



D7000 TIPS

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Thread - <http://forums.photographyreview.com/nikon-camera-equipment/nikon-d7000-tips-78038.html>

I AM NIKON

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Tip #1 Virtual Horizon

This is how to get the virtual horizon to show up in the viewfinder.

Go to custom settings in menu

F- controls

F3 assign button. I assigned the FN button for this.

Highlight virtual horizon and press OK

At the bottom of the viewfinder the light meter shows over and under exposure. If you press the button you assigned on the camera and the meter will change to the virtual horizon mode. It will look the same as the exposure looked but if you tilt your camera down left or right you will see the effect on the meter at the bottom of your viewfinder. The Virtual Horizon will stay active until you take a picture or your meter times out. I thought the virtual horizon only worked in the live mode with the LCD screen. I found this to be helpful and hope you do also, Jeff

Tip #2 Nikon built in flash adjustment

Nikon built in flash adjustment

I learned something new today and thought I would pass it on. Some of you probably already know this but I have to believe that there are many that don't.

Want to adjust the power of the on camera flash for a Nikon D7000!

Here is how you do it

Press the info button down so you can view the rear screen. Now hold down the button that makes the on camera flash pop up. Next while holding that button down turn the finger wheel button on the front of the camera. This allows you to turn the power of the on camera flash down. When taking pictures up close, having the ability to lower the power of the on camera flash will be very helpful and help you to keep from over exposing as much. Hope this is new information to a few folks out there like it was to me. I am doing this on my Nikon D7000 but it may also work on other models, Jeff

REMEMBER like all settings that you change now and then, be sure to change it back when you are done or it could drive you nuts!!!!

Let me add a clarification to this tip. You are not really adjusting the power output of the flash you are actually adding or subtracting compensation of the flash as compared to what it would normally choose to use. This way if it is giving you more light than you want the flash can be adjusted to get the effect you are looking for. This is just adjusting or compensating for the reading the camera has chosen to use with the flash just like you compensate for the exposure with the "EV" button on top of the camera for non flash exposures.

Tip #3 Where was the focus point of my picture?

Where was the focus point of my picture? You can wait until you get your file in your computer and find out it was off the mark that you wanted the focus to be on or you can know instantly if you nailed it. Have you ever looked at one of your pictures that you intended to have the focus on an eye and actually was on an ear instead, leaving the eye soft? This might be for you.

When the preview comes up on the LCD screen I like having the focus point of that picture displayed so I can verify and see exactly where my point of focus was when the picture was taken. Doing this will display a red focus point where it was during the exposure.

Here is how you do it

Go to the **PLAYBACK MENU**

DISPLAY MODE

Check FOCUS POINT

Next go up the menu to **DONE** and press **OK**.

If you try it and do not like it just repeat and UN-check FOCUS POINT, Jeff

Tip #4 Menus driving you nuts!

Menus driving you nuts! Ever get frustrated trying to find what you want among all those long menus in your camera? Well just go down to MY MENU and set up just the options you want in the order you want them in.

Here is how you do it

If you need to know how to add this to MY MENU it was covered in tip #4 but I will place it here for your convenience

Here is how you do it

Go to **MY MENU** which is the six menu down on the left side and **press OK**

Scroll to ADD ITEMS and press OK

Next choose the **PLAYBACK MENU and press OK**

Next scroll down to **IMAGE REVIEW and press OK**

Press OK one more time to save it to **MY MENU**

Then rearrange them in the order you use them the most and a lot of your headaches with the menus will disappear. Everything you need will be in one nice neat orderly place, Jeff

Tip #5 Manuals hard to understand?

Manuals hard to understand?

You might want to go to the link below and view the Nikon Digitutor for the D7000. It is a video on the Nikon site that will give you a good over view of what the camera can do and how it operates. Each time I get a new Nikon I review the video for my new camera and recommend you check it out also, Jeff

Tip #6 Saving all your settings for your favorite type of shooting

Saving all your settings for your favorite type of shooting.

Ever spend a lot of time getting all the settings fine tuned for taking shots at the beach, portraits, landscapes or something else only to loose them after changing to a different mode selection and have to figure them out again the next time you shoot? If you have, then take advantage of all the time you spent tweaking your settings and save them to U1 or U2 on the mode dial of your camera. After you have invested all the time getting your favorite tweaks for, lets say shots at the beach, BEFORE you move that mode dial just pick U1 or U2 on the mode dial and save all the settings and tweaks for the next time by doing this.

Go to MENU > SETUP > Save user settings > (select U1 or U2) > Save settings

Now the next time you go back to that style of photography all the work is done, just turn the mode dial to whichever selection you saved them to and you are ready to go. If you find that after using it a little while you need to make a few more fine adjustments then repeat the steps above. Be sure to save the new adjustments BEFORE you move the mode dial or you will loose the latest adjustments and revert back to the last time you saved. This is a feature that few cameras have and you can save a complete set of settings for two types of photography of your choice so take advantage of this great function, Jeff

Tip #7 Reducing noise in your pictures

Reducing noise in your pictures.

To start with this tip applies to pictures taken preferably on a tripod and have a relatively still subject. What you do is to take multiple pictures of the same subject and have "auto gain" on which results in a noticeable decrease in noise by taking either two or three pictures and dividing the exposure between the frames and merging them back together into one image within the camera.

To do this go to SHOOTING MENU

Multiple exposure, select Number of shots, go down to AUTO Gain and turn it on then scroll up to DONE and click OK.

You have a choice of two or three frames and I like to use three to reduce the noise as much as possible. The three ways you can trip the shutter are 1st, manually pushing the button three times, 2nd using a remote to do the same thing, or 3rd by placing your camera on CH burst mode and doing three quick pictures by pressing the shutter button once. You have to pay attention because you will be shooting at 6FPS. I prefer this method because it is the fastest and reduces the chances of movement while taking the three shots. The multiple exposure function automatically turns off and will need to be reset to take additional multiple pictures. If you leave the AUTO GAIN off each of your pictures will be exposed for the full amount needed to take a single picture so make sure the AUTO GAIN is turned on. I have already posted a picture taken with this method and will add it below so you can see it again. Any camera can take multiple pictures that can be merged into one shot using PhotoShop or additional software but the Nikon's will do it quickly IN CAMERA for simple, instant results. Try this and see what you think, you should have a noticeable reduction in the amount of noise that can be seen, Jeff

Note: the noise reduction was off in the camera for this shot and no noise reduction was done in post production. The only method to reduce noise was the method used above. **Also I suggest adding the multiple exposure button to your "My Menu" so it can be accessed easily and quickly for additional shots like this.**



Tip #8 Need faster FLASH SYNC SPEED than 1/250???

Need faster FLASH SYNC SPEED than 1/250???

I have my camera set to 1/320 (AUTO FP). The reason I have changed it is because at the default setting your camera flash will only sync up to 1/250 and go no higher. By changing the setting to 1/320 (AUTO FP) it will allow your camera to sync normally up to the faster 1/320 speed using the full power of your flash and also go much higher automatically if you need it to go above the 1/320 sync level. As you pass the 1/320 sync speed the duration of the flash has to be extended due to how the shutter operates on your camera so the sensor is equally exposed to the light from the flash. Your camera has a focal plane shutter that exposes the sensor in two different movements and not all at the same time. As the speed of the shutter increases the flash needs to operate longer to be able to equally cover and expose light to the sensor because of the way the shutter exposes the sensor in the two different movements. Remember that at 1/320 (AUTO FP) that everything up to and including 1/320 will operate with NO DECREASE in flash power. If you go above that speed the flash power will slowly decrease due to extending the length of duration the flash has to operate at.

One example of when you may need the higher flash sync speed would be if you were taking a picture outside and wanted to use a larger F-stop to blur the background but also need some FILL FLASH. This would allow you to use an F-stop of say F2.8 that would call for a fast shutter speed that would eliminate using fill flash at the higher shutter speed if your camera was at the default setting of 1/250 sec.

Having the camera set to 1/320 (AUTO FP) all the time will allow you to sync your flash up to this speed any time you need it at full flash power and automatically let you go above that if you need it without having to go into any menus. To me it is a win, win situation.

If you would like to try it, this is how you do it.

Go to CUSTOM MENU

E- BRACKETING

E1- FLASH SYNC SPEED 1/320 push menu selector to the right and select FLASH SYNC SPEED 1/320 (AUTO FP) then push OK

The "FP" in the setting stands for "FOCAL PLANE" which is the type of shutter your camera has that determines the speed of the sync with your flash.

You can get more information about this if you Google Nikon High Speed Flash Sync.

I leave my camera set to this setting all the time and never change it.

Tip #9 You might consider a battery grip and this is why....

You might consider a battery grip and this is why....

After you have the essentials such as the body, lenses, a flash and tripod you may want to consider checking out a battery grip for the better handling and extra battery life with an additional battery.

I purchased my first SLR camera in 1970, a Nikon F with FTN meter, and have had several cameras since then and none up until I bought my Nikon D7000 had a battery grip or grip of any kind. They do have a fair sized price tag on them and they do add some weight. These are two reasons that I have never had one before. Months ago I began getting interested in one and started doing some research on battery grips and decided to purchase one for my Nikon D7000. After doing my research I decided to go with a Nikon grip instead of a third party grip so I would lessen the chance for buyer's remorse. I have to say that sometimes I take a lot of handheld vertical pictures and for me to be able to comfortably take these type of pictures, and for this alone, would make it worth the price of the grip. I was skeptical about the added weight and cost but find that for me the pluses outweigh the negatives.

The grip allows you to add a second battery for longer shooting and it will also give you the ability to use AA batteries as a backup in an emergency. On the grip itself there is a second shutter button, thumb and finger wheel, navigation joystick button and a second AE-L and AF-L button on the grip itself all designed for use when shooting vertical images. There is also an on-off switch so when you are not using the grip it can be turned off so the extra buttons cannot be used or accidentally pressed. In the camera you can choose which battery to use first and then change over to the second one. I have mine to use the battery in the grip first and then when it is finished start using the one in the camera.

You may read in some reviews that by having one battery in the grip and the other one in the camera that this is a mistake on Nikon's design. After using mine I personally think it is a good thing because if I want to quickly remove the grip to make the camera smaller or lighter, having one of the batteries still in the camera makes this a one step change over and I do not have to locate and reattach the battery door to be able to use my camera.

The Nikon MB-D11 battery grip is well built and matches the D7000 perfectly. It looks just like it was made on the camera and not an add on. It does not give you more FPS as some grips do but does give you a more professional looking camera with a much better grip in both the horizontal and vertical positions and twice as much battery life with the addition of a second battery. Now that I have tried using a grip I will probably always get one for any future cameras that I might own. Is this something that you can live without? Yes you can! Is it for everyone? No it isn't! But I must say that after shooting without one for forty years that I am very happy that I took the plunge and made the purchase. This grip is something that I find very useful and would recommend checking it out if you have some extra cash. I purchased mine for about \$219 with free shipping. If you get interested in one make sure, if you want the Nikon brand, that what you are looking at actually is really a Nikon grip and not a knockoff of one. This is not a must have piece of equipment but I have to tell you that I am very happy with mine and would recommend getting one if you are interested. I think it is one of those things that if you do splurge and get it you will ask yourself why you didn't do it sooner, Jeff

Tip #10 Capturing the natural look or mood with photos taken inside by using fill flash

Capturing the natural look or mood with photos taken inside by using fill flash.

When you take pictures inside and use your flash the subject usually comes out right and the background looks dark and it is obvious that a flash was used, maybe giving you that deer in the headlights look. On the other hand if you use just the ambient or natural light in the room sometimes the subject will come out a little dark due to your camera metering for the whole scene. What just might be the answer is to shoot in manual and add a little fill in flash. Earlier I told you about your ability to adjust the strength of your on camera flash for fill outdoors and now we are going to do the same thing except we are adding flash indoors to fill in. To do this you will need to shoot in manual mode and this might be a scary thing to think about if you have never used it before.

To shoot on manual mode you first pick an ISO that will work in the conditions you will be shooting in. Next turn the mode dial on your camera to "M". Next chose either an F stop or shutter speed that you like to use and adjust the opposite choice to get the correct exposure while looking at the light meter in the bottom of the viewfinder. When using fill flash inside you will need to shoot in manual instead of "A" or "S" modes because if you try fill flash in these modes , when you flip up the flash to activate it your shutter speed will change to 1/60 sec and mess up your previous meter reading.

HINT... If you are a little scared of using "M" mode to get your settings, then you can always go to full "auto" and see what the settings would be for the picture and return to manual and use these same settings. In manual the finger wheel in the front changes the F stop and the thumb wheel on the rear of the camera will change or set the shutter speed.

Lets say that the scene you are taking you choose to use "A" or "Aperture Priority" mode. You pick a F stop of say F 3.5 and after adjusting your shutter speed to get your exposure correct using the light meter that you can view in the bottom of the viewfinder, the shutter speed the camera gave you is 1/100 sec. and you then take a shot. If the room looks fairly evenly well lit but your subject could use just a little more light than the camera meter gave it, this is where the fill flash can help. The camera averaged in the lights that may be beyond your subject causing your subject to be a little dark.

Push the button to make the flash pop up and take a shot. Is your subject now just a little too bright? If it is, and it probably will be due to adding the light from the flash, this is where turning down the power of the flash to get the right mix of ambient light and flash come in. Press the info button at the bottom right corner of the rear LCD screen. Now press the same button that you pressed to make the flash pop up and while you are holding the button "IN" rotate the finger wheel on the front of the camera near the shutter button and turn down the flash and try taking the shot again. Repeat this until the correct amount of fill flash is achieved and you are happy with the results. You are looking for a picture that has the ambient natural light look with only the flash powered up enough to get the job done and not be noticeable. You are going for a natural, no flash used look. Remember that you are using the meter to get the settings for the natural light and then your adding only enough fill flash to bring out your subject.

I think you will find after playing with this just a little that this tip will be very helpful and the pictures you take will have a much more pleasing and natural look to them. Do remember to change your flash back to full strength and if you normally do not use "M" mode return it to what you normally use so it won't mess you up the next time you shoot.

NOTE: This can also be done with an external flash if the power is adjustable.

Tip #11 When to use different flash sync modes and what they do

When to use different flash sync modes and what they do.

Nate had mentioned in an earlier reply to one of my tips about using the rear flash sync mode and I said that I would write something up about how it works and what it does. To explain this would involve a lot of writing to cover it all so I looked around for a video that would do it and I think I have found one that covers it very well. If you are interested in how the sync modes work and when to use them than this will do a very good job in helping you understand when and what to do.

Check out this [video](#) for using your camera's, "**flash sync modes**", Jeff

Tip #12 Additional observation or thought for the tip in my post #10

Additional observation or thought for the tip in my post #10

Saving all your settings for your favorite type of shooting.

I was discussing this tip with a friend of mine and he was telling me that he had programmed both U1 & U2 on his camera and wished that there were more than two positions available. I know this is obvious but just because you set up U1 & U2 doesn't mean they have to stay that way permanently. If you have some special shooting session coming up there is no reason you can't take the time a few days ahead of time, while you are not under stress, to reset and save your new settings to one of these positions for your upcoming shooting condition. Waiting until you actually need to set your camera under shooting conditions may end in disaster.

I know this is obvious but some times we get blinders on and get stuck in one train of thought. This is just to remind you to be flexible and remember these settings and options, as are many others on your camera, there to help you and are not cut in stone. As time goes by your tastes or needs may change and you need to stay flexible enough to change with them.

If you do decide to re program U1 or U2 and may have a need to reset it back to what you had it saved for earlier you need to make a note of the settings so it can be accomplished easily and you don't have to start from scratch and figure them out again, Jeff

Tip #13 Some reasons to add an external flash to your list of equipment

Some reasons to add an external flash to your list of equipment

External flashes are not cheap but they really add a lot to your ability to get great pictures. The external flash is much stronger, delivering much more power and range by several times over the on board flash. You now have increased the options for lighting your subject properly greatly by giving you many more ways to light up your subject. With the D7000 and many other Nikon cameras you can use the on board flash by itself, you can use the external flash by itself or use a combination of both. The extra flash can be mounted on the camera or placed away from the camera and controlled wirelessly by the on camera flash and camera settings, when it is placed in COMMANDER MODE found in the settings within your menus. (This is one of the things I suggest adding to the "MY MENU" in your camera so it can be accessed easily). I told you how this is done in post #5 of this thread. You can also actually adjust the power of a remote wireless flash through the camera menus without touching the flash itself. The external flash allows you to bounce the flash off of wall and ceilings or anything else for that matter. By placing the flash further from the lens you can also drastically cut down or eliminate that annoying red eye that you get in pictures when using a flash. Another thing you can do with the EF is use gels on the flash to help correct white balance or to get different effects with your lighting. The strong flash also gives you a much greater ability to use fill flash when shooting outside. This might sound like a strange statement but you might find that the more light you have effecting your image the more a flash, or FILL FLASH, will be needed to help eliminate all the little shadows created by the existing light sources especially strong sunlight.

Have you ever taken a picture with the on board flash and found that you had a round shadow on the bottom of your pictures? Well if you have a wide lens, longer lens or a sunshade on you lens when taking picture using the on board flash, this is caused by the flash hitting the top front edge of one of these throwing a shadow on your picture. The strange thing is that depending on where you have your lens zoomed to it may cause a shadow on some pictures and not others. Whether the shadow shows up or not depends on if the lens or lens shade got in the line of the light from the flash to your subject or not. An external flash usually will eliminate this problem in most cases.

It also allows you to bounce the flash off walls or ceilings to help improve your lighting and also eliminate the irritating red eye in your photos. Having a second flash will expand your options when needing extra light. Instead of having just the one option of the straight on harsh lighting that the on camera flash provides, you can now bounce the light from your flash off of the ceiling or walls.

In the Nikon system if you place the camera and external flash in TTL mode, (Through the lens mode} it will adjust you lighting automatically whether it is on or off the camera. I would suggest getting one because it will open up a whole world of new opportunities in addition to the ones you already have, Jeff

Tip #14 Ever wish you had access to your camera manual with you while out shooting?[/

Ever wish you had access to your camera manual with you while out shooting?

Well how about downloading your camera manual into your smartphone or ipod so you always have it handy. You can do a word search and get quick access to just what you need.

You can find the manual for the Nikon D7000 [HERE](#).

You can also download the manual for your flash or any other equipment in case you need it.

Another thing that you can do is make notes about settings, equipment, time of day and conditions for different shooting situations and download all the information and keep it at your fingertips for easy access any time you need it.

