

Designed and written by

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The creators and
administrators of
the



Full Manual Mode

This information sheet is designed as a supplement to the GC2 Photo Club video on the same subject. It is provided to help reinforce learning and as a reference document for you to keep.

If you have not seen our video's and information sheets on Aperture Priority, Shutter Speed Priority and I.S.O. Then I recommend that you view those first, as this lesson will then be easier to understand.



Figure 1

You set the Camera to full Manual control by selecting 'M' on your Camera's dial.

Different Camera's have variations as to how you change the Manual settings. In Figure 1 we have a Canon EOS 5D MK 2 and you set the Aperture with the dial far left and the Shutter Speed with the dial second from left, we also have to set the power switch to this setting. With a Nikon you set the Aperture and Shutter Speed as in the third and fourth images in Figure 1.

If you viewed our video's on Aperture Priority and Shutter Speed Priority you will know that the Exposure for any given I.S.O. is set by a combination of the Shutter Speed (this controls how long the Shutter is open for) and The Aperture (which controls how much light is passed through the Lens). The I.S.O. controls how sensitive your camera's sensor is.

Unlike Aperture Priority or Shutter Speed Priority the camera will not set the correct exposure for you, you have to use the camera's inbuilt TTL exposure meter, or a separate exposure meter to measure the brightness of your subject and obtain the correct camera settings.

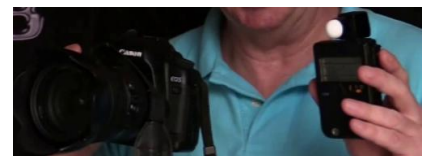


Figure 2



Figure 3

Fortunately this is very easy on a modern DSLR. If you look through your viewfinder, as in Figure 3, you will see (usually at the bottom of your viewfinder) an exposure level indicator. This is also on displayed on the LCD panel.

Focus on the subject first and the exposure level indicator will be displayed, then scroll your dial until the exposure level mark is in the correct place (usually the middle, called the 'Standard Exposure Index' but you might want to over or under expose).

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We have now set the desired exposure (you can check your Aperture and Shutter settings in the LCD screen)



Figure 4

If you use an external exposure meter, as in Figure 4, just take your readings and set the corresponding I.S.O, Aperture and Shutter Speed readings on your Camera using the dials and LCD screen.

You can now take your photograph and check in your LCD monitor, as shown in Figure , on the back of your camera, to see if your settings were correct and make any exposure compensation adjustments if you are not happy with the results.



Figure 5

However try not to spend too much time looking in your screen as you may miss a great shot .

We recommend that you take your DSLR out and practice this method until you are comfortable using full Manual Control in any Photographic situation or scenario.

We hope you found this information sheet useful, visit our web site at www.gc2photoclub.com for more tutorials and information.

Don't forget to subscribe to our newsletter for the latest updates.

Bye for now

Geoff and Gary