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Canon® EOS Rebel T5/1200D

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Learn to:

- Start snapping better shots right away
- Make the most of your dSLR camera
- Understand your camera's controls

IN FULL COLOR!

Julie Adair King

*Author of Digital Photography
For Dummies*

Robert Correll

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



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Rebel T5/1200D
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Canon® EOS Rebel T5/1200D For Dummies®

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Canon EOS Rebel T5/1200D For Dummies

Visit

www.dummies.com/cheatsheet/canoneosrebel51200d to view this book's cheat sheet.

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Introduction

In 2003, Canon revolutionized the photography world by introducing the first digital SLR camera (dSLR) to sell for less than \$1,000, the EOS Digital Rebel/300D. The camera delivered exceptional performance and picture quality, earning it rave reviews and multiple industry awards. No wonder it quickly became a best seller.

That tradition of excellence and value lives on in the EOS Rebel T5/1200D. Like its ancestors, this baby offers a range of controls for experienced photographers plus an assortment of features and tools designed to help beginners be successful. Adding to the fun, the Rebel T5/1200D also offers the option to record full high-definition video.

About This Book

The T5/1200D is so feature-packed that sorting out everything can be a challenge. For starters, you may not even be sure what SLR means, let alone have a clue about all the other terms you encounter in your camera manual — resolution, aperture, and ISO, for example. And if you're like many people, you may be so overwhelmed by all the controls on your camera that you haven't yet ventured beyond fully automatic picture-taking mode. That's a shame because it's sort of like buying a Porsche Turbo and never pushing it past 50 miles per hour.

Therein lies the point of *Canon EOS Rebel T5/1200D For Dummies*. In this book, you can discover not only what each bell and whistle on your camera does but also when, where, why, and how to put it to best use. 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.

This book is organized into four parts, each devoted to a different aspect of using your camera. Although chapters flow in a sequence that's 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 topics that interest you in any order you please.

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

- ✓ **Margin art:** Replicas of some of your camera's buttons and onscreen graphics appear in the margins and in some tables. We include these images to provide quick reminders of the appearance of the button or option being discussed.
- ✓ **Camera menu and screen options:** In many cases, you can select a camera setting by using the cross keys and then pressing the Set button. To avoid having to spell all that out every time we describe a camera function that can be accessed, we use some verbal

shorthand and simply tell you to choose the setting in question.

- ✓ **Software menu commands:** In sections that cover software, a series of words connected by an arrow indicates commands you choose from the program menus. For example, if a step tells you, “Choose File⇒Export,” click the File menu to unfurl it and then click the Export command on the menu.

Foolish Assumptions

Although it's not possible for us to know everything about you — we're not sure whether orange or blue is your favorite color or whether you have a penchant for mocha lattes or prefer herbal tea — we do tailor the content of this book around a few assumptions. Namely, we assume that you have little or no experience in photography, digital photography, or both, so we explain everything in beginner's terms. Our goal is to help you leave Auto mode behind as soon as possible so that you can take best advantage of your camera.

However, if you are a photo pro but new to the T5/1200D, this book is for you, too: It'll help you get up and running with your new gear in no time.

Icons Used in This Book



A Tip icon flags information that will make your life easier. You'll save time, effort, money, or other valuable resources, including your sanity.



This icon highlights important 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.



If we present a detail that's useful mainly for impressing your geeky friends (but otherwise not critical for you to retain), we mark it with this icon.



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

Beyond the Book

We have snuck a bit of extra content online you may find helpful as you get to know your Rebel T5/1200D.

✓ **The Cheat Sheet for this book is at**

www.dummies.com/cheatsheet/canoneosrebelT51200d

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

✓ **You can find online articles covering additional topics at**

www.dummies.com/extras/canoneosrebelT51200d

✓ **Updates to this book, if we have any, are at**

www.dummies.com/extras/canoneosrebel51200d

Where to Go from Here

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. 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.

So 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 Rebel T5/1200D is the perfect partner for your photographic journey, and we thank you for allowing us, in this book, to serve as your tour guides.

Part I

Fast Track to Super Snaps



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In this part ...

