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# Canon® EOS 6D

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- **Take great pictures automatically**
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*Author of* Digital Portrait Photography For Dummies

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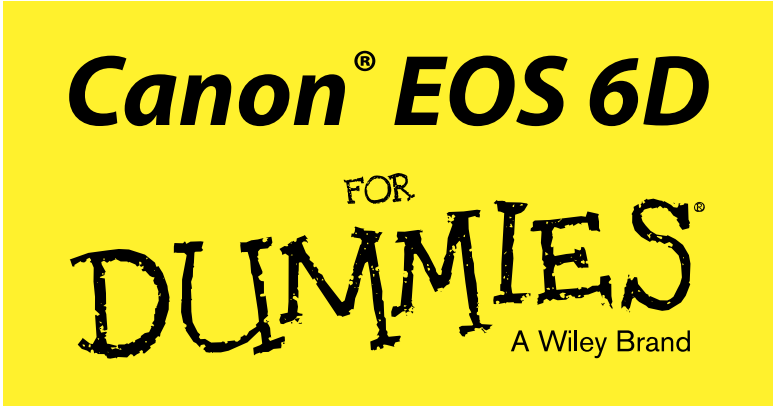
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# Canon® EOS 6D

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by Doug Sahlin

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**Doug Sahlin** is an author and photographer living in Venice, Florida. He's written books on computer applications, such as Adobe Flash and Adobe Acrobat. He's also written books on digital photography and co-authored 13 books on various applications, such as Adobe Photoshop and Photoshop Elements. Recent titles include: *Digital Landscape and Nature Photography For Dummies, Digital SLR Shortcuts and Settings For Dummies,* and *Canon EOS 7D For Dummies.* Many of his books have been bestsellers on Amazon.

Doug is president of Doug Plus Rox Photography, a wedding and event photography company. Doug teaches Adobe Acrobat to local businesses and government institutions. He also teaches Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Photoshop Lightroom at local photography stores.

# Dedication

Dedicated to my wife Roxanne, the love of my life and one of the best photographers on the planet.

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# Introduction

Your Canon EOS 6D is the latest and greatest digital camera on the market — with a stunning 20.2-megapixel capture, Live View, high-definition video, and much more. But all this technology can be a bit daunting, especially if this is your first real digital SLR (single-lens reflex). You no longer have modes like Portrait, Sport, Landscape, and so on. You've graduated to the big leagues. All you have to do is master the power you hold in your hands.

I've been using Canon digital SLRs since the EOS 10D, and I've learned a lot about the cameras since then. In addition to the EOS 6D I'm using to write this book, I also own an EOS 5D MKII and EOS 7D, which has a lot of the features found on your EOS 6D. My goal is to show you how to become one with your camera. I don't get overly technical in this book, even though your camera is very technical. I also do my best to keep it lively. So if you want to master your EOS 6D, you have the right book in your hands.

## About This Book

If you find the buttons and menus on your shiny new EOS 6D a tad intimidating, this book is for you. In the chapters of this book, I take you from novice point-and-shoot photographer to one who can utilize all the bells and whistles your camera offers. You'll find information about every menu and button on your camera, as well as when to use them, and what settings to use for specific picture-taking situations. I also show you how to use the software that ships with your camera.

## Foolish Assumptions

Ah yes. Assume. When broken down to its lowest common denominator . . . Okay, I won't go there. But as an author, I have to make some assumptions. First and foremost, you should now own, or have on order, a Canon EOS 6D. If you own one of those cute little point-and-shoot Canon cameras, good for you, but this book won't help you with that camera. You should also have a computer to download your images to. A basic knowledge of photography is also helpful. I know, you probably meet all assumptions. But my editor assumes I'll put this section in this part of the book.

## Conventions Used in This Book

To make life easier, this book has several conventions that are used to identify pertinent information — stuff you should know. So to help you navigate this book easily, I use a few style conventions:

- Terms or words that you might be unfamiliar with in the context of photography, I have *italicized* — and I also define these.
- Numbered steps that you need to follow and characters you need to type are set in **bold.**
- Margin art is used to identify camera buttons. When you see one of these icons, it shows you what button to push, or dial to rotate.
- The Canon EOS 6D menu has pretty little icons for each tab, but no text to describe what each tab does. I name the tabs to make things easier for you, dear reader, and for my editor and me. You'll find a table with tab names in Chapter 2.

## The Long and Winding Road Ahead

I divide this book into four parts, with each devoted to a specific aspect of your camera. The chapters flow logically from one subject to the next, to take you from shooting in Full Auto mode to becoming a seasoned photographer who knows what mode to choose and what settings to use for taking pictures of specific subjects. You can read the book from cover to cover — or, if you need quick information about a specific topic, peruse the Table of Contents or Index until you find the desired topic. Most of the sections in this book don't require reading additional material.

The following sections offer a brief overview of each part of the book.

### Part 1: Getting Started with Your Canon EOS 6D

Part I contains four chapters that help you get up and running with your EOS 6D:

- Chapter 1 introduces you to the camera and shows you how to do some basic tasks.
- Chapter 2 shows you how to take pictures using the two Automatic modes. I show you how to go fully automatic and how to use the Creative Auto mode.

- Chapter 3 shows you how to specify the image format. I show you how to choose JPEG and RAW format, discuss different sizes, and offer my recommendation for the ideal format.
- Chapter 4 shows you how to use the LCD monitor for a myriad of purposes. I show you how to review your images, use the histogram, and more.

## Part II: Going Beyond Point-and-Shoot Photography

In this part of the book, I cut to the chase and show you how to master the advanced features of your camera.

- Chapter 5 shows you how to use Live View mode. I show you how to take pictures with Live View, change Autofocus modes, and more. I also show you how to capture movies with Live View. So you're live in Chapter 5.
- Chapter 6 shows you how to use the Creative shooting modes. In this chapter, I also show you how to modify camera exposure, bracket exposure, and more.
- Chapter 7 shows you how to use the advanced features of your camera. I show you how to set ISO, set white balance, and much more. I also show you how to use your EOS 6D with Canon Speedlites.
- Chapter 8 shows you how to use your EOS 6D in specific shooting situations. I discuss sport photography, wildlife photography, landscape photography, and more.

## Part III: Editing and Sharing Your Images

This part of the book shows you how to organize and edit your images with Canon's ImageBrowser EX and Digital Photo Professional software.

- Chapter 9 introduces you to Canon's ImageBrowser EX and Digital Photo Professional. I show you how to download and organize your work, plus show you how to do some basic editing tasks.
- Chapter 10 shows you how to print your images from ImageBrowser EX and Canon Digital Photo Professional. I also show you how to make contact sheets in both applications.

## Part IV: The Part of Tens

The book concludes with two top ten lists, written by yours truly, who happens to have a gap between his teeth like David Letterman, who happens to

be famous for his top ten lists. The lists are grouped according to subject matter, and a splendid time is guaranteed for all. And tonight Mr. Kite is topping the bill.

- Chapter 11 shows you how to create a custom menu and register your favorite settings. I also show you how to add copyright information to the camera and much more.
- Chapter 12 shows you how to create a makeshift tripod, create abstract images, create multiple exposures in camera, and more.

## Icons and Other Delights

*For Dummies* books have icons that indicate important bits of information. You can hopscotch from icon to icon and discover a lot. But when in doubt, read the text associated with the icon. In this book, you find the following icons:




- A Tip icon contains information designed to save you time and, in some instances, your very sanity.




- This icon warns you about something you should not do; something your fearless author has already done and decided it's not a good thing to do again.




- When you see this icon, it's the equivalent of a virtual piece of string tied around your finger. This is information you want to commit to memory.




- When you see this icon, it's for the geeks in the group who like to know all manner of technical stuff.

You'll also find icons in the margin that show you controls on your camera, and menu tabs.

## Shoot Lots of Pictures and Enjoy!

Your EOS 6D is a digital photography powerhouse; use it and use it often. The old adage "practice makes perfect" does apply, though. The only way to become a better photographer and master your equipment is to apply what

you know and shoot as many pictures as you can. While you're working your way through this book, keep your camera close at hand. When your significant other pokes his or her head into the room, grab your camera and start practicing your craft. Take one picture, then another, and another, and so on. With practice, you'll know your camera like the back of your hand. You'll also know which rules of photography and composition work for you — and you'll start to develop your own style. For that matter, you'll probably amaze yourself, too.

