

Camera Settings I Use

Part 1

In this section please find the camera settings that are one time adjustments away from the 5D MK 3's default settings (not every camera will have these settings).

Image quality = Raw

Image review = 8 seconds

Canon - Release shutter w/o card = off

Nikon - No memory card = lock

ISO speed settings = ISO speed range 50-102400

Color space = sRGB (affects jpg files only)

For camera playback of jpg previews:

Canon = Picture style: Landscape – contrast = +1, Saturation = +2

Nikon = Optimize image: Vivid

Long exposure noise reduction = Off

Grid display (viewfinder) = 3 x 3

Exposure simulation (live view) = disable

Metering timer = 30 seconds

Highlight alert = Enable

Vertical capture playback:

Canon: Auto rotate = computer only

Nikon: Rotate tall = off

Auto power off (camera) = 15 min

INFO. button display options = Uncheck everything , but Electronic level.

Custom functions (Canon):

Bracketing auto cancel = off

Bracketing sequence = -0+ (this is dark to light)

Nikon calls this “Bracket order”: Nikon meters for the 1st exposure. If the camera is set to shoot from dark to light, one needs to meter for the darkest exposure.

Warning in viewfinder – uncheck when ISO expansion is used.

Custom controls (Canon):

I disable the shutter release from focusing camera and set up [back button focusing](#); next 3 steps with Canon 5D Mk 3.

Shutter button ½ press = Metering Start

AF-ON button = AE lock

*AE Lock button = Metering and AF start

I like the “index finger dial” to control aperture and the “thumb dial” for shutter speed. Next two changes, Canon only, Nikon has this as default.

Main Dial = Av Aperture setting in M mode

Quick Control Dial = Tv Shutter speed setting in M mode

[Nikon back button focusing](#) and disable shutter release from focusing.

Nikon – Controls or enter the Pen tool (Custom Settings) > AF Activation (A4)

There are several setting I use or adjust on a frequent basis, these I've added to My Menu (Canon = Green Star) so I can quickly find them without roaming the entire menu.

My Menu

Mirror lockup

Expo. Comp./AEB

Number of bracketed shots

White Balance

Format

Part 2

In this section please find additional camera settings I use to photograph landscapes.

Camera mode “M” - Manual adjustments of shutter speed and aperture.

[Focusing Camera](#)

Auto Focus:

Canon = One Shot

Nikon = AF-S

The settings above mean that for each focus button push the lens focuses only once then stops hunting for focus.

Choose the proper AF point (Canon term) or Focus area (Nikon term):

Canon – Look at back of camera, depress and release the most upper and right button, then peer in viewfinder and use the joy stick or the “index finger dial” in conjunction with the “thumb dial” to select the appropriate AF point.

Nikon – After waking up the camera with a partial depression of the shutter release, peer in viewfinder and use the multi selector (thumb pad) to select the appropriate focusing area. Note: with some Nikons one may 1st have to enter the Menu – AF-area mode and choose “single area”. To make a Nikon’s shutter trip even though the item under the selected focus area is not in focus choose Pen Tool > AFS Priority Selection > Release

2 sec timer delay: I always use this unless I’m using a cable release.

ISO: be familiar with how to adjust the camera’s ISO settings: I use 50 to 3200.

Most Canons: To avoid blurriness due to vibrations caused by mirror slap when capturing a bracketed series, implement the 2 sec timer delay and shoot from live view.

Some Nikons: To avoid blurriness due to vibrations caused by mirror slap when capturing a bracketed series, place camera on continuous shooting and attach a cable release. Place the camera in live view and hold the cable release down until the series is complete.

Part 3

In this section please find some of the other camera settings I find useful.

Custom shooting mode (C1-C3): These work extremely well with Canon cameras because they register every single setting, dial position and button push (except the switch flip to video) to the desired custom mode.

Mine are set like this:

C1 - Wildlife settings: All of the settings I require to shoot wildlife are registered to C1.

C2 - Black & White: I always shoot raw files, but occasionally I’m curious about how a scene will look as black and white. Well, the C2 shooting mode will playback, on the camera, a black and white image.

C3 – Video Settings: I enjoy capturing video with my camera; I’ve registered all of the settings I require for video to C3.

Some of the settings discussed in “Part 1” are different in C1, C2 and C3. The “Part 1” settings are my manual, landscape settings.

Nikon’s “U1...; user defined” setting do not affect as broad cross section of adjustments. Therefore, I do not find them useful.

However, some Nikons use “Banks” which are useful.

Shooting Menu Bank (A B C D)

Custom Settings Bank (A B C D)

NOTES