

LEARNING MADE EASY



9th Edition

Digital Photography

for
dummies[®]
A Wiley Brand



Develop a better eye
for composition and lighting

Apply your photo know-how
to creating better images

Get pro tips on shooting
portraits and action shots

Julie Adair King

Bestselling author of all previous
editions of *Digital Photography
For Dummies*



Digital Photography

9th Edition

by Julie Adair King

for
dummies[®]
A Wiley Brand

Digital Photography For Dummies®, 9th Edition

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

Copyright © 2020 by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., Hoboken, New Jersey

Published simultaneously in Canada

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning or otherwise, except as permitted under Sections 107 or 108 of the 1976 United States Copyright Act, without the prior written permission of the Publisher. Requests to the Publisher for permission should be addressed to the Permissions Department, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 111 River Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030, (201) 748-6011, fax (201) 748-6008, or online at <http://www.wiley.com/go/permissions>.

Trademarks: Wiley, For Dummies, the Dummies Man logo, Dummies.com, Making Everything Easier, and related trade dress are trademarks or registered trademarks of John Wiley & Sons, Inc. and may not be used without written permission. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. is not associated with any product or vendor mentioned in this book.

LIMIT OF LIABILITY/DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTY: THE PUBLISHER AND THE AUTHOR MAKE NO REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES WITH RESPECT TO THE ACCURACY OR COMPLETENESS OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS WORK AND SPECIFICALLY DISCLAIM ALL WARRANTIES, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION WARRANTIES OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. NO WARRANTY MAY BE CREATED OR EXTENDED BY SALES OR PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS. THE ADVICE AND STRATEGIES CONTAINED HEREIN MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR EVERY SITUATION. THIS WORK IS SOLD WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE PUBLISHER IS NOT ENGAGED IN RENDERING LEGAL, ACCOUNTING, OR OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES. IF PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED, THE SERVICES OF A COMPETENT PROFESSIONAL PERSON SHOULD BE SOUGHT. NEITHER THE PUBLISHER NOR THE AUTHOR SHALL BE LIABLE FOR DAMAGES ARISING HEREFROM. THE FACT THAT AN ORGANIZATION OR WEBSITE IS REFERRED TO IN THIS WORK AS A CITATION AND/OR A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF FURTHER INFORMATION DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE AUTHOR OR THE PUBLISHER ENDORSES THE INFORMATION THE ORGANIZATION OR WEBSITE MAY PROVIDE OR RECOMMENDATIONS IT MAY MAKE. FURTHER, READERS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT INTERNET WEBSITES LISTED IN THIS WORK MAY HAVE CHANGED OR DISAPPEARED BETWEEN WHEN THIS WORK WAS WRITTEN AND WHEN IT IS READ.

For general information on our other products and services, please contact our Customer Care Department within the U.S. at 877-762-2974, outside the U.S. at 317-572-3993, or fax 317-572-4002. For technical support, please visit <https://hub.wiley.com/community/support/dummies>.

Wiley publishes in a variety of print and electronic formats and by print-on-demand. Some material included with standard print versions of this book may not be included in e-books or in print-on-demand. If this book refers to media such as a CD or DVD that is not included in the version you purchased, you may download this material at <http://booksupport.wiley.com>. For more information about Wiley products, visit www.wiley.com.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2019956418

ISBN 978-1-119-60964-3 (pbk); ISBN 978-1-119-60967-4 (ebk); ISBN 978-1-119-60965-0 (ebk)

Manufactured in the United States of America

V10016680_010320

Contents at a Glance

Introduction	1
Part 1: Fast Track to Super Snaps	7
CHAPTER 1: Choosing the Right Camera	9
CHAPTER 2: Starting Out Right: Setup Do's and Don'ts	39
CHAPTER 3: Shooting Your First Photos (and Movies)	71
Part 2: Taking Your Photography to the Next Level	89
CHAPTER 4: Starting to See Like a Photographer	91
CHAPTER 5: Taking Control of Exposure	109
CHAPTER 6: Adding Flash and Other Lights	135
CHAPTER 7: Manipulating Focus and Color	161
Part 3: Pro Tips for Capturing Specific Subjects	195
CHAPTER 8: Shooting Frame-Worthy Portraits	197
CHAPTER 9: Photographing Action	221
CHAPTER 10: Taking in the Scenery	245
Part 4: After the Shot	275
CHAPTER 11: Discovering Cool Playback Features	277
CHAPTER 12: Downloading, Editing, and Sharing Photos	291
Part 5: The Part of Tens	313
CHAPTER 13: Ten Fixes for Common Photo Flaws	315
CHAPTER 14: Ten Accessories to Enhance Your Photography	329
Index	341

