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Canon® EOS Rebel SL1/100D

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- Navigate your camera's controls and select shooting modes
- Make changes that enhance color, lighting, and exposure
- Download, organize, edit, and share your photos

IN FULL COLOR!

Doug Sahlin

Author of Canon EOS 6D For Dummies



***Canon® EOS
Rebel SL1/100D***

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DUMMIES®
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by Doug Sahlin

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Canon® EOS Rebel SL1/100D For Dummies®

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Table of Contents

Introduction

[About This Book](#)

[Foolish Assumptions](#)

[Icons and Other Delights](#)

[Beyond the Book](#)

[Shoot Lots of Pictures and Enjoy!](#)

Part I: Getting Started

Chapter 1: Exploring Your Canon EOS Rebel SL1/100D

[Getting in Touch with the Camera Controls](#)

[Exploring the top of the camera](#)

[Exploring the back of the camera](#)

[About the cross keys](#)

[Exploring the front of the camera](#)

[Exploring the bottom of the camera](#)

[Peering into the viewfinder](#)

[Introducing the touchscreen](#)

[Exploring Camera Connections](#)

[Modifying Basic Camera Settings](#)

[Adjusting the date and time](#)

[Modifying the auto-power off time](#)

[Adjusting the Viewfinder for Maximum Clarity](#)

[Working with Lenses](#)

[Attaching a lens](#)

[Removing a lens](#)

[Using image stabilization lenses](#)

[Using a zoom lens](#)

[About STM lenses](#)

[Using Digital Film](#)

[Working with SD cards](#)

[Formatting an SD Card](#)

[About Eye-Fi cards](#)

[Powering Your Camera](#)

[About your camera battery](#)

[Charging your camera battery](#)

[About Sensor Cleaning](#)

[Cleaning your sensor on command](#)

[Keeping your sensor clean](#)

[Accessorizing Your SL1/100D](#)

[The Care and Feeding of Your SL1/100D](#)

Chapter 2: Creating Great Images on Auto-Pilot

[Ordering from Your Camera Menu](#)

[Taking Your First Picture](#)

[Understanding Exposure and Focal Length](#)

[Focusing on an Off-Center Subject](#)

[Focusing Manually](#)

[Creating Images with Camera Scene Modes](#)

[Setting Ambience in preset scene modes and SCN modes](#)

[Choosing settings for Light/Scene-Based Shots](#)

[Creating portraits using the Portrait mode](#)

[Shooting landscapes using the Landscape mode](#)

[Shooting images in Close-up mode](#)

[Shooting images using Sports mode](#)

[Creating images using a SCN mode](#)

[Shooting Pictures in Creative Auto Mode](#)

Chapter 3: Specifying Image Size and Quality

[Understanding Image Size and Quality](#)

[Specifying Image Format, Size, and Quality](#)

[Comparing Image Formats and File Sizes](#)

[Managing Image Files](#)

[Creating folders](#)

[Selecting a folder](#)

[Choosing a file-numbering method](#)

Chapter 4: Using the LCD Monitor

[Displaying Image Information](#)

[Using the Histogram](#)

[Reviewing Your Images](#)

[Changing the Jump display](#)

[Reviewing images with the touchscreen](#)

[Modifying Image Review Time](#)

[Changing Monitor Brightness](#)

[Deleting Images](#)

[Rotating Images](#)

[Protecting Images](#)

[Using the Quick Control Menu](#)

[Using Touch Control with the Quick Control Menu](#)

[Viewing Images as a Slide Show](#)

[Viewing Images on a TV Set](#)

[Part II: Going beyond Point-and-Shoot Photography](#)

[Chapter 5: Shooting Pictures and Movies in Live View](#)

[Taking Pictures in Live View](#)

[Displaying shooting information](#)

[Focusing with Live View](#)

[Using the Quick Control menu to shoot pictures in Live View mode](#)

[Displaying a grid in Live View mode](#)

[Exploring Other Useful Live View Options](#)

[Making Movies with Your Camera](#)

[Recording movies](#)

[Displaying video shooting information](#)

[Changing video dimensions and frame rate](#)

[Changing audio recording options](#)

[Using the Quick Control menu to shoot video in Live View mode](#)

[Taking a still picture while recording a movie](#)

[Previewing Movies on the Camera LCD Monitor](#)

[Chapter 6: Leaving Auto Mode Behind](#)

[Using Your Camera's Creative Exposure Modes](#)

[Understanding how exposure works in the camera](#)

[Using Programmed Auto Exposure mode](#)

[Using Aperture Priority mode](#)

[Using Shutter Priority mode](#)

[Manually exposing images](#)

