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Canon® EOS 5D Mark III

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Canon® EOS 5D Mark III FOR DUMMIES®

by Robert Correll

John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Canon® EOS 5D Mark III For Dummies®

Published by
John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
111 River Street
Hoboken, NJ 07030-5774

www.wiley.com

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Published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., Hoboken, New Jersey

Published simultaneously in Canada

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Library of Congress Control Number is available from the publisher.

ISBN: 978-1-118-33593-2 (pbk); ISBN: 978-1-118-40170-5 (ebk); ISBN: 978-1-118-40171-2 (ebk);
ISBN: 978-1-118-40172-9 (ebk)

Manufactured in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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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.

Author's Acknowledgments

I want to express my appreciation to everyone I had the pleasure of working with on this project. Each person devoted their skills, talents, attention to detail, vision, and time. Those are valuable commodities.

In particular, I am deeply grateful to the wonderful publishing team at John Wiley & Sons. Susan Christophersen and Steve Hayes are just some of the talented editors who helped make this book possible. I am also thankful to technical editor Scott Proctor, whose insights and expertise helped keep this book on the straight and narrow.

Many thanks to David Fugate at Launchbooks.com.

Special thanks to all the folks at LensRentals.com, especially Drew and Roger. I want to encourage everyone to drop by and check out what you guys do and how. I've never had a moment's hesitation renting equipment from you. Your service is second to none.

Thanks to Michael of Michael Tapes Design for providing me with a high-quality image of LensAlign to use in the book.

A big "Thank you!" to our Pine Hills Church family. From shooting movies to photographing practices and services, your encouragement and assistance have been invaluable.

As always, thanks to my wife and children for encouraging, supporting, and sustaining me.

Thank you!

Publisher's Acknowledgments

We're proud of this book; please send us your comments at http://dummies.custhelp.com. For other comments, please contact our Customer Care Department within the U.S. at 877-762-2974, outside the U.S. at 317-572-3993, or fax 317-572-4002.

Some of the people who helped bring this book to market include the following:

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Cover Photo: © technotr/iStockphoto.com

Cartoons: Rich Tennant (www.the5thwave.com)

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Introduction

The Canon EOS 5D Mark III is a breathtaking camera. It is a full-frame beastie, which means that the sensor behind the lens is the size of a 35mm frame of film. You have to take the lens off the camera and look behind the mirror to see it. It's impressive.

Behind this full-frame goodness is a whole lot of camera. The 5D Mark III bridges the gap between the less expensive cameras in the Canon lineup and the price-is-no-object upper end. It's perfect for serious amateurs and working professionals.

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 autofocus options, customizability, and more) plus an assortment of tools designed to help beginners be successful (great Quick Control screen, Live View, an easy-to-use Scene Intelligent Auto shooting mode, and more). Adding to the fun, this camera continues the Canon commitment to fielding pro cameras that can record high-definition digital movies.

The 5D Mark III is so feature packed, in fact, that sorting out everything can be a challenge, whether you're new to digital SLR photography or new to this camera. This book is about mastering that challenge. I've had terrific fun working with the 5D Mark III to create this book and wish you all the success in the world with it.

About This Book

This book's purpose is to put the right information in your hands so that you can take advantage of the technological prowess of your Canon EOS 5D Mark III. You don't need to know anything about photography before opening these pages. In classic *For Dummies* style, I explain things in easy-to-understand language and use plenty of color photos to show off the camera and make the photographic concepts easier to understand.

Who This Book Is For

The Canon EOS 5D Mark III is a serious camera. It's expensive and loaded with professional-level features. It is also Canon's entry-level full-frame dSLR. That puts the camera into a unique category and challenged me to write the book in a way that will appeal to a broad range of photographers.

In keeping with the *For Dummies* series concept (simplifying and de-geekifying hard topics), this book covers the basic aspects of working with the 5D Mark III. Topics such as attaching the lens and holding the camera are covered. The book *also* delves into some of the more esoteric features included in the 5D Mark III, such as which Case to select when you're fine-tuning the AI Servo AF mode.

