

How to get the best from your camera



The Basics...

Your camera...



1. RT*M!
2. The display screen
3. Exposure Modes
4. Focus Modes
5. Telephoto Photography
6. Flash Photography

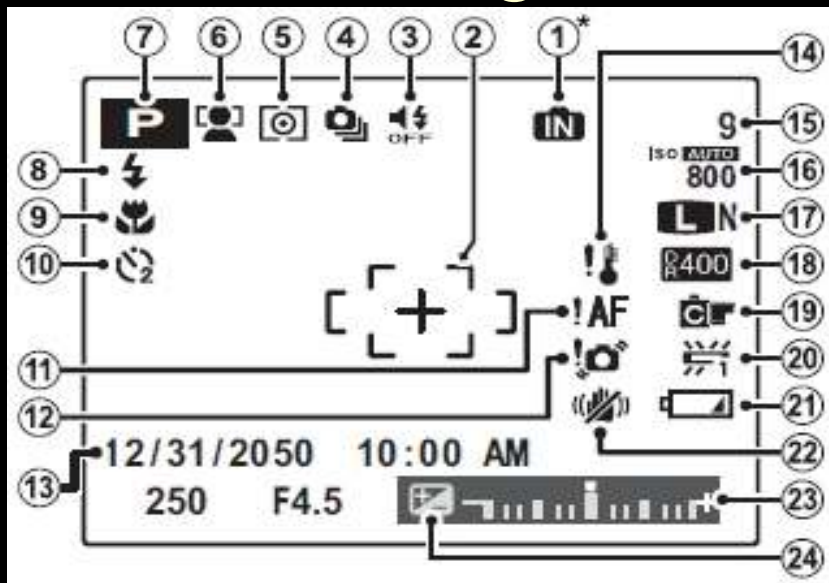
*RT*M!*



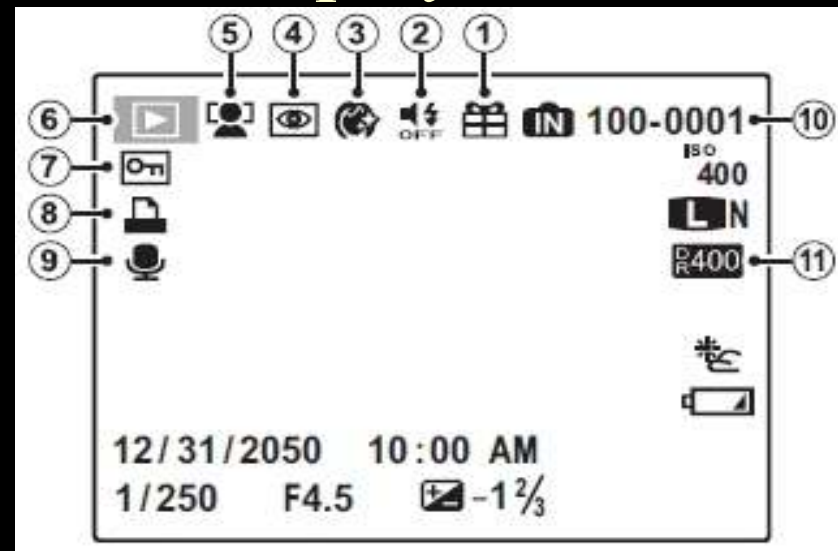
- If you want to know how to get the best results from your camera, read the manual!
- Learn how to:
 - Select different modes
 - Adjust the exposure
 - Use manual focus
 - Use “special” modes such as multiple exposures, face recognition and soft focus...

The display screen

Shooting



Display




There is a huge number of adjustments you can make, which is RT*M is so important!

Auto exposure settings

- Spot
 - Adjusts the exposure to optimise on one spot (usually the centre)
- Multi
 - Picks several spots and adjusts the exposure to obtain the best compromise
- Average
 - Adjusts the exposure based on the average light level in the shot
- +/-
 - Use this function to increase or decrease the exposure to the desired level
- AEL – exposure lock
 - Select the region you want to be optimally exposed, select AEL, then frame and take the shot

The mode control wheel



- A: Auto
- P: Programme
- A: Aperture priority
- S: Shutter priority
- M: Manual
-  Macro
- Other modes

Auto mode

Setting the camera to full auto lets it work everything out for itself:

- Exposure (shutter and aperture settings), focussing and the flash (if enabled).
- Usually a few settings can be adjusted, e.g. flash.

Programme mode

Adds a little more control to the Auto mode:

- Exposure adjustment
- Flash – on/off/auto/red-eye
- Bracketing...

