Free Gray/Color Checker Card Inside!

Rosh Sillars

Canon® EOS Rebel T4i/650D Digital Field Guide

Canon® EOS

Rebel T4i/650D

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About the Author

Rosh Sillars is a veteran photographer with a background in photojournalism. He specializes in photographing people, food, and interiors. He earned a BFA in photography from the College of Creative Studies (CCS), Detroit. He owns the creative representation firm, The Rosh Group Inc.; works as a marketing consultant for Synectics Media; teaches photojournalism at Wayne State University in Detroit; and is a digital photography instructor at the University of Detroit Mercy. He is an active author, speaker, and consultant on the topics of photography and marketing.

Rosh's home photography studio, Octane Photographic, is located in Ferndale, Michigan, where he lives with his wife, Shirley, and their daughters, Ava and Kelly.

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I dedicate this book to my mother, Patricia Sillars.

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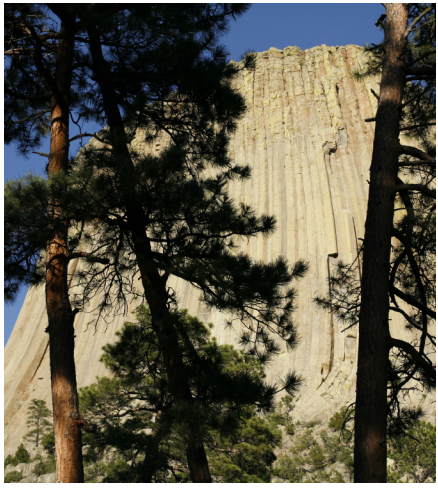

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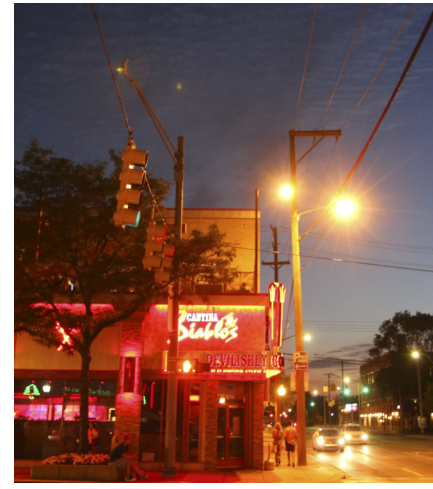

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Introduction

It's always exciting to get a new camera, even if it's a used model. Think of this book as a companion piece to your new purchase. Soon, you'll discover the wonderful features the Canon T4i/650D offers for creating both still photography and videos. Use this book to explore these features and learn how to take better photos. As I wrote this book, I reviewed every menu, pushed every button, and applied my 20-plus years of experience in photography to inform you about how this technology can benefit your photos.

This book also features tips from other photographers on everything from how to capture the best shots, to how to market your work via social media. The first part of this book covers the technical information, including how to use the camera's many menus, displays, and buttons. As you read further, you will discover more information on important topics, such as composition, lenses, light, and shooting video.

Your camera has some great features, including HDR and low-light modes. It is also the first camera to include the Movie-servo feature, which continuously maintains focus on your subject as it moves. The LCD touch screen makes selecting features and settings from your camera's menus much easier. It also makes it possible for you to review your images and videos with the swipe of a finger.

This book is not meant to replace the Owner's Manual. In fact, it was written with the assumption that you have read the Owner's Manual and know the very basic stuff, like how to put the camera strap on and how to charge the battery. Even so, I do dig into plenty of basic information that you need to get started. I also take you through some midlevel and advanced ideas that you won't find in the manual, but that are meant to improve your photographs and experience with the Canon Rebel T4i/650D.

Quick Tour

My guess is you are itching to start using your new Canon EOS Rebel T4i/650D. Maybe you picked up this book to learn how to use it or maybe you just want some advice on taking better pictures. This Quick Tour covers the basics for achieving both goals. The next few pages provide an overview about using your camera more efficiently and effectively. The in-depth information is in the chapters ahead. In those chapters, I explore all of the menus, functions, settings, and tips for getting the images you desire. Don't worry—even after you start playing around with your camera, if you find you are not happy with its settings, it's easy to reset it to the factory default settings in the Setup menu. First, let's set up your camera and get out in the field.

