

Making Everything Easier!™

Sony Alpha α SLT-A65/A77

FOR
DUMMIES®

Learn to:

- Navigate camera controls to set up shots and capture video
- Select the best lens for your photo
- Take control with manual settings for exposure, flash, focus, and color

IN FULL COLOR!

Robert Correll

*Author of Digital SLR Photography
All-in-One For Dummies*



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Visit www.dummies.com/how-to/content/sony-alpha-slt-a35a55-for-dummies-cheat-sheet.html to view this book's cheat sheet.

Table of Contents

[Introduction](#)

[About This Book](#)

[How This Book Is Organized](#)

[Part I: Pictures Worth Keeping](#)

[Part II: Playing with Pixels](#)

[Part III: Expressing Your Creativity](#)

[Part IV: The Part of Tens](#)

[Icons Used in This Book](#)

[Conventions Used in This Book](#)

[Cheat Sheet](#)

[Where to Go from Here](#)

[Part I: Pictures Worth Keeping](#)

[Chapter 1: Meeting the A65 and A77](#)

[Comparing Super and Duper](#)

[Inspecting from Top to Bottom](#)

[Top controls](#)

[Rear controls](#)

[Front gizmos](#)

[And the rest](#)

[Doing a Lens Switcheroo](#)

[Attaching a lens](#)

[Removing a lens](#)

[Changing to manual focus](#)

[Zooming in and out](#)

[Using Batteries and Memory Cards](#)

[Inserting the battery](#)

[Removing the battery](#)

[Inserting the memory card](#)

[Removing the memory card](#)

[Moving the Monitor](#)

[A65](#)

[A77](#)

[Taking a Look at the Display Panel \(A77\)](#)

[Seeing 20/20 through the Electronic
Viewfinder](#)

[What You Have? Menus, Buttons, and Dials](#)

[Menus](#)

[Displays](#)

[Using the Function button](#)

[Getting Set Up](#)

[Resetting the Camera](#)

[Cleaning the Camera Sensor](#)

[Chapter 2: Setting Up for Snapshots](#)

[Giving It Your Best Shooting Mode](#)

[Basic shooting modes](#)

[Advanced exposure modes](#)

[Flooring It to Drive Mode](#)

[Single Shooting](#)

[Continuous Shooting](#)

[Self-timer](#)

[Exposure Bracketing](#)

[White Balance Bracket](#)

[DRO Bracketing \(A77\)](#)

[Remote Commander](#)

[I Spy a Face](#)

[Using face detection](#)

[Registering faces](#)

[Managing faces](#)

[Setting Up for Smiles](#)

[Using Smile Shutter](#)

[Getting control of yourself](#)

Easy Bake Flash

Changing Flash mode
Understanding flash cues
Using red-eye reduction

Rustling up a Photo Size, Aspect Ratio, and Quality

Changing the image size
Picking an aspect ratio
Choosing photo quality
Choosing

Chapter 3: Pointing and Shooting Your Way to Great Pictures

Holding on Tight

Faceplant
Keeping your distance

Automatically Taking Great Pictures

Modes of transportation
Using auto modes

Making a Scene

Scene selections
Setting up for scenes
Customizing scene settings
Smile for the birdie: Portrait

[Ready, set: Sports Action](#)

[Mac daddy: Macro](#)

[Taking it in: Landscape](#)

[End of days: Sunset](#)

[Don't need goggles: Night View](#)

[A new saga: Handheld Twilight](#)

[Work on your moves: Night Portrait](#)

[Shooting Sweeping Panoraamas](#)
[Rapid Fire](#)

[Chapter 4: Making Movie Magic](#)

[Making Some Movie Decisions](#)

[File format](#)

[Record setting](#)

[Sound](#)

[Choosing a Movie Type](#)

[Selecting Recording Options](#)

[Enabling SteadyShot](#)

[Turning on Audio](#)

[Blowing in the wind](#)

[Connecting and using an external stereo
microphone](#)

[Yelling, "Action!" Versus Saying "Cheese"](#)

[Making the transition to movie-think](#)

[Picking a Genre](#)

[Sitting still](#)
[Using a stunt double](#)

[Point-and-Shoot Movie Making](#)

