

Free Gray/Color Checker Card Inside!

Rosh Sillars

# Canon® EOS Rebel T4i/650D

## Digital Field Guide



# Canon<sup>®</sup> EOS Rebel T4i/650D Digital Field Guide

## Table of Contents

### [Quick Tour](#)

[Getting Started](#)  
[Camera Controls](#)

[The top of the camera](#)  
[The back of the camera](#)

[Choosing Image Quality](#)  
[Selecting a Focus Mode](#)  
[Using a Flash](#)  
[Reviewing Images or Video](#)  
[Taking Better Photos](#)

### [Chapter 1: Exploring the Canon EOS Rebel T4i/650D](#)

[The Top of the Camera](#)  
[The Bottom of the Camera](#)  
[The Front of the Camera](#)  
[The Back of the Camera](#)  
[The Sides of the Camera](#)  
[Lens Controls](#)  
[The Viewfinder Display](#)

## [The LCD Touch Screen and Live View Mode](#)

### [Chapter 2: Setting Up the Canon EOS Rebel T4i/650D](#)

#### [The Shooting Menus](#)

[Shooting menu 1](#)

[Shooting menu 2](#)

[Shooting menu 3](#)

#### [The Live View Shooting Menu](#)

#### [The Movie Shooting Menus](#)

[Movie shooting menu 1](#)

[Movie shooting menu 2](#)

#### [The Playback Menus](#)

[Playback menu 1](#)

[Playback menu 2](#)

#### [The Setup Menus](#)

[Setup menu 1](#)

[Setup menu 2](#)

[Setup menu 3](#)

[Setup menu 4](#)

#### [My Menu Settings](#)

### [Chapter 3: Choosing the Right Settings for Your Camera](#)

#### [The Basic Zone Modes](#)

The Creative Zone Modes

Focus Modes

Picture Styles

Drive Modes

White Balance Settings

Flash Modes

ISO Settings

Choosing File Quality and Format

Image size and file numbering

The RAW file format

The JPEG file format

Movie Modes

Exposing for video

Setting the file size and focus

Chapter 4: Using Lenses with the Canon EOS Rebel T4i/650D

Choosing a Good Lens

Focal lengths

Autofocus

Aperture and depth of field

Image Stabilization

Vignetting

Types of Lenses

Prime versus Zoom Lenses

Understanding prime lenses

Understanding zoom lenses

Specialty Lenses

## Chapter 5: Exploring Exposure and Composition

Choosing the Right Exposure

Setting the shutter speed

Setting the aperture

Setting the ISO

Using Exposure Compensation

High Dynamic Range Photography

Exposing for Video

Composition

Rule of Thirds

Fill the frame

Lines and shapes

Foreground and background

Keeping it simple

## Chapter 6: Working with Lighting and Flash

The Importance of Light and Shadow

The Direction of Light

Frontlighting

Overhead lighting

Sidelighting

Backlighting

## The Quality of Light

Hard lighting

Soft lighting

## Types of Lighting

Natural light

Continuous light

Flash

## The Color of Light

White balance options

Using Picture Styles

Ambience Effects

Choosing a color space

## Measuring Light

Choosing the proper exposure

Metering modes

## The Canon Flash System

The pop-up flash

Using an external flash

Using multiple flashes

## Chapter 7: Shooting Photos

### Portrait Photography

Equipment

[Best practices](#)  
[Tips](#)

## [Shooting Action and Sports](#)

[Equipment](#)  
[Best practices](#)  
[Tips](#)

## [Capturing Events](#)

[Equipment](#)  
[Best practices](#)  
[Tips](#)

## [Landscape and Nature Photography](#)

[Equipment](#)  
[Best practices](#)  
[Tips](#)

## [Macro Photography](#)

[Equipment](#)  
[Best practices](#)  
[Tips](#)

## [Shooting at Night or in Low Light](#)

[Equipment](#)  
[Best practices](#)  
[Tips](#)

## Travel Photography

Equipment

Best practices

Tips

## Chapter 8: Shooting in the Live View and Movie Modes

### Using the Live View Shooting Mode

The Quick Control/Print button

Shooting stills

Focus modes

Live View and Video

### Shooting Video

Setting up for a video shoot

Recording video

Equipment

Types of video

### Helpful Hints for Shooting Video

## Chapter 9: Viewing, Editing, and Sharing Your Images

### Viewing your Images

Viewing images or videos on the camera

Viewing images on a TV or smart device

### Downloading and storing your images



Storage  
The 3-2-1 rule

Editing Images and Videos on the Camera  
Sharing your Photos

E-mailing  
Printing  
Uploading images to a website  
Sharing photos via social media