This may be just the excuse to purchase that ipod you have been wanting. This would be a good thing to not only having access to while out shooting but to have with you in that boring waiting room of your doctors office while you are waiting for your appointment. This way you can make better use of the normally wasted times when you are just setting around with nothing to do, Jeff

Tip #15 Lighting up the rear LCD display

Lighting up the rear LCD display

Have you ever been shooting in the dark and needed the rear LCD display turned on to check or change some settings and had to fumble around to find the INFO button to turn it on? Well there is a much easier way to do it. The on and off switch for your camera when turned past the "on" position will back light the top LCD screen. Did you know it can be set to also turn on or light up the rear LCD at the same time. The power on switch, at least to me, is easier to find in the dark for turning on the rear screen. If you would like to try this option look below.

Here is how you do it.

Go to the Custom Setting Menu which is the third one down on the left that looks like a pencil

Next go to the right and down to "F Controls" and push the right side of your toggle button

Next choose f1 switch and push the right side of your toggle button

Next select the bottom option that says "info and information display" and press OK

From now on turning your camera power switch past the on position will not only turn on the back light to the top screen it will turn on the rear LCD screen where you can see it also,
Jeff

Tip #16 Easy way to change ISO setting in Aperture Priority mode

Easy way to change ISO setting in Aperture Priority mode.

If you shoot in Aperture Priority mode you are choosing the aperture and letting the camera choose the shutter speed. If after choosing the aperture or F-stop you desire to get the depth of field you want, the shutter speed is too low you need to raise the ISO. To keep the same aperture and get the shutter speed more in line with what you need you would need to press the ISO button and then rotate the thumb dial to get a higher ISO which in turn will allow for a faster shutter speed. This requires pushing down and holding the ISO button while rotating the thumb wheel at the same time and also requires taking your eye away from the viewfinder.

There is a setting in the CUSTOM SETTING MENU that will allow you to keep your eye on the viewfinder and just turn the thumb wheel to change the ISO. This works only in the "A" or "Aperture Priority" mode and is easy to change.

Here is how you do it

First you go to the CUSTOM SETTING MENU which is the third selection down on the left side and it looks like a pencil

Next go to the right menu and choose "D" Shooting/display and press the right side of your toggle button

Next scroll down to d3 ISO display and adjustment and press the right side of your toggle button again

Next scroll down to Show ISO/Easy ISO and push your "OK" button

After doing this you will be able to not only see your subject in the viewfinder and the ISO reading you will have the capability and ease of adjusting the ISO by turning just the thumb wheel to get your shutter speed where you need it without ever taking your eye off the viewfinder. Remember that this will only change the action for the "A" or "Aperture Priority Mode" and the thumb wheel will act as it always has in the other modes.

I use "A" mode a lot and find this to be a handy option, Jeff

Tip #17 Ever need to get your active focus point back to the center quickly?

Ever need to get your active focus point back to the center quickly?

With the Nikon D7000 having 39 focus point sometimes you spot something you need to take an image of and you have no idea where the focus point is at and you need to quickly get your focus point back to the center to be able to get the shot.

Here is how you do it.

The fastest way to achieve this is to press the OK button in the middle of your toggle switch on the rear of your camera and no matter where it was it returns to the center point with one press of the button.

Tip #18 Nikon ML- L3 wireless remote

Nikon ML- L3 wireless remote

This is a very handy accessory to have and probably the cheapest thing you will ever buy made by Nikon. This remote can be purchased for less than \$15.00. With the new D7000, Nikon has added a sensor to the back side of the camera allowing this remote to be used either from the front or rear of the camera. Having this remote will allow you, with the aid of a tripod, to get in the picture yourself without using the timer on the camera and running to get into position for the shot. Having this remote will also let you take multiple pictures without returning to your camera. I have also used it before on a very cold night to take pictures of the eclipse of the moon. I set up my camera, jumped into my car with the heater going and snapped away in comfort.

Another use for this remote would be to set your camera in the menu option to raise the mirror the first time you press the remote and then take a picture on the second pressing of the remote. This will allow you to eliminate any movement from the mirror vibrations. This is a handy option to use especially when using longer lenses or slower shutter speeds. You also have an option to lock up the mirror on the lower mode ring dial but for what I shoot I find this works better and lets me review the picture on the rear LCD screen each time after taking a shot.

REMEMBER!!!! Below is how you set it up, but to actually use the remote you need to set the outer mode dial on top left hand side of your camera to REMOTE. Press to lock release button and turn the dial to REMOTE which is the little icon between the timer and mirror lock up modes. As always when you are done using the remote return this dial back to a regular shooting position and DO NOT LEAVE it set to remote.

Here is how you set it up

Go to the **shooting menu** which is the second one down on the left and looks like a camera. Scroll down to **REMOTE CONTROL** and press the right side of the toggle button on the rear of your camera.

You have three choices, so scroll down to **REMOTE MIRROR UP** and then press OK.

NOTE: You have three options when using the remote.

Operate like listed above.

Fire immediately.

Fire with a 2 second delay.

Tip #19 Having trouble with auto focus in low light

Having trouble with auto focus in low light

Ever go out at night and the light is so low you just can't get your camera to focus! Well I have a simple answer.

Here is what you do

I have had this happen a few times and have found that with your camera on single area focus point activated on the spot you want to focus on, if your camera will not focus, all you need to do is buy a laser light pen at Walmart for about \$2.50 and point it at the spot that your focus point is on and the camera will lock on followed by the little green light in the viewfinder magically appearing and your shot will be in focus. This of course is for stationary subjects taken in dark surroundings but it will make your camera lock on to the focus quickly.

Remember to not point the light in people's or animal's eyes and it is probably not a good idea to point it at the sensor of your camera.

NOTE: I normally wait several days in between posting tips but I am doing this one ahead of time due to getting ready for my trip to Disney World at the end of the week. Merry Christmas to everyone and a Happy New Year, Jeff

Tip #20 Using the Auto ISO setting and setting minimum shutter speed

Using the Auto ISO setting and setting minimum shutter speed

The Auto ISO setting will work on all the mode settings **EXCEPT P,S,A,M, U1 and U2 modes**. If you use any of the other modes on the dial or choose any of the 19 Scene modes that you have to choose from you can set your ISO to automatically increase as the need arises. If you choose to use Auto ISO mode I would recommend setting the limit of what the ISO will go up to. You will have to determine for yourself the highest ISO by determining how high you can go and still maintain the picture quality you desire. I do not use auto ISO myself but if I did the highest I would probably allow it to go would be 3200. You will also be able to set your minimum shutter speed in the same place in the menu allowing you to set the shutter speed to not go below what is needed to stop action in the shot or eliminate blur from shaky hands.

An example of when this may be helpful is when you start shooting pictures at your child's baseball game and as the game goes on the sun starts going down and the light gets less and less. By choosing the Auto ISO setting ahead of time as the sun goes down your camera will allow you to keep taking pictures by increasing the ISO automatically so you can keep on shooting. If you have it set to a certain ISO such as ISO 400, after the point the light gets past it's ability to capture the pictures you want, your pictures will just start getting darker. If you have chosen the Auto ISO setting you can continue shooting and the camera will increase the ISO as needed to allow you to keep capturing those special memories. As with changing any settings I would recommend doing it before hand so it doesn't catch you off guard at the game. Trying to change settings when you are under pressure to get the next shot is not the time to try and figure out what you need to do or how to do it.

If you would like to try this, here is how you do it.

Go to the **shooting menu**. The second one down on the left that looks like a camera
Next go to **ISO sensitivity settings** and press the right side of your toggle switch
Go to **Auto ISO sensitivity control** and turn it on
Next go down to **Maximum sensitivity** and press the right toggle button and choose the limit that you want and press OK
Next choose the **minimum shutter speed** that you think you can handle or is needed and press OK
You are now all set up and ready to go

Can you see how if you wait until the game and you are under presser that figuring out how to do this could get you all messed up.

Also remember that you may have to set the ISO higher than you might like to get the shot of your child. Sometimes you have to set the ISO higher than you would like because having a little noise in the shot is a better option than not getting the shot at all.

Tip #21 Discovering blown out areas quickly while you are still shooting so you can c

Discovering blown out areas quickly while you are still shooting so you can correct the problem

Two things that are not good to find out after you get home and view your pictures on your computer are finding out that your point of focus was in the wrong place, which I covered how to eliminate this problem in post #4, and the other is finding out that you have areas that have been blown out with little to no detail in them. Post #4 told you how to know immediately where your point of focus was so you could quickly re-take your photo and fix that problem. In this post I will show you how to find out if you have any blown out areas in your image while viewing it on your rear LCD screen. You can go into your menu and set it up so that any blown out highlights will flash when viewing your picture on the rear LCD screen and alert you to any problems instantly so you can adjust your exposure and retake the shot right on the spot instead of finding out about the problem when viewing it on your computer at home when it is too late to do anything about it.

This is how you do it.

Go to the **PLAYBACK MENU**

DISPLAY MODE

Check Highlights

Next go up the menu to **DONE** and press **OK**.

Note that this is the same place you set the option to see where your focus point would be on post #4. After setting this option, each time you take a picture and review it on the camera, any highlights or sections of your image that are blown out will flash and alert you to the problem so the shot can be retaken after adjusting your exposure. It is a little annoying seeing the flashing after taking a picture if you have a problem but it is not anywhere near as annoying as waiting to find out later when nothing can be done about it. These are two things that if they are not done right when the photo was taken that CANNOT be corrected later.

Tip #22 Getting your own custom look to your pictures

Getting your own custom look to your pictures

Everyone has different shooting styles and looks that they are trying to achieve when taking pictures. One of the settings I like to use on my camera is the VIVID setting under the shooting menu sub category "picture control menu". For me I like the additional pop it gives my images. You can also custom adjust this to get just the look your after. I would suggest giving it a try to see whether you like it or not. You may find you like it for some subjects and not others but you can easily change it to any of the other five options you have to choose from when you get into the menu. Remember each of the choices you have can be tweaked to your personal taste. This is one of the settings that I have in the "MY MENU" that I talked about in post #5 of this thread. Try it and play around with it so you can get your photos to have JUST THE LOOK you want.

Here is how you do it

Go to the **shooting menu** which is the second one down on the left and looks like a camera Toggle to the right and then go down to "**Set Picture Control**" and toggle to the right Now scroll down to **VI Vivid and push OK**

If you would like to customize any of the six options under "Set Picture control" just toggle to the right instead of selecting OK in the previous step and you can customize it all you want.

After trying this out, if it is not for you there are always the other five options other than Vivid that you can try and customize. I personally like the Vivid setting look and use it all of the time, Jeff

Tip #23 Wanting to compare two or more pictures up close

Wanting to compare two or more pictures up close

Here is how you do it

You can zoom in or out on an image by using the bottom two buttons on the left hand side of the rear LCD screen. After zooming in on a picture any at all, when you use the toggle button with the arrows on it, you can move around on the picture to get a close up view of any part of your photo to make sure you are getting exactly what you want. With the toggle button you can move up, down, left or right and you can even go diagonally if you press on the sections between the arrows. **You probably knew that, but did you know you could also do this? If you have zoomed in on a picture and want to compare it to any of the pictures before or after the one you are looking at all you need to do is turn the thumb wheel on the top right rear side of the camera. This will allow you to view and compare different pictures at the same zoomed in level of magnification. If at any time you are zoomed in on a picture and want to return to the original size, without having to repeatably hit the "-" minus button, all you have to do is press the "OK" button and it will put you right back to the original photo without any magnification.**

Tip #24 Customizing your metering system

Customizing your metering system

You can choose from Matrix Metering, Center Weighted and Spot Metering. You can also custom adjust each of these choices to get exactly the exposure that you desire. The EV adjustment on the top right hand side of the camera is fine and very useful for individual shots to get them just the way you like, but if you find that any of the three metering choices need to be adjusted on an ongoing basis due to consistently being a little over or under exposed you can custom adjust or tweak each one and save your setting. Using the EV compensation is great for individual images but does not work well for correction of an on going need.

It is easy to fine tune each of your camera's metering choices so that you will consistently get the exposure you want and still have the option of using the EV compensation if you need it for single images.

Here is how you do it

Go to the **CUSTOM SETTING MENU** which is the third one down on the left and looks like a red pencil

Toggle to the right and scroll down to **"b" Metering/exposure**

Toggle to the right and go down to **"b5" Fine tune optical exposure**

Toggle to the right again and scroll up to **"Yes" and click OK**

Choose the metering choice that you want to adjust and toggle to the right

Use your up and down arrows to select the amount of adjustment you think you need and then press OK

Remember that you may need to go back a few times to make additional adjustments to get it exactly how you want it. You can adjust one, two or all three metering choices differently with their own custom settings. One of the reasons that you probably decided on the Nikon D7000 is it's ability to get it to due exactly what you want it to do so take advantage of the options and control over the settings that you have with this GREAT camera.

Tip #25 Adding copyright information to the EXF data of each of your pictures

Adding copyright information to the EXF data of each of your pictures

On each picture you take the camera records all the settings you used for that shot such as time of day and date the picture was taken, F stop , shutter speed, ISO and a lot more. There is a place in the EXF data that allows you to embed a comment such as Copyright and your name. It is a good idea to add this information in the EXF data of each photo that you take. By setting this up in the camera it will automatically be added to each picture at the time the picture was taken without doing anything additional. This will allow your name and copyright to go along with each of your pictures no matter where the image travels to or ends up.

Here is how you do it

Go to the **SETUP MENU** which is the fourth one down on the left and looks like a wrench Toggle to the right and go down to **Copyright Information** and press the right side of the toggle button

Scroll down to **Copyright** and press the right arrow

Add comment such as **COPYRIGHT John Doe 2012**

To OK your comment hold down the Eyeglass or "+" plus button at the bottom left of the rear LCD screen and press OK. You need to check the Attach comment then scroll up to Done and press OK.

Use the toggle button with the arrows to choose the letters and numbers you want and press OK. To navigate within your comment section hold down the "-" minus button which is the second button up from the bottom left side of the rear LCD screen and use the toggle button with the arrows to navigate within the comment section. To delete, highlight the letter or number to be deleted and press "Delete".

From now on until you change your settings, every picture taken with this camera will include this comment in the EXF data no matter who is operating the camera, Jeff.

Tip #26, "Quick Check all your settings BEFORE each time you shoot"

"Quick Check all your settings BEFORE each time you shoot"

This is one tip that effects all levels of photographers for as long as they use a camera. Owning a camera that gives you so many options over all the settings is great and gives you a lot of room to control your results or to experiment with different adjustments. Having all this control is a good thing because it opens up all kinds of new opportunities, but have you ever left all your settings the same and not reset them back to the normal settings after shooting? If you are wondering if I have ever done this the answer is YES! I also think that if you are honest you will admit to having done this a time or two yourself.

I know that over the years I have a tendency, when I'm about to wrap up shooting, to do a little experimenting with adjustments and settings just before I pack up to go home. If the next time I go out to shoot I forget to do a **"Quick Check"** of the settings I could be out in the morning taking images with a very high ISO setting that didn't get changed back from the night before or a EV adjustment of a half stop off that I do not need for my current shooting or any of the many other setting changes that are available.

This tip can be easily forgotten or overlooked but I think this is one of the most important tips you can get and is a smart thing to get into the habit of doing every time you pick up your camera. This should be done no matter what level of experience you have or how simple or complicated the camera that is being used. By getting in the habit of doing a "Quick Check" first, it will help you avoid noticing you have a problem during shooting or later while viewing your images on the computer. Remember that this can and has happened to photographers ranging from beginners to professionals, Jeff

Tip #27 Getting a custom white balance

Getting a custom white balance

The Nikon D7000 does a very good job of getting the White Balance (WB) right by itself but if you ever get in a situation that has some strange lighting and you want to really nail the WB you might try doing a custom WHITE BALANCE to really get your whites and colors correct. If you listen to someone try and explain how to accomplish this or read about how it is done it can sound a little evolved or complicated. Actually it is quite simple to do and takes just a matter of seconds to accomplish. The results of taking the small amount of time and effort to get the WB right will pay off in the end by helping you get a great picture. By completing the custom WB you can eliminate off skin tones and strange colored tints on your pictures. The custom WHITE BALANCE can only be accomplished in modes M,A,S, and P. In each of the other modes the camera will make all the decisions for you. This is just one more reason that if you are wanting to advance and get better control over your photography it is necessary to start leaving the AUTO modes behind and start experimenting with the more advanced modes. Give it a try because I think you will be very happy with the results.

All of the instructions below can be done by looking at the top LCD screen. Do to the fact the top LCD screen is small and more difficult to see I will be showing you the first step on the larger rear LCD screen.

Here is how you do it

Turn on the rear LCD screen

Locate the white Balance (WB) button that is the third button up from the bottom left side of the back of the camera

While holding down the (WB) button, rotate the thumb wheel through the different types of white balance until you see "PRE", then stop and release the (WB) button

Next push and hold the (WB) button one more time and look at the top LCD screen and see if the "Pre" is flashing, if it is release the button

Next you need to place a white object, such as a piece of paper near your subject so that the light you will be shooting in shines on the paper

Next zoom in or get close enough to the paper so that you can fill up the frame of the camera with the white sheet of paper and press the shutter button. This will only read the lighting and not take a picture

Now look at the top LCD screen and you will either see "GOOD" flashing or "NO GD" flashing If "GOOD" is flashing you are ready to take a picture

This may seem like a lot to do but after you do it a couple of times you should be able to complete this in about 10 or 15 seconds and will be time well spent. Remember in most cases this will not be needed and your camera will handle things by itself just fine. Your camera will retain this white balance setting until you take another custom (WB) setting or change your setting to one of the other (WB) settings such as CLOUDY, SUNSHINE, TUNGSTEN, FLORESCENT or one of the several others available or even turn your camera off. To get a proper reading it needs to be taken near the subject. It may be necessary to move up closer to the subject to fill the frame of your camera with the paper for the reading for your custom setting but you can always change locations of the camera as long as the lighting and subject stay the same. What you are doing by taking a custom white balance is telling the camera that under these lighting conditions that this is what the color white would look like so the camera will know how to adjust to get the correct colors.

In case you still think this is too hard to do, this is really all there is to it
Press the WB rotate thumb dial and make "PRE" flash
Press shutter to take a reading, see "GOOD" your ready to shoot

Tip #28 Is your camera a pain in the neck?

Is your camera a pain in the neck?

