

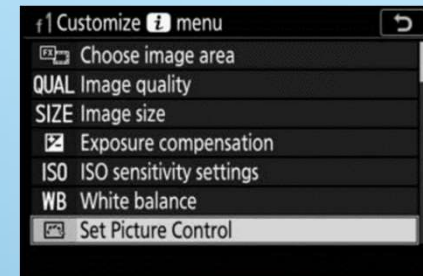
Photo 101
Setting up a new camera
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Shiny new camera

- Plethora of configuration options in modern cameras
- Get the basic settings you want right at the start



- Options That Can Be Assigned to the *i* Menu**
- Choose image area
 - Image quality
 - Image size
 - Exposure compensation
 - ISO sensitivity settings
 - White balance
 - Set Picture Control
 - Color space
 - Active D-Lighting
 - Long exposure NR
 - High ISO NR
 - Metering
 - Flash mode
 - Flash compensation
 - Focus mode
 - AF-area mode
 - Vibration reduction
 - Auto bracketing
 - Multiple exposure
 - HDR (high dynamic range)
 - Silent photography
 - Release mode
 - Custom control assignment
 - Exposure delay mode
 - Shutter type
 - Apply settings to live view
 - Split-screen display zoom
 - Peaking highlights
 - Monitor/viewfinder brightness
 - Bluetooth connection
 - Wi-Fi connection

First things first

- Get complete manual from manufacturer's website
 - much more info than normally included in the box even with pro-level cameras
 - browse entire manual so you know what's possible
- If a used camera, reset all settings to factory defaults
 - never know how previous owner had things configured
- When first turned on, typically prompted for
 - language: menus can be in a variety of languages
 - date/time & time zone
- Update firmware (check manufacturer's website)
 - bug fixes and enhanced features

Second things second

- Format memory cards in-camera
 - not always required, but always recommended
- Set file format
 - RAW, JPEG, or both
- Set image size and quality
 - set to maximum: offers most flexibility
- Adjust viewfinder diopter
 - make sure everything in the viewfinder is sharp
- Adjust screen/EVF brightness
 - default may be fine
 - know how to adjust for different lighting conditions

More second things

- Turn off beeps that might
 - annoy other people
 - scare off wildlife
- Disable ability to take photos without a memory card to avoid;
 - forget to put card back in camera
 - shoot all day
 - discover you have no images!
- Set colour space (doesn't affect RAW format)
 - sRGB – most appropriate for general sharing on email, the web, etc.
 - Adobe RGB – more appropriate for high-end printing

Digging down a bit deeper

- Set back-button focus
 - decouples focus from the shutter-release button
 - even if you don't think it is a good idea, try it for a week
 - <https://photographylife.com/back-button-focus>
- Set autofocus mode
 - most cameras allow you to choose autofocus options such as *single-point*, *matrix*, *continuous*, *subject tracking*, *face/eye detect*, etc.
- Set release mode
 - single-shot vs. burst mode & frames per second
- Set shooting mode
 - aperture-priority automatic, shutter priority automatic, manual, auto, program



Extras

- Copyright info
 - many cameras can embed in metadata
 - not a panacea
 - might help get a lost camera returned
- Change generic file name prefix (IMG, DSC,...)
 - your initials, e.g. CJT_1324.JPG
 - camera identifier, e.g. NZ6_5436.NEF
- Replace strap
 - treat yourself to a comfortable and useful strap
- Spare memory cards and batteries