. The professional models have always

## About the EOS 70D



been well sealed, but the mid range models have been a little prone to moisture getting in.

The image above shows the extent that Canon has gone to seal the 70D against moisture and dust. Although not waterproof, the camera is now extremely well sealed when being used in wet and dusty environments. Although they have not gone to the extremes that they have on the professional models, the moisture sealing is much better than we have seen on models at this position in the market before. This will allow it to be used in rain for short periods without having to worry about water ingress.

Of course not all photographers are prepared to work in conditions like those. I prefer not to, but there are times when the shooting has to go

ahead no matter how bad the conditions get. At those times you need a camera that can stand up to the treatment its going to get.

There are lots of other changes. The focusing system is one of the things that has given this camera its great reputation, allowing it to be configured easily for different types of action. The drive system can work at up to 8 frames per second which is fast enough for most action. The camera has many new and innovative image processing options. All this and more I am going to look at later in this ebook.

However, the final thing I want to talk about in this section is a feature that can easily cause problems, which is its 98% viewfinder.

The main problem with seeing 98% of the area you capture is that it does encourage framing right to the very edge of the viewfinder when shooting. This means that a very slight movement when the shutter is fired can cut small parts of the subject off.

The photographers that will notice the difference the most will be those changing from more basic models that were sold in the period 2003-2008 as these had the smaller viewfinder areas. One thing that will strike you if changing from these models is how large and bright the viewfinder of the 70D actually is compared to the camera you are used to.

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## Chapter 01

# Layout changes



## About the layout

The 70D has a similar layout to the mid range or advanced models that have been produced from about 2009. So if you have used models such as the EOS 40D, 50D, 60D and 7D it may well at a first glance look very similar to what you are used to.

If you have previously been using a more basic or introductory model such as the EOS 500D, 550D, 600D, 650D or 700D then its layout is going to be very different and it is the change from these models that is the hardest to acclimatise to.

So the model that you have used before will change how much of the camera is strange in operation to you.

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

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

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

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

One thing you will find, if you still have your other camera, is that switching between this model and others can be difficult, unless that other camera is a 60D model. Almost everything on the camera will work just that little bit different or be in a different location.



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## Top plate

**Mode Dial** - The mode dial will appear at a first glance to many to have lost of a lot of its modes. However the familiar PIC modes are still there but now selected within the SCN option on the dial, then the mode itself is chosen from the screen on the rear of the camera. There are now a choice of 7 SCN modes. The traditional Portrait, Landscape, Action, Close up and Night portrait are still there but are joined by a new Handheld Night Scene mode and a HDR backlit mode. I take a look at these two new SCN modes a little later when I look at the main camera modes and functions.

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 option. This allows shutter speeds of longer than 30 seconds to be used when controlled and timed manually by the photographer. It has its own setting for speed of accessing the option.

The camera also has a C mode, which can be programmed to the photographer's specific requirements. It is designed to allow the saving of a specific set up of the camera to allow quick and easy setting for a regularly shot subject. I will look in a later chapter at its use and how to set it up, as you need to understand the camera's settings fully before it becomes a really useful option.

**Function buttons** - On this model it still uses the top function button layout. These



however are simplified and each button just sets the one function. Today these are rarely used as most photographers adapt quickly to the use of the Q button and the rear LCD screen to set the functions available rather than use these buttons especially with the added ease that the touch controls provide.

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.

**AF area selection mode button** - This button is set as a default to allow the changing of the focusing area. The camera offers three focusing areas allowing the camera's set up to be changed according to the type of subject that you are shooting.

## 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.

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.

**Multi controller** - A multi controller has been found on all the mid range models for a long time, however the 70D has the multi controller incorporated with the quick control dial rather than the separate joystick type found on the higher level models. 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 menu 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.

It is a good option to have, however, you need to remember that the camera has the function as when it is locked some features on the camera

may not be able to be dialled in at all.