# Part I



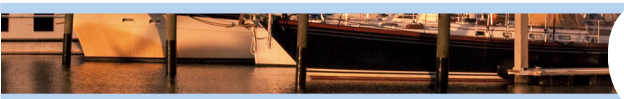




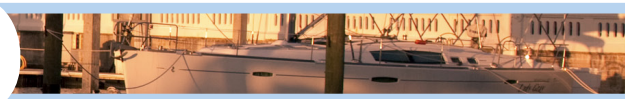
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## In this part . . .

- Get to know the lay of the land and familiarize you with the controls of your EOS 6D.
- Find out how to take great pictures automatically as well as how to specify image size and format.
- Understand how to get around in the menu.
- Learn to master your LCD monitor.
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# 1



# Exploring Your EOS 6D

### *In This Chapter*

- Getting to know the camera controls
- Using the LCD panel
- Using the viewfinder
- Introducing wireless and GPS
- Attaching and removing a lens
- Using image stabilization
- Using a zoom lens
- Changing camera settings
- Using SD cards
- Accessorizing your EOS 6D



The Canon EOS 6D is a camera many people have been waiting for. Combining a full frame sensor in an ergonomic body with other bells and whistles at a fraction of the cost of the Canon EOS 5D MKIII makes this a very desirable camera for photographers who shoot landscapes and want to get the maximum amount of real estate in the frame. This camera has the best features of the cropped-frame sensor cameras such as the EOS 60D and EOS 7D with the new, all-singing all-dancing DIGIC 5 sensor. It doesn't get any better than this unless you fork over the cold hard cash for an EOS 5D MKIII. And the camera comes with a dual-axis level built into the viewfinder, which means that as long as you use this feature, you never have to deal with a defective horizon line (technical-speak for slanted horizon line) again. The fact that you have this book in your hands means you already know that, but want to master the features of the new camera.

The camera comes with a shooting mode for every photographer. If you're new to digital photography, or this is your first digital SLR, Canon has given you several modes to create great photographs automatically. Think of these as your training wheels. If you're a seasoned photographer, Canon also gives you quite a few modes where you can take the reins and create the type of photograph you want. Add WiFi, GPS, multiple exposures, and HDR in-camera, and you've got a potent tool for creating cool images.

Getting familiar with all this new technology can seem daunting even to a seasoned photographer. I was impressed, albeit a tad flummoxed, when I saw the first reviews for this camera. Even though I'm a seasoned Canon digital single-lens reflex (DSLR) user — my first digital SLR was the EOS 10D — I still had to flatten a learning curve when I first had the EOS 6D in hand, chomping at the bit to take some pictures. But it's my job to get down to brass tacks with new technology and show you how to master this technology. The fact that you're reading this probably means that you want to know how to use all the bells and whistles Canon has built into the camera. In this chapter I begin at the beginning: the buttons, knobs, and other controls on the outside of the camera. Getting to know the camera controls like the back of your hand is the first step to taking gorgeous pictures with this awesome new edition to Canon's line of digital SLR cameras.

## Getting in Touch with the Camera Controls

If you're a longtime Canon user, you know that you can do an awful lot with the camera by using external controls, which saves you from having to use pesky menus that other camera manufacturers are so fond of. The controls for this camera are easy to reach and give you access to many powerful camera features. Although you may think it's a daunting task to know which button does what, after you use the camera for a while, you'll automatically know which control gives you your desired result and then reach for it instinctively, without taking your eye from the viewfinder. But first, you need to know what each control does. I explain the controls you find on the outside of the camera in the upcoming sections.

### Exploring the top of the camera

The top of the camera (as shown in Figure 1-1) is where you find the controls you use most when creating images. The top of the camera is where you change settings like ISO (International Organization for Standards), aperture, and shutter speed, choose a shooting mode, and press the shutter button to take a picture. You can do lots of other things from the top of the camera, which in my humble opinion is the most important piece of real estate on the camera, except of course for the lens, which is your window to your world as

you photograph it. I suggest you get to know the controls on the top of your camera intimately, like the back of your hand. Many photographers, including me, make it a point to memorize where the controls are and access them without taking an eye off the viewfinder. If you do this, you'll instinctively be able to dial in the right settings when a photo opportunity appears. If you have to fumble and take your eyes away from the viewfinder, you'll miss a lot of shots. Here's what you find on the top of the camera:

- **Shutter button:** This button pre-focuses the camera and takes a picture. I discuss this button in greater detail in Chapter 2.
- **Main dial:** This dial changes a setting after you press a button. For example, after you press the ISO Speed button, you move this dial to change the ISO speed setting. I show you how to use this button as the need arises.
- **LCD Panel Illumination button:** Press this button when you're in dim or dark conditions and you need to shed a little light on the LCD panel.
- **Metering mode button:** This button changes the Metering mode (see Chapter 6 for more on the Metering mode).
- **ISO speed-setting button:** This button sets the ISO speed setting (see Chapter 6 for more on the ISO speed setting). Canon has instituted a nice feature on this button. This is the only button on the top of the camera that is concave with a little dimple on it, which makes it easy to find this button by feel.
- **LCD panel:** This panel shows you all the current settings. I show you how to read the information in this panel in the section, "Decoding the LCD Panel," later in this chapter.
- **Drive button:** This button changes the drive mode from single shot to multi-shot.
- **AF button:** This button changes the Auto Focus Operation.
- **Hot shoe:** Slide a compatible flash unit (a Canon flash unit is dubbed a *Speedlite*) into this slot. The contacts in the hot shoe communicate between the camera and the flash unit. (I discuss flash photography in Chapter 6.)
- **Mode dial:** This button determines which shooting mode the camera uses to take the picture. (I show you how to use this dial to choose specific shooting modes in Chapter 6, and in Chapter 8, I show you how to choose optimal settings for specific picture-taking situations.)
- **Mode Dial Lock Release button:** Push this button to unlock the Mode Dial and then rotate the Mode Dial to choose a different shooting mode. This new feature ensures you'll never accidentally select a different shooting mode than the one that you've chosen for the type of pictures you're taking.




**Figure 1-1:** On top of your camera, all covered with dials and buttons.

## Exploring the back of the camera

The back of the camera is also an important place. Here you find controls to power up your camera, access the camera menu, and much more. The following is what you find on the back of your EOS 6D (see Figure 1-2):

- **Access lamp:** Flashes when the camera writes data to the inserted memory card.
- **AF Point Selection button:** This button enables you to change from multiple autofocus points to a single autofocus point (see Chapter 6).
- **AE Lock/FE Lock button:** This button locks exposure to a specific part of the frame (see Chapter 6). When used with a dedicated Canon flash, this button is used to lock flash exposure to a specific part of the frame.
- **AF-ON button:** This button, in certain shooting modes, establishes focus. You also use this button to establish focus on a specific part of the person, place, or thing you're photographing (see Chapter 6).