The Canon T4i/650D has many great new features, including an LCD touch screen, HDR capabilities, and continuous focus for video.

Getting Started

If you want to take photos right now, follow these quick steps to get going. Your camera should be unpacked from the box. The camera battery, straight out of the box, should have some power. However, I recommend fully charging the battery before you use it for the first time. If you can't wait that long, just get started.

To begin shooting, you need a fully-charged battery, a formatted memory card, and a Canon dedicated lens (or compatible lens) attached to your camera. The battery door is on the bottom of the camera. Open it and insert the battery until you hear a click indicating that the battery is locked in place. The memory card should also be formatted for your camera.

To format the memory card, place it in the card slot (with the letters facing you) on the right side of the camera, as shown in Figure QT.1. Press the Menu button (**MENU**), select Setup menu 1 (), select the Format option, and then press OK. The memory card is formatted within a few moments. The more memory the card has, the longer the formatting process takes. To place a lens on the camera, match the red (or white) dots found on both the camera and lens, and then turn the lens to the left. Make sure that the camera lens is set to autofocus.

QT.1 The memory card fits into the slot on the right side of the camera.

Set the camera to the Scene Intelligent Auto shooting mode (A+) for evaluative automatic program control. In other words, this mode lets the camera make all of the exposure decisions. Your job is to place your index finger on the shutter button, as shown in Figure QT.2, and your eye to the viewfinder to begin shooting photos.

QT.2 Place your index finger on the shutter button to begin taking photos. Make sure that you hold the camera grip securely with your other hand.

To shoot videos, flip the power button to Movie mode ('). The LCD screen's Live View feature turns on, and displays the view through your lens. For quick access to many of the camera's main movie options, press the Quick Control/Print button (Q) to get the options displayed on the screen. Use the Live View Shooting button (●) to start and stop movie recording.

Camera Controls

This section covers some of the basic controls you need to know for the everyday use of your Canon T4i/650D. Most of these are found on the top and back of the camera. Many of the same controls can also be found on the LCD touch screen. Press the Quick Control/Print button (Q) to view them.

CROSS REF A detailed list of all of the camera controls can be found in Chapter 1. Menu options are covered in Chapter 2.

The top of the camera

The top of the camera features the following buttons and dials:

- **Power button.** You have three power options: Off, On, and Movie on. Turn the power button On when you want to take still photographs. Turn it to the Movie mode (🎥) when you want to create videos.
- **Mode dial.** This controls the 14 exposure modes. The dial is divided into two zones: Basic and creative. The following basic zone modes offer a variety of automatic settings: Scene Intelligent Auto (), Flash off (), Creative Auto (CA), Portrait (), Landscape (), Close-up (), Sports (), Night Portrait (), Handheld Night Scene (), and HDR backlight control (). The following creative zone modes offer more exposure freedom for advanced users: Program (**P**), Shutter-priority AE (**Tv**), Aperture-priority AE (**Av**), and Manual (**M**).
- **ISO button.** ISO refers to the light sensitivity setting of your camera. The higher the ISO is, the less light you need. The lower the ISO is, the more light you need, but the less digital noise your image will contain (higher quality).

QT.3 The controls on top of your camera.

The back of the camera

The back of the camera features the following buttons and dials:

- **Menu button (MENU).** Pressing this button gives you access to the many options available to customize your camera.

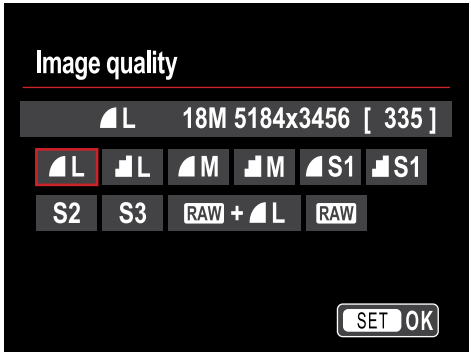
CROSS REF The camera's menus are fully covered in Chapter 2.