Any camera that you have and use the the neck strap that came with the camera can really be a pain in the neck after carrying it for a short period of time. My first good camera that I purchased back in 1970 was a Nikon F with and FTN meter on it and was heavy and gave me neck pain while carrying it hanging around my neck. I used the neck straps that came with each camera until about a year ago when I bought a shoulder strap to take the strain off my neck. **I can tell you that after buying one of these straps that I will never use a strap that comes with the camera and hangs around my neck again. Any camera that hangs around your neck can cause pain but as you advance and buy bigger and better cameras and lenses the problem just gets worse.** Also, have you ever had a camera hanging around your neck and leaned forward to get something and have your camera swing forward and hit something? Well I have and it can really cause you some problems, especially if you are leaning down to pick up a grandchild and the camera swings out and hits them in the head. **Having a shoulder stile strap takes the strain off your neck and prevents the camera from swinging out when you lean forward. A shoulder strap lets the weight be on your should instead of placing a strain on your neck.** The strap hangs across your body and you carry the camera on the side near your hip. This is much more comfortable and always ready for instant use.

There are several brands of shoulder straps out there with Black Rapid probably being the best known. I personally went with the Carry Speed Strap because I liked the ability to be able to attach my camera to a tripod without having to remove the strap. I also like the way the bracket that attaches to the camera has the strap hooking to the side instead of the middle like it does on the Black Rapid. If you check out the different brands and for some reason choose one of the other brands of strap but like the Carry Speed Strap better, the bracket can be purchased separately from Carry Speed Strap. Another reason i went with the Carry Speed Strap is that it is less expensive than many of the other brands. Due to the fact I am a pretty big man I was also concerned about the strap being long enough and the CSS brand should be long enough for anyone, I still have room that this strap can be extended farther.

I have no connection with Carry Speed Strap. The reason I talked about it more is because it is the one I ended up getting and have more experience dealing with it. You may find something else that you like much better but the main reason for this tip is to let you be aware of shoulder straps and that they are MUCH MORE comfortable and functional than the standard strap and WELL WORTH THE MONEY, Jeff

Tip #29 Viewing your pictures, menus, or info on the rear LCD screen

Viewing your pictures, menus, or info on the rear LCD screen

When you view pictures on the rear LCD screen you have a limited time before the LCD screen shuts off. This can be adjusted to 4 seconds, 10 seconds, 20 seconds or 1 minute, 5 minutes or 10 minutes before it cuts off to accommodate your needs. You can adjust these times for **PLAYBACK, MENUS, INFORMATION DISPLAY and IMAGE REVIEW** using these settings. **Live view** has settings of 5min, 10min, 15min, 20min or 30mins. Many of you may know that the cut off time can be changed so your picture can be viewed longer before the LCD turns off but have you ever wanted a little more viewing time and pushed the play button again to let you continue viewing a picture? **TIP, If you are viewing a picture on the rear LCD screen and it goes off, you can view it for an infinite length of time by pressing the play button again on the same picture and just continue to hold the play button down. You will be able to view the picture until the play button is released.**

This is how you change the cut off time of the rear LCD screen

Go to the **CUSTOM SETTING MENU** which is the third one down on the left and looks like a pencil

Scroll down to **"C" Timers/AF lock** and press the right arrow

Scroll down to **"c4", Monitor off delay**, and press the right arrow again

Next scroll down to what you want to change and press the right arrow

Choose the amount of time and then press OK

If you would like to change another cut off time, make a selection and change the time

When you are done press the menu button again to exit

Remember that the longer the screen is on the more battery is used but the rear LCD can quickly and easily be turned off by tapping the shutter button.

Tip #30 Saving custom white balance settings

` Saving custom white balance settings

This tip works in conjunction with a previous tip #27 on setting a custom white balance. It is nice to be able to get a custom WB setting for your perfect shot but did you know that you can save four different sets of these custom settings for use at a later time whenever they are needed? Do you have a few different locations that require a custom white balance that you shoot at regularly? Well this just might be what you need to save a lot of time and aggravation. You can save four different custom settings along with a comment about each of the locations or other info you would like attached to the saved setting.

TIP if you want to try this I would suggest going to TIP #29 and extending the time your menu stays on or active to make this a little easier.

Here is how you do it

This first part is the steps to get the CWB (Custom White Balance) talked about in tip #27

Turn on the rear LCD screen

Locate the white Balance (WB) button that is the third button up from the bottom left side of the back of the camera

While holding down the (WB) button, rotate the thumb wheel through the different types of white balance until you see "PRE", then stop and release the (WB) button

Next push and hold the (WB) button one more time and look at the top LCD screen and see if the "Pre" is flashing, if it is release the button

Next you need to place a white object, such as a piece of paper near your subject so that the light you will be shooting in shines on the paper

Next zoom in or get close enough to the paper so that you can fill up the frame of the camera with the white sheet of paper and press the shutter button. This will only read the lighting and not take a picture

Now look at the top LCD screen and you will either see "GOOD" flashing or "NO GD" flashing If "GOOD" is flashing you are ready to take a picture

Second step, save that setting from d-0 to one of the other positions by doing the following

This is how you get back to the screen that shows the five Preset locations

Go to the shooting menu which is the second one down on the left and looks like a camera Press your right arrow then scroll down until you get to White Balance and press the right arrow again

Scroll down to PRE Preset manual and press the right arrow again

You should now be looking at a window that has five location named d0, d1,d2,d3,d4.

d0 will always be the latest Custom White Balance that you have taken and will stay there until a new White balance is taken. What you will want to do now is to copy the reading in d0 and place it in one of the other positions to be saved for later use. The setting MUST be copied and moved to one of the saveable locations because it cannot be set directly to any of these four locations

This is how you save a reading to one of those four location to be recalled for use later

Press the "-" minus button which is the second button up from the bottom left hand side of the rear of the camera

Scroll down to Copy d0 and press OK you will also see a selection on this screen to add a comment such as WB for High School GYM so you know where the WB was taken

Next use your arrows to select a location d1,d2,d3,d4 to save your setting in and press OK.

Now the fine adjustment of colors will come up and just press OK again to finish saving your setting.

Later when you want to use one of your saved setting all you do is go back to the screen with the five choices d0,d1,d2,d3,d4 on it and use your arrows to get to the selection you want and press OK twice and your ready to go. Be sure and verify the WB selection you have chosen by looking at the comment below the selection you use. Remember this can be used anywhere the lighting is the same each time you shoot. This can also be used for different studio setups that you may use on a regular basis.

TIP #31 Getting the rear LCD screen to stay lit as long as you need it

Getting the rear LCD screen to stay lit as long as you need it

Sometimes you need the rear LCD screen to stay on longer than you have the timer in the menu set for. If you hold down the "Info Button", "Menu Button", or play button the screen will stay lit up until you release the button but you cannot navigate or do anything but view what is on the screen. Have you ever needed to have the rear LCD screen on longer than your setting in the menu is set for and be able to change things in the menu at the same time? Well if you would like to be able to do this I will show you how in this TIP.

First thing you need to do is set your rear LCD screen to come on when you turn the power button past the "on" position like I showed you how to do in TIP #15

Here again is how you do that.

Go to the Custom Setting Menu which is the third one down on the left that looks like a pencil

Next go to the right and down to "F Controls" and push the right side of your toggle button

Next choose f1 switch and push the right side of your toggle button

Next select the bottom option that says "info and information display" and press OK

TIP After completing the above steps you will be able to hold the power button in the position just past POWER ON and that will not only keep both screens lit, it will now allow you to change settings on the MENU SCREEN or additional settings that can be viewed on the INFO SCREEN. While holding the power switch to the PAST POWER ON POSITION you can also push the PLAY BUTTON and use the arrows to scroll up and down through the information about the picture you are viewing or go forward or back up to view other pictures. This isn't something you will do often and it will take a little practice, holding that spring loaded power button in position with your index finger, but if you need the screen to stay lit longer than you have it set for it can come in handy when trying to find something in the menus and make changes, Jeff

Tip #32 Another option to navigate menus with other than the multi selector button

Another option to navigate menus with other than the multi selector button

When you are navigating through the menus using the multi selector switch have you ever wondered if there was another way to do this? Well there is! You can use the command dial and the sub command dial to navigate menus with if you choose that option in the menus.

Here is how you do it.

Go to the **custom settings menu** which is the third one down on the left and looks like a pencil

Press the right arrow button and then scroll down to **"F" Controls** and press OK

Scroll down to **f6 Customize command dials** and press OK

Scroll down to **Menus and playback** and press OK to turn this function ON

Scroll to **"ON"** and press OK

After following the above directions you will now be able to navigate "Playback of pictures" or the "Menus" by using either the multi function button or the command and sub command dials whichever you may find easier. The command or rear dial will control up and down movement and the sub command dial or front dial will control the left or right movement. If you have it set up this way you have just added a second way to access your menus and still have the original way to access the menus by the Multi Selection Button.

I would also like to thank those people that have taken the time to say that they are finding the tips helpful and of some value, it makes me feel like it is worth the effort, Jeff

Tip #33 If you use a wide angle lens you may find this tip very helpful

If you use a wide angle lens you may find this tip very helpful

When you use a wide angle lens and take pictures of architecture or photos that have straight lines in them you might have noticed that the picture may have some distortion in it because of the wide angle it was shot at. This distortion can be fixed in PhotoShop or one of the other many post processing programs on the market but did you know that you can fix this very easily with your camera just by using the software within your Nikon D7000. The nice thing about doing this within the camera is that it keeps the original and saves all the changes on a separate file. As long as you have your image on the SD card it can be changed at the time it was taken or changed later at your convenience. Using your camera to do this is quick and does not require any additional programs that may be expensive or require learning how to do the correction with the new program. This in camera program will allow you to correct the distortion by the lens that causes lines to bend and get out of proportion. It is easy to fix so why not give it a try.

Here is how you do it

First bring up a picture that needs adjustment and correction on the rear LCD screen
Next press the **OK button** found in the middle of the multi selector button
Scroll through the menu until you get to **Perspective control** and press **OK**
Now use the four arrows on the multi selector button to make your adjustments and press **OK** and your done!

You will notice on the new corrected version of the picture that a icon will appear on the screen of the adjusted picture near the top of the screen indicating that this is the file or photo that has been modified. See how simple this is to accomplish and remember that you still have the original file and that the adjustments have been saved on an additional copy of the photo. Having this ability to straighten images taken with a wide angle lens will be very helpful and give you the ability to easily improve your pictures.

Tip #34 Does part of your photo disappear when you have enlargements made?

Does part of your photo disappear when you have enlargements made?

One of the selling features of the Nikon D7000 is that 100% of what you see in the viewfinder is what you get on your card. This can be helpful or it can cause you problems when you get standard size enlargements made such as 8x10, 11x14, and 16x20. The aspect ratio or how the side of the picture relates to the length changes when you print larger than 4x6 prints. A 4x6 print is printed at 3:2 aspect ratio which will include everything that was seen in the viewfinder in the print. When you print a 5x7 image it prints at 4:3 aspect ratio which will cause you to lose a little of the length (see picture below). When you jump to 8x10 and above the aspect ratio will be 5:4 and remain the same for 11x14 and 16x20 and cut off even more of your image. Basically what all this means is that when you enlarge your pictures using the standard sizes mentioned above you will lose some of your picture on either end. You need to keep this in mind when framing your shot and leave enough room so your prints don't have important subject matter cut off when printed. When you plan on making enlargements just keep in mind that while looking through the viewfinder that you will have about 2/3s of the distance from the long edge of the picture and where the outline or your metering system starts in your display that will not get printed and that includes both ends as shown in the picture below. What this means is, what you want to be on the print needs to be not much wider than the outline for your metering display in the viewfinder so that all of your subject will be included in the print.

If aspect ratios and numbers sound confusing, what it is saying is that a 4x6 print is the same scale as what you are seeing in the viewfinder allowing everything that was seen in the viewfinder to fit in the print. The bigger sizes like 8x10s which are in more of a square shape so that all the subject doesn't fit like it does in the longer slimmer shape of the 4x6. Think wide screen vs regular screen.

After taking a picture if you would like apply a crop to it or see what the final crop would look like you can check it out right on the spot with the software in your camera.

Here is how you do it.

While viewing a picture on the rear LCD screen press the **OK** button

Next scroll down to "**Trim**" and press **OK** again

Use the **main command dial** at the top right rear side of the camera to choose the aspect ratio you want to see **4x6= 3:2** , **5x7=4:3**, **8x10, 11x14 and 16x20 are all 5:4**

By scrolling through the different **aspect ratios** you can see exactly how your picture will get cropped.

While the **outline is displayed on the picture** you can use the arrows on the **multi function selector button** on the rear of the camera to move the crop frame around the picture to get just what you want to be in the final picture and press **OK**

Remember that if you take a picture and decide to go ahead and OK the cropped version for printing later it will be saved as a copy and the original will stay intact on your card. Any of the different options you try will create a copy and not alter the original, so play with your different options and see what you can come up with. After all you purchased the D7000 for what it can do so give it a try. This will allow you to crop your pictures without any additional software.

This is a screen shot of a full picture and you can see that it was fine until the example of the 8x10 crop was overlaid on the picture. The crop would make the image much too crowded. This is why you need to keep in mind what the end results need to look like and

give yourself some extra room to play with. You can crop sections out but you can't add them on.



Tip #35 Ever consider trying "Active D Lighting" or "Regular D Lighting"

Ever consider trying "Active D Lighting" or "Regular D Lighting"

If your one of those people that would like to make a few adjustments to your photos but don't want to spend money on new software or have a big learning curve to deal with to be able to see results, this tip may be for you. You can apply D Lighting right in your camera without any additional software and you have two choices on D Lighting. You can put your camera in ADL (Active D Lighting) after choosing from five different levels to apply and your camera will make all of the adjustments for you or you can take the picture and apply adjustments later with you choosing what gets done.

First of all you need to know what D Lighting does to decide whether it is something that you may be interested in trying or not. In the dark areas it helps to open up some of the details that you cannot see well and it also helps the highlighted areas from being blown out as much. It is not a cure all but it is a tool that may help you improve your pictures. When you have your settings set to Active D Lighting the camera will automatically adjust and apply the adjustments to the original picture as it is taken and the camera is in control. On the other hand if you apply the D Lighting after the picture is taken you can choose the results from a couple of choices and when you save your choice your camera will save it to a copy and the original will stay intact.

This is how you apply D lighting after you take the shot (What I would recommend first).

Pull up a picture and while viewing it on the rear LCD screen press the **OK** button
Scroll up or down until you have **D Lighting highlighted** and press **OK**
Use the multi selector to **choose one of the options** and press **OK**

This is how you turn on Active D Lighting

Go to the **shooting menu** which is the second one down on the left and looks like a camera
Scroll down to **Active D Lighting** and press **OK**
Choose one of the **five choices or OFF** and press **OK**

You will also notice in this area that you have other choices of different things that you can do to change your picture so experiment. Remember that any changes that you make and save will be saved to a copy and the original will stay unaltered. My suggestion would be to try regular D Lighting first and check out the results so that you have the original file still in tact or if you try the Active D Lighting first to go out and try it on several test shots before using it on any pictures you plan on keeping. This is another option that you have available to use if you are not someone that uses Photoshop or some other post processing software. As with all the tips my suggestion would be to give it a try and see if it is something that you like or not, Jeff

Tip #36 Getting a custom look to your pictures under many different situations

Getting a custom look to your pictures under many different situations

In tip #22, I discussed using the different settings in the **SHOOTING MENU** under the sub listing **PICTURE CONTROLS**. You have a choice between Standard, Neutral, Vivid, Monochrome, Portrait, or Landscape. If you have tried using any of these settings and they were close but not exactly the look you wanted than this tip is for you. With the Nikon D7000 you have the ability to pick one of the selections and adjust and tweak it to get exactly the look you want and then save it in one of the nine custom locations available. The D7000 gives you the ability to name and customize nine different looks so your pictures will give you just the feeling you want with just the touch of a button. If you add any custom picture controls they will be added to the six different choices already listed under **PICTURE CONTROL**. This is another one of the many advanced features of the D7000 that will give you the ability to get your picture to have your own special look or style.

Here is how you do it

Go to the **SHOOTING MENU** which is the second one down on the left and looks like a camera and press the right arrow button

Next use the arrows on the multi function button to locate **Manage Picture Control** and press **OK**

Now highlight the **Save/edit** selection and press **OK**

Choose one of the six picture controls and then press the right arrow button

Use the multi selection button to **adjust each of the different settings** to get the effect you want and press the **OK** button to save the settings.

Now **choose one of the Save as locations** and press **OK**

Use the **multi selector button** to put in the name of your custom setting

When you are done adding the name you will need to press the **QUAL** button at the bottom left corner at the rear of your camera to save your setting with your new name and you are done

Now when you go to the shooting menu and select **PICTURE CONTROL** you will see your new custom named setting added to the bottom of the original list. Remember that you now not only have the original six options to choose from you will also have any custom settings that have been added.

This would be a good thing to add to **MY MENU** so you have quick access for changing settings. The **MY MENU** can be found at the six location down on the left hand side of the main menu. Hope this is something many of you will find useful, Jeff

Tip #37 Resetting your Nikon SB800 flash back to normal operation

Resetting your Nikon SB800 flash back to normal operation.

The SB800 can be used as a commander flash or as a remote. If you are in the middle of making adjustments to your SB800 and get confused or have had it set up and can't seem to get it back to the normal flash mode, then this is a tip you may find useful. I had been playing with the adjustments on my flash and had forgot about the changes. I arrived at a shoot this morning and my flash wouldn't fire due to the fact it was set up for remote use. I always carry a back up for everything but was determined to use my SB800 instead of my SB600 I keep as backup. Since I normally do not change setting much on my flashes I couldn't remember how to reset it to shoot normally. So I will tell you how to reset your SB800 and how I figured out what to do.

This is how to reset your flash quickly.

Hold down the mode and power buttons together for a few seconds and it will reset the flash back to normal operation.

This is how I figured out which buttons to hold down.

On the SB800 the flash has a little built in diffuser screen that can be pulled out and flipped down to defuse the light. If you look real close and grab it just right, when the diffuser is pulled out so you can flip it down on the light, you will see a little card that can also be pulled out with it that gives you some instructions on it which includes how to reset the flash back to normal operation.

This is a good tip to remember about the on board instructions because when you are in a hurry the correct buttons may not come to mind. By the way the SB600 does have the pull out diffuser but does not have the instruction information card, Jeff

I just got a D7000 yesterday and this thread has been SO helpful! I upgraded from a D60 and there's definitely a LOT to learn. There's one feature of the D60 that I can't seem to find on the D7000 and I was wondering if you could help. I like the preview of the picture to show on the display (for a few seconds) after I take it. Do you know a way to set it up to automatically display, or do I have to push the play button each time? Thanks again for putting together all of this info!!!

