

Nikon Z 8



SETUP GUIDE

Glenn Bartley and Jan Wegener

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for purchasing our setup guide and congratulations on the purchase of your new camera! We're sure it will help you to capture many thousands of wonderful images.

The purpose of this guide is to help you to set up and understand the features, functions and settings of your new Nikon Z8. We have tried our best to simplify things and make the choices clear. In some cases the best setting is an obvious one. Other times there are options based on personal preferences. In each case We have tried to make this clear and provide the information that you need in order to get the absolute most out of your new camera.

Throughout the guide you will see places where we have stated (P.P.). This stands for personal preference and means that there is no correct setting but rather a few options that are up to your own preferences.

If you have any suggestions or find any typos please feel free to email me us – rgbartley@gmail.com

Thank you again and all the best!

Glenn and Jan

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

If you enjoy this guide you may want to check out our other guides on post processing and our PROSETS.

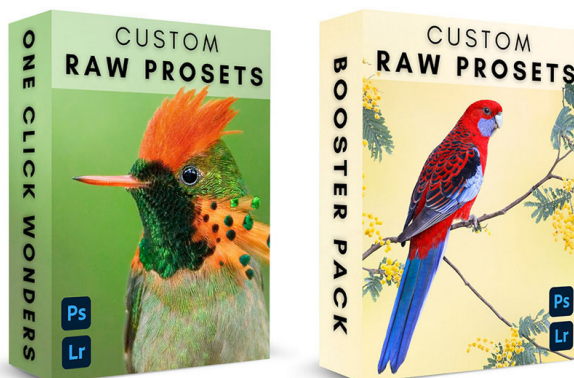
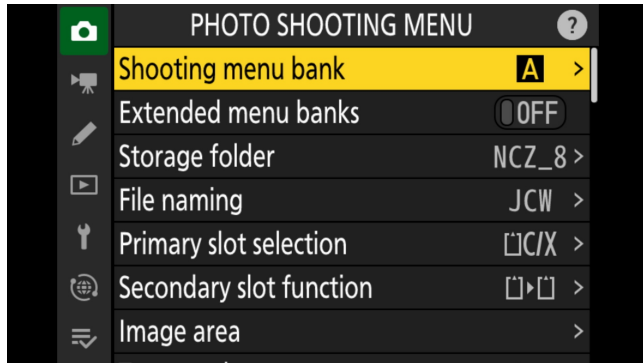


PHOTO SHOOTING MENU



File naming - chose personalized file name

Secondary Slot function - Set to overflow (PP)

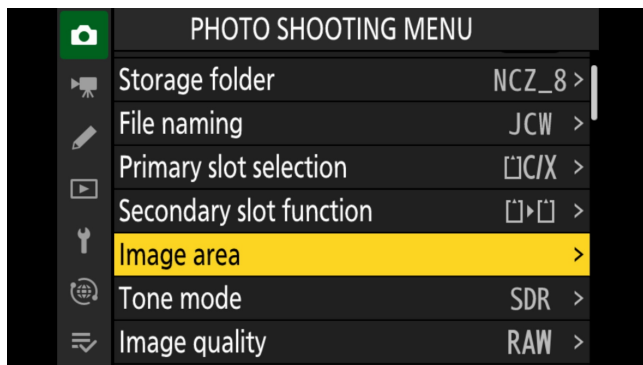


Image Area - Chose FX (full frame) or DX (1.5 crop)

Image Quality - RAW or Jpeg or both (PP)

RAW Recording - select RAW compression - Use high efficiency or lossless

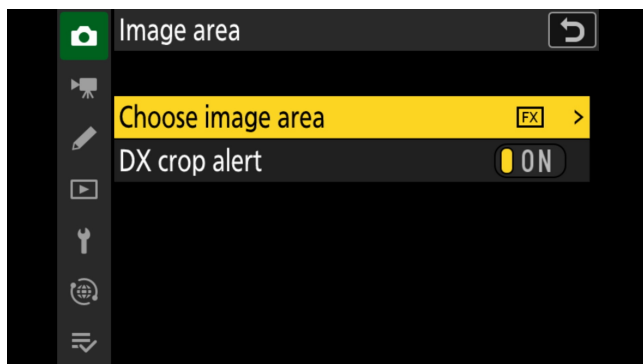
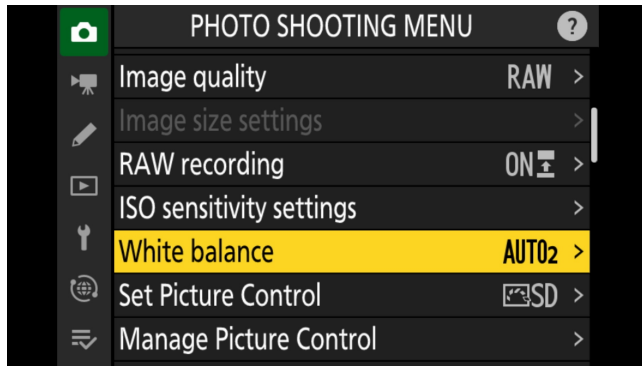