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

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

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



The Q button allows all the main functions on the camera to be accessed from the rear LCD screen. The Q screen only appears like this if the camera is in one of the creative modes. That's P, TV, AV, M, B or C mode on the 70D. In the Auto +, CA or the SCN modes the display will look slightly different. In most of the things will be greyed out on their default settings or disappear, and the only options selectable will be the drive speed, the file format and a few creative options within the PIC/CA modes.

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

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 multi controller.

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.



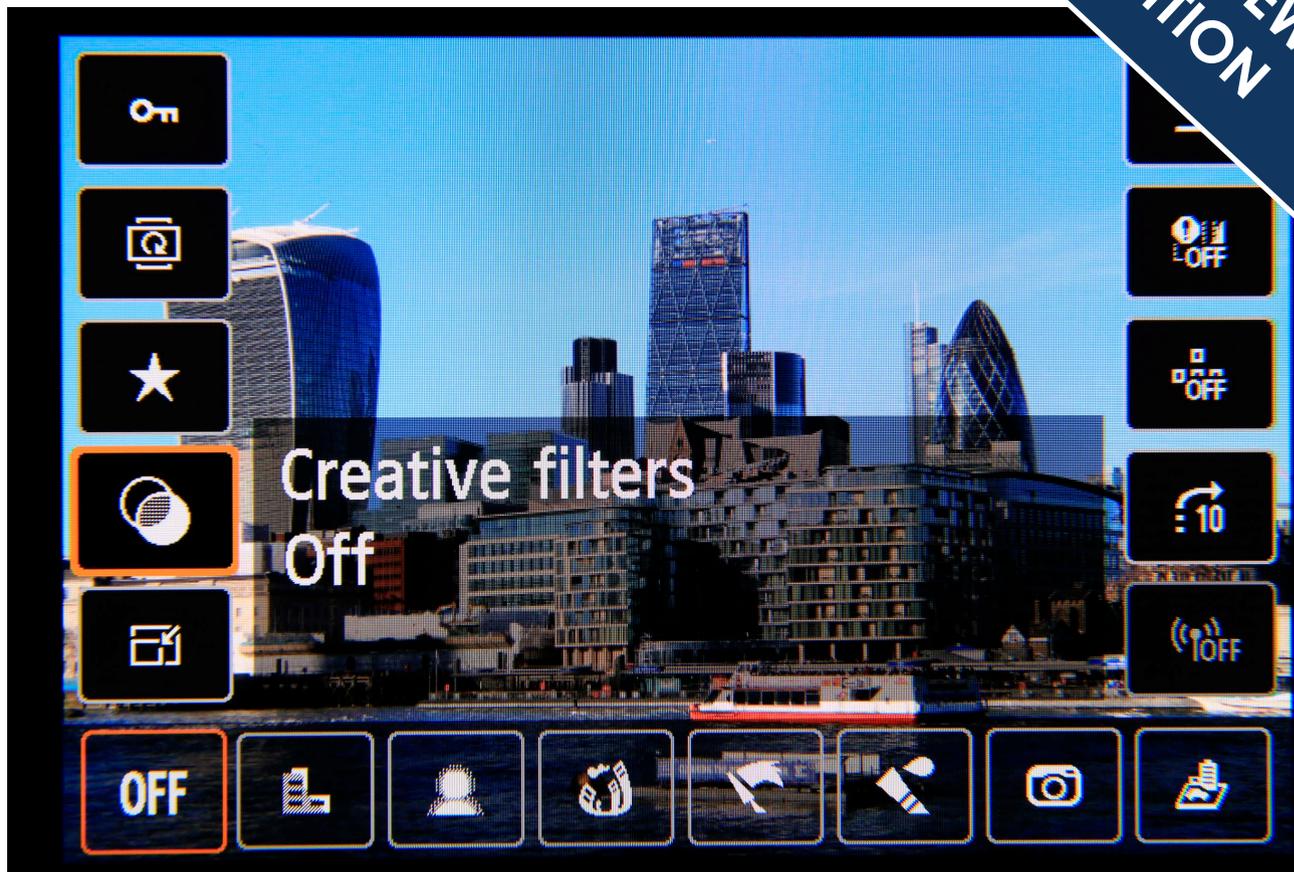
## Using the Q button to set the playback functions