- **Live View Shooting/Movie Shooting switch:** This switch serves one function: It switches from Live View Still Mode to Live View Movie mode (for those of you who aspire to be the next great indie filmmaker), which I explain in detail in Chapter 5.
- **Live View/Movie Start/Stop button:** You use this switch to engage Live View mode, and when you switch to movie shooting mode, this button starts and stops recording a movie (see Chapter 5).
- **Index/Magnify/Reduce button:** This button displays multiple images on the LCD monitor, or zooms in or out on a single image displayed on the LCD monitor.
- **Playback button:** This button displays the last image captured, or the last image viewed.
- **Quick Control button:** Press this button to display the Quick Control menu on the LCD monitor. (I show you how to use the Quick Control menu in Chapter 4.) You can also use the Quick Control button in conjunction with the SCN modes, Scene Intelligent Auto, and the CA (Creative Auto) mode.
- **Quick Control dial:** This button selects a setting or highlights a menu item. This dial is used when performing various tasks, and I discuss it throughout this book as needed.
- **Multi-controller button:** Use this button for a myriad of tasks, such as changing the autofocus point, selecting an option when using the Quick Control Menu instead of the camera menu, navigating to a menu item or switching from one camera menu to the next. (I explain this button in detail when it's associated with a specific task throughout this book.)
- **Set button:** Press this button to confirm a task, such as erasing an image from your card or setting a menu option. I show you how to use this button in conjunction with specific tasks throughout this book.
- **Erase button:** This button deletes a single image, or multiple images. (I show you how to delete images in Chapter 4.)
- **Multi-Function Lock switch:** This switch prevents a setting from being accidentally erased. Flick the switch to the right to lock the Quick Control dial when you're in shooting mode. Flick the switch left to unlock the Quick Control dial and enable setting changes.
- **Dioptric adjustment knob:** This control fine-tunes the viewfinder to your eyesight (see Chapter 2).
- **Viewfinder/eyepiece:** Use the viewfinder to compose your pictures. Shooting information, battery status, and the amount of shots that can be stored on the memory card is displayed in the viewfinder. The eyepiece cushions your eye when you press it against the viewfinder and creates a seal that prevents ambient light from having an adverse effect on the exposure.

- **Info button:** Press this button to display shooting information on the LCD monitor. You can choose from many different information screens. (I inform you about the different screens in Chapter 4.)
- **Menu:** Press this button to display the last used camera menu on the LCD monitor. (I introduce you to the camera menu in Chapter 2 and refer to the menu throughout this book.)
- **Power switch:** Okay, so this is a no-brainer. This switch powers the camera on and off.




**Figure 1-2:** Buttons and dials and switches; oh my.

## Exploring the front of the camera

The front of your camera (see Figure 1-3) has a couple controls you can use and other gizmos that the camera uses. Here you'll find a couple buttons that you use every day and some features you rarely use. The following is on the front of your camera:

- **Remote control sensor:** Senses the infrared beam from an RC-6 remote controller (sold separately) to actuate the shutter. Note that if you plan to purchase the RC-6 remote, it is line of sight only; you must point the remote at the front of the camera in order for it to be functional.
- **DC coupler cord hole:** The DR-E6 power adapter (sold separately) can be used to power the camera without a battery. This hole allows you to close the battery door when the DC coupler is installed properly.
- **Self-timer lamp:** This button flashes when you've enabled the self-timer. The lamp flashes quicker before the shutter is released.
- **Body cap:** Use the body cap to protect the interior of the camera when the lens isn't attached.
- **EF index mount:** In Figure 1-3 it's hidden behind the body cap, but you'll see it in all it's glory when I show you how to align an EF lens with this mark when attaching it to the camera (see the section, "Attaching a Lens," later in this chapter).
- **Depth-of-Field Preview button:** Press this button to preview the *depth of field* (the amount of the image in front of and behind your subject that's in apparent focus) at the current f-stop.
- **Lens-Release button:** Press this button when releasing a lens from the camera. I show you how to attach and remove lenses in the sections, "Attaching a Lens" and "Removing a Lens," later in this chapter.
- **Microphone:** Records monaural sound when recording movies.
- **Speaker:** Technically, this is actually on the side of the camera above the ports from which you connect the camera to external devices like the TV. Plays back sound when previewing video.




**Figure 1-3:** The front of the camera is an ergonomic wonder.

## Decoding the LCD Panel

The LCD panel on the top of the camera displays a lot of information, such as the shutter speed, aperture, ISO speed setting, and more. Figure 1-4 shows all the possible options that can appear on the LCD panel. However, you'll never see this much information when you photograph a picture. I show you the type of information you can expect to see on the LCD panel during specific picture-taking scenarios I discuss throughout this book. With the LCD panel, you can see the current settings for white balance, ISO, Metering mode, and much more. Here's a road map for the information you'll find on the LCD panel:

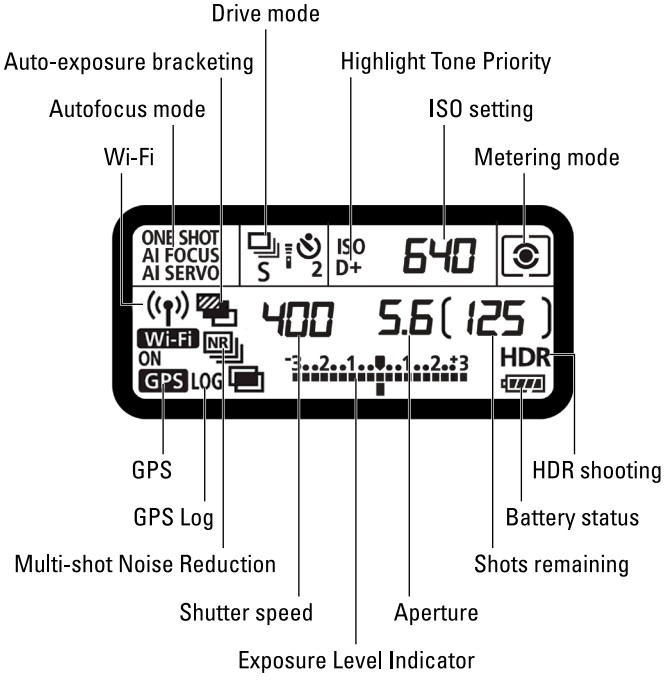



**Figure 1-4:** You find lots of useful information on the LCD panel.

- **Autofocus mode:** Displays M Focus when you choose to focus the lens manually.
- **Drive mode:** Displays the icon for the currently selected Drive mode (see Chapter 7).
- **Highlight Tone Priority:** Displays the D+ icon when you've enabled Highlight Tone Priority.
- **ISO speed setting:** The currently selected ISO speed setting displays here. You can also use this information when setting the ISO speed (see Chapter 2).
- **Metering mode:** Displays the icon for the metering mode you're currently using.
- **Wi-Fi mode:** This spot shows whether you have Wi-Fi on or off. It also displays signal strength, when connected to a wireless server.
- **GPS:** This spot on the panel shows whether you have GPS enabled.
- **Log:** This spot on the panel shows whether or not you are logging GPS locations for each image and creating a virtual map of the locations you've visited.

- **AEB:** This icon displays when you enable auto-exposure bracketing (see Chapter 7).
- **Multi-shot Noise Reduction:** This spot on the panel shows when you have multi-shot noise reduction enabled.
- **Multiple Exposure Shooting:** This spot on the panel shows when you have multiple exposure shooting enabled.
- **Shutter speed:** Displays the shutter speed, as metered by the camera or set by you, that will be used to shoot the next picture. If you're taking pictures with Shutter Priority mode or Manual mode (see Chapter 7), you can use the LCD panel to set the shutter speed.
- **Aperture:** Displays the f-stop that will be used to take the next picture. You can use this information to change the aperture when shooting in Manual mode or Aperture Priority mode (see Chapter 7).
- **Shots remaining/Self-timer countdown:** This spot on the panel does double duty. When you're using the self-timer, the time remaining until the picture is taken displays here. Otherwise, the display shows the number of shots remaining that you can fit on the SD (Secure Digital) card you insert in the camera to capture your images. An SD card is the digital equivalent of reusable film. But you probably already know that, don't you?
- **Exposure Level Indicator:** This tool indicates whether exposure compensation or auto-exposure bracketing has been enabled; it is also used to set flash compensation and when you manually set the shutter speed and aperture when shooting in M (Manual) mode. (See Chapter 6 for more on auto-exposure bracketing and see Chapter 7 for flash compensation.)
- **HDR:** This icon is displayed when you're capturing images in HDR mode.
- **Battery status:** This icon displays the amount of charge remaining in the battery. You can also get detailed information on the camera battery from the camera menu as I discuss in Chapter 7.

You see examples of different scenarios on the LCD panel throughout this book as I discuss various picture-taking situations.

