Making Everything Easier!™

Canon EOS 60D

FOR DUMMIES®

Learn to:

- Get started in auto mode then move to manual for greater control
- Fine-tune exposure, lighting, focus, and color
- Set your camera for high-quality portraits and landscape photos

IN FULL COLOR!

Julie Adair King
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Canon® EOS 60D For Dummies®

Visit www.dummies.com/cheatsheet/canoneos60d to view this book's cheat sheet.

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Cheat Sheet

Canon® EOS 60D For Dummies®

by Julie Adair King and Robert Correll

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Introduction

The Canon EOS 60D is a ground-breaking digital SLR camera that offers the best of two worlds, bridging the gap between the entry-level Canon EOS Rebel line and the much more expensive, professional-level Canon models like the EOS 7D and beyond. The 60D is designed to sit in a sweet spot of price and performance: accessible to beginners and yet powerful enough for more advanced photographers.

This camera offers the range of advanced controls and features that experienced photographers demand (impressive high ISO performance, great top-end shutter speed, a top LCD screen, plenty of flash options, higher sync-speed, flexibility, customizability, and more) plus an assortment of tools designed to help beginners be successful (a cool articulated LCD monitor, great Quick Control screen, Live View, easy-to-use shooting modes, and more). Adding to the fun, this camera also continues the Canon commitment to cameras that can record high-definition digital movies.

The 60D is so feature packed, in fact, that sorting out everything can be a challenge, especially if you're new to digital photography or SLR photography, or both. For starters, you may not even be sure what SLR stands for (single lens reflex; now you know!), what that means, or how it affects your picture taking, let alone have a clue about all the other techie terms you encounter in your camera manual: resolution, aperture, white balance, format. If you're so overwhelmed by all the controls on your camera that you haven't yet ventured beyond fully automatic picture-taking mode, this is the book for you.

In *Canon EOS 60D For Dummies*, you can discover not only what each bell and whistle on your camera does but also when, where, why, and how to best use each bell and whistle. Unlike many photography books, this one doesn't require any previous knowledge of photography or digital imaging to make sense of concepts, either. In classic *For Dummies* style, everything is explained in easy-to-understand language, with lots of illustrations to help clear up any confusion.

In short, what you have in your hands is the paperback version of an in-depth photography workshop tailored specifically to your Canon picture-taking powerhouse. Whether your interests lie in taking family photos, exploring nature and travel photography, or snapping product shots for your business, you'll get the information you need to capture the images you envision.

Mirror, mirror: Understanding the SLR part of your dSLR

One defining characteristic of any SLR (single lens reflex) camera, whether digital or film, is the mirror that is located in the camera body, just behind the lens and in front of the film or image sensor. The purpose of the mirror is to bounce light coming through the lens up to the viewfinder so you can frame, focus, and meter the same scene the camera sees. When you press the shutter button all the way, the mirror flips up (the technical term for a flipping mirror is a *reflex* mirror) so that the light goes directly onto the image sensor, rather than being diverted to the viewfinder. In Live View shooting and Movie modes, the mirror flips up and out of the way so light can hit the image sensor and be routed to the LCD monitor. That's one reason the viewfinder gets turned off

and normal autofocus routines don’t work — the mirror isn’t in the right position to reflect light up to the viewfinder and AF sensors.

A Quick Look at What’s Ahead

This book is organized into four parts, each devoted to a different aspect of using your camera. Although chapters flow in a sequence designed to take you from absolute beginner to experienced user, we also tried to make each chapter as self-standing as possible so that you can explore the topics that interest you in any order you please.

The following sections offer brief previews of each part. If you’re eager to find details on a specific topic, the index shows you exactly where to look.

Part I: Fast Track to Super Snaps

Part I contains four chapters that help you get up and running with your EOS 60D:

- Chapter 1, “Getting the Lay of the Land,” offers a tour of the external controls on your camera, shows you how to navigate camera menus to access internal options, and walks you through initial camera setup and customization steps.

- Chapter 2, “Choosing Basic Picture Settings,” introduces you to the Basic shooting modes on the Mode dial; different drive modes; basic flash photography; and picture quality settings, such as the resolution (pixel count), file format, file size, and picture quality.
- Chapter 3, “Taking Great Pictures, Automatically,” shows you how to get the best results when using the camera’s fully automatic exposure modes, including Portrait, Sports, and Landscape. The camera also features the Creative Auto mode, which makes it easy for you to take a little more artistic control over your photos.
- Chapter 4, “Exploring Live View Shooting and Movie Making,” explains how to review your pictures on the camera monitor, delete unwanted images, and protect your favorites from accidental erasure. In addition, this chapter introduces you to Live View shooting, in which you can use your monitor as a viewfinder. We also explain your camera’s movie-recording features.

Part II: Working with Picture Files

This part of the book discusses the often-confusing aspect of reviewing the photos while still on the camera, and then moving them from camera to computer and beyond.

- Chapter 5, “Picture Playback,” explores the Playback function of your 60D. You’ll see how to view photos in Playback mode; quickly jump back and forth between photos; rotate them; zoom in on

them; change how much information is displayed; and delete, protect, and rate them.

- Chapter 6, “Downloading, Printing, and Sharing Your Photos,” guides you through transferring pictures from your camera memory card to your computer’s hard drive or other storage device. Just as important, this chapter explains software options for managing, editing, printing, and sharing your collection.

