Snapshot

October/November 2025

“Golden Sunrise” Gail Penny

“Low Tide” Gunda Wright

DATES	EVENT	ACTIVITY & TOPIC
Tue 7/10/2025	Club Meeting 19:30-21:30	Show Photos from Kilcunda Trestle Bridge. Presentation - Africa Journey **Entries Due Competition 3. Black & White & 4. Weather**
Thu 16/10/2025	Photo Shoot. 10:00	Somers Shop Car Park - Coastal Walk/Beach Walk
Mon 20 Oct - Fri 24 Oct 2025	Daylesford Long Photo Shoot from 20th - 24th October 2025	Daylesford HOLIDAY PARK
Wed 30/10/2025	Social Gathering 10:00 BYO coffee etc. cameras	Meet at Dromana Foreshore Topic - Panning
Tue 18/11/2025	Club Meeting 19:30-21:30	Show Photos from Somers. Judging Competition. 3. B & W. 4. Weather
Wed 26/11/2025	Social Gathering 10:00 BYO coffee	No Topic social gathering only
Tue 2/12/2025	Club Meeting 19:30-21:30	End of Year Presentations

Kilcunda another great photoshoot

It seems this was a day for all the stars to align. The overcast cold Melbourne weather left us for the day and replaced itself with a warm sunny day. Kilcunda was the perfect choice of venue for such a day . Whether you wanted to shoot the famed Trestle Bridge, the many rock formations , the pounding surf or a fellow NCC member, there was something for everyone. As one member said “what a great shoot with good friends”
While not the most important aspect of the gathering the light lunch following the shoot provided the icing on the cake of a most enjoyable NCC gathering.

Exposure Compensation in Photography: What to Know

Written by Leigh Diprose

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Published on August 17, 2023

Photography is a fascinating blend of technical expertise and artistic vision. One crucial aspect that bridges these two elements is understanding exposure using **exposure compensation**. While cameras offer sophisticated automatic exposure settings, they aren't all foolproof. Certain challenging lighting scenarios require users to take matters into their own hands, ensuring the final image aligns with their creative vision.

This is where exposure compensation comes into play. This tool allows photographers to manipulate and override their camera's automatic exposure setting, thereby controlling the exposure of an image. It might seem daunting if you're new to photography, but this article aims to demystify exposure compensation. Throughout this article you'll gain an understanding of what it is, how to harness it effectively, and when to apply it in real-world scenarios.

What is Exposure Compensation?

Exposure compensation is a crucial tool in photography that allows photographers to adjust the camera's automatic exposure settings. It gives the artist control over the light or darkness of their image, overriding the camera's light meter readings. Essentially, it's the photographer's job to modify exposure based on their creative vision.

How Exposure Compensation Works

The fundamental principle of using this function lies in manipulating the exposure value calculated by the camera. If the photos are overexposed or too bright, a dial-down of stops (-1, -2, -3) on the exposure compensation can darken them. The

exposure compensation scale can also be shifted upwards (+1, +2, +3) for under-exposed images which may appear too dark.

