

DSLR Basics No. 1

FAST & FURIOUS



Camera Tips & Tricks

★ *How to Hold Your Digital Camera*

★ <https://digital-photography-school.com/prevent-dslr-camera-shake-with-these-3-techniques/>



1. Hold the camera with both hands.
2. Left hand under the lens.
3. Take 1/2 step forward, knees bent.
4. Bring DSLR up to your eye.
5. Arms tucked into your side.
6. Take a deep breath & hold it.



1. Same body position as in view #1.
2. Attach one end of a string to the camera.
3. Step on the other end.
4. Pull tight to stabilize.



1. Same foot position as in view #1.
2. Left shoulder toward subject.
3. Rest the camera behind collarbone.
4. Use left hand to brace camera against your shoulder.

• *Always look for something to brace against: Tree, Rock, Building, etc.*

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Camera Tips & Tricks



How to hold a camera

It's worth taking a few minutes to practise holding your camera before you start shooting – you'll get sharper shots



FINGER

The camera body is designed to be gripped with your right hand and your index finger over the shutter release. You should be able to press the button without having to reposition your grip.

HAND

Rest your lens in your left hand. You should be able to twist the barrel of the lens to zoom or focus with this hand, leaving your right hand to grip the camera body.

ELBOWS

Tuck your elbows into your body to keep your camera steady. The further out your elbows are, the more unstable you will be.

EYEBROW CONTACT

Lift the camera up to your eye and rest the viewfinder against your eyebrow. This makes another point of contact on the body for more stability.



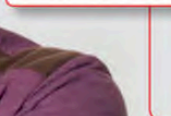
PORTRAIT

If you need to switch your camera to a portrait orientation then turn it over so the shutter release sits at the top. If you do it the other way around your arms will become all twisted up!



LEGS

Place your legs a little apart so you're balanced. If you're leaning in to take a shot then move one foot forward to create a sturdier body shape.



TAKE A MAT

When kneeling to take shots outdoors, you might get a wet or dirty knee. Take a mat or a plastic bag to place under your knee for comfort and to avoid ruining your clothes.



BACK PANEL CONTROL

With your hands in the correct position, your thumb is well placed to access the controls on the back of the camera to alter the shooting settings.



BRING ONE LEG UP

By coming down into a crouching position and bringing your leg up you can turn your body into a human tripod. Place your elbow on your knee to connect your leg and arm together, creating a braced position so you don't wobble around.



REST ELBOWS

If you have a surface area in front of you, lean your elbows onto it to steady yourself. Look for level surfaces, such as a table or wall.



CONTROL YOUR BREATHING

Breathe out when you take a shot. If you hold your breath or breathe in, you'll find you move around a lot more. It's amazing how much of a difference controlling your breathing can make.



LEAN IN

Leaning against a wall creates instant support for your camera. This can be useful when shooting at slow shutter speeds without a tripod.





- *Power Hogs*
 - *LCD Screen*
 - *Review Time*
 - *Live View*
 - *Video Mode*
 - *Power Saving Mode for Camera*
 - *Set Time to Auto Off*
 - *AutoFocus on Continuous*
 - *VR/IS Turned On*
 - *Using Zoom with non-DSLR Cameras*

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Camera Tips & Tricks

Understanding Your Memory Card Options

<https://www.whatdigitalcamera.com/buying-advice/understanding-memory-cards-9083>

- *SD Cards and Their Options*
 - *Size and Connectivity All the Same*
 - *Memory Capacity: Variable*
 - *Speed to Read & Write: Variable*
 - *Password Protected: Option*
 - *Slide to Lock: Prevents Writing to Card*
 - *Micro SD Card: Requires an SD card-sized holder.*



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Camera Tips & Tricks

Customizing Your Viewfinder With the Diopter Setting



- *Focus on a bright & contrasty subject.*
- *Turn the diopter dial to blur the image.*
- *Gradually turn the dial back until the image comes into best focus.*
- *The viewfinder is now customized for you.*





