

Picture Perfect Camera Settings

Better Settings = Better Photos



The 
BEGINNER PHOTOGRAPHY
Podcast

By Raymond Hatfield

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INTRODUCTION

Hi, I'm Raymond, host of the Beginner Photography Podcast and I never wanted to be a photographer. I've always loved photography, sure but my passion was making films. Photography did not come natural to me, it might not come natural to you either and that's OK. No matter how frustrated you've felt with photography up to this point, today everything changes for you. I'm not saying that after you read this ebook you'll be a master photographer, but what I am saying is that the info in this ebook is more than enough to get you started on the right path with your camera settings. What you'll read is the same info and the same process I use to determine which camera settings I'll use to capture an image. Whether it's at one of the hundreds of weddings I've shot over the years or capturing our own personal family adventures, these camera settings work and I'm here to help you.

In photography your settings will change depending not only by the light but also the subject that you are shooting. For example in low light you will need to use a slower shutter speed to let more light into the camera, but what if you're photographing people dancing in low light, dancing needs a higher shutter speed to capture motion, so what do you do? Don't know? No worries, this book is broken down into a list of situations you might be shooting in, the recommended camera settings to start off with, and how to know which settings to tweak depending on the light.



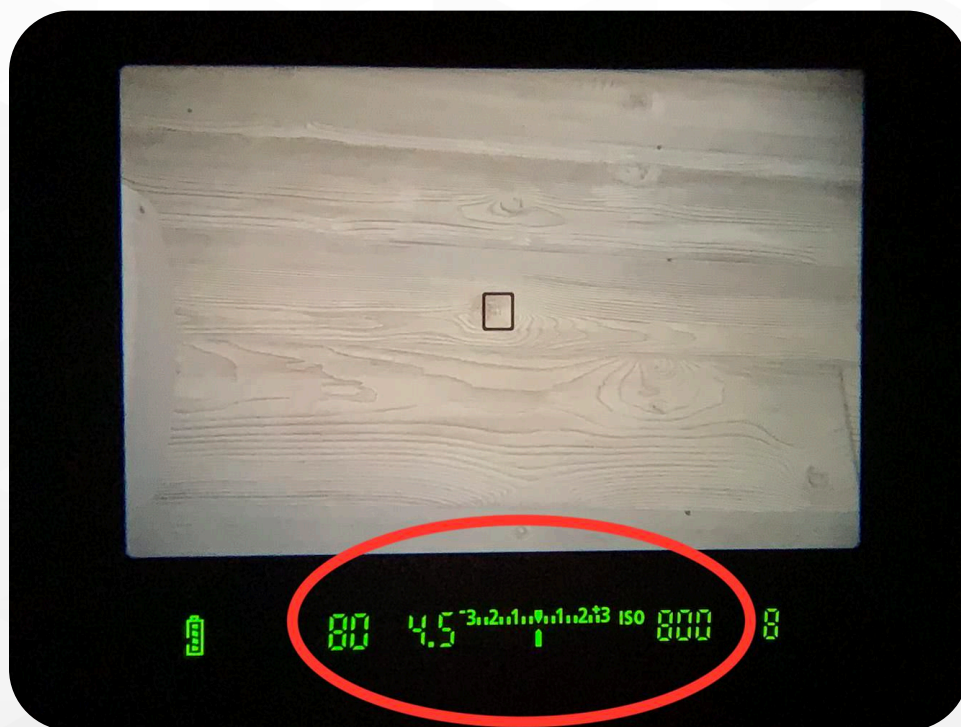
WHAT MAKES CAMERA SETTINGS PERFECT?

While there are dozens of buttons, menus, and countless options to choose there are only 3 settings that will affect your images exposure. In its simplest form, exposure is simply how bright or how dark an image is. And Exposure is controlled using only 3 settings. Aperture, ISO, and Shutter Speed. Each control the amount of light that enters the camera which can make deciding which setting to change a confusing process. In this quick guide I'm going to break down which setting is most important for your shooting scenario, giving you the perfect settings to get started with!

Because you want to be in full control of your Aperture, your ISO, and your Shutter Speed you need to be in Manual mode to be able to control each setting independently. To put your camera in manual mode you will want to put your Dial to the M setting.

Once in Manual, simply follow the directions in this ebook and adjust to taste.

Note: When the recommended settings say "Adjust to whatever the light meter suggests" That means look at your cameras light meter inside your viewfinder and adjust your settings until the arrow is at 0.



PORTRAITS, OUTSIDE NATURAL LIGHT



- ✔ Large Aperture: f1.4-f2
- ✔ Low ISO 400 or lower,
- ✔ Shutter Speed: Whatever the light meter suggests to properly expose the image.