If you are a beginner, my goal is to provide a friendly helping hand so that you can quickly start taking advantage of what you hold in your hands.

If you are a more experienced photographer, I have written this book with an eye toward providing you with a thorough reference that summarizes a number of the 5D Mark III's important settings, menus, and features. Use this book to familiarize yourself with the many different aspects of the 5D Mark III so that you can quickly get to work.

How This Book Is Organized

This book is organized into four parts. Each one has a particular focus. The chapters flow from what you need to start out to more advanced subjects. You can read the book from start to finish if you like, 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 find sections with related information.

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

Part I: Knowing Your Camera Inside and Out

This part contains two chapters designed to familiarize you with your 5D Mark III as thoroughly as possible. In Chapter 1, you get to know the buttons and dials, what they do, and how to use them. You find steps for how to decode the viewfinder and LCD displays. Chapter 2 covers setting up the camera. You read about the shooting modes, important setup menus, how to set picture quality, size, and aspect ratio, as well as which settings make the most sense for you.

Part II: Fast Track to Super Shots

This part gets you up to speed quickly for taking photos, movies, and playing them back. Chapter 3 covers using the Scene Intelligent Auto shooting mode, as well as how to use the LCD monitor as a viewfinder (called Live View). Chapter 4 is all about making movies: how to configure the camera, which

options are best for you, and how to shoot and review them. In Chapter 5, you read about the ins and outs of photo playback. Review pictures, look at the settings you used, change the display to include more or less information, delete photos, rotate photos, set up a slide show, and show off your photos on an HDTV.

Part III: Expressing Your Creativity

Part III explains the concepts you need to operate your camera in the more advanced modes, which allow you to make more creative decisions on your own. You see how to make exposure and flash decisions in Chapter 6. Use the advanced exposure modes and decide what exposure settings you want to use to create the photos you like. Chapter 7 is about working with the 5D Mark III's impressive autofocus tools. Chapter 8 covers color issues such as setting the right white balance. You also see how to apply Picture Styles and choose a color space. Chapter 9 is the putting-it-all-together chapter. Review general settings, come up with a plan, and then photograph portraits, landscapes, close-ups, and more.

Part IV: The Part of Tens

Always a favorite, the Part of Tens concludes the book with two chapters of essential nonessential information. In Chapter 10, you read about how to customize your camera. Feel free to experiment with features like Custom Shooting modes and My Menu, and find out how to customize other controls. Chapter 11 concludes the book with a list of ten interesting features that you might want to check out on a rainy day. These include working with dual memory cards, using GPS, viewing the electronic level, and registering automatic dust deletion data.

A Word about Firmware

As I write this, the most current firmware available for the 5D Mark III is version 1.1.2. Occasionally, Canon releases firmware updates. You should check its Web site (`www.canon.com`) periodically to find out whether any updates are available. (Chapter 2 shows you how to check 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. 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.

Icons Used in This Book

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

Danger is lurking. Pay attention and proceed with caution. You know, as though you were about to open a hatch you shouldn't (Locke) or be so foolish as to be a minor character lecturing people about the dangers of dynamite while wrapping an old stick of it in a shirt on a deserted island (so long, Artz).

This icon should trigger an immediate data download for storage in your brain's long-term memory. The information is something important that rises above the level of a cute tip but not quite to the danger of a warning. As Spock would say, *Remember*.

Here lies helpful information that's likely to make your life easier. It may save you time, effort, or sanity. (Your mileage may vary.) I love tips. If I could, I would make every paragraph a tip.

Some of the information in this book is pretty technical. If it's not necessary for you to understand, it's marked with this icon. Use the information to impress your family and friends. Or skip it completely.

Where to Go from Here

Why, get out and take loads of pictures, of course. Throw in some Full HD (1920 by 1080 pixels) movies, too!

No matter how much you fill your brain with facts and features, photography is about using the camera to capture something of your world.