[Get everything ready](#)
[Press the Movie button to record](#)
[Adjust exposure](#)
[Keep track](#)
[Stop recording](#)

[Taking Creative Cinematic Control](#)

[Movie modes](#)
[Setting and recording in Movie mode](#)
[Changing the movie mode](#)

[Enjoying the Show: Movie Playback](#)

[Watching movies](#)
[Movie metadata](#)

[Part II:Playing with Pixels](#)

[Chapter 5: Getting More from Picture Playback](#)

[Knowing What to Press](#)
[Thank You Very Much-o Mr. Auto Review](#)
[Setting the View à la Mode](#)
[Playing Back Photos \(and Lots More\)](#)

[Playback basics](#)
[Displaying the image index](#)

[Zooming and panning](#)
[Rotating photos](#)
[Protecting photos and movies](#)
[DPOF a doo-wop printing](#)

[Decoding Picture Data](#)

[With Recording Data display](#)
[Histogram display](#)

[Letting Go of Bad Photos and Movies](#)

[Deleting a single file](#)
[Deleting more than one photo or movie](#)
[Deleting all the photos in a folder](#)
[Deleting all movies](#)

[Setting Up Slide Shows](#) [Viewing Playback on an HDTV](#)

[Being compatible](#)
[HDMI cable](#)
[Connecting camera to TV](#)

[6: Setting Up Shop at Home](#)

[Getting the Party Started](#)

[Sony software](#)
[Other photo editors and organizers](#)
[Video software](#)

Transferring Photos and Movies to Your Computer

Making a direct connection

Using a card reader

Importing files using Picture Motion Browser

Manually transferring photos and MP4 videos

Printing and Sharing

Resolution

Paper size

Format

Working with JPEGs

They call it Picture Motion Browser

iPhoto a go-go

Working with Raw Files

Part III: Expressing Your Creativity

7: Making Exposure and Flash Decisions

Making Big Decisions

Describing the exposure controls

Making creative decisions

Shooting in different conditions

Dialing in Advanced Exposure Modes

Using Program Auto

Using Aperture priority mode

Using Shutter speed priority mode

Taking total control with Manual exposure mode

Hi Ho, Hi Ho, to ISO You Go

Selecting an ISO

Using multi-frame noise reduction

Metering Methodology

Meter types

Changing metering mode

Using the Histogram

Locking the Exposure

Using Exposure Compensation

Dynamic Range or Bust

Processing photos with the D-range optimizer

DRO Bracketing (A77)

Using Auto HDR

Exposure bracketing and HDR photography

Controlling the Built-in Flash

Setting the flash control method

[Setting advanced flash modes](#)

[Using the built-in flash](#)

[Adjusting the flash strength](#)

[Trying flash compensation](#)

[Flash bracketing](#)

[Chapter 8: Designing with Focus and Color](#)

[Getting Autofocus to Behave](#)

[Understanding AF indicators](#)

[Changing Autofocus mode](#)

[Selecting AF areas](#)

[Locking on target](#)

[Using the focus magnifier](#)

[Tracking objects](#)

[Putting it all together](#)

[Controlling Depth of Field](#)

[Affecting DOF](#)

[Working with DOF](#)

[Previewing the depth of field](#)

[Shedding Light on White Balance](#)

[Changing the white balance](#)

[Creating a custom white balance setting](#)

[Shooting white balance brackets](#)

[Using Creative Styles](#)

[Selecting a style](#)

Fine-tuning style

Color Space Wars: sRGB versus Adobe RGB

Chapter 9: Cooking Up Picture- Perfect Recipes

Solid Settings for all Occasions
Developing a Shooting Strategy

Prepare beforehand

Double-check battery level and memory card

Establish specific goals for the shoot

Set the mode dial and main exposure parameter

Configure the camera

Meter and autofocus

Compose the scene

Adjust exposure and shoot

Correct problems

Popping Out Portraits

Trade tips

Shooting manually

Goodbye, City Life

Give Me Park Avenue

Freeze Frame Moments

So Close You Can Touch It

Exploring HDR Photography

Part IV: The Part of Tens

Chapter 10: Ten Ways to Customize Your Camera

Reconfiguring Power Save Mode

Changing the File Numbering Scheme

Changing the Folder Naming Format

Turning off Live View Effects

Peeking into Peaking

Displaying What You Want

Disabling the Head Detector

Changing a Button's Stripes

86ing the AF Illuminator

Turning It Down to 10: Noise Reduction Settings

Chapter 11: Ten More Camera Features Worth Investigating

Becoming One with the Level

Left-to-right level (horizontal).