On the EOS 70D, 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 and to change the settings it is the main dial on the top of the camera or the quick control dial on the rear. Pressing the set button will take you into a more detailed menu with all the items that are available listed along the bottom of the screen. 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



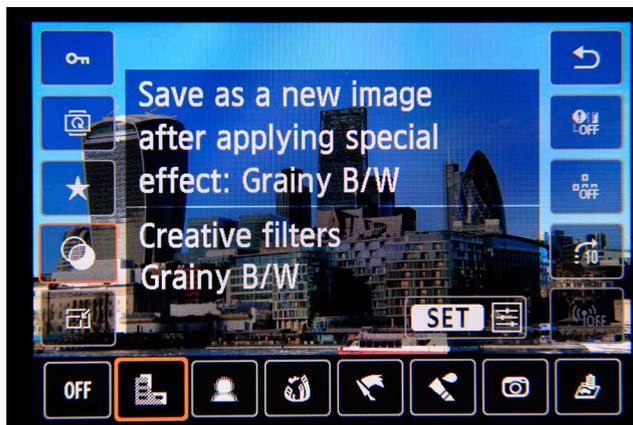
to access from this screen is the creative filter option that the camera offers.

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 am going to take a look at the options offered within this function on the next page.



## Creative filter options



This feature allows a range of creative effects to be added to images in camera. This works with either JPEG or RAW files.

There are 7 effects available: Grainy B/W, Soft focus, Fish-eye effect, Art Bold effect, Watercolour painting effect, Toy camera effect and Miniature effect. Some of these have various setting options. This control can be accessed from either the playback menu or from when playing back an image by using the Q button.

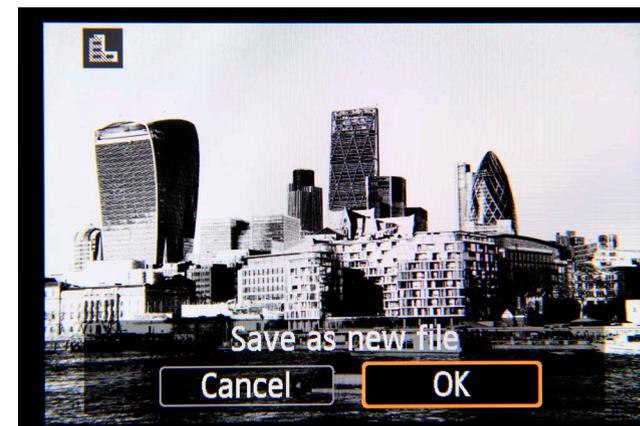
Regardless of how you get into the creative filter setting, the operation from the display of the image onwards is very similar.

You simply navigate in the normal way to the option you want and either just press the icon if using the touch controls or use the set button to enter those options.

The effect immediately comes up with its default option and on most of the settings this can be made stronger or weaker as can be seen on the right.



Once you have the image as you want it, press the set button to save the image. You will see a screen where it says set on the screen. This will then give you a screen asking you to confirm if you want to save the options and when you touch the set or highlight save and press the set button it will then tell you the new file number of the image it has just saved. The images are always the next image number in sequence from what is already on the card and so the original and the new version may be some way apart on the card.



## Creative filter options

### Grainy B/W

This gives a grainy effect to the image and boosts the contrast in the image. There are three contrast levels, standard which is the default, low and strong. The strong setting is very dramatic but can result in a shot with very little detail in it as the light tones within the image have become pure white and the dark tones pure black.



Grainy B/W Low



Grainy B/W Standard



Grainy B/W High

### Soft focus

This allows a soft focus effect to be applied to the image. This gives a good diffused effect, and both the standard and low are very good. The strong effect looks a bit overdone. The default option is for standard, there is also a low and a strong option.