If you're feeling daunted, put the 5D Mark III on Scene Intelligent Auto shooting mode, set the focus to AF, and go forth proudly with your awesomely capable point-and-shoot camera. Review what you do and learn from what you see. Progress from there to Av or Tv modes; experiment with changing the metering modes, drive mode, other modes; and so forth. Then take more pictures.

The hands-on experience that you accumulate will sink in. I know. If you practice and don't give up, you'll accomplish what you set out to do. I've put the information in this book that I think you need to get started, and then some.

If you know what you're doing, set the bar even higher. Use this book to help you uncover aspects of the 5D Mark III that you aren't familiar with. Experiment with areas of photography that you're not as good at. If you shoot landscapes, go out and try to shoot portraits, close-ups, or action. If you haven't shot Full HD movies yet, get out there and do it. Get out of your comfort zone. You'll benefit greatly.

Part I

Knowing Your Camera Inside and Out

Very simply, this part gets you up and running.

Chapter 1 explains all the buttons, bells, and whistles on your Canon EOS 5D Mark III. You learn how to get at and manage the information the camera throws at you; how to work with lenses, batteries, and memory cards; how to adjust the viewfinder so that you can see better through it; and how to clean the camera's sensor.

Chapter 2 walks you through how to set up the camera, including how to set the date and time, choose a shooting mode and drive mode, and set up image size, quality, and type.

It's an action-packed way to start the book, I tell ya!

1

Surveying the Territory

In This Chapter

- Discovering all the buttons, controls, and displays that the 5D Mark III has to offer
- Learning how to manage the wealth of information thrown at you
- Reviewing how to attach and remove lenses
- Zooming in and out, and manually focusing with the lens
- Adjusting the viewfinder's focus to make images sharp and clear
- Working with batteries and memory cards
- Cleaning the camera's sensor

The Canon EOS 5D Mark III is a beautiful, powerful camera. Your assignment, should you choose to accept it, is to learn the 5D Mark III inside and out. Master it. Make it part of your arsenal. Whether you are a professional photographer or an enthusiast, the 5D Mark III should be an extension of *you* and *your vision*.

Show us the world you see.

The road ahead has some hard work, but it's an enjoyable and worthwhile trip. This chapter starts you on that road by first showing you the externals of the 5D Mark III. I show you the buttons, dials, and displays and briefly cover their function (with plenty of references to more meaty sections in the book where they are more fully illustrated). You also learn how to insert batteries, attach lenses, work with memory cards, and get a sense of how the 5D Mark III works. All important stuff.

Time to get started!

It's the Hard-Knocks Life (Not)

I named this section as I did because although you have quite a few controls and displays to learn about, it's really *not* the hard knocks life. Please, *make* me learn about a $3,400 full-frame camera with incredibly high ISO speeds. (*ISO speed* is a measure of the camera sensor's sensitivity to light; ISO is short for the International Organization for Standardization, the body, not surprisingly, responsible for standardizing these things.) Male me have to learn to shoot full HD movies with a camera that's also a workhorse in the hands of *actual filmmakers*. Yeah, torture me with it, why don't you!

As Figure 1-1 shows, the 5D Mark III is a joy to behold. This section walks you through the controls, displays, and other doodads, with brief descriptions of what they are and how they work. Use this material as a learning tool or as a reference to keep handy.

Figure 1-1: She's gorgeous, isn't she?

Full frontal awesomeness

The front of the camera has a few important controls and other gizmos (see Figure 1-2, which was taken with the lens off to make the controls more visible). Practice identifying them so that you don't have to turn the camera around to see them.

Self-timer lamp

The self-timer lamp works based on how you have set the self-timer:

- **10-second self-timer:** Blinks twice a second (yes, I counted) for the first eight seconds and then remains steady for the remaining two.
- **2-second self-timer:** Lights up but doesn't blink. Goes off just as the photo is taken.

You can find more on drive modes, including the self-timer, in Chapter 2.