Here is how you do it

Go to the **Playback menu** which is the top menu on the left and press the right arrow on the multi function button

Next scroll down to **Image review** and press **OK**

Choose **on** and then press **OK**

If you want to change the length of time it stays on this is how you do it

Go to the **custom settings menu**. 3rd one down on left, looks like a pencil

Go down too **"C" Timers/AE lock** and press **OK**

Next scroll down to **"c4" Monitor off delay** and press **OK**

Highlight Playback and press OK

scroll down and highlight the amount of time you want and press OK and you are ready to go, Jeff

Note: the play button that turns ON playback when pressed will also turn it off if you press it again

Tip #38 What is the Diopter, where is it at and what does it do.

What is the Diopter, where is it at and what does it do.

If you have used DSLR cameras for a while you will probably already know the answer to these questions. If this is your first DSLR you may not have even noticed this very important little knob near the viewfinder. What it does is it allows you to adjust the focus in the viewfinder to match your eyesight so that everything you see in the viewfinder will be nice and sharp. This is especially important if you are manually focusing your camera. The reason I am writing about this is because I was amazed how many people either didn't know it was there or if they did, didn't know how to adjust it properly. Not having this adjusted to match your vision will really give you problems if you manually focus your shots so let's make sure you know where it is and how to adjust it.

Where you can find the Diopter knob

You will generally always find the small knob near the top right hand side of your viewfinder. It is very small and will usually have little ridges on it to make it easier to turn and adjust.

Here is how you adjust it to work with your eyesight

First turn your camera "ON" and remove the lens cap

Next find the little knob. I find it easiest to adjust it with my right thumb on the little button.

While looking through the viewfinder at the **information at the bottom of the screen**, adjust the knob until you get everything sharp and clear. **DO NOT USE** what is in your actual view to adjust this, only use the information bar at the bottom of the screen to make adjustments.

The reason for only using the information bar at the bottom of the screen and not the picture is that the camera may not be focused properly and if you use an unfocused picture to adjust this with it will make everything out of focus.

Remember if you use someone Else's camera and you manually focus that you need to adjust this first before shooting. Also, if you let someone else use your camera this would be a very important thing to check and reset before you start shooting again.

TIP #39 Finding a photo on your memory card in the camera

Finding a photo on your memory card in the camera

Have you ever gone on vacation for several days and taken hundreds of pictures and want to find one particular picture to look at? Well it can be a real challenge to find one picture out of hundreds that you have taken but there is a few things that you can do to make it easier. First of all you can narrow it down to a few days or even a single day by selecting that dates that you don't want to see and hiding them. Next you can view several pictures at a time by pressing the ISO button to help quickly narrow your search to find the picture you wanted to see. Each time you press the ISO button you will view a bigger selection of thumbnails of pictures you can see. If you want to verify that the thumbnail you have chosen is the correct one all you need to do is press the OK button and you will see it full size.

Here is how you do it.

Go to the **playback menu** which is the very top menu

Next toggle to the right and down to **Hide image** and **press OK**

Highlight **Select date** and **press OK** again

Toggle up and down within the dates to highlight the date or dates you want to hide and then press the right arrow on the multi selector button to select each date. As you scroll through the dates press the right arrow to select each date you want to hide.

Next press the **QUAL button** (Lower button on the left hand side of the camera) to confirm your choices and then **press OK to save**.

By doing this you will eliminate the days you do not want to see and view the remaining days by pressing the play button. Remember that these days will remain hidden from view until you go back and uncheck them. You can also choose All deselect all in step four above to be able to view all your pictures again. It would have been nice to be able to check the days that you want to see instead of hiding the ones that you do not want to look at but you don't have that option. If you have taken all your pictures in the same day there will only be a single day to choose and not multiple choices, Jeff

Tip #40 Try converting photos to black & white for a different look & feel

Try converting photos to black & white for a different look & feel

Have you ever taken a picture and thought to yourself, how would that look in black & white? Well with your D7000 it is easy to convert your images to black & white to give your photos an entirely different look right in your camera without any extra software. As always when you pick a picture and modify it the new version will be saved as a copy and you will still have the unchanged original to work with and it is easy and simple to do.

Here is how you do it.

First go to the main menu and choose the **RETOUCH MENU** which is the fifth menu down on the left side

Highlight **Monochrome** and press **OK**

Next **highlight Black-and-white** and press **OK** again

Next use the **multi function button** to choose the picture that you would like to change to black & white and press **OK**.

Note: if you need to see the thumbnail bigger to verify the picture you want just press the **QUAL button** in the lower left rear of the camera to see the image fill the screen.

Now you not only have the original photo but an additional photo converted to black & white and saved as a copy. Remember that anytime you alter a picture that you will see a little icon at the top of your LCD screen towards the left hand side that indicates you are looking at a retouched photo. The icon only shows up on your screen when viewing and is not on the actual photo that has been altered.

Tip #41 This tip is for people shooting more than one model camera.

This tip is for people shooting more than one model camera.

If you use a Nikon D7000 and any other camera model and possibly take the memory card out of one and use it in another or just pick up one of your spare cards out of your bag you could be in for a potential big problem. Lets say you have a card that was used in your other camera and there is still several shots left on the card that you need. Well if you place it in the D7000 and you have it set in the PLAYBACK MENU to play D7000 files or current files you will not see the files from the second camera during the review process with your camera.

So lets say you have placed this card in the D7000 and shoot some test shots and decide when you are done reviewing what **YOU CAN SEE ON THE CARD** you want to clear off and reformat the card to eliminate all the pictures you have just reviewed from your testing.

So the first thing you do is format the card and as you press the **"Yes I want to delete these photos option"** then you realize that there were other pictures on the card that you couldn't see that you still needed while viewing the test photos because your camera was set to view only D7000 pictures. This has the potential of being a disaster but it can easily be avoided.

Here is how you do it

First go to the **PLAYBACK MENU** which is the top menu and select **Playback folder** and press the right arrow on the **multi selection button**
Next select **ALL** and **press OK** and you are done

Now if you use memory cards that still have pictures on them from other cameras you will be able to see everything on the card in PLAY BACK and not miss any images. I always keep mine on the option of playing "ALL" of the pictures on the card so none of my pictures will get deleted by mistake. Remember if you cannot see them you could easily format the card and they are gone.

Tip #42 A simple tip that may save you money and headaches

A simple tip that may save you money and headaches

Have you ever set your tripod, extra flash, camera or other piece of equipment down and walked off and left it? If you have and an honest person finds it, how would they know how to get it back to you? Did you know that every year in, just in Disney World alone, the lost and found gets 3,500 digital cameras turned in each year and only about 25% of the items turned in are ever claimed. Disney does their best to locate the owner and send it back to them but most of the time have no idea who it belongs to. Be honest now, have you ever been out shooting around town and left your tripod or flash and drove off without it? There is a simple thing that you can do that just might help you get your item back. Often when someone finds an item their first thought is to try get it back to the owner but have no idea who that might be.

Here is what I do and it has worked for me.

Not everyone is honest and will attempt to return the item to it's owner but you can at least help them out by letting them know who the item belongs to. TIP.... You know those free stick on return labels that you get in the mail all the time, well just stick one of those on each of your pieces of equipment and you will give the finder your name and address to work with to help get it back to you or at least get in touch with you about what you want to do. You know that chargers and extra batteries are often forgotten in hotel rooms when you leave. I have a label on each of my batteries so if something drastic happens, even my camera will have my name and address on it. Did you know that if an item, even as big as a stroller is found at Disney World and they can verify the owner that the item will be shipped to the person and Disney will pay the shipping? The bottom line is that it can't be returned if the finder doesn't know who the owner is.

Tip #43 Setting your camera to take a picture only after focus has been acquired

Setting your camera to take a picture only after focus has been acquired

You have options within your menus to either let your shutter be activated at any time or you can set it to only take a picture after the focus has been acquired. Bare in mind that this means that the camera has focused on something but not necessarily the location that you wanted it to be. If you have used the wrong focus point or not continued to hold down the shutter button half way you could get a focus on something other than the desired location. This feature does not guarantee that the proper focus has been achieved but only that the camera will not take an image unless the camera is focused on something. It is up to you to get the camera focused on the right location and it is up to the camera to not take a picture unless the green focus light is on and the camera has something in focus.

You can set your camera to only take a picture after focus has been achieved in both AF continuous and AF single point focus individually.

Here is how you do it

Go to the **CUSTOM SETTINGS MENU** which is the 3rd one down on the left and looks like a pencil

Next choose a **Autofocus** and **press OK**

Next **select a1 AF-C priority selection and press OK, highlight Focus and press OK**

Next **select a2 AF-S priority selection and press OK, highlight Focus and press OK** and you are done.

You can choose to do one or both of these choices and your camera will not take a picture unless it has acquired focus on something. Remember it does not pick the subject to be in focus, it only prevents you from taking a picture without something being in focus. I have both of these set to focus on my cameras and see no reason you would ever want to have it otherwise, Jeff

Tip #44 Beware of UFOs when changing lenses

Beware of UFOs when changing lenses

We all know about being careful when changing lenses in dusty or damp locations but I just read on another forum about a culprit that may be just as bad or worse on your sensor. Remember that it is springtime and the fine pollen is floating and flying everywhere so be careful when and where you change lenses.

TIP... Be sure you are in a safe environment and point the opening to your camera down towards the floor when changing or removing your lens to help prevent something getting on your sensor. Remember that your camera or lens may be coated with pollen and may need to be cleaned BEFORE removing the lens to avoid transferring pollen on to your sensor. You just can't be too careful, Jeff

Tip #45 Sometimes your rear LCD screen lighting up is annoying to others

Sometimes your rear LCD screen lighting up is annoying to others

Have you ever been trying to watch your child's performance on a school play or anything else where the seating area is dark and between you and what you are trying to watch people are taking pictures? If you have, you have experienced all those bright, annoying and distracting LCD screens that light up after each picture to show a review of the picture just taken. Don't be one of these annoying people and simply turn off the rear LCD review option during the show. This LCD screen can easily and quickly be turned "OFF" and then turned right back "ON" after the show. This is another one of those items I would add to the "MY MENU" so it can be accessed very easily.

This is how you do it

Go to the **"PLAYBACK MENU"** which is the very top menu and press **OK**
Next scroll down to **"Image Review"** and **press OK** again
Next choose **"ON" or "OFF"** and **press OK**

If you need to know how to add this to MY MENU it was covered in tip #4 but I will place it here for your convenience

Here is how you do it

Go to **MY MENU** which is the six menu down on the left side and **press OK**
Scroll to ADD ITEMS and press OK
Next choose the **PLAYBACK MENU and press OK**
Next scroll down to **IMAGE REVIEW and press OK**
Press OK one more time to save it to **MY MENU**

Treat others like you would like to be treated and just turn off your LCD during the program. REMEMBER..... The only thing you have done by turning off the review option is that it will not automatically show you the picture for review after taking it. You still have the ability to press the play button to view your photos if needed,
Jeff

Tip #46 Sometimes you may not want the flash to fire in AUTO mode

Sometimes you may not want the flash to fire in AUTO mode

This tip is for those of you that have not gotten off of the auto mode selection yet. You may consider using this in conjunction with the last tip about turning off your auto photo review when shooting at plays or programs so you don't disturb others by your rear LCD lighting up. This only applies to those of you that use the green auto mode. The on board flash only reaches about 10ft. so if you are shooting from a longer distance than that **you may want to use the mode selection next to the GREEN AUTO mode between the GREEN AUTO and SCENE modes that looks like a circle with a lightning bolt with a line through it.**

This mode selection is full AUTO but just does not allow the on board flash to pop up or fire. This will allow you to use auto mode but eliminate the flash going off and annoying everyone with your flash that is not going to help out your picture taking anyway. In the other modes the flash will not operate unless you specifically turn it on. This Auto mode can be used anytime you want to take pictures in a low light situation and not want the flash to fire.

This feature is not on the D80 or D90 so if you are upgrading up from one of these or the D7000 is your first DSLR you may not be aware of this option. On the earlier models like the D80 or D90 you had to go into the menu to get the flash not to fire.

A lot of you will be using the more advanced modes or something other than FULL AUTO and this will not apply to you but if you use the GREEN AUTO mode this is a good thing to be aware of, Jeff

Tip #47 Accidentally shooting without a memory card in the camera

Accidentally shooting without a memory card in the camera

There is an option that will allow your camera to take a picture without a memory card in the camera and I believe it is the default setting. You do have the option, within your menus, to set the camera to **ONLY** take pictures if a card is actually in the camera and I would suggest making sure that you have this option turned on to prevent causing problems.

Here is how you do it

Go to **custom settings menu**. It is the third one down on the left and looks like a pencil and press **"OK"**

Next scroll down to **"f" Controls and press "OK"** again

Next scroll down to **f8 slot empty release lock and press "OK"** again

Select LOCK Released lock and press "OK" again

After following the instructions above your camera will not shoot or take a picture unless you have a SD card in the camera. I suggest setting this option and leaving it that way permanently. I cannot see any time that this would not be the preferred selection, Jeff

Tip #48 Ever wonder just what a particular menu selection does?

Ever wonder just what a particular menu selection does?

The Nikon D7000 has a very extensive menu system and can get a little overwhelming at times. A lot of times the menu system will give you several choices of settings to choose from and that allows you to have a lot of control over how your camera operates. The problem is knowing what each selection will do if chosen. If the menu system is getting a little mind boggling there is something that you can easily do that you may find very helpful when choosing different options in the menus.

This is what you do

You may or may not have noticed that the WB, ISO, and QUAL listed above the buttons to the left hand side of the rear LCD screen actually have something different on the top of the actual button itself. On the WB or (White Balance) button you will notice a question mark and a picture of a key right on the top of the actual button. This one button will act differently in different situations when it is pressed. For this tip we are interested in how pressing this button will help you out while in the menu system. While in the menu system pressing this button will activate the "?" function of the button and allow you to find out what the selection in the menu that you are viewing does. This is very helpful in determining if this selection is the menu item you need and are looking for or not. Next time you are looking through the menus try pressing the WB button to activate the "?" portion of that button and see if it just may give you some very helpful information.

Tip #49 You may find turning on the grid display in the viewfinder helpful

You may find turning on the grid display in the viewfinder helpful

In the very first Tip I told you how to use the Virtual Horizon to help keep your pictures level and to help you eliminate those pictures that slant. In this tip I will show you another option that you may find useful. In the menu system you can turn on a grid display that you can see in the viewfinder while composing your pictures that may help line up and keep things straight without using the virtual Horizon. The grid display is there without being distracting or annoying while shooting. I find it useful and leave mine on all of the time. Like all the tips or ideas in my thread it is something I would suggest trying out and if it is an option you don't like it is easily changed and removed.

Here is how you do it

Go to the **CUSTOM SETTINGS MENU** which is the third one down on the left that looks like a pencil and **press "OK"**

Go down to the **"D" Shooting/ display** and **press "OK"**

Go down to **"a2" Viewfinder grid display** and **press "OK" again**

Choose **"ON"** and **press "OK"**

Now, unless you repeat this and choose to turn the display "off" the grid will always be displayed in the viewfinder to help you keep things straight and level. Hopefully this is something you might find useful, Jeff

Tip #50 My focus point needs to stay active longer

This is TIP # 50, can you believe it? I would like to start off giving everyone a VERY BIG THANK YOU that takes the time to read the tips that I have written and also like to thank you for the nice comments in your replies on the forum, your E-Mails, and your PM's that you have sent me about the tips and that you are getting something useful out of them. As of this posting the Tips thread has been viewed 22, 050 times, which really amazes me at the interest shown. Some of this information you may have already known but hopefully everyone has managed to find a few new and helpful tips that you have benefited from. As long as continued interest is shown and I can think of new things to write about, I will keep posting. Thanks again to everyone for making this as successful as it has been, Jeff

My focus point needs to stay active longer

Pressing the shutter button down half way will activate your focus system in your camera. If you are in AF/S or single active focus point you can locate your focus point exactly where you want your point of focus to be, such as on a person's eye when taking a portrait. Where the problem comes in is that Nikon sets their cameras to turn the focus system off 4 seconds after being activated and this may not give you enough time to compose your shot and locate the focus point exactly where you need it. There is a very simple answer to this and it is to extend the length of time the meter stays on, or active, allowing you to locate it precisely where you want it. The amount of time your meter stays on can be adjusted or set anywhere from 4 seconds to forever. I have all my cameras set to stay on for 30 seconds and this is what I recommend you to do also. This should allow you plenty of time to use your multi selector button to locate your focus point in any of up to 39 different points you have to choose from. I will show you the steps on how to do this and you can choose any of the many different time delays that are listed in the menu. Setting your time longer will keep you from having to keep pressing the shutter half way down to get the focusing system turned back on. This tip can save you both time and aggravation, adding to the fun and enjoyment of taking pictures.

Here is how you do it

Go to the **CUSTOM SETTING MENU** which is the third one down on the left and looks like a pencil and **press "OK"**

Scroll to **Timers/AE lock** and **press "OK"** again

Scroll to **"c2" Auto meter-off delay** and **press "OK"**

Scroll up or down and highlight the desired length of time and **press "OK"** and you are done

From now on after pressing the shutter button down half way to activate the focusing system you will have however much time you have chosen in the menu to compose your shot and move the focus point with the multi selection switch to where you need it. My recommendation is to set it for 30 seconds but you can set the amount of time to whatever works best for you. Thanks go out to Armando who sent me a PM and reminded me about this for a tip, Jeff

Tip #51 After a couple of shots my flash quits working

After a couple of shots my flash quits working

Anytime I plan on doing some shooting I always make it a habit to check my batteries and memory cards and make sure they are ready to go. On my D7000 I can see just how much battery I have left in my camera and battery grip by looking in my menu. On the flashes I do not have that ability so I always have a spare set with me. Sooner or later you will find yourself getting ready to go and check the batteries in your flash by manually operating your flash two or three times to make sure it is working. The problem with checking your flash out using this method is that if your flash has been sitting around for a while that it will probably have just enough energy stored up for two or three quick flashes and then it will go dead leaving you stranded as far as using your flash. The only way to be sure you are covered and not get caught in this position is to always have spare batteries on hand. Finding out the batteries are down when you start to shoot can be a disaster. Your D7000 will show you in the LCD screen approximately how much battery life your camera still has but checking it through the menu is much more accurate,

Here is how you do it

Go to the **SETUP MENU** which is the fourth one down on the left and looks like a wrench and **press "OK"**

Scroll down to **Battery info** and **press "OK" again**

After reading the info **press "OK"** one more time

I have added the battery information to "MY MENU" (covered in tip #4) so I can easily check to see the status of my batteries. If you have a battery grip with a battery installed it will give you the status of each battery separately. Remember to ALWAYS bring extra batteries for your flash so you don't get caught without the use of your flash. This is a very simple and common sense tip but one if you do not use, will sooner or later come back to cause you big problems. Just in case your wondering, yes I have had this happen to me, Jeff

Tip #52 Obtaining FOCUS LOCK and EXPOSURE LOCK separately

Obtaining FOCUS LOCK and EXPOSURE LOCK separately

Normally when you press the shutter half way down on your camera it will meter for the scene and set the focus. Sometimes it would be nice to split these functions up and do them separately. You can choose and assign many buttons on the D7000 to do what you want but for this tip we are going to use the AE-L, AF-L button that is located just to the right of the viewfinder. This and other buttons can be programmed to do many different things in several combinations. For the purpose of this tip we will only talk about programming the AE-L, AF-L button to lock and hold the exposure leaving the shutter button to set the focus.