## Peering into the Viewfinder

The viewfinder, or *information central* as I like to call it, is another place you find a plethora of information. In the viewfinder, you see the image as it will be captured by your camera (see Figure 1-5). Use the viewfinder to compose your picture and view camera settings while you change them. Figure 1-5 shows all the possible icons that can be displayed while taking a picture and displays all the autofocus points. You never see this much information

displayed while taking a picture. (I show you different viewfinder scenarios when I discuss different picture-taking scenarios throughout the book.) When you peer into the viewfinder, you find the current shooting settings, icons for battery status, shots remaining, and much more. Here's the info displayed (from left to right) in your viewfinder:

- **Warning symbol:** This icon appears when the Monochrome picture style is enabled or when White Balance has been modified or bracketed, but will not be displayed if you've changed from AWB (Automatic White Balance) to one of the presets such as Cloudy. The warning symbol is your warning to change your settings after you've taken all of the black and white photos you want to take, or you're finished capturing images that require white balance modification.

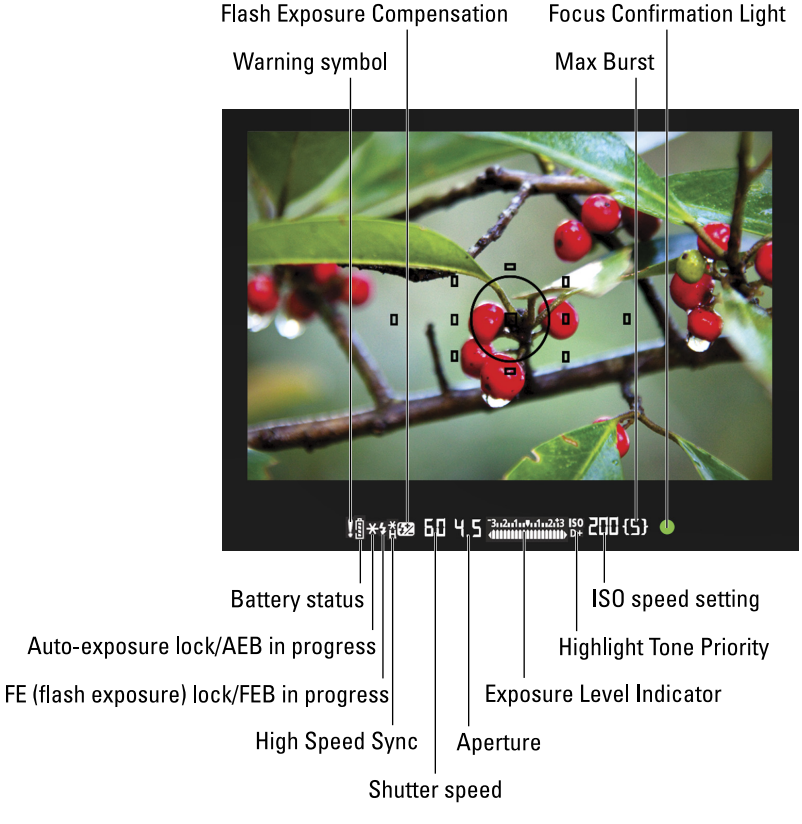



**Figure 1-5:** Lots of useful information is in the viewfinder.




You can modify Custom Function C.FnIII-4 to also display the warning icon when you've enabled ISO expansion, or when you've enabled spot metering. For more information on Custom Functions, see Chapter 6.

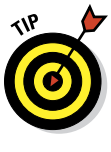
- **Battery status:** This icon shows you the amount of charge left in your battery.
- **AE lock/AEB in progress:** This icon indicates that you've locked the auto-exposure to a specific point in the frame or that auto-exposure bracketing is being performed (see Chapter 6).
- **Flash ready:** This icon indicates that the flash has recycled to full power and is ready for use (see Chapter 7).
- **FE (flash exposure) lock/FEB in progress:** This icon indicates that you've locked the flash exposure to a specific point in the frame or that flash exposure bracketing is being performed (see Chapter 6).
- **High-speed sync:** This icon indicates that you've changed the Flash mode to high speed sync (see Chapter 7).
- **Flash Exposure Compensation:** This icon indicates that you've employed Flash Exposure Compensation (see Chapter 7).
- **Shutter speed:** Displays the shutter speed that will be used to take the next picture. You can also use this information to manually set the shutter speed when shooting in Shutter Priority mode or Manual mode (see Chapter 6).
- **Aperture:** Displays the f-stop that will be used to take the next picture. You can use this information to manually set the aperture when shooting in Aperture Priority mode or Manual mode (see Chapter 6).
- **Exposure Level Indicator:** This tool indicates whether exposure compensation or auto-exposure bracketing has been enabled; it is also used to set flash compensation and when you manually set the shutter speed and aperture when shooting in M (Manual) mode. (See Chapter 6 for more on auto-exposure bracketing and see Chapter 7 for flash compensation.)
- **Highlight Tone Priority:** This icon displays when you enable Highlight Tone Priority (see Chapter 6).
- **ISO speed setting:** This icon shows the currently selected ISO speed setting. You can also use this information when setting the ISO speed (see Chapter 7).
- **Max burst:** Shows the maximum number of shots you can take when shooting in Continuous mode. If fewer shots are remaining on the card than the maximum burst, the shots remaining display.
- **Focus confirmation light:** Lights when you achieve focus.

## About the Multi-Controller and Multi-function Lock

On the back of your camera to the lower right of the LCD monitor is one button surrounded by two rings. The Set button is used to confirm a menu command that you navigate to with the Multi-controller and the Quick Control Dial. The Multi-controller is the ring with eight arrows nestled around the Set button. The Multi-controller is used to navigate to menu commands, and to navigate within an image when you use the Index/Magnify/Reduce button to zoom in on an image. When you are navigating an image that you've magnified, you can use all of the arrows to precisely navigate to the desired spot within the image. When you are navigating to a menu, or menu command you can only use the top and bottom arrows to navigate vertically to a menu item, or the left and right middle arrows to navigate horizontally to a menu item.

When I refer to the Multi-controller in conjunction with the menu, I tell you to use the control to navigate to the menu item. When you see the menu, you'll instinctively know which part of the controller to press to get to where you need to go. Think Joy Stick and you've got the Multi-controller nailed. In some instances, you can use the Multi-controller or the Quick Control dial to navigate to a menu item. When you have that option, I mention both controls. Like anything else in your life, when you have a choice, use the one that is most comfortable to you.

To the right of the Set button is a Multi-function Lock Switch. This switch is used to lock the Quick Control dial to avoid inadvertently changing settings when taking pictures. Slide the switch to the right to lock the Quick Control dial. Slide the switch to the left to release the lock and return functionality to the Quick Control dial.




You can also use the switch to lock the Main Dial and Multi-controller by navigating to the Custom Function C.FnIII-3. For more information on Custom Functions, see Chapter 6.

# Exploring Camera Connections

On the right side of the camera, you find two flaps that can be lifted. The flaps are weather-resistant to protect the connections under the flaps. Under the flaps you find a plethora of connections. This is where you connect various sundry connectors to your camera as shown in Figure 1-6. You have the following connections available on your camera:

- **Remote Control:** Connect an N3 type remote control device to this port and you can trigger the shutter remotely. Canon also makes an N3 type interval timer that you can connect to this port to create time-lapse images.

- **Microphone port:** Connect an external microphone to this port to capture audio with your video. When you connect a microphone to this port, the onboard microphone is disabled. This port will capture stereo sound from a stereo microphone.
- **A/V Out / Digital:** Connect an A/V out cord to this port to view video on a TV set that does not have an HDMI port. The AV out cord supplied with the camera has three color coded connectors that plug into color coded ports on your TV for video plus left and right channel audio. Connect the cord with the Digital Out plug to a male USB port on a printer and you can print directly from the camera to your printer. This port can also be used to download images and movies directly from your camera to computer using the EOS Utilities.
- **HDMI Out:** Connect an HDMI cable from this port to an HDMI cable on your TV to watch high-definition video on your TV that you captured on your camera.




**Figure 1-6:** Ports just looking to be plugged.

# Modifying Basic Camera Settings

Your camera ships with default settings for the country in which the camera was purchased. You also have default settings for the amount of time it takes the camera to power off when no picture taking or menu activity has occurred. You can modify these settings to suit your taste, as I show you in the upcoming sections.