The goal of a portrait is to bring attention to the eyes. To reduce the amount in focus and keep attention on your subject keep your aperture large. Since portraits are more likely to be printed also try and keep a low ISO so the print is crisp.

FAMILY PHOTOS WITH YOUNG KIDS



- ✓ Moderate Aperture f2.8-f4
- ✓ Moderate ISO: ISO 400-800
- ✓ Shutter Speed: Anything over 1/125. Whatever the light meter suggests to properly expose the image

Kids move quick, even when they are trying to be still for a photo. Keep your shutter speed fast enough to freeze their fidgeting and keep the ISO low enough so the image is clear when printed.

GROUP POSED FAMILY PHOTOS



- ✔ Moderate Aperture: f4-f5.6
- ✔ Low ISO: ISO 400 or lower
- ✔ Shutter Speed: Anything over 1/125. Whatever the light meter suggests to properly expose the image

Group posed family photos will always be printed to keep your ISO as low as you can. With a group photo you want everyone in focus by having a moderate aperture to increase your depth of field.

LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY



- ✓ Small Aperture: f11-f16
- ✓ Low ISO 100 or lower
- ✓ Shutter Speed: Whatever the light meter suggests to properly expose the image. (Will probably be slower than 1/60th so a tripod is needed)

Landscape photography is all about image quality so keep your iso as low as possible and your aperture small to increase image sharpness.

PHOTOGRAPHING PETS OR KIDS OUTSIDE



- ✓ Moderate Aperture: f2.8-f4
- ✓ Moderate ISO: ISO 400-800,
- ✓ Moderate Shutter Speed: Anything over 1/125. Whatever the light meter suggests to properly expose the image

Kids move quick so you will need a quick shutter speed. If light is going down don't be scared to raise your ISO to gather more light so you can keep your shutter speed up.

PHOTOGRAPHING PETS OR KIDS INSIDE



- ✓ Large Aperture: f1.8-f2.8
- ✓ High ISO 800-1600
- ✓ Moderate Shutter Speed: Anything over 1/60. Whatever the light meter suggests to properly expose the image

Kids and pets moving inside require a shutter speed fast enough to freeze them, keep your aperture large to let in more light and then put your ISO as high as it needs to be.

INDOOR EVENT PHOTOGRAPHY (WEDDING/BIRTHDAY)



- ✓ Moderate Aperture: f2-f4
- ✓ Moderate to High ISO: ISO 400-1600 (depending on how much light is available)
- ✓ Moderate Shutter Speed nothing slower than 1/125th. Whatever the light meter suggests to properly expose the image

This is pretty much the same as photographing kids or pets inside, focus on a fast enough shutter speed to capture the action but you will typically want to use a smaller aperture to ensure your subjects are in focus.

OUTDOOR EVENT PHOTOGRAPHY (WEDDING/FESTIVAL)



- ✓ Moderate Aperture f4-f5.6
- ✓ Low ISO: ISO 400 or lower
- ✓ Shutter Speed Whatever the light meter suggests to properly expose the image

With plenty of light outdoors you can keep your iso low, focus on using a moderate aperture to capture the events in focus.

(ADVANCED TECHNIQUE) ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY



- ✓ Moderate Aperture f2-2.8,
- ✓ High ISO 1600-6400,
- ✓ Very Long Shutter Speed: 20-30 Seconds

Since light from stars is little, it's best to use a high ISO to capture an image. You will want to open up your aperture and slow down your shutter speed to allow in the most light. Pro tip: Astrophotography is near impossible without a tripod.

(ADVANCED TECHNIQUE) MOTION BLUR



- ✓ Higher than expected Aperture: f8-f16
- ✓ Low ISO: ISO 100-400
- ✓ Slow Shutter Speed: 1/15 - 1/5

To show motion you will need a slow shutter speed. ISO and Aperture will not affect the final outcome of the blur so adjust them to best expose the image.

With this as your guide for the starting point of your settings you will gain a better understanding of which setting is the most important for what you are shooting. Remember, learning is worthless if you don't practice! With practice this will soon enough become second nature to you.

If you need more hands-on learning, enroll in my most popular online photography course Auto to Amazing, today. Auto to Amazing has taught hundreds of photographers to learn how to confidently shoot in manual. It's filled with easy to follow educational videos taught in plain english and photography exercises designed to be able to complete around your home in minutes.

If you're ready to take photography seriously, get lifetime access when you enroll today!

A promotional banner for the 'Auto to Amazing' photography course. It features a purple-to-blue gradient background with a blurred image of a camera in the center. The word 'INTRODUCING' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, slanted upwards to the left. Below it, the title 'AUTO TO AMAZING' is written in a very large, bold, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom right, the text 'The fastest way to learn photography guaranteed' is written in a smaller, bold, black, sans-serif font.

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