Here is how you do it

Go to the **CUSTOM SETTING MENU** which is the third one down on the left that looks like a pencil and **press "OK"**

Scroll down to **"f" Controls** and **press "OK" again**

Scroll down to **"f5" Assign AE-L/AF-L button** and **press "OK" again**

Scroll down to **AE lock (Hold)** and **press "OK"** and you are done.

This is the option I like to use and is only one of the many options available to you in the menu. You can get a brief explanation of each choice in the menu by highlighting the option and pressing the button to the left side of the rear LCD screen that has the "?" question mark on it. If you go with the option above you will still be able to shoot your camera like you always have and press the shutter down half way to lock in both the meter reading and the focus just as you always have.

The difference now is that you have a second option of choosing the exposure, recomposing and then locking in the focus separately, all you need to do is press and release the AF-E, AF-L button first, locking in the exposure, then recomposing and pressing and the shutter button to obtain focus. In using this option the exposure will stay locked until the picture is taken or the meter has timed out and shuts off. How to extend the time the meter stays active was covered in Tip #50.

Remember that by setting up your camera as described above that you have only added a second option of obtaining EXPOSURE AND FOCUS LOCK separately allowing for better lighting and composition. You will still be able to operate them together like you have always done by pressing the shutter button half way down just like you were able to do before adding this additional option, Jeff

Tip #53 Ever have the EV setting seem to change by itself?

Ever have the EV setting seem to change by itself?

Have you ever been taking pictures and notice that the EV compensation setting shows a minus or plus value when viewing your pictures in the camera and you haven't changed it? You wonder why this happened so you set it back to zero and notice a few shots later that the EV compensation value has changed again when reviewing your picture? You keep resetting it back to zero but it seems to keep changing on it's own giving you over or under exposed photos. Well I have the answer to this and it is easily fixed. Just to ease your mind I will confirm that it has nothing to do with demons taking over the camera either. What has happened is that your camera has been changed to **EASY EXPOSURE COMPENSATION** in the menu which allows you to change the EV Compensation using only the rear command dial by itself without holding down the "plus-minus" button on the top of the camera. If you do not realize this option is selected and bump or turn the rear command dial, it will either add or subtract compensation to your photo, either making your photos over or under exposed without you realizing what is going on. **I DO NOT RECOMMEND** setting your camera up for this due to the potential of bumping the rear command dial and this getting changed accidentally. To check how your camera is set, look at the steps below.

Here is how you do it

Go to the **CUSTOM SETTING MENU** which is the third selection down on the left that looks like a pencil and **press "OK"**

Scroll down to **"b" Metering/exposure** and **press "OK"**

Scroll down to **"b3" Easy exposure compensation** and **press "OK"**

Make sure **"OFF"** is selected and **press "OK"** again and you are done.

By making sure the "EASY EXPOSURE COMPENSATION" is turned "OFF", you will not be able to accidentally change the setting preventing unwanted setting changes being made. Having this set up option turned on and not realizing it can drive you crazy trying to figure out what is causing you the problems, Jeff

Tip #54 Seeing your ISO in the viewfinder

Seeing your ISO in the viewfinder

It is very handy to be able to see the F-stop and shutter speed in the viewfinder while you are shooting to help you know what your camera is set on but you are leaving out one very important piece of information. It would also be nice to see what ISO your camera is using. It can be very disappointing shooting a large series of pictures only to find out that the ISO was set above normal from your last shoot and you didn't realize it or that the auto ISO has jumped it up and you didn't notice.

I find it very helpful to be able to see the F-stop, shutter speed and the ISO so you can get a complete picture of what is going on each time you look through the viewfinder. If you would like to add being able to view the ISO also to see all three settings this tip will show you how.

Here is how you do it

Go to the **CUSTOM SETTING MENU** which is the third one down on the left that looks like a pencil and **press "OK"**

Next highlight **"d" Shooting/display** and press "OK" again

Next highlight **"a3" ISO display and adjustment** and **press "OK"**

Highlight **Show ISO sensitivity** and **press "OK"** again and you are done

From now on you will be able to see what ISO setting your camera is on both in the viewfinder and in the LCD display on the top of your camera. If you choose to set your camera up this way the ISO will be shown in place of your remaining picture count in the top LCD screen. To view the remaining photo count, you will need to access it now by pressing the INFO button which will display both the remaining photo count and the ISO on the rear LCD screen. I find it more useful to be able to see the ISO while shooting than seeing the photo count on the top screen. I have my cameras set this way and would highly recommend trying it, Jeff

Tip #55 Assigning the role played by the second SD slot

Assigning the role played by the second SD slot

With the Nikon D7000 you have the ability to have two SD cards in your camera at the same time. The second slot can be assigned to be used for overflow so when the first card gets filled it will start placing images in the second card. It can also be assigned as backup so that it will have a duplicate copy of what has been taken on the card in slot one. A third option is to have RAW Slot 1 - JPEG Slot 2. I personally choose to use slot #2 for overflow. If you choose the overflow option the remaining photo count that shows on your LCD screen will only show shots remaining on the active card and NOT the total remaining on both cards. To set this up follow the steps below.

Here is how you do it

Go to the **SHOOTING MENU** which is the second one down on the left and **press "OK"**. Scroll down to **"Roll played by card in slot 2"** and **press "OK"**. Highlight the option you wish to use and **press "OK"** and you are done.

There is a good possibility that you already knew all of this and have it set in your camera. My Tip for this post is to let you know that you have one more option that was not listed and you may not know about that you can do with slot #2. If you like to shoot video and want to increase your chances of not having your video interrupted by running out of memory you have one more option. Take one of the SD cards that you have with the larger memory capacity and place it in slot #2 and go with the additional option that wasn't listed above.

Here is how you do it

Go to the **SHOOTING MENU** which is the second one down on the left and **press "OK"**. Scroll down to **Movie settings** and **press "OK"**. Next highlight **Destination** and **press "OK"** again. Now choose **(2) Slot 2** and **press "OK"** and you are done.

By choosing this option, all of your videos will be placed all together on the second card and will make it easier to keep up with. If you noticed it will also show you the amount of recording time that is available on that card. Your movies clips will be of many different lengths of time up to the maximum of 20 minutes and keeping up with how much memory you have used on this card and how much is remaining can be a problem. The answer to this is to just come back to this same location and it will show you just how much recording time is now remaining on this card. Checking the time remaining every once in a while should keep you from running out of memory during an important recording session.

If you take a lot of video and choose this option I would also like to suggest that you add this in your "MY MENU", (covered in Tip #4), so you can easily and quickly check your second card for the remaining record time you have available. I think this is going to be a very helpful tip for those who choose to use it, Jeff

Tip #56 I think I might give the video a try

I think I might give the video a try

I am going to give you this tip in the form of a story. I purchased my first good camera back in 1971 and it was a Nikon F 35mm. Over the years I have taken thousands of pictures and really enjoyed my photography. I made the move to digital in about 2005. A few years later when I bought my first camera that did video I just kept on shooting stills and had not tried to do any video. While at a location where I was taking pictures of a man singing and playing a guitar I thought that now might be a good time to try the video out. I had been shooting many of my still shots in portrait style to fill the frame up to make the shot more interesting. I had a senior moment and turned my camera vertical and started watching the rear LCD screen and recording the guitar player. Well for my first try at taking a video I found out three important pieces of information. 1st the sound came out pretty good and I was happy with it. 2ND the picture quality seemed very good to me also, and 3rd I had two options for viewing my video on the TV. I could either lay on the couch and watch my great video or turn the TV on it's side because you DO NOT TAKE VIDEO IN PORTRAIT STYLE because it comes out sideways on the screen.

The point of telling you this is that many of us buy equipment and wait until it is time to actually use it before trying it out and learning how it works. My Tip for today is to learn how your equipment works and experiment BEFORE the actual time you need it like I did so you eliminate all the surprises that may keep you from capturing those important memories.

After 40 some years of taking still pictures and not shooting any video, it just seemed natural to turn my camera vertical to frame the shot better. I can tell you that this works well for stills but not so great for video. Fortunately for me I tried my first attempt at video on a subject that really didn't matter whether I got it or not. So many people wait until the important event comes up that they want pictures or video of only to find out they don't know how to operate the equipment they have and either get unusable shots or none at all.

I cannot tell you the amount of times that I have been at an event and watched people that didn't even know how to turn on their camera much less get a picture after they figure out that first important step.

Here is how you do it

Get camera out of box

Read manual

Experiment and learn how to operate camera

Actually use your camera and get familiar with it BEFORE those special events in your life come up

Capture memories that you can keep forever

If you apply this tip with each and every piece of equipment you purchase you will find that your ratio of great memories that you can capture will go up instead of your blood pressure, Jeff

Tip # 57 Getting some help with manual focusing

Getting some help with manual focusing

I myself always use auto focus and find that it does an exceptional job on getting sharp pictures. I also use single focus just about 100% of the time. Some people prefer to use manual focus just because they like it, or because they are using non auto focus lenses or might just be shooting macro shots. TIP, if you like using manual focus you can get some assistance by watching the green light, IN FOCUS INDICATOR, that is visible in the lower left hand corner of the viewfinder. This green light lights up when the camera is in focus whether you are using AUTO or MANUAL lenses and can be very helpful as a focusing aid. You can also get an audible beep that can be adjust in volume that will also let you know when focus has been achieved. I will show how to turn "ON" or "OFF" the beep and adjust the volume below.

Here is how you do it

Go to the **CUSTOM SETTING MENU** which is the third one down on the left and looks like a pencil and **press "OK"**

Next scroll to **"d" Shooting/display and press "OK"**

Scroll to **"a1" Beep and press "OK" again**

Choose **Volume** and **press "OK" again**

Choose the **level of sound** you want and **press "OK"** one more time and you are done

My personal preference is to shoot on AUTO FOCUS with the audible beep turned off. I have tried shooting in manual and have not had very much luck using my eyes and in comparison have never had the AUTO FOCUS fail me. In many different shooting situations the beep can be annoying and distracting so I choose to leave it off.

Tip #58 Be careful adjusting the brightness of the rear LCD screen

Be careful adjusting the brightness of the rear LCD screen

When you use your camera out in the bright sun and try and review a recent shot to check it out it is often difficult to see the picture. One of the things that you can do to help this out is to turn the brightness up on the rear viewing screen and many of us have done this. The good thing about adjusting this is that it will allow you to see your photo easier. The down side to making this or any adjustments to the rear screen is that it will brighten up the picture you are viewing and give you an unrealistic impression of your picture and maybe cause you to make adjustments to your exposures that will actually mess up your picture. This will have even more negative effect when viewing inside or in dark places possibly making you think the picture is over exposed and in need of adjustment.

Tip. Making brightness adjustments is totally up to you how the camera is set up but I did want to make you aware of the possible down side of making such adjustments. I will show you below how to check your brightness and set it.

Here is how you do it

Go to the **SETUP MENU** which is the fourth one down on the left and looks like a wrench and press "OK"

Scroll to LCD brightness and press "OK" again

Use up and down arrows in **multi selector button to select brightness and the press "OK"** one last time and you are done.

Remember that by adjusting the brightness of the rear LCD screen you will get a false impression of what your picture looks like and may make unnecessary adjustments to a picture that really doesn't need anything done to it. Jeff

Tip #59 Adjusting exposure compensation

Adjusting exposure compensation

The D7000 has a very good metering but it still might need some help in certain situations as due all cameras. After all it is just a piece of equipment and will give you the exposure it thinks you need for the shot and is right most of the time. This means that the camera will average out the light for an entire shot and give you the settings it thinks you need.

Sometimes you will find that with certain conditions such as a mostly light or mostly dark situation that the camera may be off a little on the lighting. You can help it out by using the "+ -" plus - minus button on the top of your camera and either adding or subtracting to your exposure to make it correct. Using the exposure compensation will allow you to either add or subtract light as needed to get the lighting right for this particular lighting situation. I will show you how it is done and explain what changes below.

Here is how you do it

To over ride what your camera thinks is needed all you need to do is press and **hold down the PLUS MINUS button on top of the camera** near the lower right hand side of the shutter button and **rotate the rear command dial as needed**. If you are in Aperture Priority mode, making adjustments to the Exposure Compensation will change the shutter speed to accomplish what you need so be aware of this when making changes. On the other hand if you are in Shutter Priority mode, adjusting the Exposure compensation will change the Aperture or (F stop) to make the adjustment. You may find you need as little as a 1/3 stop adjustment or in some cases up to maybe a full couple of F stops to get the job done.

Remember that this compensation will remain this way on ALL FUTURE pictures until you set it back to "0" so don't forget to reset this adjustment back to normal. Make sure you read and understand tip #58 first so you are not looking at a altered exposure to judge by. Jeff

Tip #60 Tired of having to hold a button down while turning a dial to make adjustment

Tired of having to hold a button down while turning a dial to make adjustments

There are several adjustments on the D7000 that require you to hold a button down while turning either the command or sub command dial to adjust settings. If you find this awkward or difficult to do you have another option. An example of this is changing the ISO. Normally to do this you would press and hold down the ISO button and turn the rear command dial to make the adjustment. You do have an option in the menu that will allow you to press and release the button to lock the ISO and then turn the command dial separately. If you choose to change this in the menu it will work this way on any adjustment that normally requires you to press and hold down a button while turning a dial. After the adjustment is made you will need to press the initial button one more time to unlock this feature.

This is how you do it

Go to the **CUSTOM SETTINGS MENU** which is the third one down on the left and looks like a pencil and **press "OK"**

Scroll down to **"f Controls"** and **press "OK"** again

Scroll down to **"f7" Release button to use dial and press "OK"**

Select **"Yes"** and **press "OK"** and you are done

From now on, any function that requires you to hold down a button and turn a dial at the same time will now allow you to press and release the button and turn the dial separately. If you choose this option, remember to go back and press the first button one more time to UNLOCK that feature after the adjustment is made. I myself do not use this feature but for some it might be useful. If you try this and do not find it useful, repeat the above directions and select "No" to turn it off. Jeff

Tip #61 Reversing your "-"minus and "+"plus indicators

Reversing your "-"minus and "+"plus indicators

Most people, at least in the United States, are accustomed to seeing "-" negative numbers or indicators on the left and "+" positive indicators to the right on a screen or graph like is used for your meter readings. Tip.... Nikon sets theirs the other way around. Did you know if you think that it would look more natural and be more of what you are accustomed to looking at the other way around you can easily reverse these indicators to make it look more like what you are use to seeing.

Here is how you do it

Go to **CUSTOM SETTINGS MENU** which is the third menu down on the left that looks like a pencil and **press"OK"**

Scroll down to **"f" controls and press "OK"** again

Scroll down to **"f9" Reverse indicators and press "OK"**

Next choose how you would like the indicators to appear, press "OK" and your done

How you choose the way the indicators are displayed is totally up to personal taste and what you might feel more comfortable looking at. If you would like to try it, just remember that this is like all the other options that the D7000 has to offer and that it can easily be changed back if you do not like it this way. This is a small adjustment but one that may make it easier to work with your camera. Jeff

Tip #62 Quick check list to use before shooting

Quick check list to use before shooting

Something that we have all experienced during our time taking pictures and using camera equipment is leaving some or all of your camera settings set the same from the last time you were using the camera. As the cameras become more advanced, and the options increase, the odds of messing up by not checking the settings get greater. I was asked earlier in one of the posts if I had a check check list to go by to help prevent this from happening so I wrote down some of the things I check before shooting each time. No matter how much experience you have or how long you have been shooting it has already happened or will happen to you and mess up some pictures if you do not get in the habit of checking your settings before each use.

In **Tip #26 "Quick Check all your settings BEFORE each time you shoot"** this was all covered. In this tip I will remind you one more time of the importance of checking and give you a list of things that you can print out and keep with you that may help remind you of settings to look at and check.

Here is my list

Camera & equipment check list

Is my white balance where I will want it
How about that ISO setting
Is you EV compensation set back to normal
Shutter speed not set to very high or very slow speed from last use
If you shoot in Aperture priority, is the F-stop what you want it set on for shooting today?
Image quality set? Raw, JPEG fine, normal, basic
Auto focus set how you want it
Matrix, spot or center weighted OK?
What is the flash set on and is it set on what you will be needing
batteries charged and ready to go and in the camera
enough memory to do the job
Is the lens clean and free of dust and smudges and extra lens cloths with you
If you are new to the camera or photography, do you need the manual

Equipment

All camera bodies and lenses in your bag that you will want or need?
Tripod and quick adapter plates for your camera in the bag
Flash with extra batteries with you. Flash manual along just in case.
Remotes, reflectors and other equipment ready and packed to go
Filters if you plan to use them

You may think of things to add as time goes on but this will give you a good start.
Jeff

Tip #63 Using Live View to frame your shot and get correct exposure

Using Live View to frame your shot and get correct exposure, UPDATED VERSION

This tip is to tell you how you can adjust your exposure in LIVE VIEW and view your settings changes and also in "M" mode see how the setting changes effect your picture on the rear LCD screen. You can make changes in the shutter speed by turning the rear command dial. The front sub command dial will change the f-stop and the ISO can be changed by holding down the ISO button and turning the rear command dial.