Front-to-back level (vertical).

Using Memory Recall (A77).

Shooting with Picture Effects

Navigating with GPS

Unleashing the Smart Teleconverter

Turning On the Lens Compensatrixators

Ye Olde Electronic Front Curtain Shutter

Flashing without Wires

I Spy an Eye-Fi Memory Card

Some Brainiac Features on the A77

Power ratio (aka manual flash).

Exposure step

AF/MF button

AF-A setup (aka direct manual focus)

AF Micro Adjust

Cheat Sheet

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Dummies®***

by Robert Correll



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About the Author

Robert Correll is the author of several books about digital photography and imaging, including *Digital SLR Photography All-in-One For Dummies*. His most recent titles include *Sony Alpha SLT-A35/A55 For Dummies*; *Photo Retouching and Restoration Using Corel PaintShop Pro X4, Third Edition*; *HDR Photography Photo Workshop, Second Edition* (with Pete Carr); *Canon EOS Rebel T3/1110D and Canon EOS 60D For Dummies* (both with Julie Adair King); and *High Dynamic Range Digital Photography For Dummies*.

When not writing, Robert enjoys family life, photography, playing the guitar, grilling, and recording music. Robert graduated from the United States Air Force Academy and resides in Indiana.

Dedication

To my family.

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Introduction

The story of the Sony A65/A77 begins with two other camera manufacturers, Konica and Minolta. These storied names in camera history merged in 2003, but soon thereafter (2006) decided to leave the camera business and focus on other, more business-oriented technologies. Go figure. They transferred all their camera assets to Sony, which has continued developing the Konica Minolta dSLR line under the Sony Alpha brand name. Since 2006, Sony has established itself as a serious player in the dSLR community, offering both entry-level and full-frame professional models.

Recently, Sony has upped the technological ante by introducing cameras, including the A65/A77, with translucent mirrors: *dSLTs* (digital single-lens translucent). Traditional dSLRs, like their SLR forefathers, use a reflex mirror to bounce light coming through the lens up into the viewfinder so you can compose the scene and focus with the assurance that you're seeing what the camera sees. Just before the shutter opens to take the photo, though, the mirror has to flip up out of the way to expose the film or sensor as the shutter opens. That's the loud "clunk" you hear when you take a picture with a dSLR and why the mirrors are called reflex mirrors. They move. The translucent mirror in the A65/A77 doesn't have to flip up out of the way when you take a picture. The light bounces off it *and* goes right through it, whether you're framing, focusing, or taking the picture. Having a stable, translucent mirror makes the camera quieter, faster, lighter, and more mechanically reliable.

Another new-to-dSLR feature of the A65/A77 is the electronic viewfinder. Instead of seeing light bounced off a mirror, through a prism, and out the viewfinder (a lot of light was bouncing in the old days), you look at a high-contrast, high-resolution electronic display. The electronic viewfinder functions like its

optical counterpart in many ways, but it has some major advantages. You can look at camera menus, view photo and movie playback, check shooting functions, turn on a histogram, and see other displays impossible for normal viewfinders.

About This Book

This book's purpose is to put the right information in your hands so you can take advantage of the technological prowess of your A65/A77. You don't need to know anything about photography before opening these pages. In classic *For Dummies* style, I explain everything in easy-to-understand language and use plenty of color photos to show off the cameras and make the photographic concepts easier to understand.

How This Book Is Organized

This book is organized into four parts. Each one has a particular focus. They flow from what you need to start out to more advanced subjects. You can read the book from start to finish and progress from beginner to advanced user — or you can jump to any section in any chapter and dig right in. Use the table of contents, the index, and the chapter cross-references to jump to sections with related information.

Here's a quick look at what you can find in each part.

Part I: Pictures Worth Keeping