- ✓ Familiarize yourself with the basics of using your camera, from attaching lenses to navigating menus.
- ✓ Try out Live View versus traditional viewfinder photography.
- ✓ Find out how to select the exposure mode, Drive mode, and Image Quality (resolution and file type), and monitor important settings while shooting.
- ✓ Discover options available for flash photography.
- ✓ Get step-by-step help with shooting your first pictures in Scene Intelligent Auto mode.
- ✓ Take more creative control by using scene modes and Creative Auto mode.



Chapter 1

Getting Up and Running

In This Chapter

- ▶ Preparing the camera for its first outing
 - ▶ Getting acquainted with camera features
 - ▶ Viewing and adjusting camera settings
 - ▶ Setting a few basic preferences
-

If you're like many people, shooting for the first time with an SLR (single-lens reflex) camera produces a blend of excitement and anxiety. On one hand, you can't wait to start using your new equipment, but on the other, you're a little intimidated by all its buttons, dials, and menu options.

Well, fear not: This chapter provides the information you need to start getting comfortable with your Rebel T5/1200D. The first section walks you through initial camera setup; following that, you can get an overview of camera controls, discover how to view and adjust camera settings, work with lenses and memory cards, and get our take on some basic setup options.

Preparing the Camera for Initial Use

After unpacking your camera, you have to assemble a few parts. In addition to the camera body and the supplied battery (be sure to charge it before the first use), you need a lens and a memory card. Later sections in this chapter provide details about lenses and memory cards, but here's what you need to know up front:

- ✓ **Lens:** Your camera accepts Canon EF and EF-S model lenses; the 18-55mm kit lens sold as a bundle with the camera body falls into the EF-S category. If you want to buy a non-Canon lens, check the lens manufacturer's website to find out which lenses work with your camera.
- ✓ **SD (Secure Digital), SDHC, or SDXC memory card:** The SD stands for *Secure Digital*; the HC and XC for *High Capacity* and *eXtended Capacity*. The different labels just reflect how many gigabytes (GB) of data the card holds. SD cards hold less than 4GB; SDHC, 4GB to 32GB; and SDXC, greater than 32GB.

With camera, lens, battery, and card within reach, take these steps:

1. **Turn the camera off.**
2. **Attach a lens.**

First, remove the caps that cover the front of the camera and the back of the lens. Then locate the proper *lens mounting index* on the camera body. Your camera has two of these markers, one red and one white, as shown in Figure [1-1](#). Which marker you use to align your lens depends on the lens type:

- *Canon EF-S lens:* The white square is the mounting index.

- *Canon EF lens:* The red dot is the mounting index.



Figure 1-1: Align the mounting index on the lens with the one on the camera body.

Your lens also has a mounting index; align that mark with the matching one on the camera body, as shown in Figure [1-1](#). Place the lens on the camera mount and rotate the lens toward the lens-release button, labeled in the figure. You should feel a solid click as the lens locks into place.

3. **Install the battery and memory card into the compartment on the bottom of the camera.**

Hold the battery with the contacts down and slide it into the compartment. The beveled edges of the battery face the front of the camera. Gently push the battery in until the light gray lock clicks in place, as shown in Figure [1-2](#).

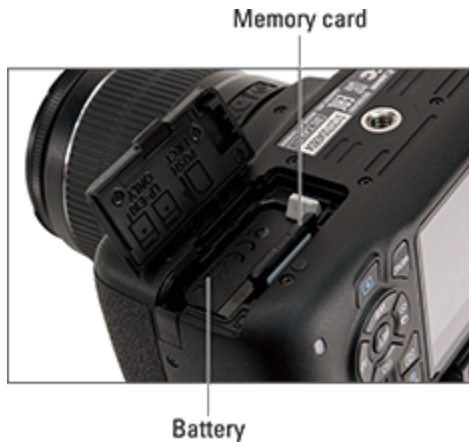


Figure 1-2: Insert the memory card with the label facing the back of the camera.

Orient the memory card as shown in Figure [1-2](#) (the label faces the back of the camera.) Push the card gently into the slot and close the cover.

4. Turn the camera on and adjust the settings.

When you power up the camera for the first time, the monitor displays a screen asking you to set the date, time, and time zone. To adjust the values on the screen, use the Set button and the four keys surrounding it — known as *cross keys*.