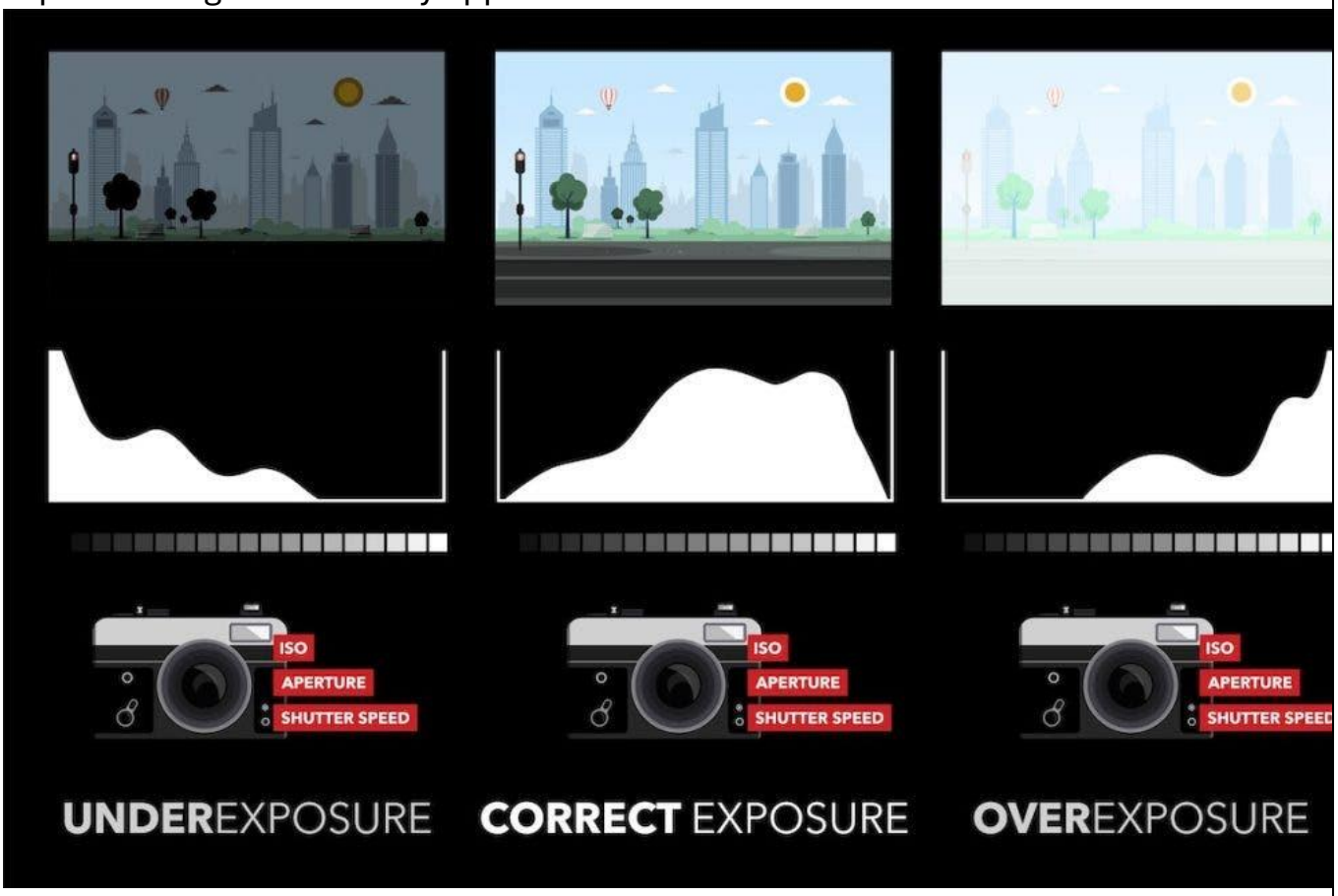


Photo from Shutterstock

To truly master exposure compensation, it's crucial to experiment and practice with real-world scenarios. It's not uncommon to find situations where the camera's light metering system may be deceived, like high-contrast scenes, backlighting, or cases of predominantly white or black subjects. When you anticipate such challenging conditions, being proactive with exposure compensation allows you to capture images more accurately reflecting your intentions.

If you are using a mirrorless or compact camera, you will be able to see the immediate exposure compensation changes through the electronic LCD, whereas DSLRs require you to look at the LCD screen due to the optical viewfinders.

It's crucial to understand that the adjustments made through exposure compensation vary with the camera's shooting mode. In modes like Aperture Priority and Shutter Priority, the shutter speed and aperture change when exposure compensation is tweaked, with ISO remaining constant. Similarly, in Program mode, both the aperture and shutter speed are modified, but ISO remains unchanged. However, exposure compensation doesn't directly affect the output in Manual mode, where the user controls all settings.

How to Find Exposure Compensation Settings on Your Camera

Exposure compensation settings can typically be found easily on almost all cameras. The exact location can vary, but it's commonly represented by a button or dial marked with a symbol like "+/-."

Pressing or rotating this control will display an exposure compensation scale on the top or rear LCD and through the viewfinder, usually ranging from -3 to +3 EV in one-third increments. DSLRs and mirrorless cameras often have this setting on the top or back of the camera, while compact cameras might include it in a menu system. If you have difficulty locating the exposure compensation settings, you can always refer to your specific camera's manual. Note: Some of the exposure compensation dials, such on the Fujifilm X-Series, are expandable to -5 to +5 EV.

Photo from Shutterstock

What Shooting Modes Does It Apply to?

Exposure compensation is applicable in semi-automatic and manual shooting modes, each of which it interacts with differently.

Program Mode

In Program Mode, "P", the camera decides both aperture and shutter speed based on the detected lighting conditions. When exposure compensation is applied in this mode, the camera tweaks both these settings to either lighten or darken the image, according to your adjustment. The camera's intent remains to maintain a balance between aperture and shutter speed for the chosen exposure value.

Shutter Priority Mode

Shutter Priority Mode, "Tv or S", allows the photographer to select the shutter speed while the camera adjusts the aperture to achieve a balanced exposure. When using exposure compensation in Shutter Priority mode, your selected shutter speed remains constant. Still, the camera adjusts the aperture to increase or decrease the exposure, as per your selection on the exposure compensation scale.

Aperture Priority Mode

The scenario is reversed in Aperture Priority Mode, "A or Av". The photographer sets the desired aperture, and the camera chooses the shutter speed. Applying exposure compensation in Aperture Priority mode prompts the camera to adjust the shutter speed while keeping your chosen aperture constant, thereby manipulating the exposure level.