[Shooting time exposures](#)

[Modifying Camera Exposure](#)

[Using exposure compensation](#)

[Bracketing exposure](#)

[Locking exposure](#)

[Locking Focus](#)

[Choosing a Drive Mode](#)

[Exploring Useful Image Menu Commands](#)

[Enabling Long Exposure Noise Reduction](#)

[Enabling High ISO Speed Noise Reduction](#)

[Changing screen color](#)

[Using Custom Functions](#)

[Enabling a custom function](#)

[Enable Highlight Tone Priority](#)

[Clearing Custom Functions](#)

[Chapter 7: Features That Make Pictures Pop](#)

[Using the Auto Lighting Optimizer](#)

[Correcting Lens Peripheral Illumination](#)

[Choosing a Metering Mode](#)

[Choosing the Autofocus Mode](#)

[Changing the Autofocus Point](#)

[Choosing a Picture Style](#)

[Specifying the Color Space](#)

[Setting White Balance](#)

[Creating a Custom White Balance](#)

[Setting the ISO Speed](#)

[Expanding the ISO Range](#)

[Using White Balance Compensation](#)

[Flash Photography and Your SL1/100D](#)

[Using the pop-up flash](#)

[Controlling the pop-up flash](#)

[Disabling camera flash](#)

[Changing the flash-sync speed in Av mode](#)

[Using fill flash](#)

[Using an auxiliary flash unit](#)

[Controlling an external Speedlite](#)

[Clearing Flash Settings](#)

[Chapter 8: Shooting Frameworthy Photos](#)

[Thinking Like a Pro Photographer](#)

[Enhancing your creativity](#)

[Composing your images](#)

[Visualizing your images](#)

[Seeing, thinking, and acting](#)

[Defining your goals](#)

[What else is in the picture?](#)

[The genius of digital photography](#)

[Choosing the Optimal Settings for Great Photographs](#)

[Photographing action](#)

[Photographing landscapes](#)

[Photographing the sunset](#)

[Photographing people and things](#)

[Photographing wildlife](#)

[Part III: Editing and Sharing Images](#)

[Chapter 9: Editing Your Images](#)

[Introducing the Canon ImageBrowser EX](#)

[Downloading Your Images](#)

[Rating and Keywording Images](#)

[Adding Comments to Images](#)

[Adding Information to Images](#)

[Changing Your View](#)

[Backing Up Your Work](#)

[Organizing Your Images](#)

[Editing JPEG Images in ImageBrowser EX](#)

[Adjusting brightness and saturation](#)

[Toning your curves](#)

[Sharpening an image](#)

[Working with RAW Files in Digital Photo Professional](#)

[Chapter 10: Creating Prints from Your Images](#)

[Deciding to Print at Home or Go to a Printer](#)

[Finding Images](#)

[Leaving Some Breathing Room](#)

[Cropping an Image in ImageBrowser EX](#)

[Printing an Image](#)

[Printing an image from ImageBrowser EX](#)

[Printing an image in Digital Photo Professional](#)

[Printing a Contact Sheet in ImageBrowser EX](#)

[Printing a Contact Sheet in Digital Photo Professional](#)

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

[Chapter 11: Ten Tips and Tricks](#)

[Creating a Custom Menu](#)

[Adding Copyright Information to the Camera](#)

[Adding Author Name to the Camera](#)

[Creating and Registering a Picture Style](#)

[Updating Your Camera's Firmware](#)

[Restoring Your Camera Settings](#)

[Disabling Shooting without a Card](#)

[Enabling Red-Eye Reduction](#)

[Creating a Makeshift Tripod](#)

[Disabling the Camera Beeper](#)

[Chapter 12: Ten Cool Projects](#)

[Cropping JPEG Images In-Camera](#)

[Resizing Images In-Camera](#)

[Editing Movies In-Camera](#)

[Using Creative Filters](#)

[Strutting Your Stuff Online](#)

[Uploading Images to Your Facebook Page](#)

[Creating Abstract Images In-Camera](#)

[Editing Your Images in Photoshop Elements](#)

[Creating Video Albums and Snapshots](#)

[Rating Images with the Playback Quick Control Menu](#)

[Cheat Sheet](#)

Introduction

Your Canon EOS Rebel SL1/100D is the latest and greatest digital camera on the market, sporting a stunning 18-megapixel capture, Live View, high-definition video, and much more. All this technology might be a bit daunting, though, especially if this is your first digital SLR (single lens reflex) camera. If you've used a digital camera before, you're probably accustomed to basic shooting modes like Portrait, Sports, Landscape, and so on. Those are still there for your convenience. But with the SL1/100D, you've also graduated to the big leagues with all the manual settings and shooting tweaks you could ever want. If you're moving to Digital Land from a 35mm film camera background, most of this will be second nature to you.