Press the left or right cross keys to highlight an option box; press Set to activate the box. Press the up/down keys to change the value in the box and then press Set again. Lather, rinse, and repeat until you adjust all the settings. Highlight the OK box and press Set.

5. Adjust the viewfinder to your eyesight.

Tucked above the right side of the rubber eyepiece that surrounds the viewfinder is a dial that enables you to adjust the viewfinder focus to accommodate your eyesight. The dial is labeled in Figure [1-3](#).



This step is critical if you plan to use the viewfinder: If you don't adjust the viewfinder to your eyesight, subjects may appear sharp in the viewfinder when they aren't actually in focus, and vice versa.

Remove the lens cap, look through the viewfinder, and then press the shutter button halfway to display data at the bottom of the viewfinder. (In dim lighting, the flash may pop up; ignore it for now and close the unit after you adjust the viewfinder.) Now rotate the dial until the data appears sharpest. The markings in the center of the viewfinder, which relate to autofocusing, also become more or less sharp.



Figure 1-3: Rotate this dial to set the viewfinder focus for your eyesight.

That's all there is to it — the camera is now ready to go. From here, we recommend that you keep reading the rest of this chapter to familiarize yourself with the main camera features. But if you're anxious to take a picture right away, we won't think any less of you if you skip to Chapter [3](#), which guides you through the process of using the camera's automatic shooting modes. Just promise that at some point, you'll read the pages in between, because they actually do contain important information.



Decoding Canon lens terminology

When you shop for Canon lenses, you will encounter these lens specifications:

- ✓ **EF and EF-S:** EF stands for *electro focus*; the S stands for *short back focus*. And *that* simply means the rear element of the lens is closer to the sensor than with an EF lens. The good news is that your T5/1200D works with both of these Canon lens types.
- ✓ **IS:** Indicates that the lens offers *image stabilization*, a feature that helps prevent blur that can result from camera shake when you handhold the camera.
- ✓ **STM:** Refers to *stepping motor technology*, an autofocus system which is designed to provide smoother, quieter autofocus.

The 18-55mm lens sold as part of the T5/1200D kit is an EF-S lens with both image stabilization and stepping motor technology.

Exploring External Camera Features

If you're new to dSLR photography, some aspects of using your camera, such as working with the lens, may be unfamiliar. But even if you're a seasoned pro, it pays to spend time before your first shoot with a new camera to get familiar with its controls. To that end, the upcoming pages provide an overview of the T5/1200D's external bells and whistles.

Topside controls

Your virtual tour begins on the top of the camera, shown in Figure [1-4](#).

The items of note here are

- ✓ **On/Off switch:** We won't insult your intelligence by explaining what this switch does. But note that even when the switch is in the On position, the camera automatically goes to sleep after 30 seconds of inactivity to save battery power. You can adjust this timing via the Auto Power Off option on Setup Menu 1.
- ✓ **Red-eye reduction/Self-timer lamp:** When you set your flash to Red-Eye Reduction mode, this lamp emits a brief burst of light prior to the real flash — the idea being that your subjects' pupils will constrict in response to the light, thus lessening the chances of red-eye. If you use the camera's self-timer feature, the lamp lights during the countdown period before the shutter is released. See Chapter [2](#) for more details about Red-Eye Reduction flash mode and the self-timer function.
- ✓ **Mode dial:** Rotate this dial to select an *exposure mode*, which determines whether the camera operates in fully automatic, semi-automatic, or manual exposure mode when you take still pictures. To shift to Movie mode, rotate the dial so that it aligns with the movie camera icon, labeled in Figure [1-4](#). Chapter [2](#) provides an overview of the still photography exposure modes; Chapter [8](#) covers movie recording.

