

PHOTOGRAPHY CHEAT SHEET

Make Sense of Shooting Modes



Auto Mode

The camera will automatically try and choose the best possible settings. In auto mode, there's no need to mess with any of the settings. Just point and shoot.



Portrait Mode

Keeps your subject sharp while creating a beautifully blurred background.



Landscape Mode

Designed for capturing sweeping vistas or huge crowds. In this mode, your camera increases the Aperture f-stop number in order to maximize depth of field. Objects both near and far will be in sharp focus.



Child Mode

In this mode, clothing and backgrounds are colorful while keeping skin tones soft and natural looking. Shutter speed is also increased to capture kids who are a bit more wiggly.



Sports Mode

The camera uses a faster shutter speed to capture fast-moving objects. Essentially allowing you to "freeze" action scenes.



Close Up Mode

The camera uses a smaller aperture to improve depth of field. Perfect for macro shots, close-ups of flowers, insects, and other objects.



Night Portrait Mode

The camera uses a slower shutter speed and flash to capture more light. Useful in low light situations. But use a tripod to avoid camera shake.



Manual Mode

This is designed for experts who want complete control over their camera settings. In this mode, you choose the shutter speed, aperture, and ISO.



Aperture Priority

This is a semi-automatic mode that allows you to choose the aperture yourself. The camera will automatically set the shutter speed that will produce the proper exposure. The semi-automatic modes are a great place to start when you're first venturing out from full automatic.



Shutter Priority

Allows you to choose the shutter speed yourself. The camera will automatically select the aperture (f-stop) that will produce a proper exposure.



Program AE Mode

The camera sets the shutter speed and aperture but you control flash, white balance, ISO, etc....



No Flash

Same as full auto mode, but with flash disabled.



Creative Auto

Same as full auto mode, but with a little more control over focus, exposure and color.



Movie

Allows you to record video.



Review Topics

- Camera Modes
- Tips for Field Shooting
- Crop vs Full Frame Camera
- SLR vs Mirrorless Cameras

- ISO & Low Light Performance



Quick Shot Setup - For Most Field Shooting



Landscape Mode

Designed for capturing sweeping vistas or huge crowds. In this mode, your camera increases the Aperture f-stop number in order to maximize depth of field. Objects both near and far will be in sharp focus

Step 1- The Safety Shot (Full-Auto)

- Get a safety shot in **Landscape Mode**
- Then your main concern is composition and getting a shot you can use.
- You can be artistic with techniques such as depth of field during **post production** in Photoshop.



Aperture Priority

This is a semi-automatic mode that allows you to choose the aperture yourself. The camera will automatically set the shutter speed that will produce the proper exposure. The semi-automatic modes are a great place to start when you're first venturing out from full automatic

Step 2- Set the Depth of Field (Semi-Auto)

- Use **Aperture Priority** to add an artistic touch to your shot **in camera**.
- Now your concerns are composition and how much blur to put in the background behind your main subject.
- The camera will adjust Shutter Speed and ISO for you.



Manual Mode

This is designed for experts who want complete control over their camera settings. In this mode, you choose the shutter speed, aperture, and ISO

Step 3- Manual Mode

- The 3 most important camera settings when it comes to exposure are: **Shutter Speed, Aperture Size (f-stop), and ISO** setting.
- The average camera speed is usually **1/60**. Speeds slower than this are hard to manage as they almost always lead to blurry photographs.
- Keep the **ISO below 800** on a **crop-frame** camera.

Quick Shot Setup - Similar Modes

Full-Auto Modes



Portrait Mode

Keeps your subject sharp while creating a beautifully blurred background



Sports Mode

The camera uses a faster shutter speed to capture fast-moving objects. Essentially allowing you to "freeze" action scenes.