All you have to do is practice — and have fun in the process — to master the power you hold in your hands. And that's where I come into the picture. I've been using Canon dSLRs since the EOS 10D model debuted, and I've learned a lot about Canon digital cameras since then. In addition to the SL1/100D I'm using to write this book, I also own an EOS 5D MKII and EOS 7D, which have a lot of the features found on your SL1/100D.

My simple goal in this book is to show you how to become one with your camera. I don't get overly technical in this book, even though your camera is very technical. I also do my best to keep it lively. So if you want to master your SL1/100D, you have the right book in your hands.

Note: If you're curious why your camera name isn't "SL1/100D," like shown here, it's because Canon has an international presence. The U.S. name for the camera is

the EOS Rebel SL1, and in other parts of the world, it's the EOS 100D. To keep life simple, I just refer to the model as SL1/100D.

About This Book

If you find the buttons and menus on your shiny new SL1/100D a tad intimidating, this book is for you. In the chapters of this book, I take you from novice point-and-shoot photographer, or experienced 35mm camera user, to one who can use all the bells and whistles this dSLR camera offers. You'll find information about virtually every menu and button on your camera, as well as when to use them, and what settings to use for specific picture-taking situations. I also show you how to use the software that ships with your camera.

To make life easier, this book uses several conventions to help you identify pertinent information — in other words, stuff you should know.

- ✓ Terms or words that you might be unfamiliar with in the context of photography, I have *italicized* — and I also define these.
- ✓ Numbered steps that you need to follow and characters you need to type are set in **bold**.
- ✓ Margin art is used to identify camera buttons. When you see one of these icons, it shows you which button to press or tap, or dial to rotate.
- ✓ The SL1/100D menu has pretty little icons for each tab but no text to describe what each tab does. I name the tabs to make things easier for you, dear reader, and for my editor and me. You'll find a table with tab names in [Chapter 2](#).



The main controller on the back of the camera has four integral navigational keys, like what you're probably familiar with from using a TV or DVD player remote control. Envision a circular button with N, S, E, and W compass points; N is up, S is down, E is right, W is left. These are *cross keys* (Canon's name), and they surround the Set button. Sometimes you press them up or down to access a menu command, sometimes left or right, sometimes up only, and so on. They can be solo or combined and will be different for different cases. For example, picture a scenario where Cancel is highlighted as the default option for erasing an image, and OK is the other option. You can press only the right cross key to highlight OK, or press Set to cancel the erase.


And if you're more inclined to tap your way through life — say, you're a smartphone devotee — many menu options are available by tapping choices on the camera's LCD monitor. I can't cover every possible way to make menu choices, but you'll get the hang of it and discover which feels right for you.


Foolish Assumptions


Ah, yes. Assume. When broken down to its lowest common denominator. . . . Okay, I won't go there. But as an author, I have to make some assumptions. First and foremost, you should now own, or have on order, an SL1/100D. You should also have a computer to download your images to. A basic knowledge of photography is also helpful but not mandatory. I know, you probably meet all assumptions, but my editor assumes I'll put this section in this part of the book.


Icons and Other Delights

For Dummies books have icons that indicate important bits of information. You can hopscotch from icon to icon and discover a lot. But when in doubt, read the text associated with the icon. In this book, you find the following icons:

✓  A Tip icon contains information designed to save you time and, in some instances, your very sanity.

✓  This icon warns you about something you should not do, typically for the safety of your shots or your camera. Perhaps I'm recalling something I did and decided it's not a good thing to do again.

✓  Consider this icon the equivalent of a virtual piece of string tied around your finger. This is information you want to commit to memory.

✓  This icon denotes stuff for the geeks in the group who like to know all manner of technical stuff.

You'll also find icons in the margin that show you controls on your camera and menu tabs.

Beyond the Book

You can find book content that exists outside the book itself, including these items:

- ✓ **Cheat Sheet:** The Cheat Sheet for this book is located at www.dummies.com/cheatsheet/canoneosrebelSL1100D. There you'll find information about some great accessories for use with video and still photography.
- ✓ **Dummies.com online articles:** On the Parts pages and elsewhere in the book are references to short online articles that you can find at www.dummies.com/extras/canon. There you'll find tips for shooting video and customizing the camera button layout to make it easier to use auto-focus lock.
- ✓ **Online Part of Tens chapter:** Also at www.dummies.com/extras/canon, you'll find an additional Part of Tens chapter that highlights the top ten cool features of your camera.