Each and every time I write up a tip I try it with my own camera to make sure that it will work correctly. When I tried this tip before I posted it it seemed to work just fine. I went to my weekly photography meeting to show them and it is acting different now that what I remember it doing when I wrote the tip. Right now this is how mine works. **All the examples below are in Live Mode.**

"M" you can change the shutter speed or the ISO and see the effect it has on the picture shown on the rear LCD screen. You cannot change the aperture.

"A" mode you can change the aperture or the ISO setting and it will adjust the shutter speed automatically. You will not be able to see changes on the picture that is on the rear LCD screen because each change that you make the camera automatically changes something else to get what it thinks is the correct exposure so the settings will change but the amount of light will remain the same.

"S" mode you can change the shutter speed or the ISO and will see the F-stop change automatically by the camera to correct for the light. You will see no difference on the screen.

"P" mode in Live View will actually be the same as "S" mode above in Live View

The reason you will see the changes in settings in A,S, and P and not see a change it the picture is due to the camera automatically making another change to keep the exposure the same. In the "M" mode there is no automatic function that the camera does in reaction to the changes you make so the exposure on the screen will be effected by each single setting change that you make.

I am going to delete the previous version of this tip to cut down on any confusion it may have caused. Jeff

Tip #64 Try this when focusing is critical

Try this when focusing is critical

This tip is for when you want to get critical extra pin point focus on an object. You might want to consider using the live view option to fine focus on small objects or when you want to get that really tack sharp focus on your subjects eye when shooting a portrait or when shooting close up macro type shots.

Here is how to do it

Turn on live view place your camera in manual, turn off auto focus. The tip for doing this is to frame your picture FIRST then zoom in on exactly what you want in focus by pressing the the QUAL or "+" button on the lower back left hand corner of the camera. This will allow you to manually focus on the exact point that you want to be the sharpest in your image. Framing your shot first and then zooming in to do your critical focusing dose not change how you had your shot framed up, it only gives you a smaller and closer area to focus on. The picture itself will remain framed just as it was before zooming in to focus. This will work best when using a tripod.

As with all tips, just give it a try and see if you find it useful. It can be used in many different situations but closeup and portraits are two times it may come in very handy. Jeff

Tip #65 A very simple but helpful tip when using your tripod

A very simple but helpful tip when using your tripod

One of my favorite types of photography is nighttime or available light photography. When I get through shooting I have a tendency to remove my tripod from my camera and place it in the rear of my car and put my camera in front with me so I can take it in and check out my pictures when I get home. After looking at my pictures I remove the quick connect that attaches my camera to the tripod and it gets set on my desk to be put up latter. The problem with this method is several times when I went out to shoot the next time my quick connect was still on my desk. I had the tripod, camera and everything else but did not have the quick connect. This became a big problem and needed to be fixed

Here is what I did.

Now I have an extra quick connect that I leave mounted to my longer lens which makes it easy to attach to a tripod when needed. The thing that helped me the most, and the simple tip for this week, is remove the quick connect from the camera when your done shooting and attach back it to the tripod. I have gotten in the habit of doing this and now I never have a tripod without the quick connect right where I need it. I leave my tripod in the car and the quick connect on the tripod and have not had the is problem come up again. This is a very simple tip but one that has been very beneficial to me. You can have all the cameras, lenses and tripods you want but if the quick connect is not with you, you are can't shoot at night with your tripod. Jeff

Tip #66 A great book to get on the Nikon D7000

A great book to get on the Nikon D7000

I like to learn as much as I can about each and every camera that I purchase. The Nikon D7000 is no exception so after getting the camera my research began on which book that would help me learn as much as I could about my new camera. I read many reviews on several books and decided to purchase **"Mastering the Nikon D7000" By Darrell Young**. I am sure there are many books out there but this 479 page book covers everything and does it very well. It is written in easy to understand language and has many photos that show you just what to do.

Here is what to do

My tip for today is to purchase this book and learn as much about your camera as you can. The more you know and can get out of your camera the more enjoyment you will have. I very highly recommend this book. Jeff

Tip #67 Protecting your rear LCD screen

Protecting your rear LCD screen

Many of us are very protective with our cameras and like to keep them looking as good as possible. The D7000 comes with a plastic protective cover MB-11 for the rear LCD screen that many of us leave on to help prevent the screen from getting scratched. Actually this cover was designed to protect the rear screen during shipping. I leave mine on all the time because I just like the protection it provides but it can cause you problems without occasionally taking it off and cleaning it. If any sand or debris gets between the screen and protector and any pressure is applied to the plastic cover it can actually scratch the screen worse than not having it on at all.

Here is this weeks tip and my recommendation

I leave my protective cover in place but after being in a situation where something might get under the cover such as sand on a visit to the beach or debris from a trip through the woods I remove the cover and clean it and the rear glass so there is nothing that might be caught between the two to rub and scratch the glass on my screen. I like leaving the protective cover on but it does need to be kept clean to not make it defeat the purpose for leaving it on in the first place. Jeff

Tip #68 Selecting a UV filter

Selecting a UV filter

There are two different theories on whether to use a UV filter to help protect your lens or to not add another piece of glass in front of a good lens because it will degrade the picture. I understand both points of view and both have good reasons for using a filter or not. This tip is not to discuss the pros or cons of using a UV filter but to give you a VERY IMPORTANT TIP if you decide that using a UV filter to help protect your lens is the way to go. I will say that I do have a UV filter on all of my lenses. This tip is to let you know that if you do decide that using a filter is the way to go that there are two important things to keep in mind. First thing you need to know is that the UV filters for a digital camera ARE DIFFERENT than ones used on a film camera. If you purchase the wrong one or try using a filter that you have used in the past on your film camera it will really degrade the picture. A digital camera MUST have a filter designed to work on a digital camera or you will get very unsatisfactory results. Second thing you need to do is buy a better UV filter and stay away from the cheap ones. If you have a decent lens, using a cheap filter will degrade the quality of pictures that you get.

Several years ago when I purchased my Nikon 70-300VR lens they gave me a filter to go with it. The problem was that every time I used that lens I was getting soft pictures and was unhappy with my results. After 3 or 4 times shooting with this lens of a period of several months I made the decision to have a friend of mine sell this lens on Ebay just to get rid of it. On the way to give it to him I got the bright idea to just take the filter off and shoot a couple of frames to see if there was any improvement and all I can say is WOW, what a difference. What I discovered is that they had mistakenly given me a UV filter for a film camera. I took it back and they exchanged it for a UV filter designed for a digital camera and now the pictures are nice and sharp. Up until this time I was unaware that there was a difference in the type of filters needed for digital cameras. The tip for this week is to make sure you have the right accessories designed for the equipment that you are using it with. Jeff

Tip #69 Additional AUTO ISO information

Additional AUTO ISO information

In tip #20 I talked about setting the Auto ISO up so that it would only go up to a level that you find acceptable and not go beyond. I also talked about setting the minimum shutter speed. This tip is to give you some additional information concerning these settings.

Additional information you might find useful.

The default for the highest Auto ISO is 6400 if you do not go in and choose to lower this in the menus. If you are in "P" mode or Program mode, the camera will have control over the shutter speed and the Aperture or "F" stop being used. If you are using "A" or Aperture mode, which I use a lot, the camera will control the shutter speed and you will have the control over the aperture or "F" stop. In either one of these modes if your camera reaches the maximum ISO that you have set and still cannot get enough light the camera will actually override the minimum shutter speed and go lower to be able to get enough light to get the picture. You need to be aware of this because there is a potential of going to slow a shutter speed and blurring your picture.

There is also one other piece of information that you might find useful. After you set the maximum auto ISO setting that you want you can also pick the minimum ISO that you would like the camera to use. let's say that you have chosen the max AUTO ISO setting to be 3200, you can now go back and choose for example a regular ISO setting of maybe 400. When you do this you camera will shoot everything from a min ISO setting of 400 up to the max setting of the 3200 that was set in our example. Any time you are in AUTO ISO the camera will always try and use the lowest ISO that it has available to get the picture that you are trying to take. Hope you might find this additional information helpful. Jeff

This is a corrected post. In the original post I had written up what "A" and "P" mode do backwards. I made the mistake of trying to write up a tip while keeping track of the storm Isaac on the TV. I just want to give a BIG THANK YOU to Raymond for reading my tips thread and sending me a PM asking about it. I have swapped what the two modes do in the post so that it now reads correctly. Sorry about any confusion about how it was written up. Out of 38,000 views and 69 tips I think that this one is the first one I have had to correct and feel very lucky about that. I knew sooner or later it would probably happen. I read every tip several times and check them before posting so that you can rely on the information to be accurate.

I would like to thank all of the people that take the time to read my tips and also for the many positive E-mails and PM's I receive about them. One more time, thanks to Raymond for asking me about the tip so I could correct the information. Jeff

Tip #70 My camera just went nuts!!!

My camera just went nuts!!!

I have owned the D80, D90, and the D7000 and at one time or another I have been taking pictures and everything just goes nuts. I think all three of these cameras are very nice but all three have caused this same problem while I have been shooting. I will be taking pictures, especially in portrait position, with the camera tilted on it's side, and things will just go nuts on the exposure right in the middle of taking pictures. The problem I have found with all three is that the mode dial turns too easy and can be bumped and turned into a totally different picture taking mode causing me problems. I wish that the dial either was stiffer to turn or had a lock button on it. It also has a tendency to get bumped into a different position while placing in or removing it from your camera bag.

Here is what to do.

Tip... Check it each time before shooting or taking out of your bag to make sure it hasn't been changed to something you do not want. Also remember to check it once in a while during shooting. If you look at you rear screen to preview a picture and the lighting is way off this would be the first thing I would check. Jeff

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Tip #71 Choosing a SD card for your Nikon D7000

Choosing a SD card for your Nikon D7000

I have been using SanDisk Class 10 Extreme 30mb cards in my D7000. I normally do not shoot in burst mode but the other day I was photographing some birds in flight and thought that I would try doing some bursts and was disappointed in the ability of my camera to keep up with a continuous burst. I was shooting Raw/ fine JPEG and would only get about 10 or 11 shots before it started slowing way down. I did some research on the SanDisk Extreme Pro class 10 cards that show 95mb/s read and 45mb/s write speed and thought that might help me out. I had read several reviews that said that this card would really make a difference so I purchased two of them to give them a try. Well I received them today and compared the two expecting that a noticeable increase in the ability for my camera to keep up.

This is the results of what I found

This is not scientific but only my attempt to find out the difference between the two cards.

SanDisk Extreme Class 10, 30mb/s card results. 10 to 11 shots in a burst before slowing way down taking RAW/Fine JPEG and about 18seconds before the green light went out on my camera

SanDisk Extreme Pro Class 10, 95mb/s read speed with 45mb/s write speed results. 10 to 11 shots before slowing way down taking RAW/FINE JPEG and about 14 seconds before my green light went out on my camera

The Extreme Pro was about 4 seconds faster at being ready to take more pictures. I did not compare the two on how fast they downloaded pictures to my computer but I would expect the Pro to do a faster job. Jeff

Tip #72 Should I have my lens's VR turned on or off when shooting on a tripod

Should I have my lens's VR turned on or off when shooting on a tripod

Recently I decided to take my Nikon 20-200VR F2.8 with my TC 20E III 2x teleconverter out to see how sharp the results would be. I don't use a tripod very often due to having such steady hands so I proceeded to place my combination of lens and teleconverter on my tripod and shoot away. After taking the pictures home using this combination I looked at them on my home computer and was not impressed because the pictures were not as sharp as I was expecting. I remember taking some pictures handheld with much better results than I got while shooting on my tripod. I was shooting using my tripod expecting to see the best results but it was not to be. I rounded up my equipment and decided to go out and try this again and on the way out to shoot a light went off in my brain and the answer hit me, I was shooting using my tripod with the VR still turned on!!! After turning the VR off the shots on the tripod were much better and reasonably sharp even with the teleconverter on.

I have two tips for this week about using your lens's VR setting. 1stTURN IT OFF when shooting on your tripod and 2nd remember to TURN IT BACK ON when shooting handheld shots because in both cases IT DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE. Jeff

Tip #73 What would you do if your battery or charger quit working?

What would you do if your battery or charger quit working?

The D7000 along with most of the cameras have a battery designed just for them or maybe a couple of different models. One of the first things I purchase when I get a camera is an additional battery and battery charger so I will always have a backup. I have discussed this before on the forums and was told that they have never had a problem with a battery or charger going bad and I must say that I haven't either. The point of this tip suggesting you to get the extra battery and charger is that you need to ask the question, if one of them did go bad what would you do? I know a lot of us have backup cameras that we could use but many people do not have this option. What would happen if you were on a special photo shoot or just on a fun family vacation and one of these items went bad and put your camera out of service. The point of this tip is to get you to think about what you would do if one of the two quit working. Are you ever in a position that this could be a problem? Having a camera without power is useless so just think about how this would effect you personally. Another option that some of us have is the battery grip that can use AA batteries but most of the people that own the D7000 probably do not have the addition option that the grip provides and if you do not have the extra tray for the AA batteries with you it still cannot be done. How many of us have the option to use the AA batteries for emergency backup but do not have the tray available.

I know that the extra battery and charger are not cheap but you have to ask yourself, at the point that one of these items go bad, what would one of these items be worth at that point. Jeff

Tip #74 My shutter speeds in "M" and "S" modes won't go over 320

My shutter speeds in "M" and "S" modes won't go over 320

I am going to tell you about an experience I had lately and the problem I was having with my camera and also let you know what was causing the problem and what it took to fix it. Recently I was out shooting with my D7000 and had my Nikon 70-200VR F2.8 on the camera with a Nikon 20E III 2x teleconverter. I was shooting handheld and wanted to get my shutter speed up around 1000 or 1500 but my camera would not let me go over a speed of 320. I looked in the menu and noticed that I had the high speed flash sync set to 320 so I figured this had something to do with my problem. When I pressed the rear info button so I could check the settings on the rear LCD screen I noticed that in the upper left hand corner of the screen there was an "S" indicating I was in SHUTTER PRIORITY mode and to the right it read 320 for a shutter speed, but between the two was an "X" which I had never seen before. My camera would not let me go beyond this shutter speed in either "M" or "S" modes. I tried changing to a different shutter speed and whatever speed I chose is where the shutter speed would not go past and the "X" remained on the screen.

Now for the cause and how to eliminate the problem

I will not go into all the things I tried and people that I talked to trying to fix this problem but will explain what was causing it. When you are in "S" or "M" mode and you turn the dial going toward the slower shutter speeds, if you keep going to a longer and longer shutter time you will eventually get to a 30 second exposure and when you past that the next thing that will appear is the speed that you have your HIGH SPEED FLASH SYNC SPEED set at with an "X" next to it. The problem was that somehow my rear command dial had been turned enough to get me past the slower shutter speeds and reach this speed that had the "X" next to it. All that was needed to get my camera operating correctly was to keep turning the rear command dial to the right going back through the slower settings and then it started getting back to shutter speeds without the "X" next to them. In a nutshell, the rear command dial had been turned to the left toooo far.

I would like to give a special thanks to Moe the service tech at Nikon support for sticking with me going through all the settings. We didn't figure it out on that call but he said he would call me later with an answer. Within minutes he had called me back to tell me what the problem was and how to fix it. I can say that my experience with Nikon support was a very positive one and really appreciate the helpful attitude that Moe had, he was very polite, concerned and helpful. Most of all he figured it out and called me back. I am one happy Nikon customer. Jeff

Tip #75 Do you find the RED RECORD BUTTON a pain in the neck for movies?

Do you find the RED RECORD BUTTON a pain in the neck for movies?

Every time I try pressing the little red record button to start a movie I find it very cumbersome and awkward. If I am trying to locate it and press the little red record button in low light it is a real challenge. MY TIP for this post. With the D7000 you have the option to assign different buttons to do different tasks that you might find much easier to use. I find that I do not use the preview button and it is very easy to locate and press so I decided to assign it as my REC button. This button can be found at the lower left hand side of the lens as viewed from the front of the camera.

Here is what you do to try it.

Go to the **CUSTOM SETTING MENU** and press **"OK"**

Next scroll down to **"F" Controls** and press **"OK"** again

Scroll to **f4 Assign preview button** and press **"OK"** again

Scroll to **REC Start movie recording** and press **"OK"** and you are done

From now on you can press the "Preview Button" to start and stop recording. I find this much easier to locate and press than I do that little red button in the center of the Live View switch. Jeff

Tip #76 Updating to the latest firmware in your D7000 camera

Updating to the latest firmware in your D7000 camera

Here is what you do

Go to Setup Menu and scroll to Firmware version. The latest version is

A 1.02

B 1.03

L 1.002

If you find out that you have an earlier version and want to update, then you will need the following.

Fully charged battery

D7000 camera

computer to download files from internet to and to place download on formatted SD card

SD card with pictures removed and then formatted in the camera

5 to 10 minutes of time

To find out what changes the update makes and to get directions of how to do it you need to go to the address below

Cameras from Nikon | D-SLR and Digital Cameras, Lenses, & More

After you reach the site you need to do the following

Click on Service and Support

Next click on Download Center

Next click on the most recent Nikon firmware versions

Scroll down to the D7000 and click on 1.03 and follow the directions. **MAKE SURE YOU ARE LOOKING AT THE D7000 firmware**

Updating your software is not very hard to do, don't let it intimidate you, so go ahead and give it a go. Jeff

Tip #77 Setting White Balance for "Sunrise" and "Sunset" pictures

Setting White Balance for "Sunrise" and "Sunset" pictures

The Auto White balance works very well on the D7000 the vast majority of times when shooting but for when you are trying to take Sunrise or sunset pictures the Auto WB setting will make your pictures come out looking more on the cool side than I think you might like and diminish the golden tones that these images are known for. When you use Auto WB your camera is trying to balance the colors in each scene to white or any mid-range grays that may be in the picture. Auto WB will do this on each and every shot and may also cause a difference in the color from shot to shot as it adjusts.