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	1
About This Book	2
How This Book Is Organized	2
Part 1: Fast Track to Super Snaps	2
Part 2: Taking Your Photography to the Next Level	3
Part 3: Pro Tips for Capturing Specific Subjects	3
Part 4: After the Shot	4
Part 5: The Part of Tens	4
Beyond the Book	4
Icons Used in This Book	4
Where to Go from Here	5
 PART 1: FAST TRACK TO SUPER SNAPS	 7
CHAPTER 1: Choosing the Right Camera	9
Choosing the Right Level of Camera	10
How much control do you want?	12
How important is picture quality?	15
Do you want to use multiple lenses?	20
Looking at Lenses	23
Camera compatibility	24
Lens focal length	24
Prime versus zoom lenses	27
Lens aperture range	27
Minimum focusing distance	29
Lens weight and size	29
Lens quality	30
Reviewing a Few Final Camera Features	31
Shooting modes	31
Image stabilization	32
Viewfinder: Optical or electronic?	33
Video-recording capabilities	34
Memory-card features	35
Convenience features	36
So . . . Is It Time for a New Camera?	37
 CHAPTER 2: Starting Out Right: Setup Do's and Don'ts	 39
Preparing the Camera	40
Buying and using memory cards	40
Preserving battery power	44
Working with interchangeable lenses	45

Choosing Initial Camera Settings	49
Selecting the exposure (shooting) mode	49
Setting the shutter-release mode	51
Setting photo resolution	55
Setting the file type (JPEG or Raw)	61
Looking at a Few More Setup Options	68
CHAPTER 3: Shooting Your First Photos (and Movies)	71
Looking at Automatic Shooting Modes	72
Shooting in Auto Mode	72
Stepping Up to Scene Modes	78
Portrait mode	79
Landscape mode	80
Close-up mode	81
Sports mode	81
Recording Movies in Auto Mode	82
Enabling movie mode	83
Reviewing recording settings	84
Recording a movie in Auto mode	87
PART 2: TAKING YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY TO THE NEXT LEVEL	89
CHAPTER 4: Starting to See Like a Photographer	91
Exploring Composition Basics	92
Dead center is deadly boring	92
Create movement through the frame	95
Eliminate clutter	97
Leave some "head room"	98
Using Depth of Field to Artistic Advantage	99
Capturing Motion: To Blur or Not to Blur?	102
Becoming a Student of Light	104
Exploring New Subjects and Angles	106
Find a new angle	106
Notice reflections, patterns, and textures	106
Look beyond the usual suspects	107
CHAPTER 5: Taking Control of Exposure	109
Understanding Exposure	110
Introducing the exposure trio: Aperture, shutter speed, and ISO	110
Doing the exposure balancing act	118

Adjusting f-stop, Shutter Speed, and ISO	119
Taking advantage of exposure guides	120
Changing the Metering mode	124
Using "priority" exposure modes	125
Adjusting Autoexposure Results	127
Applying exposure compensation	127
AE Lock (autoexposure lock)	129
Expanding Tonal Range	129
Bracketing Exposures	133
CHAPTER 6: Adding Flash and Other Lights	135
Enabling and Disabling Built-In Flash	136
Comparing Built-In and External Flashes	138
Pros and cons of built-in flashes	138
Pros and cons of external flash heads	140
Adjusting Flash Power	143
Exploring Special Flash Modes	145
Flash with red-eye reduction	145
Slow-sync flash	146
Rear-curtain sync	147
Improving Outdoor Photos with Flash	150
Considering Continuous Lighting	152
Setting Up a Small Lighting Studio	153
Looking at Simpler (and Cheaper) Lighting Setups	158
CHAPTER 7: Manipulating Focus and Color	161
Understanding Autofocus Options	161
Enabling autofocus	162
Locating your camera's focus points	163
Selecting a focus point or zone	164
Choosing focus lock or continuous AF	167
Using the right autofocus technique	169
Focusing Manually	171
Diagnosing Focus Problems	172
My entire picture is blurry	172
The wrong thing is in focus	175
Moving subjects are blurry	177
The camera won't focus at all	178
Playing with Depth of Field	179
Controlling Color	184
RGB: A new way of thinking about color	184
Choosing between sRGB and Adobe RGB	185
Using white balance to adjust color	187
Looking at Picture Presets	191
Shooting Raw for More Color Control	193