Shoot Lots of Pictures and Enjoy!

Your SL1/100D is a great digital camera; use it and use it often. The old adage “practice makes perfect” does apply, though. The only way to become a better photographer and master your equipment is to apply what you know and shoot as many pictures as you can. While you’re working your way through this book, keep your camera close at hand. When your significant other pokes his or her head into the room, grab your camera and start practicing your craft. Take one picture, then another, and another, and so on. With practice, you’ll know your camera like the back of your hand. You’ll also know which rules of photography and composition work for you — and you’ll start to develop your own style. For that matter, you’ll probably amaze yourself, too.

Part I

Getting Started



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In this part . . .

- ✓ Get to know the lay of the land and familiarize you with the controls of your Canon EOS Rebel SL1/D100.
- ✓ Find out how to take great pictures automatically as well as how to specify image size and format.
- ✓ Understand how to get around in the menu.
- ✓ Master your LCD monitor.



1

Exploring Your Canon EOS Rebel SL1/100D

In This Chapter

- ▶ Getting to know the camera controls
 - ▶ Using the viewfinder
 - ▶ Introducing the touchscreen
 - ▶ Attaching and removing a lens
 - ▶ Using image stabilization
 - ▶ Using a zoom lens
 - ▶ Changing camera settings
 - ▶ Using SD cards
 - ▶ Accessorizing your Canon EOS Rebel SL1/100D
-

This pint-sized dSLR comes with a shooting mode for every photographer. If you're new to digital photography, or you've graduated from a point-and-shoot digital camera, Canon gives you several modes to create great photographs automatically. Think of these as your training wheels. And if you're a seasoned photographer, Canon also gives you quite a few modes where you can take the reins and create the type of photograph you want. Add Creative Filters, in-camera editing, plus in-camera HDR, and you've got a potent tool for creating cool images.

Getting familiar with all this new technology might seem daunting, even to a seasoned photographer. I was impressed, albeit a tad flummoxed, when I saw the first reviews for this camera. Even though I'm a seasoned Canon dSLR user — my first digital SLR was the EOS 10D — I still had a bit of a learning curve when I first started experimenting with the SL1/100D. But it's my job to get down to brass tacks with new technology and show you how to master it. The fact that you're reading this probably means that you want to know how to use all the bells and whistles Canon has built into the camera. In this chapter, I begin at the beginning: the buttons, knobs, and other controls on the outside of the camera. Getting to know the camera controls like the back of your hand is the first step to taking gorgeous pictures with this new addition to Canon's line of dSLR cameras.

Getting in Touch with the Camera Controls

Think of the SL1/100D like a hybrid car: It has all the features, just not where you find them on your family sedan. Other Canon cameras have a plethora of controls on the outside of the camera. At first glance, it appears as though you've been shortchanged with the SL1/100D, but that's not the case. You do have to go to the menu to access some features typically provided by buttons on a Canon camera body, but access to menu options has never been easier thanks to the Quick Control button, which you push to display shooting settings on the LCD monitor. From this menu, you can specify settings with your finger on the touchscreen, or you can use the cross keys to navigate and specify settings.

The controls for this camera are easy to reach and give you access to many powerful camera features. Try to avoid becoming overwhelmed knowing which button does what. After you use the camera for a while, you'll automatically know which control gives you your desired result and then reach for it instinctively without taking your eye from the viewfinder. But first, you need to know what each control does. I explain the controls you find on the outside of the camera in the upcoming sections.

Exploring the top of the camera

The top of the camera (as shown in [Figure 1-1](#)) is where you find the controls you use most when creating images. The top of the camera is where you change settings like ISO (how sensitive the camera sensor is to light), aperture, and shutter speed; choose a shooting mode; and press the shutter button to take a picture. In my humble opinion, the top of the camera is the most important piece of real estate on the camera, except of course for the lens, which is your window to your world as you photograph it.



Figure 1-1: On top of your camera, all covered with dials and buttons.

The dial you use to change exposure settings when you use Canon's Creative modes is the Main dial, which I suggest you get to know by feel. The Main dial is just behind the shutter button, so you'll easily be able to find it when you're taking pictures. Here's the lay of the land on the top of the camera:

- ✓ **Power switch:** This switch powers the camera on and off. You also use it to capture video.
- ✓ **Shutter button:** This button prefocuses the camera and takes a picture. I discuss this button in greater detail in [Chapter 2](#).