How to change your White Balance

Press the info button to turn on the rear LCD screen

Next press and hold down the "WB" button on the rear of the camera on the left side of the screen

While holding down the "WB" button rotate the rear thumb dial until the sun icon appears

This also can be viewed in the smaller LCD screen on the top of your camera

My tip for this week is to suggest to you to try using the Daylight setting in WB for your Sunrise and Sunset pictures so that you will get more of those warm and golden color tones that you will probably be looking for on these types of shots. After all, one of the things that draws the person viewing the photo of the early morning Sunrise and late afternoon Sunset pictures are the warm golden tones that the sun gives your image. Also note that if you are shooting RAW or NEF files the WB can be adjusted after the fact in post processing. Jeff

Tip #78 Copy images from one SD card to another within your camera

Copy images from one SD card to another within your camera

If during shooting, or any other time, you decide you need a copy of all the pictures you have taken or you need to copy a select amount to a second card you can do it within your D7000. If you had intended to have your camera make a duplicate copy of each of your pictures to the second card slot and forgot to set it up that way you can still copy all or part of your photos to the second card. You may have a situation that you would like to share a select amount of photo's by choosing them and copying them to a second card to share with someone else and this can be done also.

Here is how to do it

To copy ALL FILES do this. For this example we will copy all the files from Slot 1 to slot 2

Go to the **PLAYBACK MENU** press "OK" and scroll to **Copy image(s)** and press "OK"
Choose **"Select source"** and press "OK"

Next **choose slot 1** and press "OK"

Next choose **Select images** and press "OK"

Next **your file will come up and press "OK"** again

Choose **Select all images** and press "OK" again

You will see that everything has been chosen with a check mark and press "OK" again

Select Copy images and press "OK"

It will say Copy? Choose Yes and press "OK" again and it will start copying the files to card slot 2 and when it shows done the copy is completed

To copy selected photos to a second card. For this example we will copy a few photos from slot 1 to slot 2

Go to the **PLAYBACK MENU** press "OK" and scroll to **Copy image(s)** and press "OK"
Choose **Select source** and press "OK"

Next **choose slot 1** and press "OK"

Next **choose Select images** and press "OK"

Next your file will come up and press "OK" again

Choose Select protected images and press "OK" again

Choose the images that you want to copy by pressing the ISO button on the rear of the camera to select photos and the control button to navigate through your photos and press "OK"

Select Copy images and press "OK"

It will say Copy? **Choose Yes** and press "OK" again and it will start copying the files to card slot 2 and when it shows done the copy is completed

To copy all or select photos to another card does take several steps and it may not be an option that you do not need very often but it is helpful to know it can be done. If you start at the PLAYBACK MENU and just read your choices you should be able to accomplish this without having to remember all the steps just by reading the options in your camera's menu. Jeff

Tip #79 Are you having trouble keeping your horizons level?

Are you having trouble keeping your horizons level?

Many times when we take a picture in a hurry or are just not paying attention we find that the horizon line in the picture is tilted either to the left or to the right. This happens a lot when taking landscape pictures or pictures near water or at the beach. After you take the picture you notice that the horizon line is not level and makes the water look like it is flowing toward one side of your image. This looks very distracting and can really mess up an otherwise very good picture. Did you know that this can be corrected right in your camera without having or using any special or additional software?

Here is how you do it

First go to **"RETOUCH MENU"** which is the 5th menu down on the left that looks like a brush and press **"OK"**

Next scroll to **Straighten** and press **"OK"** again

Next **use your multi selector to choose the picture you want to straighten and press "OK"**

Now **use the left or right arrows on the multi selector to straighten your picture.**

You can see how much you have moved it and in what direction by watching the yellow indicator at the bottom of your LCD screen.

When you get the picture like you want it press **"OK"** one more time and you are done

You can straighten up any picture you want up to 5 degrees by using this method within the camera. As always, when you modify a image using your software in the camera and save it, the camera will save it as a copy and you will retain the original just in case you change your mind. The software in your camera will automatically crop off the extra edge of the image that is created by straightening your picture so remember that you will lose some of the picture due to your adjustments. Jeff

Tip #80 Are you having trouble with dust spots in your pictures?

Are you having trouble with dust spots in your pictures?

As time goes on and you change lenses those dreaded little dust spots just might start showing up in your pictures. These can be real annoying and require a sensor cleaning to eliminate. This happened to me recently and I tried locking my mirror up and blowing the dust out with a little bulb blower that you squeeze to get the air to come out, **DO NOT USE CANNED AIR**. Well after trying that several times and it not working I called the camera store to find out that they would clean it at a cost of \$50.00. These spots start showing up more as you close down your lens to around F11 or smaller. If you want to find out if you have a dust problem close your lens down to a small F stop opening and point your camera at a nice blue sky and snap a picture and it should reveal any dust problems that you might have. I was getting ready to make the trip to the camera store when I called a buddy of mine and was discussing the problem with him and he suggested checking the lenses first so I removed my filter and cleaned both ends of my lenses along with both sides of my filter. To my surprise almost all of my problems disappeared.

So my tip for this time is before you panic and think you have some real problems with you sensor needing a good expensive cleaning, try the easy route first and clean all your lenses and filters, you just might be surprised at the results. Jeff

Tip #81 Why or why not turn the audible beep to "ON" for Autofocus

Why or why not turn the audible beep to "ON" for Autofocus

Did you know that you can not only turn the audible beep "on" or "off" when using Autofocus you can also change the volume and pitch of the beep to customize it to your liking. Some people like it and some don't but let me give you a little more information that may help you make a better decision for this option.

I find that the beep is very helpful especially when shooting action such as birds in flight. I can concentrate on keeping my subject in the frame and still know by the beep that the subject is in focus. I have the beep turned on but have set the volume to level "1" where it can only be heard when you eye is at the eyepiece. This way I get the benefit of the beep but do not have a loud sound annoying me giving me the best of both worlds. If you want to change or adjust your volume or pitch of the beep this is how you do it. I find it helpful and have mine set to volume level "1" and to "High pitch".

Here is how you do it

Go to **CUSTOM SETTING MENU** and press **"OK"**

Next **select "a" Autofocus** and press **"OK"** again

Scroll to "d1" Beep and press **"OK"**

Select the volume and adjust the level and press "OK"

Now select pitch and adjust it then press "OK" and you are done

I would like to add that the Beep works on "Auto focus" and "Single Point Focus" and will not be audible for "Continuous Focus". Jeff

Tip #82 Increasing your percentage of keepers when shooting

Increasing your percentage of keepers when shooting

Many times when I am discussing photography with other people or reading posts on the internet it is mentioned often about the number of pictures that they had taken that day. It seems like it is a piece of information that they are proud of when they say , "I shot 400 images today" or some other large amount and they say it with pride. I can't tell you the amount of times I have heard a statement such as this but in all my years I have NEVER, not even one time, heard someone follow up that statement by telling me the percentage of shots out of those hundreds of shutter activations that were worth keeping. I came up shooting film and learned that I needed to make each shot count and back in those days the discussion was always geared more to how many good pictures that were taken and NOT geared to the TOTAL AMOUNT of pictures that were shot. Back then the objective was more on making each shot worth keeping instead of what the count was of the shots taken. There are pros and cons when comparing using film as compared to shooting with digital and I am not going to get into all of those now but I would like to suggest trying something that you may just find to improve the amount of shots that you actually keep.

I would like to suggest that, as an experiment, that you limit the number of shots of each subject to two or three and no more. Concentrate on each shot and try to make it the very best that you can in the limited number of tries that you have given yourself. I think that by limiting the number of images of each subject that you will learn to rely more on your skills instead of relying on the ability to take many shots of each subject and hope that one out of the bunch will be a keeper. I myself have noticed that by knowing I can virtually take as many shots of each subject as I want that my percentage of photos that are worth looking at has gone way down. It is like giving a box of bullets to a man with a machine gun compared to giving that same box of bullets to a sniper. The sniper will go out with making each and every shot count, where as the guy with the machine gun will have a lot of missed shots or wasted bullets.

I would like to add that there will be times that you may want to go out and experiment with many different settings on one subject and this will result in a lot of pictures taken and that is just fine.

For this tip I would like to suggest that you try and take fewer pictures of your subjects and learn to rely more on your skills than the ability of your camera to take many pictures with the hope that one of the bunch is worth keeping. I might add that I will be following my own advice and doing this myself. I find that it gets very boring when I come in after shooting and looking at soooo many pictures of the same thing and hoping one of the bunch is good. I think that digital age makes it very easy for people to get lazy and let their skills fall by the wayside. Remember that it is not the amount of pictures that you take but the amount you take that are worth keeping that counts. Jeff

Tip #83 Why doesn't my D7000 give me pictures like I see in the sample galleries

Why doesn't my D7000 give me pictures like I see in the sample galleries

I think the answer to this question applies to every camera that has ever been purchased. One of the things that most of us do before making a purchase is to research the different cameras and options that each one has to offer and to check out the galleries of images that each camera can produce to help us make a decision. After looking at all the reviews and pictures and asking what others think or recommend we finally make our mind up on which camera we want. At this point we have worked up our excitement and enthusiasm for this camera and order it. While we are waiting for it to arrive we get even more excited with the anticipation of the outstanding pictures that will be produced with this camera. Well, now the camera has arrived and we un-box it with great excitement and race out to get some of those outstanding pictures like the ones that are still fresh in our mind from the many examples that were looked at during the research time spent earlier. After taking a bunch of pictures you race back to download them to your computer so you can validate your choice of camera and then it hits you, **what the heck happened?** These pictures are not up to par with all the examples that you had been looking at earlier during the research time spent on this camera. Now everything turns from excitement to disappointment and you don't understand what is going on. Well, I will try and explain what I think the reason for the less than expected results were probably caused by.

During all the research and looking at all the stunning pictures in the galleries that were produced with this camera and reading pages of reviews there was one very important piece of information that was not mentioned anywhere in all the reading that was done and here is the important part that you never read about. The people that took those stunning pictures actually took the time to learn how the camera worked and not only invested the money in the camera but also invested the time in learning how to set it up and use it properly. The camera is set up with a group of settings by default that will give you some very nice pictures but if you want to get the kind of pictures that you checked out that helped make you decide to get this camera in the first place. My TIP for you would be to invest the time needed and learn how to adjust the settings and use the many options the camera has to offer so you can get the most out of your camera and be able to produce those stunning pictures that you were expecting to get when the decision was made to get this camera in the first place. Jeff

Tip #84 My tripod and camera is setup but where is my remote

My tripod and camera is setup but where is my remote

In Tip #18 I discussed why and how to use a Nikon ML-L3 wireless remote. I have found this very inexpensive and useful accessory easy to loose or just not have with you when you need it. Sometimes when you are out shooting and find a need to use your remote it is either in the bag in your vehicle, back at the house or just some place that doesn't come to mind. In any case this remote is useless if it isn't with you.

My tip this time will be helpful to those of us that use a shoulder strap with a zipper pocket in the pad. My suggestion is to store your wireless remote in the compartment on your shoulder strap and it will always be handy and available when it is needed. I also recommend keeping a spare SD in one of those little plastic cases in the compartment on your strap for times when you just run out of memory or just find you forget to have any card in your camera at all and need one.

For those of you that have not purchased a shoulder strap to replace the "Pain in the neck" strap that came with the camera, this might just give you another reason to consider getting one. Personally I find this a very handy idea. Jeff

Tip #85 Getting great pictures of your kids on rides at attractions

Getting great pictures of your kids on rides at attractions

My family has taken our last two vacations at Disney World in Florida and Dollywood in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. One of the things you do in these attractions are wait in long lines with your kids and grand-kids to get on a ride that they really like. Many times you have to wait for a long time for the moment to come and the children get their chance at the roller coaster, fairest wheel, or many of the other rides. The whole time they are in line you are waiting to get that once in a lifetime picture on that two or three minute ride and after it is over you look at your photo or video only to find out that you were in the wrong place, the lighting was wrong or many other things that might not have been just right and have disappointing results. Then you think, boy if I just had another chance to get that photo or video.

Now for the tip! This is a simple common thing to do but rarely will most people think about doing it. One of the BIG advantages of shooting a digital camera is that if you don't like something you can simply erase it so why not shoot a few practice shots or videos of the kids that get on the ride ahead of yours and check the angle, lighting and other aspects of the shot to find out if you have everything like you want it and take advantage of this time while you are waiting and do a few trial shots or videos BEFORE your child's turn comes up. Take advantage of you camera's delete option. If it is not OK you can correct the problem or if everything is great you are good to go and will not miss the shot that REALLY COUNTS. By doing this you can get two or three chances to get it like you want it and delete the practice runs. This will allow you to eliminate the mistakes BEFORE that special time when you child's turn comes up. This will give you a second chance and only have to go through the line once to get it right. The time to find out something wasn't set right is NOT after your child gets off the ride, but to eliminate the problem BEFORE it happens. Jeff

Tip #86 Things I learned about shooting video while on vacation

Things I learned about shooting video while on vacation

The week of Thanksgiving my wife and I went with our boys and their families to Pigeon Forge, Tn. There were many things to take pictures of and video while we were there. First we went to Dollwood which is a theme park that has rides that my sons and the grand-kids road on. One of them was a roller coaster and the ride went around three times before stopping for new riders. This gave me three chances to get my shot. Well I noticed that the ride had six cars on it and I had family in two of them to try and get a shot of. **This seemed to be a time to use one my cameras options that I rarely use and that is the six frames per second burst mode. The first time around I got one of the boys and missed the rest. The second time around my timing was better and in one push of my shutter I shot off six shots and nailed all six of the cars on the ride with one push of my shutter and that left me with one spare chance to do it again. By using my burst mode I got the pictures I wanted and the kids only had to wait in line once for grandpaw to get a good shot. Any time that you are trying to catch some action the burst mode is definitely something to consider using**

We moved on to the next ride and it was one of those rides that has a group of five sets on it and they raise you up and then drop you and repeat two or three times. It was tall and I was close so I did the smart thing HA HA and took the video in portrait mode to get all the action but when I looked at it on play back the video was sideways. **Fortunately I follow my own tips "#85" and this was on the group a couple of rides before my family got to the head of the line and I could see that wouldn't work and corrected the problem and worked out the bugs BEFORE the important shot with my family came up. It would have been not only embarrassing to find out that I had done this on the family pictures but it would also mean that they would have to wait in line again for me to get a second chance. I covered this in Tip #85. Please use the time that you have while they are in line to do some practice shots or video, this will allow you to see any problems or things that needs changing BEFORE the keeper shots arrive. REMEMBER!!! any practice shots or video that you take getting ready for that ALL IMPORTANT shot can easily be erased and could help contribute to you getting some real memories captured. Jeff**

The next tip will cover things I learned when I shot video of a drive through Christmas display set to music you listened to on your car radio. I learned several "Do s and Don't s" that I will share with you in the next tip.

Tip #87 Do's and Don'ts when taking a video of Christmas displays

Do's and Don'ts when taking a video of Christmas displays

Recently I went to Pigeon Forge, Tn, for vacation and they had a drive through Christmas light display with synchronized sound that I took video of with my Nikon D7000. I learned several do's and don'ts and would like to share some tips with you on things that I learned. This was a long display that you drive through and tune your car to a radio station to hear the music that was synchronized to the displays. There were also places that you could stop and view the action but had to stay inside your car. My wife drove while I operated the camera out the passenger side window.

The DO'S first

Make sure your battery is fully charged and that you have plenty of space on your memory card

If you have a battery grip attached take it off to eliminate some weight while holding up your camera

Use a wide angle lens because you will need it to get the action due to the closer distance.

I quickly realized that trying to video from a moving car made for jumping pictures so stop often and record what you can from each location.

When you stop be sure and turn off the engine so it doesn't ruin the audio.

Also verify that you are getting the sound, because I could hear it great IN THE CAR but the camera was held outside with my arms resting on the window sill and wasn't picking up the sound well.

I think it would be easier to take several shorter videos and place them together later than trying to edit and chop up a longer one.

After my first stop when I played back the test video I found that the great sound I was hearing in the car was NOT what the camera was getting. That is when I found out that it was getting the displays very good and was accompanied by the sound of my car engine instead of what I was hearing. Reviewing a test video let me realize that the car needed to be stopped, the engine off and the sound turned up in the car. This is something you want to check right off and not wait until you are half way through or on the way home to find out you needed to make some changes to get everything right. When using a wide angle the depth of field is pretty good so I found that if when I stopped, that if I used auto focus to get everything sharp and then turned it off that it wouldn't be changing focus during the video each time a different display light up and the previous one went dark. The video was constantly changing focus as each part of the display turned on and off and really made the picture in the video very annoying. I notice this also along with the other things mentioned when I made the test at the beginning. Remember to re focus at each stop.

The Don'ts

Somewhat of a repeat from above.

Don't forget to check your batteries and memory cards

Don't try and video from a moving car

If you focus and then turn off the auto focus don't forget to re focus at the next stop.

When you stop DON'T FORGET to turn off your car engine

Don't leave the battery grip on the camera because it gets very heavy holding the extra weight over a long period of time.

Don't forget to check the audio

Don't forget to make a short video as soon as you start so you can check all the things above so you know right away if your camera is getting exactly what you want and if it isn't you can make adjustments. Jeff

Tip #88 I get my focus lock but my shutter button doesn't work

I get my focus lock but my shutter button doesn't work

I was recently shooting some indoor shots using my tripod and my remote to take pictures. After I was finished and took my camera off my tripod I decided to just try a few handheld shots to see how they would come out. Well I framed up my shot, the green focus light came on, and I pressed the shutter button and nothing happened. I might add that everything but the shutter button worked just fine. I turned the camera off and then back on with the same results. Then I removed the battery grip and the battery in the camera and put them back in with the same results. At this point I was getting a little excited because everything lit up and seemed to work except for the all important shutter button. I went home and as I was looking at my camera, a little light went on in my brain and I thought, "HEY DUMMY", you still have it turned to remote on the mode dial! After turning it back to the single mode it amazingly worked just fine. The technical term for this problem is called "Operator Trouble".

So my very important tip this week is to remember that when your camera starts doing something weird like this or anything else you need to think back to what you were just doing and you will probably find the answer to your problem. Jeff

Tip #89 My pictures are all foggy, what is going on?

My pictures are all foggy, what is going on?

This tip is something we have probably all experienced somewhere during a photo outing. We are driving along and see a great shot so we quickly pull over, grab our camera and jump out in hopes to catch a great image only to find out that our lens is all fogged up and ruins the picture. This can happen any time you take your equipment quickly from one temperature to another. It can be during the winter time and you have the heat turned up in the car and jump out into the cold with your camera or if it is hot outside during the summer months and the air conditioner is turned to max cooling in the car. Remember that changing temps quickly either way has the potential of making you miss a great shot so you need to keep this in mind any time you are going to expose your camera and lens to these changes. This can be as simple as seeing a great shot in the back yard going from inside your heated house this winter to the vastly different temperature of taking it outside to get pictures of the kids or wildlife.

