

Tips on Camera Controls

Exposure Mode Dial



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Photo exposure is the process of recording the amount of light in a given scene, transferring that information to the camera controls, and delivering a measured quantity of light to the camera's sensor. In other words, it's all about matching the light in the scene to the light that's recorded.

Ideally, you should not shoot in Automatic or Program mode. Shooting in these modes, the camera, not the photographer determines the exposure and shutter speed.

What do the symbols on the Exposure Mode Dial mean?



Portrait Close-up Night Portrait
Landscape Sports

The dial on the left is the basic dial for most Point and Shoot and dSLR's cameras. It highlights the picture gram and what the symbols stand for.

The graphic below highlights the other symbols found on the Exposure dial and their definitions.



This is the Flash Symbol. If your camera has a built in flash, you can turn it on here.

(C1) Custom User Modes

Set your favorite settings to each of the C1, C2 or C3 modes for quick selection.



(M) Manual Exposure Mode

Manual selection of shutter speed, aperture and ISO sensitivity. Maximum control of the Exposure Triangle!

(Av) Aperture Priority "Aperture Value"

Good for changing Depth of Field (DoF). Manual selection of aperture with camera selecting shutter speed and ISO sensitivity.

(Tv) Shutter Priority "Time Value"

Good for freezing or blurring motion. Manual selection of shutter speed with camera selecting aperture and ISO sensitivity.

(P) Program Mode

Camera's Auto functions select shutter speed and aperture with ability to override camera's choice.

Scene Modes

Various Auto shooting modes by subject. Typical modes include Portrait, Landscape, Macro, Sports, Night Portrait and No Flash.

Auto Mode

Camera will select all settings based on the scene to include auto focusing and flash.