In each of these modes, the exposure compensation feature enables you to override the camera's automatic exposure decisions, providing you with an extra layer of control and creativity.

How to Use Exposure Compensation

Using exposure compensation effectively involves a few key steps. It allows photographers to creatively control the exposure of their images beyond what the camera's auto exposure settings provide.

First Step: Understand the Scene

Start by evaluating your scene. Is it uniformly lit, or are there high-contrast areas? Are your subjects predominantly light or dark? Understanding the tonal characteristics of your scene can give you a sense of how your camera's auto-exposure might interpret it and whether exposure compensation might be necessary.

Second Step: Set Your Camera Mode

Choose your camera mode. As discussed earlier, exposure compensation can be applied in Program, Shutter Priority, or Aperture Priority modes. The choice depends on which aspect of the exposure triangle you want to control and which one you'd like the camera to adjust.

Third Step: Take a Test Shot

Without adjusting any exposure compensation, take a test shot. Review it on your camera's LCD screen, ideally checking the histogram. This will give you an initial sense of whether the image is underexposed, overexposed, or correctly exposed.

Fourth Step: Adjust Exposure Compensation

Adjust the exposure compensation if your image isn't exposed to your liking. Use the +/- button or dial on your camera to increase or decrease the exposure. A positive value will brighten the image, while a negative value will darken it. The exact amount to adjust will depend on how under or over-exposed your initial image was.

Fifth Step: Take Another Shot

After adjusting the exposure compensation, take another shot. Review the image and histogram again. Is the exposure closer to what you envisioned? If not, adjust the exposure compensation again and reshoot.

Final Step: Refine and Practice

The more you practice using exposure compensation, the better you'll understand how it affects your images. With time, you can anticipate when to use it and how much to adjust to achieve your desired exposure.

Remember, photography is an art. There's no absolute "correct" exposure, only the exposure that best conveys your creative vision for the scene. For instance, some

landscape photographers may prefer to under-exposure their images by -⅓ as it is more pleasing to highlights, such as the sky, whereas portrait photographers tend to push their exposure compensation higher to obtain a cleaner, brighter look to skin tones.

When to Use Exposure Compensation

There are many occasions when exposure compensation is critical to master. Most of these include challenging lighting conditions where the camera's metering system may not provide the optimal exposure. Common scenarios include:

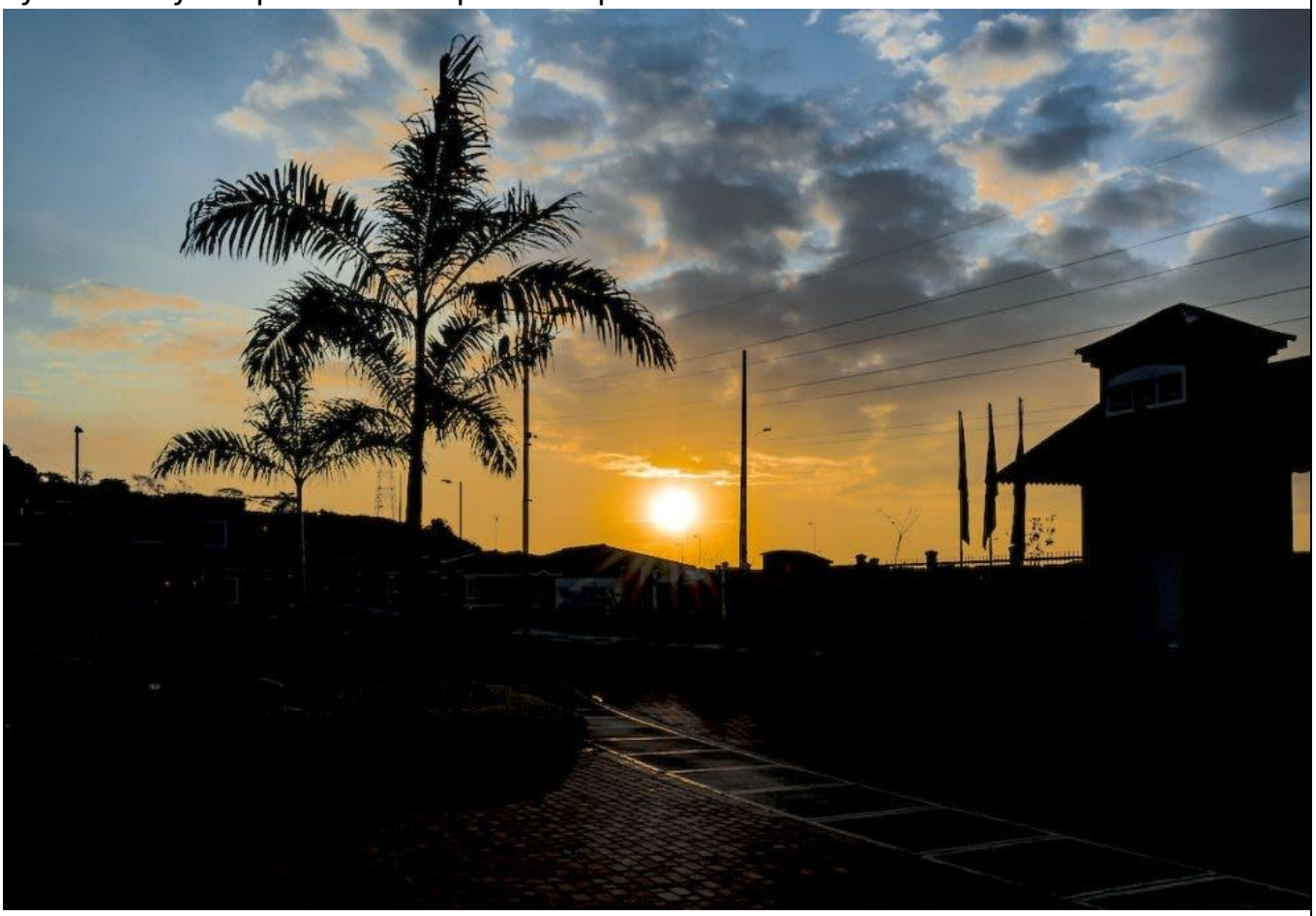


Photo from Shutterstock

Using Exposure Compensation in High-Contrast Scenes

When photographing scenes with a wide dynamic range — such as a bright sky against a darker foreground — the camera's light meter can often struggle to find a balanced exposure. It might render the sky correctly and leave the foreground too dark or expose for the foreground and overexpose the sky. Exposure compensation allows you to dictate which part of the scene you'd like to prioritize for correct exposure.

Photo from Shutterstock

Adjusting Exposure with Backlit Subjects

When your subject is backlit, the camera's metering system often exposes for the bright background, leaving the subject in silhouette. In such cases, you can use exposure compensation to increase the exposure, ensuring that your subject is correctly exposed, even if it means overexposing the background.

Spruce forest in winter.

Maintaining Correct Exposure in Snowy or Beach Scenes

Bright scenes, such as a snowy landscape or a sunny beach, can trick your camera's metering system into underexposing the scene. This is because the camera's light meter aims for a neutral grey, and it interprets these bright scenes as too light, resulting in a darker than desired image. By using exposure compensation to increase the exposure, you can capture the brightness of the scene accurately. In each scenario, the key is understanding how your camera's light meter interprets the scene and how that might differ from your creative intent. With this understanding, you can use exposure compensation to take control of the exposure, resulting in images that better align with your vision.

Final Thoughts

In summary, the exposure compensation setting is a necessary tool that allows the photographer to manipulate exposure based on their creative vision. By understanding how the function works, knowing when to use it, and practicing its application in various scenarios, anyone can go beyond the limitations of their camera's automatic settings to capture images that truly reflect their interpretation of a scene.

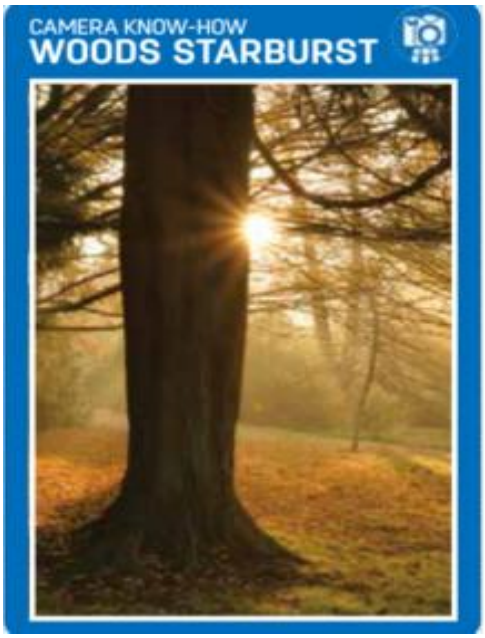
Leigh Diprose

"Waterfront" Joy Clayton

Kilcunda

“Kilcunda” Mike Lyons

“Kilcunda Puzzle” Jeff Nankervis



HOW TO SHOOT...
CAMERA KNOW-HOW

Digital Camera

WOODLAND STARBURST

KIT CHECKLIST...
Wide-angle lens, tripod, PhotoPills app

FOR YOUR FIRST SHOT, TRY...

1/50 sec | f/16 | ISO 100

TIPS FOR GETTING A GREAT SHOT...

- Remove your lens hood and any filters as they both reduce the flare entering the camera, which is the effect we want.
- Use a narrow aperture and partially block the sun with a tree to create the starburst effect around the side of it.

Dan Mold

You can apply the same technique in cities by using the edges of buildings to create the starburst.