- **Info button (INFO.).** Press this button to activate the information display on the LCD screen. Depending on the mode you are using, the screen displays information about the camera, the shooting mode settings, photograph, or video.
- **Live View Shooting button ( ).** This button turns on the camera's LCD screen for the Live View feature. This allows you to see the scene as the lens reads it. This button is also used for starting and stopping video shooting.
- **Quick Control/Print button ( ).** Press this button to quickly pull up important features on the LCD screen to use in specific modes.
- **Cross keys.** These four buttons offer quick access to the White balance (WB), Autofocus mode (AF), Picture Styles ( ), and Drive modes (DRIVE). They also serve as direction keys to navigate through menu options. When you land on the menu option that you want, press the Set button ( ).

QT.4 The control center on the back of Canon Rebel T4i/650D.

Choosing Image Quality

Your camera has 10 image-quality options. The default is Large fine (◢L), which is the largest size JPEG available on your camera at 5184 × 3456 pixels. The RAW format (RAW) is the highest quality image available on your camera and Small 3 (S3) is the smallest file size. I recommend that you use the higher image-quality settings, such as the default Large fine (◢L), for regular use because you can always downsize your photos on your camera or in the Digital Photography Professional software that came with it. You cannot, however, increase a photograph's resolution without losing image quality. If you need more room for images, purchase a card with more memory, especially if you plan on shooting larger files and video.



QT.5 The Image quality menu has 10 options.

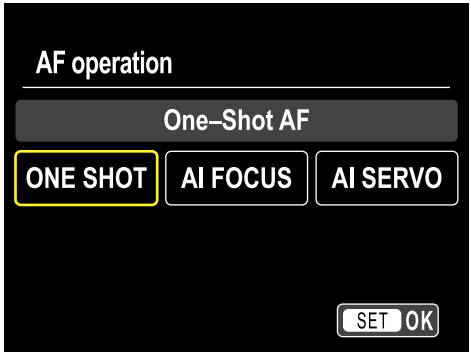
Selecting a Focus Mode

To use autofocus, check the switch on the side of your lens and make sure that it is in the AF position. Next, press the shutter button halfway to focus on your subject. If you are using a basic (automatic) zone mode, the camera selects the focus points for you. If you are using a creative zone mode, you have the option of nine focus points (31 if you are using the Live View FlexiZone Auto focus method options). The default is automatic autofocus, in which the camera selects the focus point based on nine AF points, usually focusing on the closest subject to your camera. To manually adjust the autofocus points, press the Magnify button (🔍) to view the camera's AF points. Adjust the points by using the Main dial (⚙) on top of the camera.

CROSS REF For more information about the Live View and Focus options, see Chapter 8.

You also have three options related to how your camera focuses. Press the Autofocus button (**AF**) to see your autofocus operation options. The default (and first) option is One Shot (**ONE SHOT**) and it does just that. When you press the shutter button halfway in this focus mode, the camera focuses on your subject once. It stays at that focus

point until you lift your finger and press the shutter button again. AI Focus (**AI FOCUS**) takes one shot unless the camera detects motion, and then it switches to the AI Servo mode (**AI SERVO**). AI Servo (**AI SERVO**) follow-focuses as you or the subject moves.



QT.6 The Autofocus (AF) operation menu offers three focus options.

The default focus setting for videos is Movie Servo AF (SERVO AF). This means that the camera follow-focuses the closest object to the camera. You can turn off Movie Servo AF (SERVO AF) by touching the icon in the lower-left corner of the LCD screen. When Movie Servo AF mode (SERVO AF) is turned off, your camera focuses once when you press the shutter button halfway. Manual focus is achieved by selecting the Manual focusing mode (**MF**) on your lens.

Using a Flash

If you are using one of the basic zone modes, the flash pops up automatically when needed. When using one of the creative zone modes, the flash must be manually popped up by pressing the Flash button (⚡) on the front of the camera (see Figure QT.7). If you are using an external flash, place it in the hot shoe on top of the camera. Flashes that are compatible with Evaluative Through-the-Lens (E-TTL) technology (that is, Canon's version of Through-the-Lens metering) sync seamlessly with your camera. This means that the flash and camera work together to create the best exposure using your camera's evaluative metering sensor. This type of metering is helpful for more accurate readings, especially if you have a filter on your lens, because the flash knows how to adjust.

QT.7 The Flash button is on the left side of the camera.