

[Shooting In Manual]

Assignment 8: Exposure Controls

This assignment is for Lesson 5: Exposure, found in the Photography Lessons folder. If you have not read it yet, please do so now.

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In Lesson 5, we talked about **exposure** - how much light your camera's sensor receives, as well as how your camera reads and indicates it. Understanding exposure is important because it **tells you if your picture will be too bright, too dark, or just right.**

In the next few lessons, we'll talk about what to do to get a correct exposure, but for this assignment, we'll find the exposure indicator, set the metering, and practice more with autofocus points.

Let's take another look at that picture from the lesson:



1. Take a minute now to find your camera's exposure level indicator. To see it in the viewfinder, turn on the camera, take off the lens cap, and hold down the shutter button halfway. To find it in the control window (if your camera has one), hold the shutter button down halfway again and look at the window. Remember that the indicator looks like a bar graph, with a plus sign on one side and a minus sign on the other.

Now let's talk about **metering**. Remember that metering is **how your camera reads the information in front of it**. It uses this information to tell you whether or not you have a correct exposure. We looked at the different metering options available on most cameras. The one that works best in most lighting situations is Evaluative (sometimes called Matrix).

2. Find out how to switch your metering mode (usually a button on the outside of your camera, or you may have to go into the menu) and turn it to Evaluative now. Here are the symbols for Evaluative (Matrix) metering, for Nikon (left) and Canon (right). Other brands may have a slightly different symbol.



There are two more settings we should talk about before moving on - **Image Size** and **Image Quality**. When you are using a digital camera, it is literally a computer. When you take a picture, it is recorded to your memory card.

Image Size means **how big (dimensionally) the picture is** when the camera records it. Most cameras have three options - Large (L), Medium (M) and Small (S).

Image Quality refers to **how detailed** the information is when recorded. Most cameras have at least two options: Fine (the symbol looks like a quarter of a circle) and Normal (the symbol looks like a small staircase).

When you record images in the Normal setting, the camera takes the information and compresses it. This will give you less quality in your picture, but a smaller file, so it takes up less room on your memory card. When you record in the Fine setting, the camera still compresses the image, but not as much - better picture, but bigger file.

Some cameras have the option to record images in RAW. When you use the RAW image quality setting, the camera does almost no compression to the image. This makes for very large files, but also makes the pictures very clear and also easy to manipulate when you want to edit them on your computer. Because of this, there are many photographers that only shoot in the RAW format.

Different cameras have different ways of letting you choose the image size and quality. You may have a button on the outside or you may need to go through the menu.

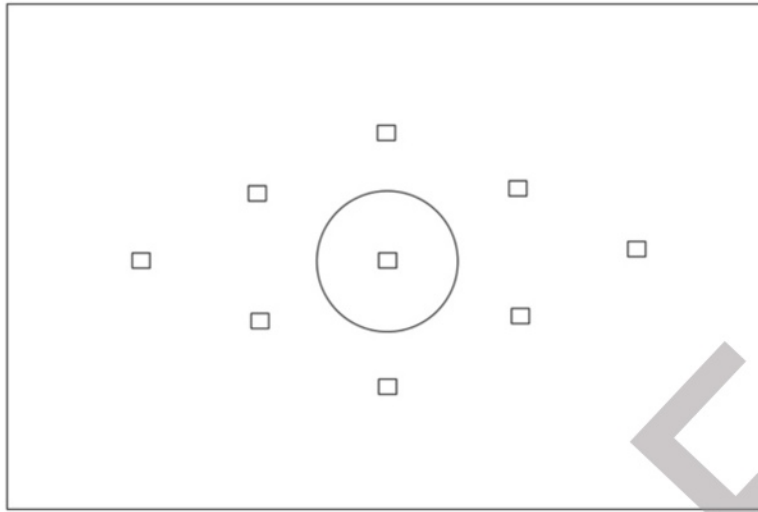


3. Take a minute now and figure out how to adjust this setting. Because this course does not cover editing (also called "post processing") extensively, set your image size to large (L), and quality to fine (quarter circle symbol). This will give you good quality images, without using the largest files.

Now that we have those set, let's practice using your autofocus points some more. When taking a picture, work on going through these steps:

1. pointing your camera at your subject
2. composing your shot (setting it up the way you want)
3. scrolling through your autofocus points until you are using the one over your subject (face, eye, whatever you want to be sharpest in the picture)
4. pressing the shutter release button to take the picture

It takes time, but with some practice, you'll get faster and faster at finding and using the correct AF point. If you need to refresh your memory on using your AF points, refer to Lesson 2 now.



4. Pick an indoor setting and one inanimate subject.
5. Set your camera to Shutter Priority (S or Tv) on the shooting mode dial.
6. Make sure that your shutter speed is set to 1/200 or 200.
7. Make sure that the switch on the side of your lens barrel is set to "AF" for autofocus.
8. Set up your subject where you'd like to photograph it in your setting.
9. Move around and photograph your subject in a variety of ways and angles (from above, below, far away, close up, etc.)
10. For each image, compose your shot and scroll through your autofocus points until you are using the correct one.
11. Take as many pictures as you'd like.
12. Download or develop them and pick your favorite five.
13. Print them and put them into your photography binder behind the correct label.
14. Share your images!