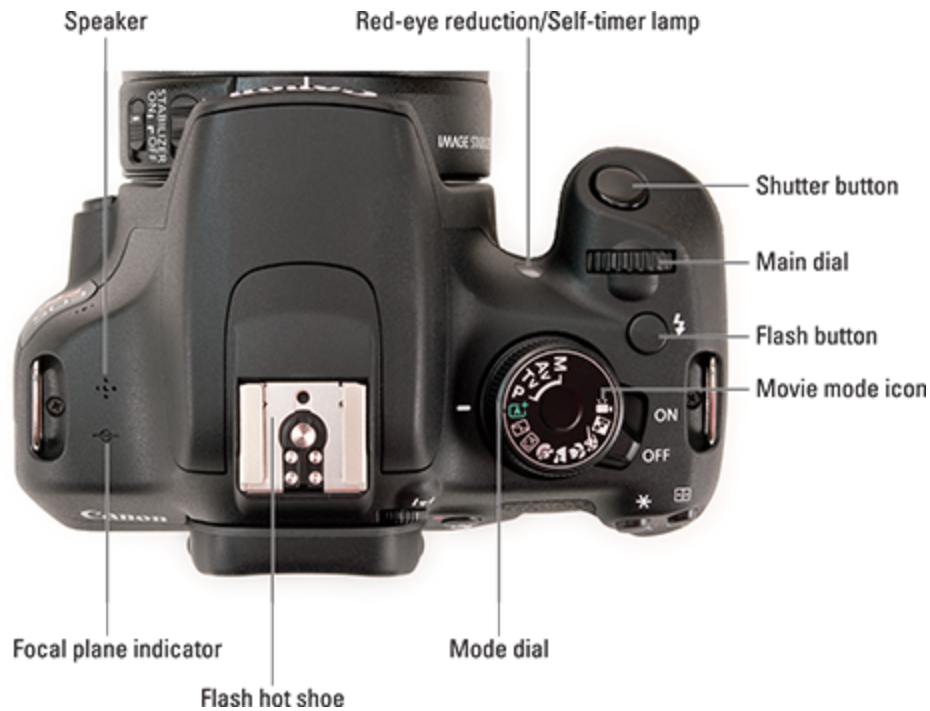



Figure 1-4: Here's a guide to controls found on top of the camera.


- ✓ **Viewfinder adjustment dial:** Use this dial (shown close-up in Figure [1-3](#)) to adjust the viewfinder focus to your eyesight.
- ✓ **Main dial:** You use this dial when selecting many camera settings. (Specifics are provided throughout the book.) In fact, this dial plays such an important role that you'd think it might have a more auspicious name, but Main dial it is.



- ✓ **Shutter button:** You no doubt already understand the function of this button, too. But you may not realize that when you use autofocus and autoexposure, you need to use a two-stage process when taking a picture: Press the shutter button halfway, pause to let the camera set focus and exposure, and then press the rest of the way to capture the image. You'd be surprised how many people mess up their pictures because they press that

button with one quick jab, denying the camera the time it needs to set focus and exposure. The beep you may hear is the camera telling you it was able to focus and is ready to take the photo.

- ✓  **Flash button:** Press this button to raise the built-in flash in the advanced exposure modes (P, Tv, Av, and M).
- ✓ **Flash hot shoe:** Labeled in Figure [1-4](#), this is the connection for attaching an external flash and other accessories such as flash adapters, bubble levels, flash brackets, off-camera flash cords, and the GP-E2 GPS Receiver.
- ✓ **Speaker:** When you play a movie that contains audio, the sound comes wafting through these little holes.

- ✓  **Focal plane indicator:** Should you need to know the exact distance between your subject and the camera, the *focal plane indicator* labeled in Figure [1-4](#) is key. This mark indicates the plane at which light coming through the lens is focused onto the camera's image sensor. Basing your measurement on this mark produces a more accurate camera-to-subject distance than using the end of the lens or some other point on the camera body as your reference point.

Back-of-the-body controls

Traveling over the top of the camera to its back, you encounter the smorgasbord of controls shown in Figure [1-5](#).



Buttons with a white icon perform shooting mode functions; buttons with blue icons are used in playback. Some buttons sport dual colors, meaning that they come into play for both functions.



Figure 1-5: Having lots of external buttons makes accessing the camera's functions easier.



Throughout this book, pictures of some buttons appear in the margins to help you locate the button being discussed. So even though we provide the official names in the following list, don't worry about getting all those straight right now. Note, however, that some buttons have multiple names because they serve multiple purposes depending on whether you're taking pictures, reviewing images, recording a

movie, or performing some other function. In this book, we refer to these buttons by the first label you see in the following list (and in Figure [1-5](#)) to simplify things. For example, we refer to the AF Point Selection/Magnify button as the AF Point Selection button. Again, though, the margin icons help you know exactly which button you're to press.