HOW TO SHOOT...
PORTRAITS

Digital Camera

FOCAL LENGTHS

KIT CHECKLIST...
50mm or 75mm portrait lens

FOR YOUR SHOTS, TRY...

1/1000 sec | f/1.8 | ISO 100

TIPS FOR GETTING A GREAT SHOT...

- For concentrating on your subject, use a 50mm-85mm portrait lens and a wide aperture such as f/1.8-f/2.
- To include the scenery, stand further back. Don't use a wide-angle lens for close up shots as it distorts the subject.

Anna Calvi – Guitarist magazine

You can use a wide-angle lens for creative effect by placing the hands or feet ahead of the body.

"Birds In Flight" Henning Hartung

Members in the Spotlight

"You don't take a photograph, you make it." - Ansel Adams

Sorrento Black and White

"Foreshore"

John Clayton

"Sorrento Hotel" John Clayton

“Sorrento in Monochrome” Danny Byrne

“Doors” Gail Penny

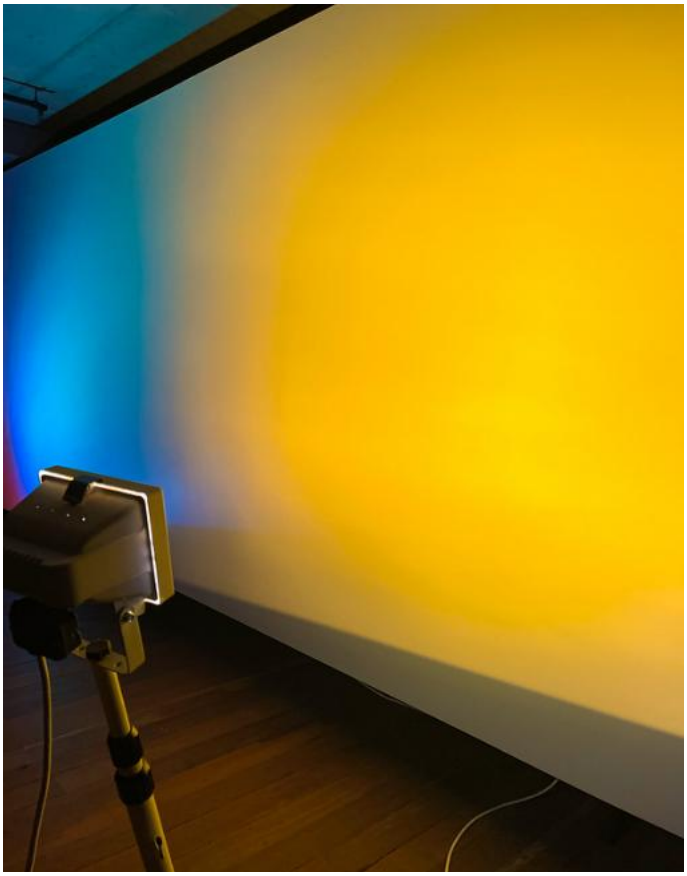
“Sorrento Street” Gunda Wright

“Beach Huts” Joy Clayton

“Sorrento from Point King” Joy Clayton

Member's GOLD

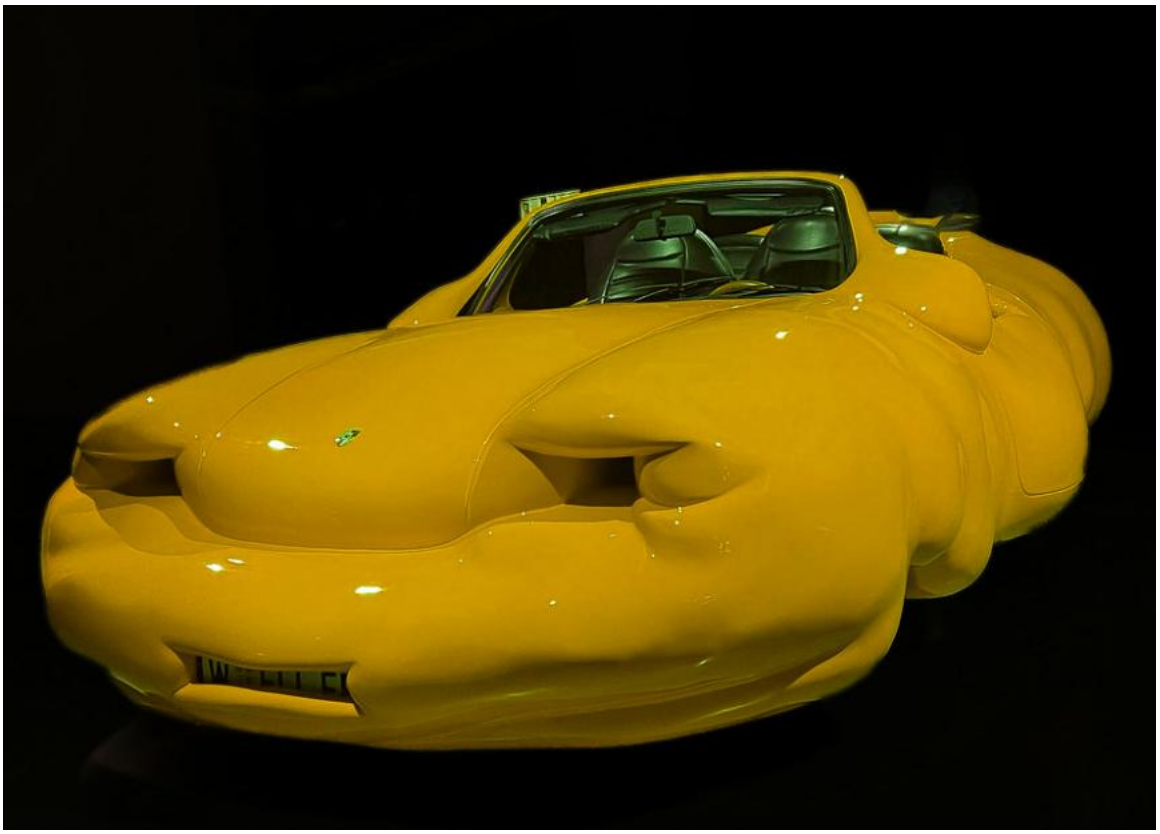
Photo by John Clayton



"Light" Lyn Haywood

“Pan’s Gold” Pan Constanti

“My Wine” Barry Mills



“I was red” Lyn Haywood

Monochrome Magic

Photo By Jeff Nankervis

Kilcunda

Photo By Deb Edward

Photo by Robbie Biggin

How to Easily Understand Your Camera Autofocus Modes

by **Sarah Rodriguez-Martinez null**

Modern cameras have quite a few autofocus modes for you to choose from. But they're only useful if you know what they are and what each of them do. When do you choose single focus over continuous focus or vice versa? If you don't know what that means, this article is for you.

We'll make your camera's autofocus modes simple and easy to understand. Continue reading to learn when and how to use them for the best photography results.

Why Use Autofocus Modes Over Manual Focus