PHOTO SHOOTING MENU



White Balance - Select Auto and keep warm lighting colours (PP)

Set Picture Control - Standard

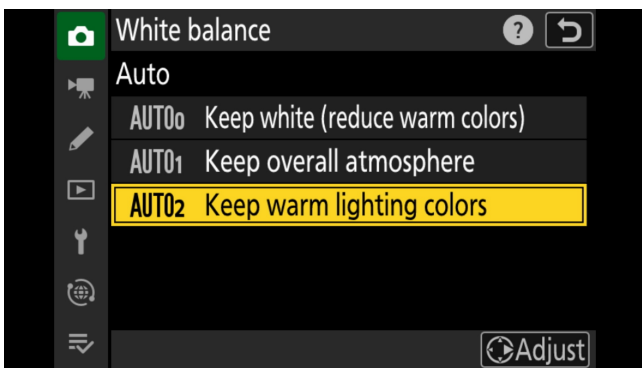
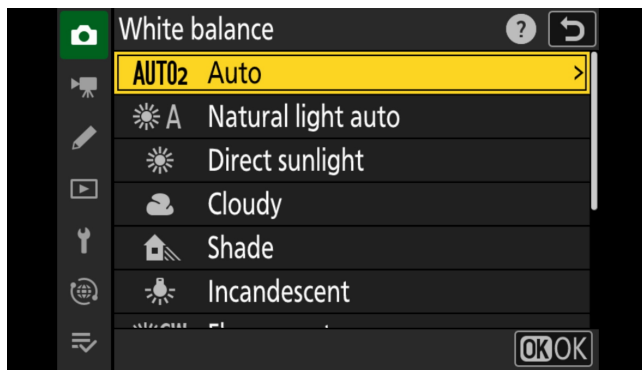
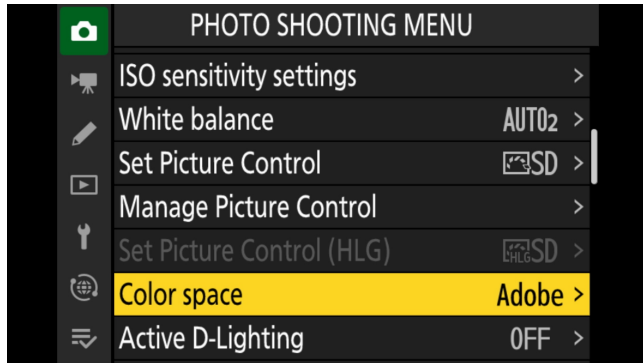
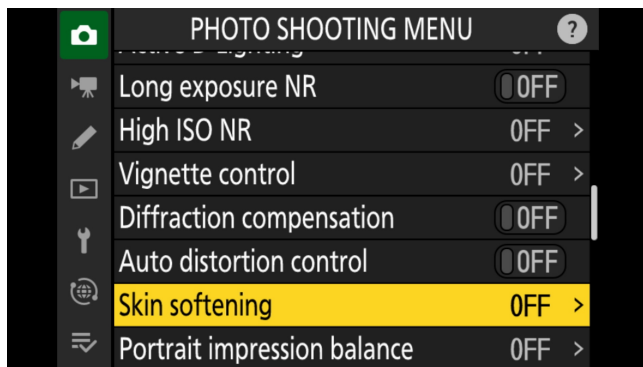


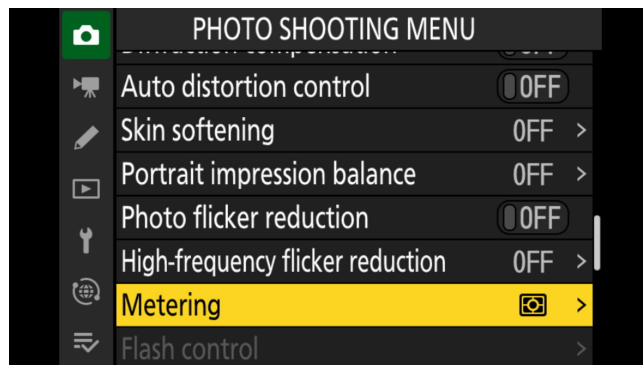
PHOTO SHOOTING MENU



Color Space - Adobe or srgb (PP)