## Appendix A: Postproduction

Digital Photo Professional  
Image Browser EX  
Lightroom  
iPhoto  
Photoshop  
Image Browser EX  
iMovie  
Windows Live Movie Maker  
Other video-editing software

## Appendix B: Accessories

## Appendix C: How to Use the Gray Card and Color Checker

# **Canon® EOS Rebel T4i/650D Digital Field Guide**

**Rosh Sillars**



John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Canon® EOS Rebel T4i/650D Digital Field Guide

Published by  
John Wiley & Sons, Inc.  
10475 Crosspoint Boulevard  
Indianapolis, IN  
46256  
[www.wiley.com](http://www.wiley.com)

Copyright © 2013 by John Wiley & Sons, Inc.,  
Indianapolis, Indiana

Published simultaneously in Canada

ISBN: 978-1-118-16913-1

Manufactured in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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Library of Congress Control Number: 2012948920

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**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.

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I dedicate this book to my mother, Patricia Sillars.

## **Acknowledgments**

Many thanks to my wife, Shirley, whose ideas and editing skills always make me look good. To my children, Ava and Kelly, who demonstrated admirable patience during this process and its many deadlines. Thank you to the Synectics Media team for your unwavering support and for taking the time to model in my camera demonstrations: Jeffrey Huysentruyt, Sharon Stanton, Katy Hinz, Steve Gualtieri, Tim Kloote, Anahid Derbabian, and Ava Sillars.

Thank you to the photography social media community, without which I would have never connected with all of the great photographers who share their knowledge in this book. I'm grateful to everyone who took the time to submit tips and photos—you added a wonderful dimension to this book.

Appreciation for added support goes to Dean La Douceur, Greg Evans, Geoff McMahan, April Pochmara, Kevin Dolan, Mal Sillars, and Edith Sillars.

Thank you to Courtney Allen for the opportunity to write this book, Amanda Gambill for her guidance, and to the entire Wiley team who really make this book shine.



# 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 (📷) 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 (📷) 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 (📷) 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 () , 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 (⌂).

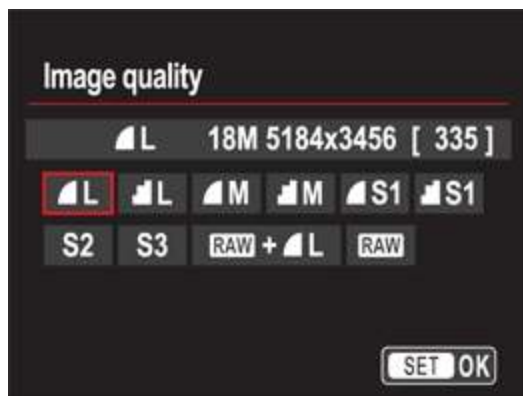


**QT.4** The control center on the back of Canon Rebel T4i/650D.

## 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 (🎬). This means that the camera follow-focuses the closest object to the camera. You can turn off Movie Servo AF (🎬) by touching the icon in the lower-left corner of the LCD screen. When Movie Servo AF mode (🎬) 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 (**P**) 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.

## **Reviewing Images or Video**

Once you have taken some pictures, you will want to review them. To see your photos, press the Playback button (▶) while keeping the camera power on. You can use the



left and right Cross keys to move forward and back between images. This is where the LCD touch screen is very convenient—you can also swipe your finger back and forth across the screen to review images. If you want to skip through a large number of images, use the Main dial () to scroll through ten or more at a time.

To play a video, press the Set button () located in the middle of the Cross keys twice. The first time you press it, the camera displays the video playback and review options on the LCD screen. The second time you press it, the video plays if the Playback button () is highlighted. An even easier option is to press the Playback button () on the LCD screen.

**NOTE** Each time you press the Info button (**INFO.**), a different image display screen appears for either images or videos. There are four screen options.

## Taking Better Photos

Beyond my own tips I have invited other professional photographers to share their suggestions for taking better photographs, and Chapter 7 covers this topic in depth. However, the following list includes a few tips to help you get started:

► **Fill the frame.** Get close to your subject. Often, too much empty space or unrelated objects can lessen the impact of a great subject. Make sure that everything in the frame is necessary and supports your concept. To help compose your images, use the Live View mode () to view your scene in larger form on the LCD screen. Consider using the grid option, located under the Live View menu () , to support your composition.