In photography, focusing means choosing which part of your photo you want to be sharp. Our brains usually prefer sharp images over blurry ones. A well-defined subject draws attention and is the most important part of the composition.

Mastering your autofocus system allows you to better convey your image's message. It will also save you from deleting lots of blurry photos!

Using manual focus gives you more control, but it is an acquired skill. And there tends to be a steep learning curve. To put it simply, the lenses used on interchangeable-lens cameras have a ring on them that you turn to adjust the focus.

It gives you more freedom for artistic effects. It also helps when taking photos in difficult situations, like low-light conditions. But struggling with manual focus can cause beginners to miss key moments. This is where autofocus comes in.

Autofocus is a practical option that allows you to focus much faster. You can pay more attention to other things like composition and exposure.

You can switch between manual and autofocus either through the lens or the camera itself. Depending on your camera model, you'll have a dedicated button or can access

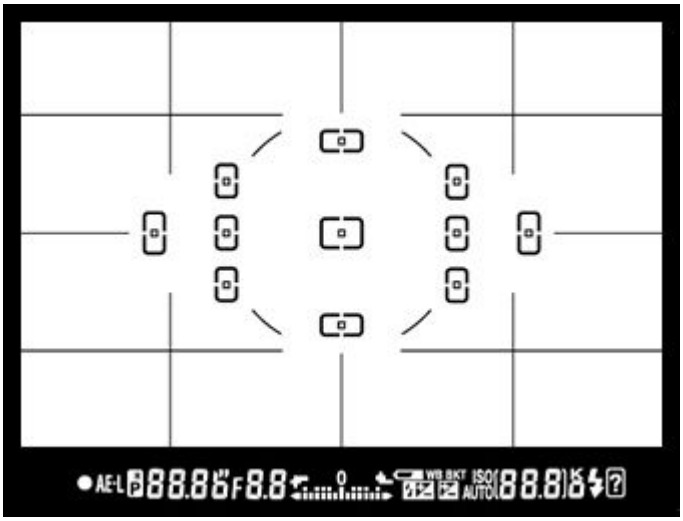
this through the menu.

How Does Autofocus Work?

When you set the focus, you arrange the glass parts in your lens so that specific light beams meet on the sensor. Beams that reach the lens from different distances require different arrangements.

In other words, focus is a matter of the distance of the objects from the lens. In autofocus mode, you select predetermined “focus points.” The number of these points depends on the camera you have. For example, the Canon EOS R5 has an astonishing 5,940 autofocus points.

You can select them through the viewfinder. Your camera will focus on the area that is in front of the focus point you selected.