Soft focus Low



Soft focus Standard



Soft focus High

### Fish eye

This is designed to mimic the effect of shooting with a fish eye lens. This is a type of lens that is not corrected for curvature and gives a barrel-distorted effect to the images that you shoot. This is one of the more useful options, as although this is a fun effect, it is seldom needed enough to warrant the purchase of a specialist lens. There is a low, standard and strong option. The default option is standard.



Fish eye Low



Fish eye Standard



Fish eye High

### Art bold

This is designed to make the image look like an oil painting the edges of the subjects are enhanced to make the whole effect look three-dimensional. When applying this effect you can adjust the contrast and saturation. Things that have an even colour will be not be rendered with a smooth graduation and as a result may look uneven or have noise evident in them. This may especially affect skies and white subjects.



Art bold Low



Art bold Standard



Art bold High

## Creative filter options

### Watercolour painting effect

This is designed to make the images look like a watercolour painting with soft colours. You can adjust the density for this effect within the settings. This will work best with lighter coloured subjects. Night scenes and very dark subjects may have very uneven tones or have noise evident within the effect.



Watercolour painting Low



Watercolour painting Standard



Watercolour painting High

### Toy camera effect

This is designed to give the effect of a toy camera, though to be fair we haven't seen any toy cameras that give images this extreme. The effect puts a heavy dark vignette around the edges of the image and applies a colour cast to the image. There is a standard option plus warm and cool settings.



Toy camera Cool tone



Toy camera Standard



Toy camera Warm tone

### Miniature effect

The miniature effect makes the subjects you shoot look like they are a miniature of the scene by giving the image a very restrictive depth of field. This can be used to draw attention to just one part of the image. There are no strength options but the area that is going to be sharp can be changed from horizontal to vertical by pressing the info button. The selected area can be moved to different areas on the image the multi controller on the rear of the camera.

These effects have to be processed in the camera before the images are downloaded and the resulting image will always be a JPEG file.



Miniature Horizontal



Miniature vertical

## Using the touch controls

The touch controls have been on a few of the EOS models and they are proving to be a useful addition to the cameras. They work in exactly the same way as most smart phones and so once in the screens and menus, icons and commands can be simply tapped with a finger to select them.