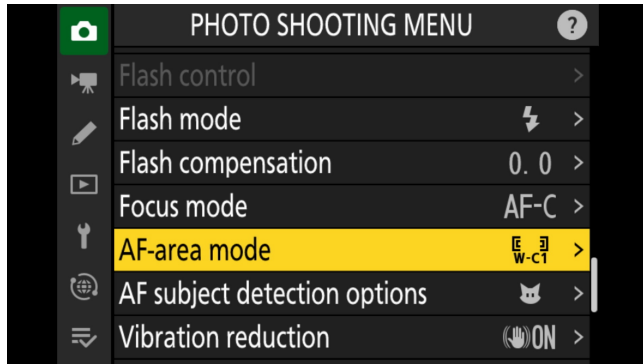


All Other Effects set to OFF (PP)



Metering mode - Evaluative (PP)

PHOTO SHOOTING MENU



Focus mode - AF-C

AF Area Mode - Set a custom wide area large (largest 19x11) as base AF mode. This will allow you to find the bird quick and then hand over to 3D tracking, which we will set up later...

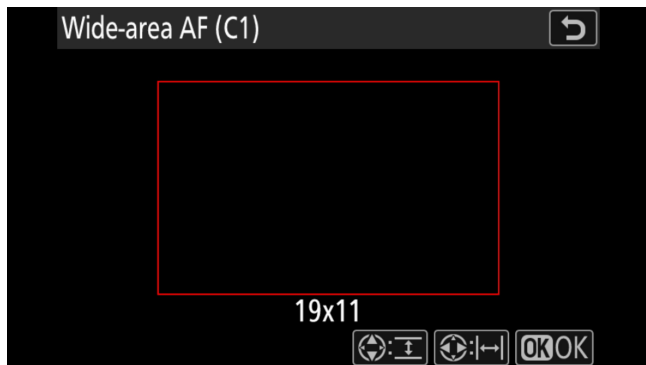
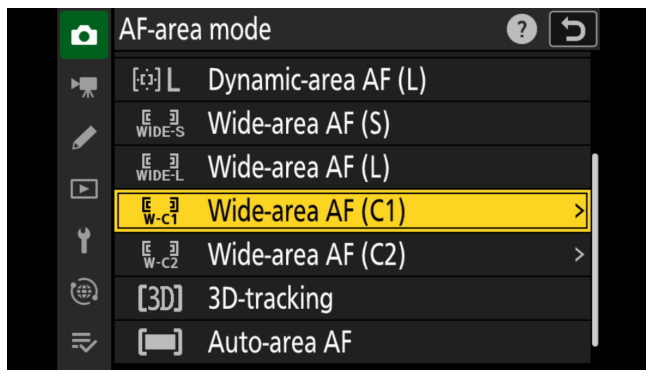
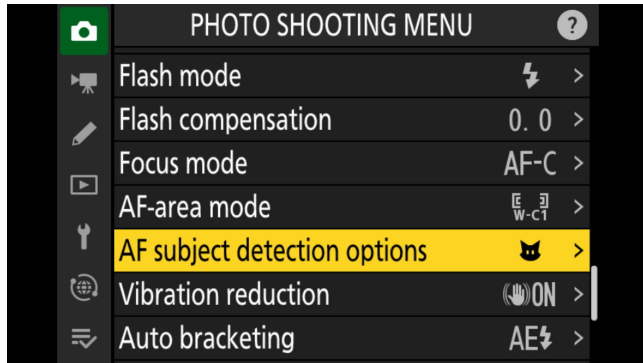
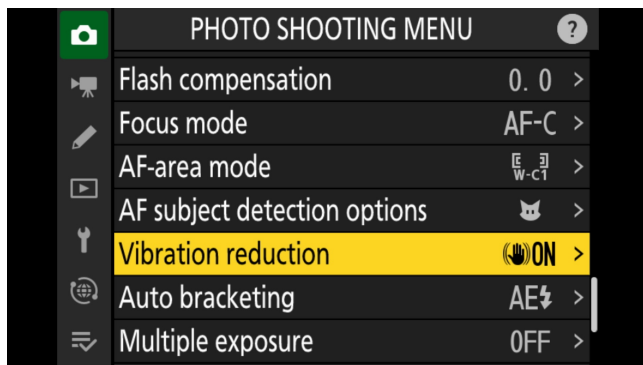
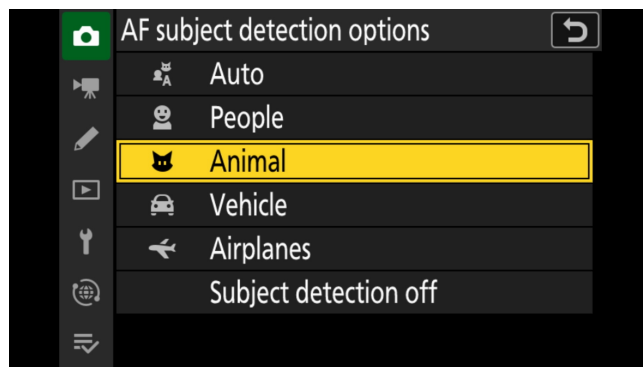