How to Select the Best Focus Area for Your Subject

Modern digital cameras have very advanced autofocus modes. They offer more options than just selecting one focus point.

- **Single-Point AF-area Mode**. The camera will only use the focus point you've selected. (This is called Manual AF-Point in Canon models.)
- **Dynamic AF-area Mode**. In this mode, you also select one focus point, but if your subject moves a little, the camera will use the surrounding focus points to refocus. You need to track the subject with your camera to ensure that it remains close to the first selected focus point. If not, your camera won't be able to refocus. (This is called AF Point Expansion in Canon models.)
- **3D Tracking**. You select the first focus point, and your camera uses an algorithm to track your subject while moving. This mode is good, but there's a risk that your camera will "jump" to another subject and focus on that instead.
- **Auto-area AF**. This mode is completely automatic. The camera decides what focus points to use. It chooses the subject in the photo according to contrast differences. I don't use this mode often because I like to keep some control over what to focus on.

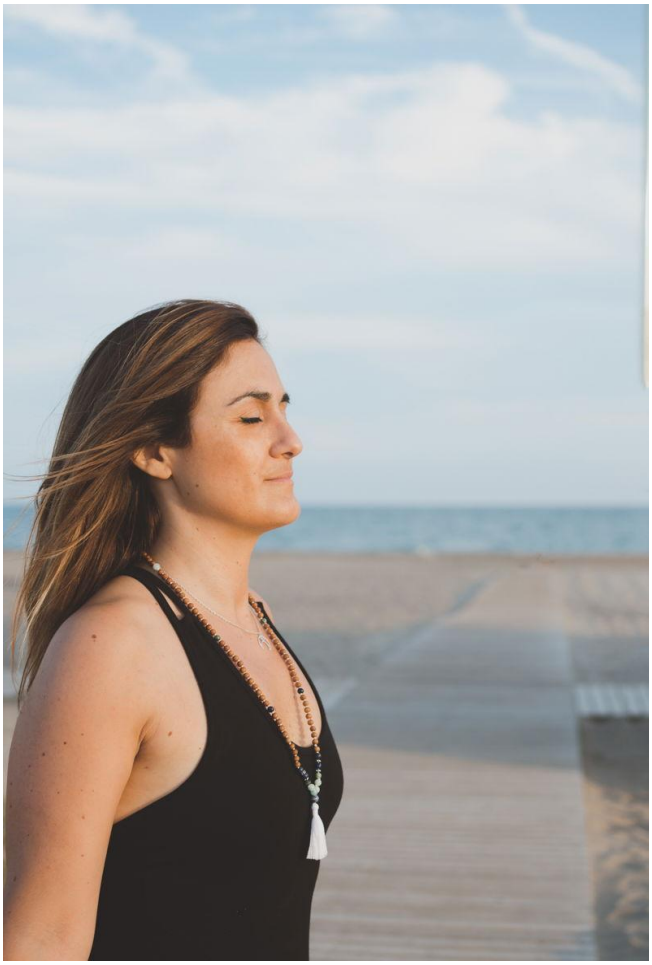
Use Single-Servo AF (Nikon) or One-Shot AF (Canon) for Static Subjects

Most cameras have different autofocus modes to help you focus in different situations. You can select one either through the camera settings menu or with a button on the camera body.

The most common autofocus modes are AF-S (single point), AF-C (continuous), or AF-A (automatic). The basic option is the AF-S. In this mode, you focus using one focus point. The camera allows you to choose the focus point.

This mode has the advantage of blocking the focus when you half-press the shutter release. This is handy when you want to reframe the image without losing the focus point.

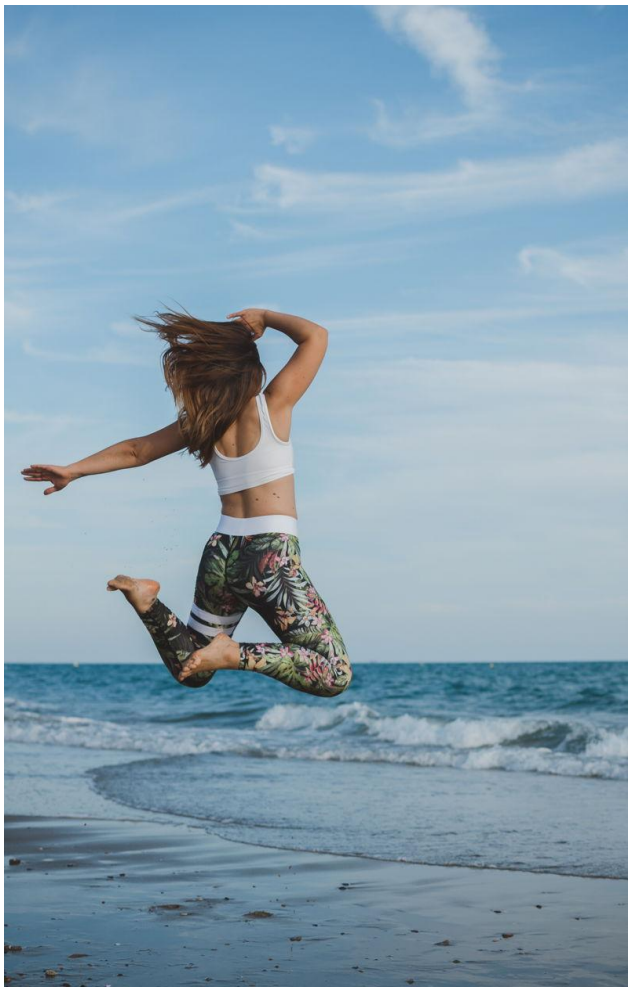
AF-S mode is useful when the subject of your photo isn't moving at all, like in or still-life photography.