Semi-Auto Modes



Aperture Priority

This is a semi-automatic mode that allows you to choose the aperture yourself. The camera will automatically set the shutter speed that will produce the proper exposure. The semi-automatic modes are a great place to start when you're first venturing out from full automatic



Shutter Priority

Allows you to choose the shutter speed yourself. The camera will automatically select the aperture (f-stop) that will produce a proper exposure



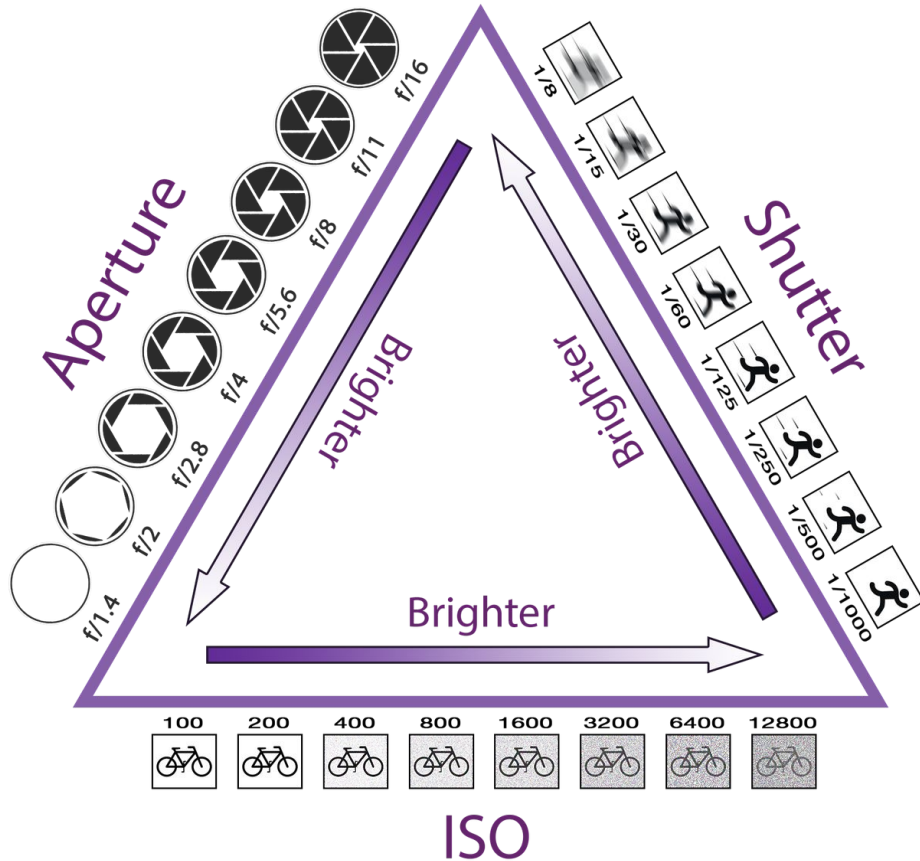
NIKON



CANON

Note: Some people like **Program Mode (P)**. It's easiest to think of this mode as **ISO Priority**.

Quick Shot Setup - Helpful Diagrams



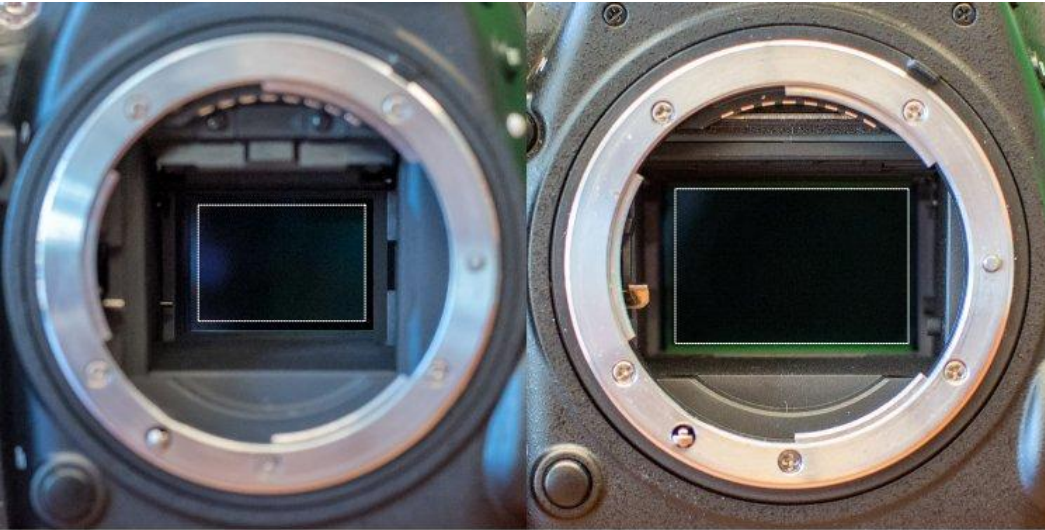
	f 1.4	↓ DOF	FAST 8000 4000 2000 1000 500 250 125 60 30 15 8 4 2 1 1/2 1/4 1/8 1/15 1/30 1/60 1/125 1/250 1/500 1/1000 SLOW
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	f 2.8		
	f 4.0		
	f 5.6		
	f 8.0		
	f 11		
	f 16	↑ DOF	