## Adjusting the date and time

Adjusting your camera to the current date and time is important because your camera records the date and time of every picture you take. Note that the time is based on a 24-hour military clock. To set the date and time:




1. **Press the Menu button.**

   The previously used menu appears on the LCD monitor.



2. **Use the Multi-controller to navigate to the Camera Settings 2 tab (shown at the left of Figure 1-7).**

   The menu with the date and time options is displayed on your LCD monitor.




3. **Use the Multi-controller or Quick Control dial to highlight Date/Time/Zone and then press the Set button.**

   The Date/Time/Zone dialog box is displayed and the month is selected (shown at the right of Figure 1-7).

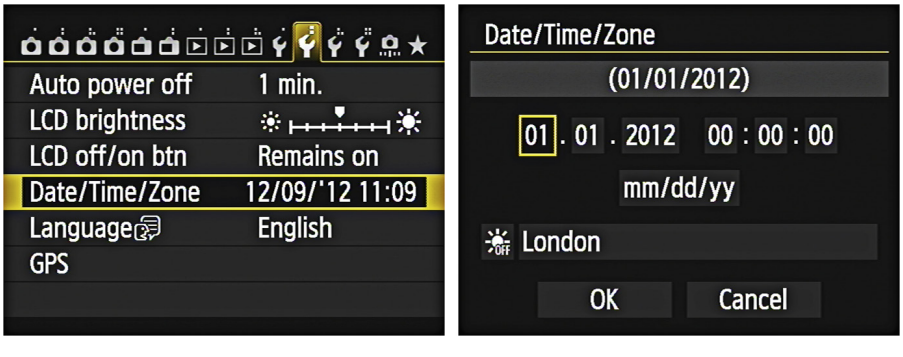



**Figure 1-7:** Adjusting the date and time.

4. **Press Set.**

   An up and down arrow appears above the current setting.

5. **Use the Multi-controller to set the month and then press Set.**

   The change is applied and the up and down arrows disappear.

6. **Use the Multi-controller to navigate to the date setting and then repeat Steps 4 and 5 to set the date.**

7. **Continue setting the year, hour, minute and second in the same manner as you set the month and date.**

8. **Use the Multi-controller to navigate to the box that shows the default manner in which the date is displayed.**

   The default setting is mm/dd/yy. You can, however, press Set to display an up and down arrow. Use the Multi-controller to highlight the method you prefer for the date and time to be displayed, and then press Set to apply the changes.

9. **Use the Multi-controller to navigate to the Daylight Savings option box.**

   Daylight Savings Time changes are disabled by default. If the time zone in which you live observes Daylight Savings Time, press set to display and up and down arrow, and then use the Multi-controller to select the Daylight Savings Time option (an icon that looks like the sun).

10. **Use the Multi-controller to select the Time Zone box.**

    The default time zone when the camera ships is London.

11. **Press Set to display an up and down area around the Time Zone Box, and then use the Multi-controller to select the applicable time zone.**

    The time zones are listed as cities.

12. **Highlight the city that is in your time zone and then press Set.**

    Review the settings to make sure you've got everything correct. If you goofed on a setting, you can use the Multi-controller to navigate to the setting and change it.

13. **Use the Multi-controller to highlight OK and then press Set.**

    The time changes are applied. Figure 1-8 shows the settings for your friendly author's EOS 6D.




If you photograph events with another photographer, make sure the time and dates are the same on both cameras. When you combine images from the photo shoot and edit them, you'll be able to accurately sort them by time and date.

## Modifying the Auto Power Off time

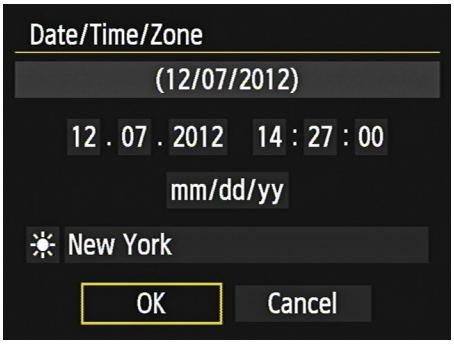



**Figure 1-8:** Time has come today.

Your camera powers off automatically after one minute of non-operation. You can specify a period of time from 1 minute to 30 minutes for auto power off, or you can disable the feature. However, your camera will automatically power off after 30 minutes of non-activity even if you choose to disable this feature. If you choose a power-off time that's a short duration, you'll conserve your battery. After your camera powers off, press the shutter button and the camera powers on again. To change the power-off time:




1. **Press the Menu button.**

   The previously used menu appears on the LCD monitor.




2. **Press the Multi-controller button to navigate to the Camera Settings 2 tab (see the left image in Figure 1-9).**

3. **Use the Quick Control dial to highlight Auto Power Off (see the right image in Figure 1-9) and then press the Set button.**

   The Auto Power Off options display (see the right image in Figure 1-9).

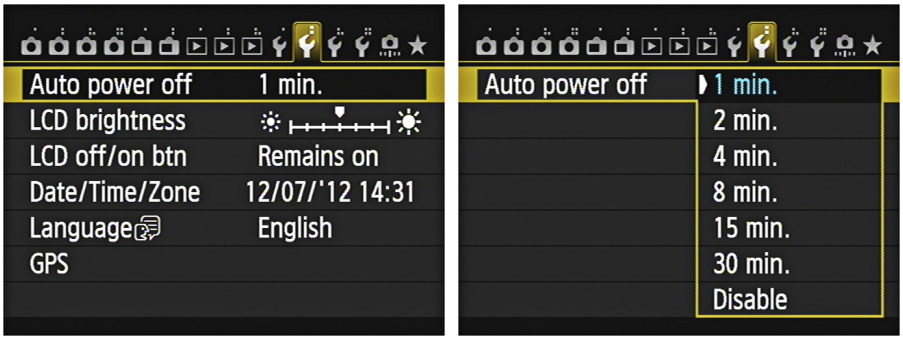



**Figure 1-9:** Changing the power-off time.

4. **Use the Quick Control dial to highlight the desired setting and then press Set.**

   The change is applied.




I recommend that you choose the shortest duration for auto-power that you're comfortable with. This helps conserve battery power. As long as the power button is in the On position, your camera wakes almost instantaneously when you press the shutter button halfway.




To restore the camera to its default settings, press the Menu button, and then use the Multi-controller to navigate to the Camera Settings 3 tab, choose Clear All Camera Settings, and press Set.

## Adjusting the Viewfinder for Maximum Clarity

If you wear glasses, or your vision's not perfect, you can adjust the viewfinder clarity, which makes it easier to compose your images and focus manually. After all, if what you see in the viewfinder isn't what you get, you won't be a happy camper. To adjust viewfinder clarity:

1. **Attach a lens to the camera.**
2. **Look into the viewfinder and turn the dioptric adjuster knob (see Figure 1-10) left or right until the autofocus points look sharp and clear.**

   If the knob is hard to turn, remove the eyepiece cup.




**Figure 1-10:** I can see clearly now . . .

## Introducing Wireless and GPS

Canon has introduced new features not currently available on other cameras in this price range. The Wireless feature enables you to download images from your camera to your computer over a Wi-Fi network. You can also use this feature to send pictures to other Canon cameras with this feature,

upload pictures to your smart phone with the Apple iOS 5.0 or later, and the Android OS 2.33 or later. There is also a Remote app available for the iPhone and Android which enables you to wirelessly control your camera from your phone.

The GPS (Global Positioning System) feature gives you the option of embedding the GPS coordinates of the location where you photograph an image as image metadata. This metadata can be used in applications like Abode Photoshop Lightroom 4 or Apple Aperture 3. In Adobe Photoshop Lightroom's Map module, images in your Library that have GPS data can be precisely positioned on the world map. The GPS feature also makes it possible for you to create a log of all the places where you photographed images.




If you're not using the Wireless or GPS feature, disable them to conserve battery life.