- ✓ **Main dial:** This dial changes a setting after you press a button. For example, after you press the ISO speed button, you move this dial to change the ISO speed setting. I show you how to use this button as the need arises.
- ✓ **ISO speed-setting button:** This button sets the ISO speed setting. (See [Chapter 6](#) for more on the ISO speed setting.) Canon has instituted a nice feature on this button. This is the only button on the top of the camera that's rounded on the top, which makes it easy to find this button by feel. The button is also right next to the Main dial, which makes it easy to find without taking your eye from the viewfinder.
- ✓ **Hot shoe:** Slide a compatible flash unit (a Canon flash unit is dubbed a *Speedlite*) into this slot. The contacts in the hot shoe communicate between the camera and the flash unit. (I discuss flash photography in [Chapter 6](#).)
- ✓ **Mode dial:** This button determines which shooting mode the camera uses to take the picture. (I show you how to use this dial to choose specific shooting modes in [Chapter 6](#); in [Chapter 8](#), I show you how to choose optimal settings for specific picture-taking situations.)
- ✓ **Speaker (monaural):** Playback sound when previewing recorded video.
- ✓ **Microphone (monaural):** Record sound when capturing video.

Exploring the back of the camera

The back of the camera is also an important place. Here you find controls to access the camera menu, switch to Live View mode, and much more. The following is what you find on the back of your SL1/100D (see [Figure 1-2](#)):

- ✓ **Menu:** Press this button to display the last used camera menu on the LCD monitor. (I introduce you to the camera menu in [Chapter 2](#) and refer to the menu throughout this book.)
- ✓ **Info button:** Press this button to display shooting information on the LCD monitor. You can choose from many different information screens. (Read about the different screens in [Chapter 4](#).) When you're not in shooting mode, use the Info button to show other information, such as the amount of space remaining on the SD card, the color space, and other camera information.
- ✓ **Display Off sensor:** This device is a switch that turns the shooting setting display settings on the LCD monitor off when your eye nears the viewfinder and displays them again when you move your eye away from the viewfinder.
- ✓ **Viewfinder/eyepiece:** Use the viewfinder to compose your pictures. Shooting information, battery status, and the amount of shots that can be stored on the memory card are displayed in the viewfinder. The eyepiece cushions your eye when you press it against the viewfinder and creates a seal that prevents ambient light from having an adverse effect on the exposure.
- ✓ **Dioptric adjustment knob:** Use this control to fine-tune the viewfinder to your eyesight (see [Chapter 2](#)).
- ✓ **Live View/Movie Start/Stop button:** Use this switch to engage Live View mode. When you press the Power switch to video shooting mode, this button starts and stops recording a movie (see [Chapter 5](#)).
- ✓ **AF Point Selection/Magnify button:** Change from multiple autofocus points to a single autofocus point

(see [Chapter 6](#)). You can also magnify an image when you're reviewing images.

- ✓ **AE Lock/FE Lock button/Index/Reduce:** Locks exposure to a specific part of the scene you compose in the viewfinder, or on the LCD monitor (see [Chapter 6](#)). When used with a dedicated Canon flash, this button is used to lock flash exposure to a specific part of the scene you compose in the viewfinder. When reviewing images, use this button to display multiple images after you press the preview button and also to reduce magnification of an image you've previously magnified.
- ✓ **Aperture/Exposure Compensation button:** This button is also used in conjunction with the Main dial to set the aperture when shooting in Manual (M) mode. You also use this button with the Main dial to increase or decrease the exposure (Exposure Compensation).
- ✓ **Cross keys:** These keys are directional (up, down, left and right) and are used to navigate between menu settings. I mention these keys throughout the book as needed in conjunction with specific tasks. Read more about these in the following section.
- ✓ **Set/Quick Control button:** Press this button to confirm a task, such as erasing an image or setting a menu option. I show you how to use this button in conjunction with specific tasks throughout this book. When you're in shooting mode, this button is also used to access the Quick Control menu on the LCD monitor. (I show you how to use the Quick Control menu in [Chapter 4](#).) You can also use the Quick Control button in conjunction with the SCN modes, Scene Intelligent Auto, and the CA (Creative Auto) mode.

- ✓ **Playback button:** This button displays the last image captured or the last image viewed.
- ✓ **Erase button:** Use this to delete a single image or multiple images. (I show you how to delete images in [Chapter 4](#).)
- ✓ **Access lamp:** This indicator flashes when the camera writes data to a memory card.
- ✓ **LCD monitor/touchscreen:** Use this to preview images after you take them, display information about the images, access menu settings, and apply menu settings. In addition, the LCD monitor on your camera has a touchscreen, similar to touchscreens on portable devices and smartphones. Here, you can make menu changes, apply shooting settings, and scroll between images as well as magnify them.



Figure 1-2: Buttons and dials and switches, oh my.

About the cross keys