Part III: Taking Creative Control

Chapters in this part help you unleash the full creative power of your camera by moving into semiautomatic or manual photography modes.

- Chapter 7, “Getting Creative with Exposure and Lighting,” covers the all-important topic of exposure, starting with an explanation of three critical exposure controls: aperture, shutter speed, and ISO. This chapter also discusses your camera’s advanced exposure modes (P, Tv, Av, M, B, and C), explains exposure options (such as metering mode and exposure compensation), and offers tips for using the built-in flash.
- Chapter 8, “Manipulating Focus and Color,” provides help with controlling those aspects of your pictures. Look here for information about your camera’s automatic and manual focusing features as well as for details about color controls, such as white balance and the Picture Style options.

- Chapter 9, “Putting It All Together,” summarizes all the techniques explained in earlier chapters, providing a quick-reference guide to the camera settings and shooting strategies that produce the best results for specific types of pictures: portraits, action shots, landscape scenes, close-ups, and more.

Part IV: The Part of Tens

In famous *For Dummies* tradition, the book concludes with top-ten lists containing additional bits of information and advice.

- Chapter 10, “Ten Creative (and Practical) Features,” expands your knowledge of your 60D beyond the basics and covers fun stuff, such as applying creative filters to your photos, creating a custom menu, registering your own exposure mode, locking up the mirror, adding copyright information, and more.
- Chapter 11, “Ten More Ways to Customize Your Camera,” covers interesting bonus factoids that show you how to customize the camera to work how you want it to. You’ll discover how to change what the Set button does, turn off those red autofocus points, change your focus screen, and create custom picture styles. Sounds like fun!

Icons and Other Stuff to Note

If this isn't your first *For Dummies* book, you may be familiar with the large, round icons that decorate its margins. If not, here's your very own icon-decoder ring:

-

We apply this icon either to introduce information that's especially worth storing in your brain's long-term memory or to remind you of a fact that may have been displaced from that memory by another pressing fact.

-

When you see this icon, look alive. It indicates a potential danger zone that can result in much wailing and teeth-gnashing if ignored.

-

Lots of information in this book is of a technical nature; digital photography is a technical animal, after all. When we present a detail that's useful mainly for impressing your geeky friends, we mark it with this icon.

-

A Tip icon flags information that saves you time, effort, money, or another valuable resource, including your sanity.

Additionally, we need to point out a few other details that will help you use this book:

- **Camera buttons and icons:** Replicas of some of your camera's buttons and onscreen graphics also appear in the margins of some paragraphs and in some tables. These images are handy reminders of the appearance of the button or option being discussed.

- **Software menu commands:** In sections that cover software, a series of words connected by an arrow indicates commands you choose a program menu. For example, if a step tells you, “Choose File⇒Print,” click the File menu to unfurl it and then click the Print command on the menu.
- **Camera firmware:** *Firmware* is the internal software that controls many of your camera’s operations. This book was written using version 1.0.6 of the firmware, which was current at the time of publication.

  Occasionally, Canon releases firmware updates, and you should check its Web site (www.canon.com) periodically to find out whether any updates are available. (Chapter 1 tells you how to determine which firmware version your camera is running.) Firmware updates typically don’t carry major feature changes; they’re mostly used to solve technical glitches in existing features. An exception to this rule is in the new world of high-definition video; some recent Canon firmware updates have included neat and useful video (and sound) recording improvements. If you download an update, be sure to read the accompanying description of what it accomplishes so that you can adapt this book’s instructions as necessary.

About the Software Shown in This Book

Providing specific instructions for performing photo organizing and editing tasks requires that we feature specific software. In sections that cover file downloading, organizing, printing, and e-mail sharing, we showcase the Canon EOS Utility along with Canon Digital Photo Professional (for editing those Raw files), Canon ZoomBrowser EX (for Windows users) and ImageBrowser (for Mac users). These programs are part of the free software suite that ships with your camera.

Rest assured, though, that the tools used in these programs work similarly in other programs, so you should be able to easily adapt the steps to whatever software you use. (Of course, we recommend that you read your software manual for details.)

eCheat Sheet

As a little added bonus, you can find an electronic version of the famous *For Dummies* Cheat Sheet at

www.dummies.com/cheatsheet/canoneos60d

The Cheat Sheet contains a quick-reference guide to all the buttons, dials, switches, and exposure modes on your 60D. Log on, print it out, and tuck it in your camera bag for times when you can’t carry this book with you.

Practice, Be Patient, and Have Fun!

To wrap up this preamble, we want to stress that if you initially think that digital photography is too confusing or too technical for you, you're in very good company. *Everyone* finds this stuff a little mind-boggling at first. Take it slowly, experimenting with just one or two new camera settings or techniques at first. Then, every time you go on a photo outing, make it a point to add one or two more shooting skills to your repertoire. Playfulness with your camera is encouraged!

We know that it's hard to believe when you're just starting out, but it truly isn't long before everything starts to come together. With some time, patience, and practice, you'll soon wield your camera like a pro, dialing in the necessary settings to capture your creative vision almost instinctively.

Without further ado, we invite you to grab your camera and a cup of whatever it is you prefer to sip while you read and then start exploring the rest of this book. Your EOS 60D is the perfect partner for your photographic journey, and we thank you for allowing us, in this book, to serve as your tour guides.

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Part I

Fast Track to Super Snaps