

Learning Objectives for Chapter 01

This chapter describes your camera's most important controls and how you can take charge of them, instead of always letting them control you. Almost all current digital (and 35mm film) cameras are equipped with automatic exposure, automatic focus, and automatic flash. If you are interested in making better pictures, however, you should know how your camera makes its decisions, even if the automatic features can't be turned off. If they can, you will want to override your camera's automatic decisions from time to time and make your own choices.

- You may want to blur the motion of a moving subject or freeze its motion sharply. Pages 18-19 show how.
- You may want the whole scene sharp from foreground to background or perhaps the foreground sharp but the background out of focus. Pages 42-43 show how.
- You may want to override your camera's automatic focus mechanism so that only a certain part of a scene is sharp. Page 41 tells when and how to do so.
- You may decide to silhouette a subject against a bright background, or perhaps you want to make sure that you don't end up with a silhouette. See page 68.
- Most professional photographers use cameras with automatic features, but they know how their cameras operate manually as well as automatically so they can choose which is best for a particular situation. You will want to do the same because the more you know about how your camera operates, the more likely you will be able to get the results you want.

If you are just getting started in photography, the next few pages will help you make your first photographs. You can go directly to page 12 if you prefer more detailed information right away.

TOPICS:

- Getting Started: Getting your camera ready
- Getting Started: Focusing and setting the exposure
- Getting Started: Exposure readout
- Getting Started: Exposing images
- Getting Started: What will you photograph?
- Types of Cameras
- Basic Camera Controls
- More about Camera Controls
- More about Camera Controls: Inside a digital single-lens reflex camera
- Shutter Speed: Affects light and motion
- Shutter Speed: Use it creatively
- Aperture: Affects light and depth of field
- Aperture: Use it creatively
- Shutter Speed and Aperture: Blur vs. depth of field
- Getting the Most from Your Camera and Lens