Quick Shot Setup - Resource Links

- [Understanding Digital Camera Modes](#)
- [Camera Modes Explained - Photography Pixel](#)
- [The 3 Most Important Camera Settings](#)
- [The Exposure Triangle - Action Camera Blog](#)
- [Confused By Your Digital Camera Modes? Shoot Petals](#)



Crop vs Full Frame Camera



APS-C Crop Sensor

Full-Frame Sensor

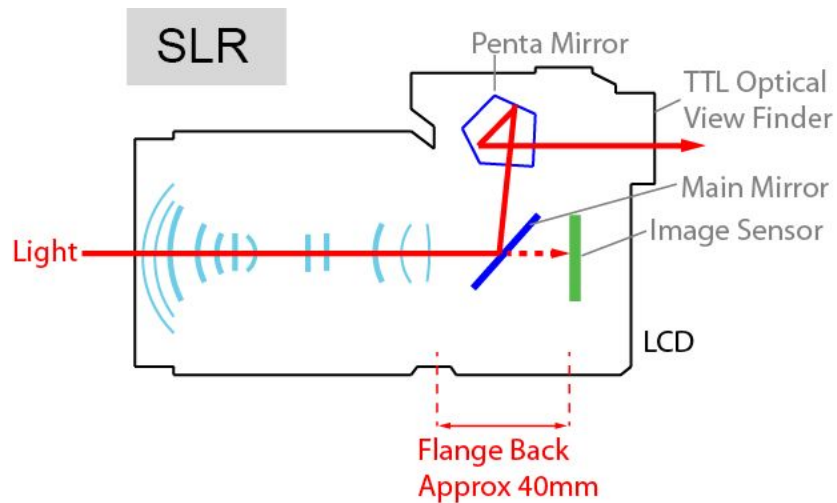


A full-frame compatible lens creates an image circle that covers the full-frame sensor, and provides a cropped image with a smaller "crop-factor" sensor

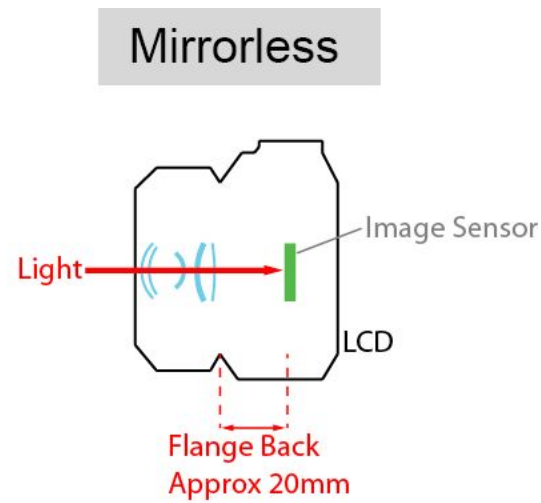
Crop factor lenses, such as the Nikon DX and Canon EF-S ranges, have a smaller image circle, so can't be successfully used with full-frame cameras

- [How to Understand the Differences Between Full-Frame Versus Crop-Sensor Cameras](#)
- [Full Frame vs Crop Sensor: Is It Really Worth Switching to Full Frame?](#)
- [Crop sensor VS full frame lenses and effective aperture on crop bodies - DP Review Discussion Blog](#)

SLR vs Mirrorless



The mirror in DSLR cameras is used to reflect light from the lens onto the viewfinder so you can see what you're taking a photo of. When you hit the shutter button, the mirror flips up to allow the light to hit the sensor and capture the photo.



Mirrorless cameras just let the light hit the sensor directly, with a digital viewfinder displaying a preview based on exactly what the sensor's seeing – no mirror trickery required.

SLR vs Mirrorless



- [Evaluating Mirrorless Camera Systems](#)
- [Are mirrorless cameras as good as SLRs?](#)
- [How to Decide if a Mirrorless Camera is Right for You](#)