With that preamble out of the way, it's time to explore the camera back, starting at the top-right corner and working westward (well, assuming that your lens is pointing north, anyway):




AF Point Selection/Magnify button: In certain shooting modes, you press this button to specify which autofocus points you want the camera to use when establishing focus. Chapter [5](#) tells you more. In Playback mode, covered in Chapter [9](#), you use this button to magnify the image display (thus the plus sign in the button's magnifying glass icon).



AE Lock/FE Lock/Index/Reduce button: During shooting, you press this button to lock autoexposure (AE) settings, as covered in Chapter [4](#), and to lock flash exposure (FE), a topic we discuss in Chapter [2](#).


This button also serves two image-viewing functions: It switches the display to Index mode, enabling you to see multiple image thumbnails at once, and it reduces the magnification of images when displayed one at a time.

- ✓  **Live View/Movie-record button:** Press this button to shift to Live View mode, which enables you to compose your pictures using the monitor instead of the viewfinder. When shooting movies, you press the button to start and stop recording. (You must first set the Mode dial to the Movie position.)




After you shift to Live View or Movie mode, certain buttons perform different functions than they do for viewfinder photography. We spell out the differences when showing you how to use Live View and movie features.



- ✓  **Exposure Compensation/Aperture/Delete button:** When you shoot in the M (manual) exposure mode, press this button and rotate the Main dial to choose the aperture setting, also known as the *f-stop*. In the other advanced exposure modes (P, Tv, and Av), you instead use the button and dial to apply *Exposure Compensation*, a feature that enables you to adjust the exposure. Chapter [4](#) discusses both issues.

During playback, press this button to erase pictures — thus the blue trash-can symbol, the universal sign for “dump it.”

- ✓  **Q (Quick Control) button:** Press this button to display the Quick Control screen, which gives you one way to adjust picture settings. See “Changing Settings via the Quick Control Screen,” later in this chapter, for help.

- ✓ **Disp button:** In Live View, Movie, and Playback modes, pressing this button changes the picture-display style. When menus are displayed, pressing the button brings up the Camera Settings display.
- ✓ **Set button and cross keys:** Figure [1-5](#) points out the Set button and the four surrounding buttons, known as *cross keys*. These buttons team up to perform several functions, including choosing options from the camera menus. You use the cross keys to navigate through menus and then press the Set button to select a specific menu setting.




In this book, the instruction “Press the left cross key” means to press the one to the left of the Set button, “press the right cross key” means to press the one to the right of the Set button, and so on.

During viewfinder photography — that is, you're using the viewfinder and not the monitor to frame your shots — the cross keys also have individual responsibilities, which are indicated by their labels:

- *Press the up cross key to change the ISO setting.* Detailed in Chapter [4](#), this exposure-related control determines how sensitive the camera is to light. (If nothing happens when you press this cross key or any other buttons, give the shutter button a half-press and release it to wake up the camera.)
- *Press the right cross key to adjust the AF mode.* This option controls one aspect of the camera's autofocus behavior, as outlined in Chapter [5](#).

- *Press the left cross key to change the Drive mode.* The Drive mode settings enable you to switch the camera from single-frame shooting to continuous capture or self-timer/remote-control shooting. See Chapter [2](#) for details.
- *Press the down cross key to change the White Balance setting.* The White Balance control, explained in Chapter [6](#), enables you to ensure that colors are rendered accurately.

For Live View and Movie shooting, the cross keys perform actions related to autofocusing; we get into those details in Chapter [5](#).

- ✓  **Playback button:** Press this button to switch the camera into picture-review mode.
- ✓ **Menu button:** Press this button to access the camera menus.
- ✓ **Memory card access light:** Labeled in Figure [1-5](#), this light glows while the camera is recording data to the memory card. Don't power off the camera while the light is lit, or you may damage the card or camera.

Front-left features

The front-left side of the camera sports three important features, labeled in Figure [1-6](#):