Use Continuous Servo AF (Nikon) or AI Servo (Canon) for Moving Subjects

Continuous AF mode (AF-C) is another great autofocus mode. This is especially useful when the subject of your photo is moving. This mode is great for sporting events, vehicles, wildlife, or kids.

The camera does not lock the focus point when you half-press the shutter release. Instead, it tracks your subject and refocuses accordingly. Remember that when you select this autofocus option, you can't lock the focus.



What About Automatic Autofocus Mode?

There is a third option, which is automatic autofocus. Your camera will select single AF for stationary objects or continuous AF for moving subjects.

This might seem like a great option, but it can lead to confusion. The camera switches between the two AF modes. This makes it hard to know if half-pressing the shutter release will lock the focus or track the subject.

How to Combine Autofocus Modes with Focus Areas for Better Photos

Let's talk about how to combine the autofocus mode and autofocus area for perfectly sharp photos every time.

Single Point Area + AF-S Mode

This is perfect for stationary subjects such as landscapes and still photography. I also use it in posed portraits where the model is barely moving.

You choose one focus point, and the camera won't refocus.

Single Point Area+ AF-C Mode

This is ideal for when your subject is moving, like animals, kids, or sports. It’s also particularly handy in nature photography on windy days.

You select one focus point, and your camera will refocus if needed if the subject moves. It will refocus only on the selected focus point, so you need to track the subject.

Dynamic Area + AF-C Mode

This combination is useful when the subject is moving in an unpredictable way. You select one focus point, but the camera will also use the surrounding ones if the subject moves.

You might be wondering why you shouldn't always use this mode since the camera can track the movement and refocus accordingly. Why bother switching to one single focus point?

If your subject isn't isolated in the frame, your camera can get confused. It might end up tracking another subject you don't want it to.

For that reason, the one single focus is still more precise than the dynamic area/3D tracking. If your subject is not moving, you have better chances for a sharper image.

AF Combinations to Avoid

Dynamic Area + AF-S Mode

Although your camera might let you select this combination, these two options are incompatible. On one hand, you're telling the camera to use an area of several focus points to refocus if needed (dynamic area). But you are not allowing it to refocus (AF-S mode doesn't have this option).

The dynamic area will be disabled, and it will work as a single-point focus instead. If you select this option because your subject is moving, you might miss the shot. Your camera is working as if it were in the single-point area + AF-S mode.

3D Area + AF-S Mode

Just like with the previous combination, the camera won't refocus if you use 3D area and AF-S mode. The 3D area will get disabled, and you'll be taking photos like in single-point area + AF-S mode.

How to Autofocus in Live View

Autofocus mode works slightly differently when you're using Live View. In this case, you can select any point on the screen to focus on and not just the predefined focus points.

Live View autofocus mode works by detecting contrast in the scene, while the viewfinder autofocus technology is based on phase shift sensors. Live View focusing is slower, but it's more accurate for static subjects.

I recommend using it with AF-S mode. When selected, you will see a red square you can move around the screen using the arrow bottoms. When your subject is in focus, the red square will turn to a green square, meaning it's ready to shoot.

How to Use Autofocus Modes in Low-Light Situations

In low-light situations, your autofocus might not be as accurate. Your lens will go into a loop, looking to focus without success.

In this case, the AF-assist built-in light can be really useful. You turn it on via your menu. When activated, your camera will emit an orange-red light toward your subject.

This will help your camera focus, but it's not a perfect solution. It selects the AF-S mode and focuses using the central focus point. It has a limited range, so you need to be relatively close to your subject (1 to 10 feet).

You could also use a flashlight or other light source to briefly illuminate the point you want to focus on.

Conclusion: Autofocus Modes

Getting familiar with your camera's autofocus modes will allow you to take sharper images. There are quite a few things to consider when choosing your AF modes. But it's worth learning them so you can always choose the right AF mode for your scene.