My tip this time is to remind you that this can happen so you can do your best to acclimate your equipment before the shot comes up so you can eliminate this problem and won't be disappointed. Jeff

This can happen to anyone regardless of their experience level so if you are newer to photography you need to be aware that this can happen and if you are more experienced it sure won't hurt anyone to be reminded of this potential problem.

Tip #90 Start using your speedlite as a remote flash

Start using your speedlite as a remote flash

For years I have had a least one Nikon speedlite and have always used it on my camera and never as a remote. The reason for this is because I was just too intimidated by all the in camera and flash settings that needed to be set. Recently I took a few minutes to play with my flashes, Nikon SB900, SB800 and SB600 only to find out that setting them up wasn't that hard at all. Christmas day when we were opening our presents I took my SB900 and set it to remote and placed it on one side of my 20x20ft den and bounced it off the ceiling. This let me eliminate hot spots and the red eye from my pictures and also eliminated the weight of the flash off of the camera. I used the on camera flash as commander to operate the remote and it worked very well.

So my tip this time is to let you know if you haven't tried using your flashes as remotes due to being intimidated by the settings you really need to take a little time out and play with you camera and flash, using it as a remote light source, because it opens up all kinds of new opportunities with your photography. It really isn't as hard as you might think it would be.

Just a personal note about my flashes.....

I have my SB900 set to channel 3 group "A", my SB800 set to channel 3 group "B" and my SB600 set to channel 3 group "C". By having them set up this way if I use one flash on my camera I use the SB900 and all I have to do is turn it on and it is ready to go. If I use one flash off camera I grab the SB900 and flip it to remote and it is ready to go. If more light is needed I just grab the next flash which is the SB800 and it is already set up to go so all that is needed is to turn it on a place it where it is needed. Same goes for when I need a third flash , the SB600 is already set and all that is needed is to take it out of the bag and turn it on because like the other two I just leave them set up all the time. I know that most of you will probably only have one speedlite and do not have the option for multiple flashes but I mention this just to show you one of the many options that you can have with having one or more flashes in your camera bag.

Bottom line is that if you have not tried using your speedlite as a remote, take a few minutes to play with it and figure it out because it is very useful and really not as hard as you might think to set up.

Tip #91 Its time to update your copyright info in your cameras EXIF data

Its time to update your copyright info in your cameras EXIF data

My tip this time is to remind you if you haven't put Copyright info in the EXIF data or even if you have, it is a new year and you need to add it or update the year to 2013. I talked about adding Copyright information and how it is done in tip #25. I will copy and paste it below just in case you need a refresher on how it is done.

I would also like to thank everyone that reads my thread and for encouraging me over the many months I have been writing it. I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and that 2013 will be you best year ever. Happy shooting. Jeff

I might add that you need to remember to change it on ALL of your cameras.

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Tip #25 Adding copyright information to the EXF data of each of your pictures

Adding copyright information to the EXF data of each of your pictures

On each picture you take the camera records all the settings you used for that shot such as time of day and date the picture was taken, F stop , shutter speed, ISO and a lot more. There is a place in the EXF data that allows you to embed a comment such as Copyright and your name. It is a good idea to add this information in the EXF data of each photo that you take. By setting this up in the camera it will automatically be added to each picture at the time the picture was taken without doing anything additional. This will allow your name and copyright to go along with each of your pictures no matter where the image travels to or ends up.

Here is how you do it

Go to the **SETUP MENU** which is the fourth one down on the left and looks like a wrench Toggle to the right and go down to **Copyright Information** and press the right side of the toggle button

Scroll down to **Copyright** and press the right arrow

Add comment such as **COPYRIGHT John Doe 2012**

To OK your comment hold down the Eyeglass or "+" plus button at the bottom left of the rear LCD screen and press OK. You need to check the Attach comment then scroll up to Done and press OK.

Use the toggle button with the arrows to choose the letters and numbers you want and press OK. To navigate within your comment section hold down the "-" minus button which is the second button up from the bottom left side of the rear LCD screen and use the toggle button with the arrows to navigate within the comment section. To delete, highlight the letter or number to be deleted and press "Delete".

From now on until you change your settings, every picture taken with this camera will include this comment in the EXF data no matter who is operating the camera, Jeff.

Tip #92 Shooting photos from a vehicle

Sometimes when you are out shooting you may pull up to a location and need to wait for some time and end up sitting in the car waiting for a shot. I know I do this and shoot out of my car window with a long lens to get the reach I need. It is helpful to get some camera support to be able to get a good sharp pictures. This tip will give you a cheap and easy way to support that longer lens to help keep your shots steady and sharp.

My tip for this time is to get you a piece of foam pipe insulation that has a slit the length of the insulation, cut it to length and slip it over the top of the glass in the window so your lens can rest on it for support, see picture below. This is a friend of mine demonstrating the use of this tip. This is cheap to buy, easy to store, and supports your camera without scratching your equipment. The support can be easily adjusted just by raising or lowering the window. Jeff

I originally had a picture and it disappeared. I have tried placing it back on this post several times and just cannot seem to get it to work. It shows attached thumbnails but nothing comes up.

📎 Attached Thumbnails



Tip #93 A quick and easy way to format your SD cards

A quick and easy way to format your SD cards

You can go into Setup menu and format your SD cards or there is an easier way to do it without using your cameras menu system.

Here is how you do it.

You need to be able to hold town the Metering button found on top of your camera and the Delete button found on the upper left side of the back of the camera. You will note that next to both buttons the word FORMAT appears in RED LETTERS. Look at the LCD screen on top of your camera while holding down these two buttons. You should see the letters FOR start flashing. While they are flashing you can look at the right side of the top LCD screen and rotate the thumb wheel to choose which card to re format, card 1 or card 2. When you have the card selected that you wish to re format just release the two buttons and press them again to start the format. When the FOR stops flashing you are done.

I find that if I use my left thumb and index finger to hold down the buttons that the card slot is easily selected by my right thumb on the thumb wheel. The camera will default to the primary card so to format the second card you will need to choose it with the thumb wheel. REMEMBER when you format a card the pictures will be gone. Personally I tried this with two blank cards to check this out. This is a very quick and easy way to format your cards without using the menus.]Jeff

Tip #94 The effects of Depth of Field using different focal length lenses

The effects of Depth of Field using different focal length lenses

This is something that photographers that have been shooting for a while will already know through experience. I have been shooting for better than 40 years and I recently had a shot that could have been much if I had paid more attention to my depth of field and the lens I was shooting with. The longer the focal length lens you use the less depth of field you will get and also the closer you are to your subject the less depth of field "DOF" you will have. I will show you in my first example how this photo would have benefited from using a smaller F stop. This first picture of the two birds on the poles was shot at a distance of about 50ft with a F stop of F 5.6 and a focal length of 300mm. First his photo needed more DOF but because i was shooting at a long 300mm focal length it gave me less DOF to start with. Second problem was the subject was only about 50ft away which results in less DOF. Third problem was I was shooting at F5.6 which was to large an opening. With the combination of these three things the first bird came out in focus but the second one did not. This could have easily been fixed by using a smaller F stop like maybe F11. I could have used the 300mm and kept the same distance and just changed the F stop to get a much better picture. I had been shooting single birds and just slipped up and didn't think about it. Check out the photo I am talking about. You can see that the bird and post on the right is in focus and though they are close together the second bird and post on the left is out of the range of DOF I was shooting.

When you with shorter focal lengths and smaller F stops you get much greater DOF. This was shot at 27mm with an F stop of F9. You can see the people up close are in focus and all the way to the castle is also.

My tip for this time is to learn and be aware of how the focal length, distance to subject and the F stop effect your pictures and remember as subjects change so will the settings that you will need to get a proper picture. Jeff

Click on pictures to make them larger

Attached Thumbnails




Tip #95 Do you know when to use the "Normal" and "Active" position on a VR lens?

Do you know when to use the "Normal" and "Active" position on a VR lens?

The Nikon VR lenses have a switch on them that can be changed for different shooting situations and it is very helpful to know when to use each one. In most conditions you will be using the "Normal" position and that is for when you and your camera are basically stationary and will not be moving. The second position is called "Active" and you will want to switch your lens to this setting if you and your camera will be in motion such as riding in a car, boat or anything else where you and your camera will be in motion. Remember that using a VR lens WILL NOT STOP SUBJECT MOVEMENT. The "Vr" or "Vibration Reduction" is ONLY meant to help you take sharper pictures by helping reduce camera movement. You have the 'Normal' setting that will be used almost all of the time and the "Active" is just like its name implies and will be used when you and your camera are actively moving much more than in normal situations. You also need to remember to turn off the VR option altogether when using a tripod. This switch is located on the barrel of the lens just under the VR "ON" and "OFF" switch.

This tip is to make sure you understand when and when not to use these settings. Always remember to turn the VR back on when finished using a tripod and to switch your lens back to normal when you're done using the active mode. Jeff



 Attached Images

Tip #96 Learning from other photographers camera settings.

Learning from other photographers camera settings.

I am always interested in learning what settings were used for images that I see on websites and I have found a way a long time ago that helps me do just that. Have you ever looked at an image and wondered what camera, focal length, F stop or shutter speed and other settings were used to take that picture? I use Firefox as my browser and there is a free add on that will let you right click on any image and select to view EXIF data. Some software will drop this off and some people that post on the internet will remove it but in most cases you will be able to get the data and learn a lot about how the picture was taken. A year and a half ago our family went to Walt Disney World on vacation and I was doing research on photos that had been taken there to find out what lens would be most useful to have with me. After checking the data on many pictures I found out that probably 95% of all the pictures that I checked that were taken down there were between 18mm . and up to 40mm. This let me know that my Sigma 17-50 F2.8 would be the lens of choice that I had in my bag. Of course not everyone will have the same shooting needs but I can tell you that out of all the pictures that I took while we were down there just about all of my pictures were taken with this lens. The point being is that I was able to view that EXIF data of hundreds of pictures and get a good Idea of the equipment that would be needed for the trip. I had taken all of my lenses with me just in case I needed them but found that this lens pretty much did the job. You can learn a lot just by going back and reviewing settings from your own pictures and seeing what worked well for certain situations and what didn't really do the job that well.

My tip this time is to review your own data on your pictures and also others whenever you get the chance and I believe that you can get some very valuable information. If you use Firefox just Google EXIF viewers and you can download them for free and get started learning. Jeff

If you are interested in seeing my Disney pictures taken with the Sigma 17-50 F2.8 lens they can be seen [HERE](#)

Tip #97 Needing a copyright symbol for your watermark

Needing a copyright symbol for your watermark

A while back I had a problem with an individual taking my pictures and claiming them as his own on posting them all over the internet on many different sites. Since then I have reduced the size of the files I post and have added a watermark to each of my images. The use of a watermark and re-sizing images to smaller files only slows down the culprits and does not stop them. I did it to hopefully help slow down the problem and eliminate a few of these low life's that do this.

The tip this time is to tell you how to get a copyright symbol that you can add in post processing and use in your watermark. When you go to add the text you can hold down the "ALT" key and press the numbers 0169 and that should give you a copyright symbol to use in your watermark. Remember you can only slow down thieves and not stop the ones that are really determined. In tip #25 I talked about adding copyright information to the EXIF data of each picture and have placed a copy of that tip below in case you missed it. Jeff

From Tip #25 Adding copyright information to the EXIF data of each of your pictures

On each picture you take the camera records all the settings you used for that shot such as time of day and date the picture was taken, F stop , shutter speed, ISO and a lot more. There is a place in the EXF data that allows you to embed a comment such as Copyright and your name. It is a good idea to add this information in the EXF data of each photo that you take. By setting this up in the camera it will automatically be added to each picture at the time the picture was taken without doing anything additional. This will allow your name and copyright to go along with each of your pictures no matter where the image travels to or ends up.

Here is how you do it

Go to the SETUP MENU which is the fourth one down on the left and looks like a wrench Toggle to the right and go down to Copyright Information and press the right side of the toggle button

Scroll down to Copyright and press the right arrow

Add comment such as COPYRIGHT John Doe 2012

To OK your comment hold down the Eyeglass or "+" plus button at the bottom left of the rear LCD screen and press OK. You need to check the Attach comment then scroll up to Done and press OK.

Use the toggle button with the arrows to choose the letters and numbers you want and press OK. To navigate within your comment section hold down the "-" minus button which is the second button up from the bottom left side of the rear LCD screen and use the toggle button with the arrows to navigate within the comment section. To delete, highlight the letter or number to be deleted and press "Delete".

From now on until you change your settings, every picture taken with this camera will include this comment in the EXF data no matter who is operating the camera, Jeff.

Tip #98 A few more reasons to have an umbrella available when out shooting.

A few more reasons to have an umbrella available when out shooting

I always have a big golf umbrella in my car and have found a few uses for it besides keeping the rain off of me. In this tip I will tell you about two different times that I have found having my large umbrella with me came in very handy.

The first time it came in handy was when I was shooting some big white magnolia flowers that were out in the sun. The problem I was having was the whites kept getting blown out. If I exposed for the flower the background was off and if I exposed for the over all picture my whites on the flower were blown out and I lost all the detail. What I needed was something to block the direct sun to keep my flowers from getting blown out. This made me think about the big umbrella that I carried in the car. It was easy to hold and it provided instant shade from the direct sunlight giving me the picture I was looking for.

The second use I found for it was when I was shooting a bunch of boats at a marina. I was shooting with a wide angle lens and with angle the sun was located at it was causing me to get lens flare in every shot so I got out my trusty umbrella and used it to block the sun hitting my lens. This was a very simple answer to a big problem and all the lens flare was eliminated. Changing the angle that I was shooting from could have eliminated the lens flare also but was not an option at the time.

I have found having my umbrella with me has been very useful on several different occasions. Having any size umbrella will do, I just happen to have a large one that I carry all of the time. Jeff

Tip #99 Why I shoot single point focus point

Why I shoot single point focus point

Usually I shoot 100% of the time in single point focus so I know just exactly where my focus point will be. I do not like letting the camera choosing what it wants to focus on because it often has different ideas than I do. I had a very big reminder yesterday of why I like the single focus. I was at the nursing home where my mom lives because we were having a birthday party celebrating her 91st birthday. I figured that I would just put my camera on auto so I could hand it to someone standing there allowing us to get some family photos with my mom. Well normally this would not be a problem except they had several helium balloons at the ceiling with ribbons hanging down between our family and where the person had to stand that was taking pictures. The trouble we had was that the auto focus was locking on the little tiny ribbons which made the family come out unfocused. We were pressed for time and I didn't notice it until several pictures had been taken so a bunch of the pictures were bad. Once it dawned on me what was going on I moved the balloons and the problem was solved. Single area focus would have allowed me to put the single point between the ribbons and get the shot anyway.

My tip this time will be to try single point focus if you seem to be having a problem with the subject not being sharp. I have taken tens of thousands of pictures using single point focus and with the exception of when I did not get the point where I wanted it (this being my fault and not the cameras) I have had a 100% accurate focus on my subjects. The multi point auto focus doesn't take much between you and your subject to lock on and mess up what would have otherwise would have been a great picture. Using the single point focus will eliminate this problem. Jeff

Tip #100 Looking at things a little different might give you better results

Looking at things a little different might give you better results

I was brought up taking pictures using film cameras and trying to make each and every shot count. It seems like the trend with digital camera users is to go out and take several hundred pictures and hope you get a handful of good ones that are worth keeping. Try not and fall into this habit and do a little more thinking than shooting when you're out trying to capture an image. It seems to me that there are basically three types of shooters.

First, there is the kind mentioned above that basically shoot a ton of pictures and hope a few come out good enough to keep.

The second group basically points the camera in the general direction of the subject and presses the shutter button and accepts whatever the camera gives them.

The third group takes advantage of having the ability to take as many images as you need but doesn't use it as a crutch for getting a picture worth having.

My TIP or suggestion would be to study your subject a little more and think about the composition before pressing the shutter. If you ever check out the critique forum I am sure you have read some suggestions that maybe the picture being talked about might have had more impact if it had been taken from a different point a few steps to the left or right from where it had been taken. Sometimes the suggestion may be a lower or higher angle. After sizing up your subject and taking your shot it is nice to have the ability to take the image from a few different angles. Sometimes when you get back home and start viewing pictures on your computer you are glad that you have a few options to pick from. Having the ability to shoot as many pictures of a subject is a very handy ability indeed but please don't use it as a replacement to learn how to develop your skills. Many times I have had people tell me they went out and shot several hundred pictures that day but to the best of my recollection the amount of keepers that they had out of the bunch is never mentioned. After all, isn't the point of shooting your camera to get pictures that are worth keeping and NOT running up the shutter count!

Well, this is tip #100 and my thread has been viewed almost 80,000. I would like to thank all of you that have taken the time to read my thread and mention it to others. Reaching 100 Tips is a pretty big milestone for me and it is all due to the support I have received from all of you and I just want you to know that your support is very much appreciated. Jeff Impey

Tip #101 Why I like single point focus

Why I like single point focus

I am a big fan of single point focus when I shoot because I know that if I get the point of focus located where I want it on my subject the focus will come out exactly like I planned it to be. When using multiple active focus points I find that often the camera seems to lock on to something different than what I wanted to be in sharp focus. The more focus points you activate the greater the chances are of the camera choosing a focus location other than the one you had intended to choose. Have you ever gone to something like a dance recital and tried getting a picture of your little girl or grand daughter on stage, only to find that the camera chose to focus on someone's head in a seat between you and your little princess? As interesting as seeing every hair on that person's head come out very sharp it would be a much better picture if the subject that you were trying to get a picture of was what came out tack sharp instead. By using single point focus you can place that single point of focus exactly where you want it to be and eliminate your camera choosing something closer throwing the real subject out of focus. There are times when I use all 39 focus points but I will say that probably 95% or better of the time my camera is set to single point focus. I also shoot a lot of nature subjects such as birds and wildlife and when I use a long telephoto the depth of field gets shorter and it also gets shorter the larger the opening or F stop that you use for your shot. When shooting longer lenses or wider openings the focus point is even more critical. Another thing that really reduces depth of field is using a longer lens and shooting closer subjects. If you use a single point focus the camera will not have the chance to focus on the limb that the beautiful bird you are trying to get a picture of is standing on and you can place that single point right on the bird's head or eye to get a really nice picture. It doesn't take having the point of focus off by an inch or two to ruin a picture.

My tip this time is to get you to try using the single point focus a little more and see if your shots don't improve and get away from letting the camera make so many of the choices for you. If you be more specific in telling your camera what you want it to do I think you will find that your keeper rate on photos will increase dramatically. Jeff

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