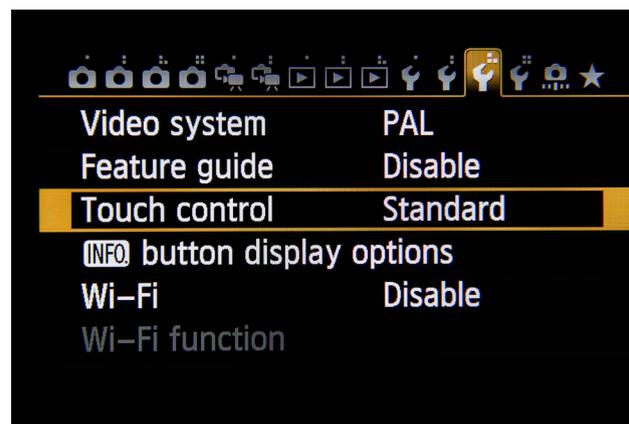
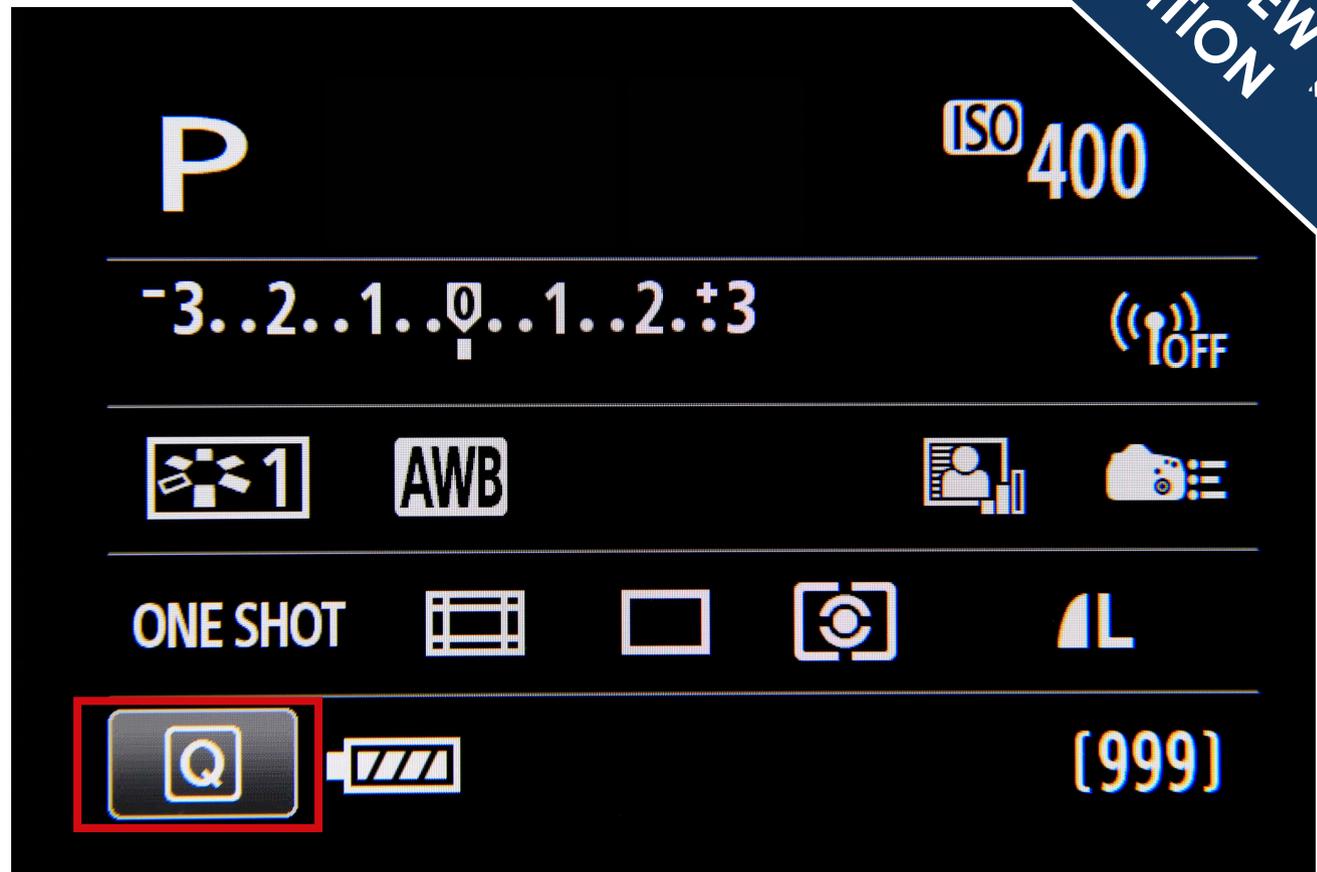
When playing back images the normal wipe and magnify options all work, and of course the playback options can be brought up on screen by just pressing the Q button on the rear of the camera and then touch controls can be used for everything else.

To set things using the touch controls you either press the Q button if the screen is not already active, or if the information is showing, simply tap the Q button on the rear LCD screen as highlighted to the right.

Then tap the item that you want to set and it will take you into the options screen where you simply tap on the item that you want to select. Tapping the return icon will take you back to the main Q screen display.

A few of the options such as the exposure compensation setting have plus and minus buttons that can be tapped to move the slider along the scale, or the slider can be dragged to where you want it.

There is an option in the set up menu 3 to make the touch controls more sensitive or to disable the feature if you do not find it useful.