PART 3: PRO TIPS FOR CAPTURING SPECIFIC SUBJECTS	195
CHAPTER 8: Shooting Frame-Worthy Portraits	197
Starting with a Classic Portrait Recipe	198
Creating Good Portrait Lighting	204
Shoot indoor portraits by window light	205
Catch light with a reflector	205
Lessen the chances of red-eye in flash portraits	207
Try slow-sync flash for softer flash lighting	210
Shoot a subject in silhouette	212
Use flash to fill in shadows outdoors	213
Building a Better Backdrop	215
Capturing More Memorable Portraits	217
CHAPTER 9: Photographing Action	221
Choosing an Action Plan	222
Freezing Action	223
Following the classic action recipe	223
Shooting subjects "moving in place"	233
Improving your odds of freezing action	235
Blurring Motion	240
Panning for Cool Background Effects	243
CHAPTER 10: Taking in the Scenery	245
Reviewing a Few Basics	246
Composition is critical	246
Lens focal length matters (a lot)	249
Remember the impact of depth of field	251
Pick the right exposure mode	252
Pack a lens filter (or two or three)	254
Taking a Panoramic View	260
Photographing Tall Structures	264
Catching the Night Lights	266
Capturing Small Wonders	270
PART 4: AFTER THE SHOT	275
CHAPTER 11: Discovering Cool Playback Features	277
Switching to Playback Mode	277
Adjusting the Playback Display	278
Getting a Close-Up Look at a Photo	280
Displaying Thumbnails and Calendars	281

Viewing Shooting Settings (Metadata)	281
Reading histograms	282
Displaying highlight alerts ("blinkies").	283
Rating, Protecting, and Deleting Files	284
Rating files	285
Protecting photos	286
Deleting files.	287
Checking Out In-Camera Editing Tools	288
Viewing Photos on a TV	288
CHAPTER 12: Downloading, Editing, and Sharing Photos	291
Sorting through Photo Software	292
Basic (and free) programs	292
Advanced (and not free) options.	294
Downloading Your Images	296
Looking at connection options	296
Completing the download process.	298
Preserving Your Files	301
Converting Raw Files	302
Looking at Your Printing Options	305
Avoiding Printing Pitfalls.	306
Checking resolution: Do you have enough pixels?	306
Getting print and monitor colors in sync.	308
Preparing Pictures for Online Sharing	311
Sizing photos for screen display	311
Saving files in the JPEG format.	312
PART 5: THE PART OF TENS	313
CHAPTER 13: Ten Fixes for Common Photo Flaws	315
Discover a Few Easy Exposure Fixes	315
Take Steps to Avoid Blurry Pictures	318
Scan the Frame Before You Shoot	319
Blur a Busy Background	320
Level the Horizon.	321
Crop Away Excess Background	323
Solve Color Miscues	325
Turn Down the Noise	326
Deal with Dust Spots and Lens Flare	326
Watch Out for Weird Halos	327

CHAPTER 14: Ten Accessories to Enhance Your Photography	329
Invest in a Good Camera Bag	330
Pick a Sturdy Tripod	331
Consider Smaller Stability Solutions	332
Find a More Comfortable Camera Strap	333
Get a Better View of Your Monitor	334
Download Some Cool Apps	335
Calibrate Your Monitor with Precision	337
Dive In with a Waterproof Housing	338
Treat Your Wrist to a Graphics Tablet	339
Pick Up a Portable Printer	339
INDEX	341

Learn the secrets of getting super shots

Whether you're shooting with a top-of-the-line dSLR or your smartphone, the principles of good photography remain the same. Learn those basics and your photos will get "wow" reviews whether they're framed on a wall or posted on Instagram. This easy-to-follow guide helps you understand camera settings, describes how to apply proven photography techniques, explains options for improving photo quality, explores how to better control lighting and exposure. Best of all, it helps you think like a photographer, so your images tell the story you want to create.

Inside...

- Tips for choosing a camera
- Camera set-up guidelines
- How to compose an image
- Solutions to focus problems
- Best ways to capture action
- Landscape and portrait tips
- Advice on editing and sharing

Julie Adair King is a bestselling author whose books combined have sold well over a million copies. Along with all previous editions of *Digital Photography For Dummies*, she has written *For Dummies* books covering Canon, Olympus, and Nikon dSLR cameras as well as books on photo retouching.

Cover Image: Courtesy of Julie Adair King

Go to **Dummies.com™**
for videos, step-by-step examples,
how-to articles, or to shop!

for
dummies®
A Wiley Brand

Photography/Techniques/
Digital

\$24.99 USA/\$29.99 CAN/£17.99 UK

ISBN 978-1-119-60964-3

52499



9 781119 609643