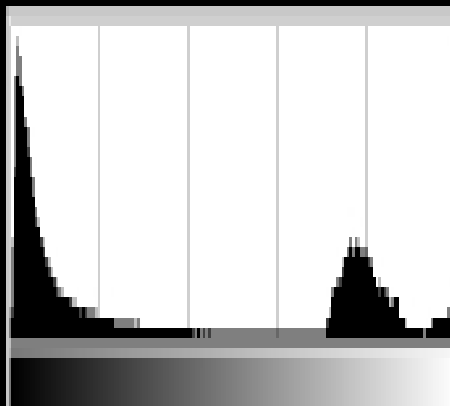
Exposure bracketing 1



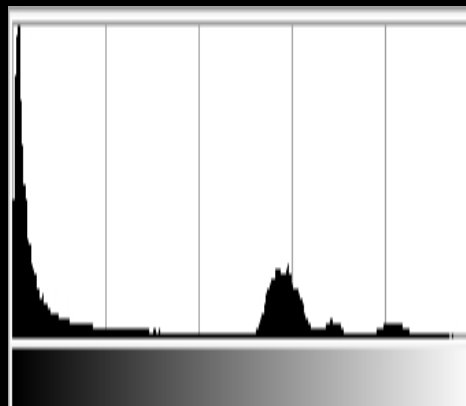
Taking several pictures either manually or using a bracketing feature on the camera (usually adjustable via a menu) of an auto-exposed, “under-exposed” and “over-exposed” photo of the same scene.

Exposure bracketing 2

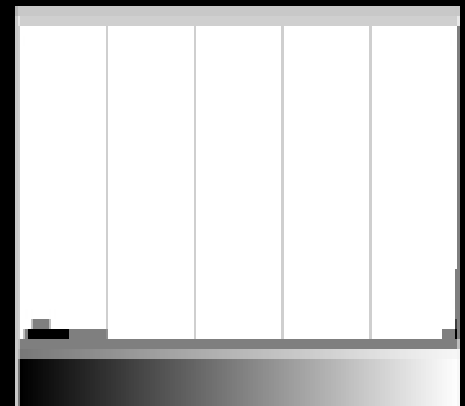
Auto



Dark



Light



Aperture priority mode 1

F = focal length/aperture diameter:

A bigger F-stop means a smaller aperture; it allows you to adjust the “iris” of the camera while it adjusts the shutter speed to correct for exposure. This allows you to alter the depth of field...

Aperture priority mode 2

Make sure the most important feature is the one in sharpest focus e.g. the eye(s), a particular flower etc.


F/32



F/5



Shutter priority mode 1



Allows you to adjust the amount of time the camera shutter opens for each shot while the camera adjusts the aperture to correct for exposure.

Be aware of the limited number of F-stops c.f. shutter speeds!

Shutter priority mode 2

A fast shutter speed
will allow you to
“freeze” the action:



Shutter priority mode 3

With a slow shutter speed you can create interesting effects such as blurring or streaking:



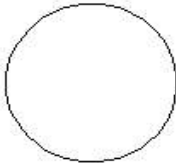
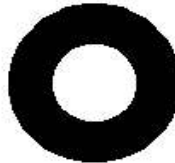

Manual mode 1



In manual mode you have complete control of the shutter speed and aperture.

This means you have to adjust both to get the correct exposure...

Manual mode 2

Shutter speed	1/250	OK	DARK	VERY DARK
	1/125	LIGHT	OK	DARK
	1/60	VERY LIGHT	LIGHT	OK
Aperture				
				
F2.8				
				
F8				
				
F16				

F-stops



- Every decrease in F-number (increase in aperture size) doubles the amount of light let into the camera
- So if the shot is correctly exposed at F/2.8 and 1/125s if you change to F/3.2, a shutter speed of 1/60s *should* be correct.
- Many cameras can be set to exposure bracket at various EVs (exposure values) either side of the auto exposure level, e.g. +/- 1/3, +/- 2/3, +/- 1 EV

Macro and Super-Macro modes 1



Macro



Super-Macro

Macro and Super-Macro modes 2



Short depth of field:

- Make sure the most important feature is the one in sharpest focus e.g. the eyes
- Manual focussing often produces better results than Auto focus

Macro and Super-Macro modes 3

Get up-close and personal!



Other modes



- Landscape
 - Best compromise focus for foreground and background
- Portrait
 - Face recognition
 - Anti red-eye
 - Soft focus / short depth of field
- Sports
 - Fastest shutter speed for the lighting conditions
- Custom modes
 - Set the camera up with settings you use often
- Other: RT*M...

Focus modes



- Auto-Single focuses when you depress the shutter release half way
- Auto-Continuous constantly refocuses and drains the battery!
- Manual: using the focus ring (or buttons)
- Manual Assist auto-focuses and then lets you adjust from there

Telephoto photography

Unless the lighting conditions are very good

- Use a tripod
- Use a remote control or shutter release cable
 - (the self-timer function can also be used if these aren't available)

These will help prevent camera shake causing blurring of the image.

These tools are also useful for long exposure-time shots for the same reason.

Flash photography



Settings:

- Turn flash off
- Force flash (on)
- Fill-in flash
 - Useful for illuminating foreground subjects against a bright/backlit background.

The end!



And remember to
experiment and...

$RT * M!$