## Attaching a Lens

The beauty of a digital SLR is that you can attach lenses with different focal lengths to achieve different effects. Your EOS 6D accepts a wide range of lenses from super wide-angle lenses that capture a wide view angle, to long telephoto lenses that capture a narrow view angle and let you fill the frame with objects that are far away. Your camera can only use EF lenses. If you've recently graduated from a cropped frame sensor camera and have a camera bag full of EF-S lenses, put them up for sale on eBay; they will not work with your new toy. To attach a lens to your camera:

1. **Remove the body cap from the camera.**

   Twist the cap counterclockwise to remove it. Alternatively, you'll remove the lens currently on the camera with the steps I outline in the upcoming "Removing a Lens" section.

2. **Remove the rear cap from the lens you're attaching to the camera.**

   Twist the cap clockwise to remove it.

3. **Align the dot on the lens with the mounting dot on the camera body (see Figure 1-11).**



**Figure 1-11:** Aligning the lens.

Align the red dot on your lens with the red dot on the camera body.

4. **Twist the lens clockwise until it locks into place.**

   Don't force the lens. If the lens doesn't lock into place with a gentle twist, you may not have aligned it properly.

## Removing a Lens

When you want to use a different lens or store the camera body, remove the lens. Removing a lens and attaching another lens can be a bit of a juggling act. To remove a lens from your camera:




1. **Power off the camera.**

   Never change lenses with the power on, because the charge of electricity can turn your sensor into a dust magnet.

2. **Press the Lens-Release button.**

   This button unlocks the lens from the camera.

3. **Twist the lens counterclockwise until it stops and then gently pull the lens out of the body.**

4. **Quickly attach another lens to the camera.**

   When you remove a lens, the inside of your camera is exposed to the elements. Dust can adhere to the sensor.




To minimize the chance of dust getting on your sensor, always turn off the camera when changing lenses. If you leave the power on, the sensor has a slight charge, which can attract dust floating in the air. Do not change lenses in a dusty environment, as dust may inadvertently blow into your camera. I also find it's a good idea to point the camera body down when changing lenses. Dust on the sensor shows up as little black specks on your images, which is not a good thing.




Never store that camera without the lens or body cap attached, because pollutants may accidentally get into the camera, harming the delicate mechanical parts, and possibly fouling the sensor.

## Using Image Stabilization Lenses

Many Canon and third-party lenses that fit your camera offer *image stabilization* — a feature that enables you to shoot at a slower shutter speed than you'd normally be able to use and still get a blur-free image. The actual number of stops you can gain depends on how steady you are when handling the camera. To enable image stabilization:

1. **Locate the Stabilizer switch on the side of your lens.**

   On Canon lenses, you'll find the switch on the left side of the lens when the camera is pointed toward your subject (see Figure 1-12). If you're using a third-party lens, look for a switch the reads IS, or refer to the lens manual.

2. **Push the Stabilizer switch to On to enable image stabilization.**

   Image stabilization uses the camera battery to compensate for operator movement. Therefore, a good idea is to shut off this feature when you need to conserve battery power and don't need image stabilization. Note that some lenses have two image stabilization switches. The second switch changes between stabilizer modes. Mode 1 stabilizes the lens in a horizontal and vertical plane, and Mode 2 and Mode 3 (on super-telephotos) stabilize the lens when you pan to follow a moving object.




**Figure 1-12:** Slide the Stabilizer switch to enable image stabilization.




When you take pictures with your camera mounted on a tripod, disable image stabilization. If you don't disable this feature, you may get a less-than-crystal-clear shot because the lens is trying to stabilize motion that is not present (the tripod stabilizes the camera).

## Using a Zoom Lens

If you purchased your EOS 6D as a kit, the included lens is probably a 24-105 f/4.0 L series zoom lens. You can purchase additional Canon or third-party zoom lenses from your favorite camera supplier. Zoom lenses come in two flavors: twist to zoom, or push/pull to zoom in or out, respectively.

To use a zoom lens with a barrel that twists to change focal length:

1. **Grasp the lens barrel with your fingers.**
2. **Twist the barrel to zoom in or out.**

To use a push/pull zoom lens:

1. **Grasp the lens barrel with your fingers.**
2. **Push the barrel away from the camera to zoom in; pull the barrel toward the camera to zoom out.**

## Working with SD Cards

Your camera uses SD (Secure Digital) cards to store the pictures you take. An *SD Card* is an electrical device similar to a flash drive. You insert a new SD card when you begin shooting and remove the card when it's full.

To insert an SD card:

1. **Open the SD card cover on the right side of the camera as you look from the back.**

   To open the cover, slide it away from the camera until it stops and then rotate it away from the camera.

2. **Insert the card in the slot.**

   As shown in Figure 1-13, the card label is facing you and the end with the contacts is facing the camera slot.




**Figure 1-13:** Inserting a SD card.

3. **Gently push the card into the slot.**

   Never force a card because you may damage the contacts in the camera and the card. The card slides easily into the camera when aligned properly.

4. **Close the SD card cover.**

   You're ready to shoot up a storm.

When an SD card is full, remove it from the camera and insert a new one. To remove an SD Card:

1. **Turn the camera power switch to Off.**
2. **Open the SD card cover.**

   To open the cover, slide it away from the camera until it stops and then rotate it away from the camera.

3. **Gently push the card in, then let go to eject it.**

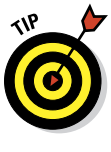
   The SD card pops loose from the card mechanism.

4. **Gently pull the SD card from the slot.**

   You're now ready to insert a new SD card and start shooting.




You may be tempted to pick up a 32GB or 64GB card, thinking you can store a gazillion images on one card and not worry about running out of room. But memory cards are electrical devices that are subject to failure — and will fail when you least expect it. If a large card fails, you lose lots of images. I carry a couple 16GB SD cards in my camera bag. Although I hate to lose any images, I'd rather lose 16GB worth of images than 32 or 64 GB. I advise you to purchase smaller memory cards.




It bears repeating: A memory card is a mechanical device that will fail when you least expect. If the worst happens, and your computer cannot read a card, you can purchase a data recovery program to retrieve the data from the card. Data recovery programs also work if you accidentally erase the card before downloading the images to your computer. A program called Card Recovery, which works with Windows applications, retails for $39.99 (`www.cardrecovery.com`), or you can purchase Card Rescue for the Mac, which retails for $39.99 (`www.cardrescue.com`). Both applications offer trial versions, which you can use to scan a corrupted card to see if there is data that can be recovered. After you perform a preview scan, you can purchase the applicable application for your operating system to recover the data.

## Formatting an SD Card

After you download images to your computer and back them up (see Chapter 8), it's a good idea to format your cards before using them again, even if you didn't fill them. Doing this ensures you'll have a full card to work with and won't download duplicate images when you download them to your computer. To format an SD card:




1. **Insert the card into the camera, as I outline in the preceding section.**
2. **Press the Menu button.**

   The last used camera menu displays on the LCD monitor.



3. **Press the Multi-controller to navigate to the Camera Settings 1 tab.**
4. **Use the Multi-controller or the Quick Control dial to highlight Format.**

   The Format Card option is selected (see the left image in Figure 1-14).

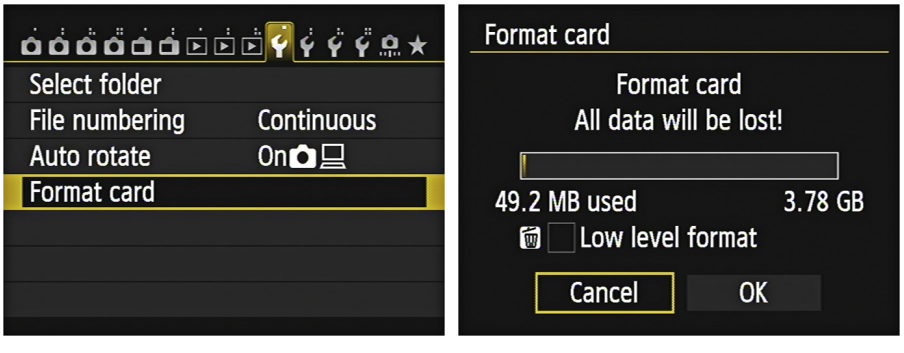



**Figure 1-14:** Formatting a card.




5. **Press the Set button.**

   The menu changes to show the amount of data on the card and displays a warning that all data will be lost (see the right image in Figure 1-14).