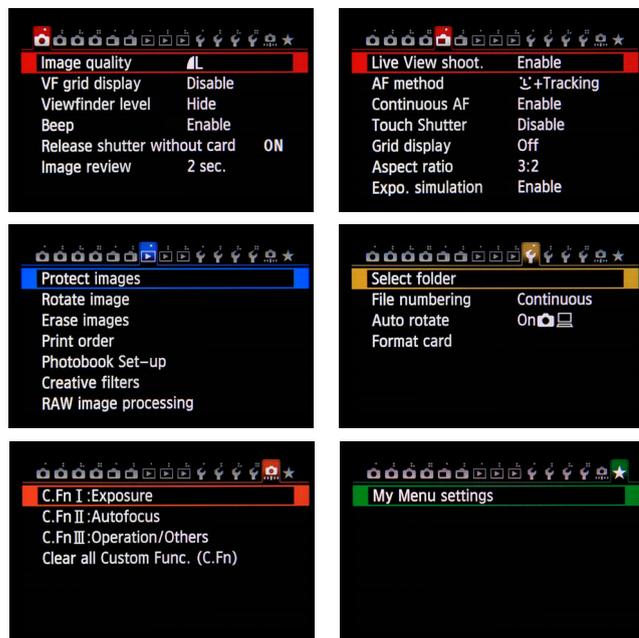


## Chapter 02

# The menu system



## The menu - basic operation



The camera has a very comprehensive menu system that allows all of the camera's functionality to be set.

Canon has significantly changed the menus on this camera, moving a lot of the commands around to make some of the features and functions easier to find and set.

The menu is split into sections, which are indicated by the colour of the menu tabs. If the camera is being used in the Auto +, CA, flash off or Scene modes then there will only be 10 menu tabs when you enter the menu system. If the camera is in any of the creative modes, P, TV, AV, M, B or C, then the menu will have 15 tabs.

The Red tabs contains the shooting or camera menus. In the creative modes there are 4 tabs

when shooting still images.

There are 2 dedicated live view menus and when movies are selected 2 dedicated movie mode menus. In the Auto +, Flash off, CA or Scene modes this changes to just 2 shooting or camera menus, 1 live view menu and 2 movie menus.

The dots above the symbol on the tab indicates the number of the menu from 1 to 4 according to how many menus there are.

The Blue tabs are where the playback and print commands are found. There are three menus in this tab regardless of the mode being used.

The yellow tabs are the set up menu. This used to be referred to as the tools menu and there are four menus in all modes. These menus control a wide range of different operational features.

The orange tab is the custom function menu and there are sub menus within this tab. This allows a wide range of customisations to be applied to the camera. However, this is the one menu that contains significantly less commands than on previous EOS models as many of the custom functions have now become simple menu commands. Not available in the Auto + or Scene modes.

The final tab which is green, is the My Menu. This allows the photographer to make up a menu from all the commands that the menu offers. This allows very quick access to the commands that are regularly used. Not available in the Auto +, Flash off, CA or Scene modes mode.

I am not going to explain every single menu

command as most photographers who have used other EOS models will be familiar with most of the items in the menu system. I am not going to look at the items that may be new to at least some photographers.

One of the key aspects to understanding how to operate the camera is to understand how to set the menu system up and navigate around within it. On this camera that has become even more crucial as you now have much easier access to many more commands.

To enter the menu you simply press the menu button. There are three ways to navigate between the tabs. The first is via the main dial on the top of the camera. This will scroll through the menu one menu at a time. Turning the main dial in the opposite direction will go backwards through the menus. The second is to use the multi controller on the rear of the camera. Again this goes through the menu one at a time.

The touch controls can also be used, you still press the menu button to enter the menus, but once the menu screen has appeared you just tap on the tab you want to set.

To select individual items within the menu again there are three options. Either the Quick control dial on the rear of the camera or the multi controller will allow you to go up and down the commands of the menu you have selected. The third option is to simply tap on the menu item you want to set and it will take you into the menu directly.

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