DSLR Basics No. 2



Default Settings on Point & Shoot Cameras

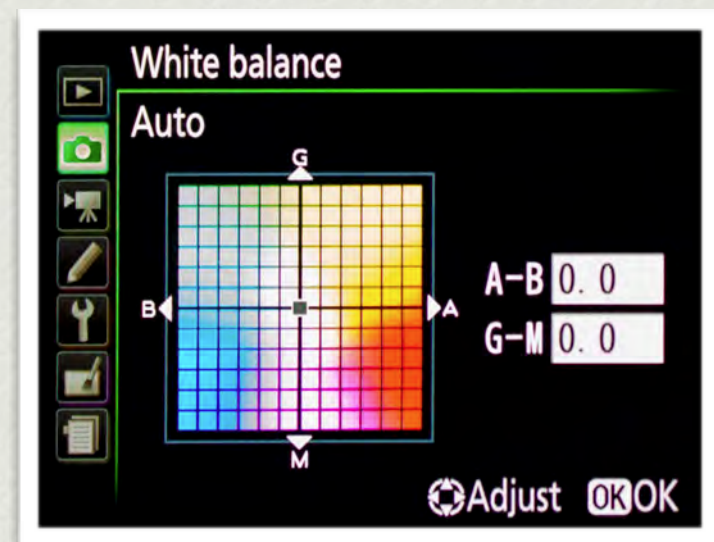
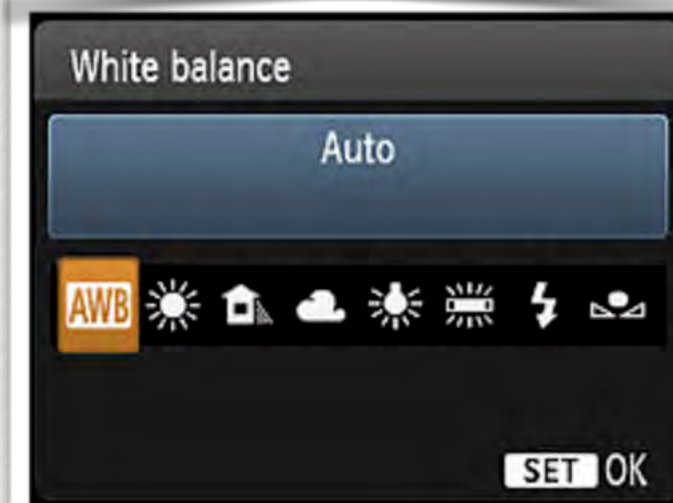
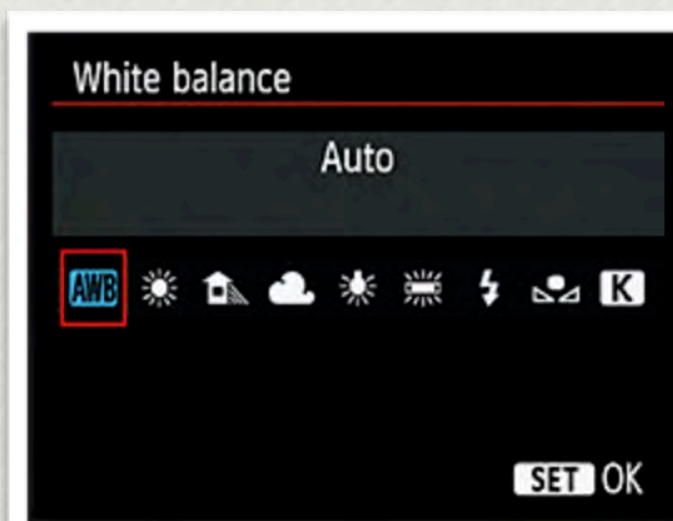
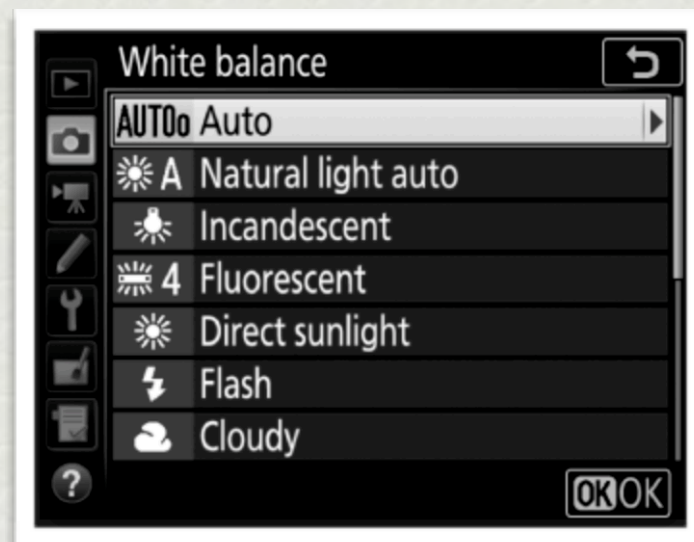
- *Exposure: Set to AUTO*
 - *No Options Allowed: But ready for (mostly) anything*
 - *Camera adjusts Shutter Speed, Aperture, ISO, and Flash*
 - *You have no options to adjust for motion or depth of field*
 - *White Balance: Set to AUTO*
 - *Shutter: Set to One Shot*
 - *File Format: Set to JPEG*
 - *Flash: Set to Auto*
 - *Focus: Does not affect AF on lens!*

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Camera Tips & Tricks

White Balance: AUTO vs All the Rest



Shoot in RAW format and you can set and adjust WB after the shot in post-processing.

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Camera Tips & Tricks

Vibration Reduction (VR) or Image Stabilization (IS): When to Use It & When to Turn It Off

<https://www.bhphotovideo.com/explora/photography/tips-and-solutions/image-stabilization-when-use-it-and-when-turn-it>

- *Lens Based IR vs Camera Based IR*
- *Drains battery when on.*
- *Don't use IR/VR when camera is on a tripod or is otherwise stable.*



"On a final note: it is well worth mentioning that, for the sharpest results when photographing still subjects, nothing beats a camera mounted on a sturdy tripod with the image stabilization turned off. This is because image stabilization, by its very nature, using motion along one axis to counter motion in the opposite axis, often creates varying degrees of image degradation of its own, whereas a camera firmly coupled to a stable tripod and tripped with a **cable** or **remote** release with the mirror locked in the up position will, in almost every instance, take a sharper picture." — B&H Photo

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Camera Tips & Tricks

File Formats

- *JPG*
- *RAW*
- *RAW+JPG*

Quality Settings

- *Image Size*
- *Picture Quality*