6. **Rotate the Quick Control dial to highlight OK and press Set.**

   The card is formatted. After formatting, you have a blank card that's ready to capture images from the camera.




There is also an option called a Low-Level format, which totally erases all data on the card and resets it to its default condition. To enable Low-Level format, press the Erase button that looks like a garbage can to enable the feature and then perform Step 6. It's a good idea to do a Low-Level format every now and again to restore your cards to an almost-new condition.




The only way you can restore images from a card that's been formatted is with a data recovery program. Make sure you've downloaded all images to your computer before you format a card.

7. **Press the shutter button halfway to exit the menu and resume taking pictures.**

## About Your Camera Battery

The LP-E6 battery in your EOS 6D is a rechargeable lithium-ion battery that is engineered for a long life and enables you to capture about 1000 images when you use the camera in warm weather. When you photograph in colder climates, the amount of images you can capture decreases. Here are some recommendations for getting the best performance from your camera battery:

Here are a few recommendations for camera batteries:

- **After you charge a battery, replace the cover so you can see blue through the battery icon.** This signifies that you have a fully charged battery under the cover, useful information if you own more than one battery.
- **Remove the battery from the camera after you've finished shooting for the day.** The battery loses a bit of its charge if you store it in the camera.
- **When replacing the cover over a partially used or fully discharged battery, place the cover so that the blue does not show through the battery icon.** This is your indication that the battery is partially discharged.
- **In cold conditions, place the spare battery in your coat pocket.** This keeps it warm and extends the life of the battery charge.
- **Replace the battery immediately when you see the low battery warning.** If you deplete the power completely when your camera is writing data to the memory card, the card may be corrupted.
- **Never remove the battery when the data access light is blinking.** This indicates your camera is writing data to the card. Removing the battery prematurely can damage the memory card and cause loss of data.
- **Beware of third-party batteries that fit your EOS 6D.** They may not be compatible with your camera's battery information system, which means you won't know how much charge remains in the battery. If the battery runs out of charge while the camera is writing data to the memory card, you may damage the memory card, the battery, or both. Batteries that don't work with your camera typically come with their own charging units.

# Charging Your Camera Battery

When you notice the battery-status icon is blinking, it's time to charge the battery. Charge the battery using the charger supplied with the camera. To recharge the battery, follow these steps:

1. **Plug the battery charger into a wall outlet.**

   You can use the battery charger in foreign countries as well as the United States. The battery charger works with 110 and 240 volt AC 50/60 Hz power sources.

2. **Insert the battery (see Figure 1-15).**

   After you insert the battery, three lights may flash. This indicates the battery has less than 25 percent of a full charge.

3. **Continue charging the battery until the light is green.**

   The battery has a 100 percent charge.

4. **Leave the battery in the charger for another hour to top off the battery.**

   Do not leave the battery in the charger and connected to a power outlet for more than two hours after the battery achieves a full charge, because you may damage the battery if you do.

5. **Replace the protective cover over the battery (see Figure 1-16).**




**Figure 1-15:** Charging the battery.




**Figure 1-16:** Replacing the battery cover.




When you purchase your camera, the battery is not fully charged. Run your battery through one recharge cycle before using the camera.

# About Sensor Cleaning

When you power off your Canon EOS 6D, the sensor is automatically cleaned (see Figure 1-17). The camera accomplishes this by jiggling the sensor to dislodge any dust particles. This works well, but sometimes stubborn particles of dust don't fall off the sensor with the automatic cleaning. You can, however, manually clean your sensor as outlined in the next section.

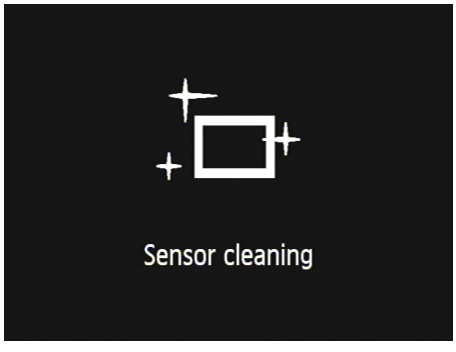



**Figure 1-17:** Shake it up baby, now. Shake it up baby. Clean me off.

## Cleaning your sensor on command

If you notice black specks in areas of your image that are one solid color, such as the sky, you have dust on your sensor. Your camera will automatically clean the sensor as outlined in the previous section. However, sometimes that's not enough. If you consistently see dust spots in the same area on several images, you'll be happy to know there's a menu command you can use to clean your sensor, whenever you feel the need, by following these steps:




1. **Press the camera Menu button.**

   The camera menu is displayed on the LCD monitor.



2. **Use the Multi-controller to navigate to Camera Settings 4 tab (see the left image in Figure 1-18).**

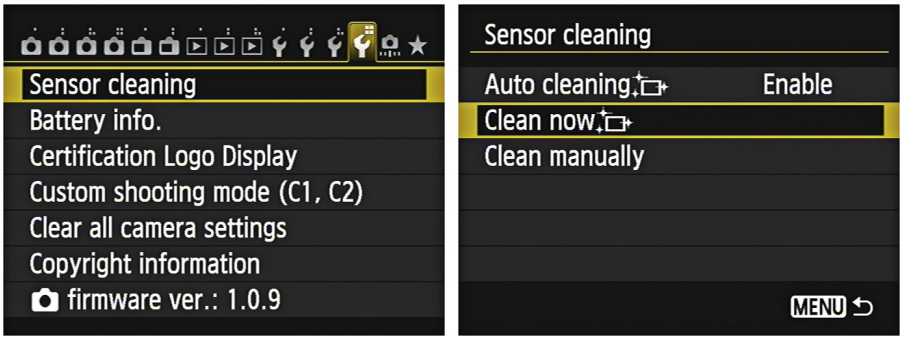



**Figure 1-18:** Cleaning the camera sensor.



3. **Use the Quick Control dial or Multi-controller to highlight Sensor Cleaning and then press Set.**

   The Sensor Cleaning options are displayed as shown in the right image in Figure 1-18.




4. **Use the Multi-controller or Quick Control dial to highlight Clean Now, and then press Set.**

5. **A dialog box appears, asking you whether you want to clean your sensor now.**

   OK is selected by default.

6. **Press Set.**

   Your camera performs a sensor cleaning cycle.




After using the Clean Now menu command, put a lens on your camera, manually set the focus to the closest distance at which the lens will focus, and then take a picture of the clear blue sky. Open the image in your image-editing program and zoom in to 100-percent magnification. Sensor dust shows as dark spots. If you have stubborn specks of sensor dust on your camera, run the Clean Now menu command a couple of times. If the dust is still there, you can manually clean the sensor (as outlined in the next section).

## Manually Cleaning Your Sensor

Your camera has a self-cleaning sensor, and you can run a cleaning cycle whenever you want; however, you may inadvertently get a stubborn piece of dust that develops a magnetic attraction to your sensor and needs to be cleaned manually. To determine whether you have dust on your sensor, follow these steps:

1. **Switch to Av (Aperture Priority) mode and choose your smallest aperture.**

   For further information on using Aperture Priority mode and manually setting your aperture, see Chapter 6.

2. **Switch the lens to manual focus and rack the focus to its nearest point.**

   That's right, you want the sky to be out of focus. That way the dust specks will show up as black dots.

3. **Take a picture of a clear blue sky, download the picture to your computer, and review it in your image-editing program at 100 percent magnification.**

   If you see black specks in the image, you have dust on your sensor.

The best way to clean dust off your sensor is to blow it off with a powerful bulb blower. Several blowers are on the market with generic names like Hurricane or Rocket. The Giottos Rocket Blaster is shown in Figure 1-19. A good blower is made of natural rubber and features a small opening at the tip that enables you to direct a strong current of air with pinpoint accuracy.



Figure 1-19: Use a bulb blower to clean your camera sensor.

To clean the sensor manually:

1. **Switch to one of the Creative Zone modes and then take the lens off the camera.**

   The option to clean manually is not available in the Basic Zones.




2. **Press the camera Menu button.**

   The camera menu is displayed on the LCD monitor.



3. **Use the Multi-controller to navigate to Camera Settings 4 tab (see the left image in Figure 1-20).**

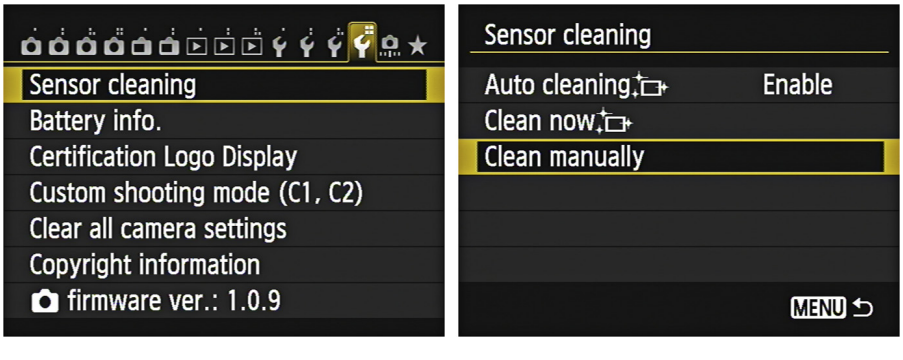



Figure 1-20: I'm gonna get this sensor squeaky clean.



4. **Use the Multi-controller or Quick Control dial to highlight Sensor Cleaning and then press Set.**

   The Sensor Cleaning options are displayed as shown in the right image in Figure 1-20.



5. **Use the Multi-controller or Quick Control dial to highlight Clean Manually, and then press Set.**

   The camera mirror opens and you have access to the camera sensor.

6. **Point the camera at the ground and place the air blower inside the sensor chamber being careful not to touch the sensor.**

   When you point the camera at the ground, any dust you dislodge off the sensor falls to the ground. Gravity works.

7. **Squeeze the bulb repeatedly.**

8. **When you've finished blowing dust off the sensor, power off the camera.**

   When you flip the camera switch to off, the mirror closes. Make sure you put a lens on the camera or a body cap on the camera immediately. After thoroughly cleaning the sensor, you don't want dust getting back in the chamber.




Never touch the sensor with the blower. Never use a blower with a $CO_2$ cartridge. $CO_2$ cartridges contain propellants that can foul your sensor.

## Keeping your sensor clean

The best way to keep your sensor clean is to never change a lens. However, this defeats the purpose of a digital SLR. But if you are meticulous about changing lenses, and follow a bit of sage advice, you'll keep your sensor as squeaky-clean as possible. I first learned about sensor dust when I owned my first digital SLR, the Canon EOS 10D. I was on a business trip/vacation to California. When I was reviewing some images of the Golden Gate Bridge, I noticed some horrible dust specks on the image. Since then I've learned that doing the following minimizes the chances of dust adhering to the sensor:

- **Power off the camera before changing lenses.** If you leave the power on, the sensor maintains a charge that can attract dust.
- **Never change lenses in a dusty environment.** If you're photographing in a dry, dusty environment, find a sheltered area in which to change lenses. When all else fails, the inside of your car is a better place to change lenses than in a dry, dusty area.
- **Never change lenses when it's windy.** In windy conditions, find a sheltered environment in which to change lenses.

## Using sensor cleaning equipment

If you're a DIY (do-it-yourself) kind of photographer, you may want to consider cleaning your sensor with commercially available products. Lots of products — brushes, swabs, and chemicals — that you use to manually clean the camera sensor are on the market. Yes, that does mean you physically touch the sensor with a product. Therefore the product you choose needs to be made from material that can't scratch the camera sensor. You must also have a very steady hand when using these products.

I've used sensor-cleaning products manufactured by VisibleDust (`www.visibledust.com`). VisibleDust manufactures a lighted sensor loupe that you place over the lens opening to examine the sensor for any visible dust — hence, the company name. The loupe is made of glass and makes it easy to see any specs of dust on your lens. VisibleDust also manufactures an Arctic Butterfly brush, which runs on two AAA batteries. To use this brush:

1. **Push a button to spin the brush.**

   This gives the brush a static electricity charge.

2. **Brush the sensor once with the charged brush.**

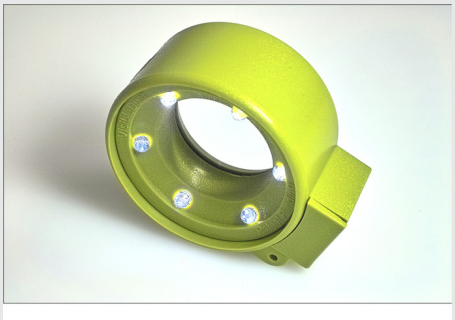
   Dust particles are attracted to the brush.

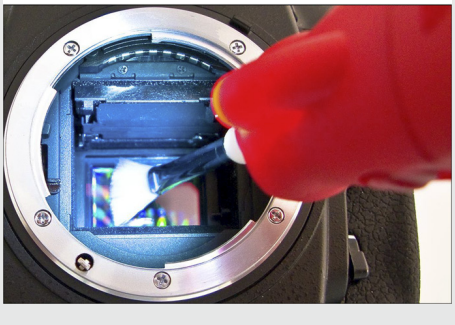
3. **Remove the brush from the camera body and then press the button to spin the brush again.**

   This discharges the particles into the air.

4. **Use the brush as needed to remove any dust that may have accumulated on the sensor.**

I've used both products with a good outcome on my cameras. For more information, visit `www.visibledust.com` or ask your favorite camera retailer for information about these products.





- **Point the camera down when changing lenses.** This minimizes the chances of dust blowing into the sensor.
- **Have the other lens ready.** When I change lenses, it's a juggling act. I keep the lens I'm going to put on the camera in one hand with the rear cap off. I point the camera at the ground and grasp the lens I'm going to remove with one hand, and press the lens release button with a finger from the other hand. I then quickly remove one lens and replace it with the other. With practice, you can do this quickly and minimize the chance of dust fouling your sensor.




The sensor chamber of your camera is lubricated. Sometimes lubricant can get on the sensor and cause a spot to appear on your images. If conventional methods of cleaning the sensor don't work, send the camera to Canon for sensor cleaning, or to a local camera shop that offers this service.

# Accessorizing Your EOS 6D

Your EOS 6D is a mechanical and technological masterpiece. But the camera comes with a nice cardboard box, which is great for shipping the camera, but not so great for storing the camera on a day-to-day basis. And the camera ships with this nice strap that tells the world you're shooting with a Canon EOS camera, but the strap is thin — and with a long telephoto lens, it will feel like you're carrying a brick on your neck. So, first and foremost, you need a decent camera case and you need a good strap. There are lots of other goodies you can invest in that will make using your camera more enjoyable.

## Useful Canon accessories

Canon sells lots of goodies in their online store that may also be available from other sources such as your local camera retailer or your favorite online camera store. Here are a couple of items you may consider purchasing:

- **Extra LP-E6 battery pack:** If you shoot lots of pictures, having an extra fully-charged battery in your camera bag can save the day.
- **Car Battery Charger CBE-E6:** If you do a lot of remote shooting from your car, this accessory enables you to charge your camera battery from the car's 12 volt outlet, which was formerly known as the receptacle for the cigarette lighter.
- **BGE 13 Battery Grip:** This accessory is attached to the bottom of your camera and extends your shooting time. The battery grip houses one or two LP-E6 batteries and six AA batteries. The grip also features a variety of operating controls such as shutter button, Main Dial, AF point selection button, AE lock/FE lock button, AF start button, multi-controller, and multi-function button. This is the ideal accessory if you're a high-volume shooter.
- **LC-5 Wireless Controller:** This accessory enables you to trigger the shutter of your EOS 6D wirelessly.
- **Dedicated Canon Flash:** Your EOS 6D does not have an onboard pop-up flash unit. Canon, however, makes several flash units that are compatible with your camera. The beauty of using a dedicated flash is that the camera communicates with the flash unit. The following flash units will work with your EOS 6D: 240EX, 430EXII and 600 EX. I discuss flash photography with your EOS 6D in Chapter 6.