PHOTO SHOOTING MENU



Af subject detection - set to subject you are shooting



Vibration reduction - On - Normal - sport only works when you are moving the camera a lot

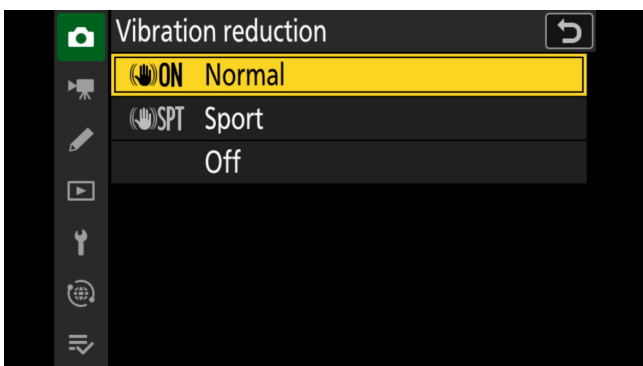
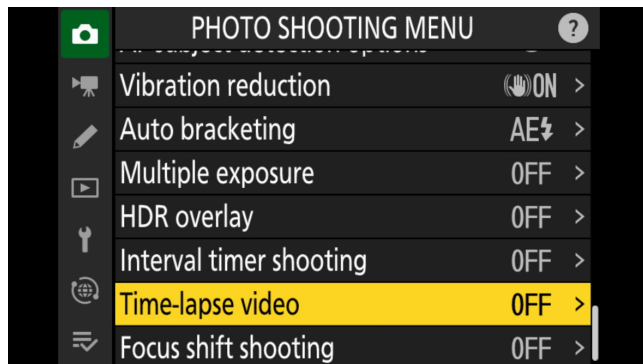
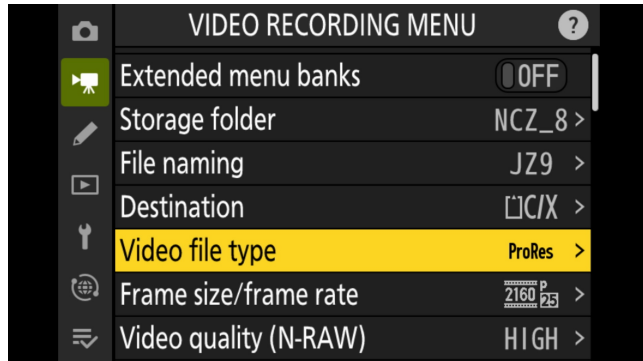


PHOTO SHOOTING MENU

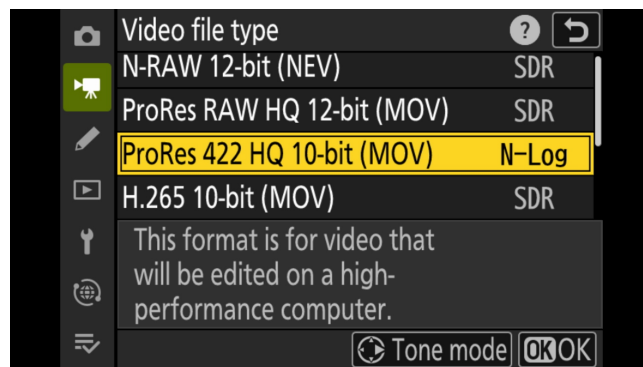


Additional Settings - OFF (PP)

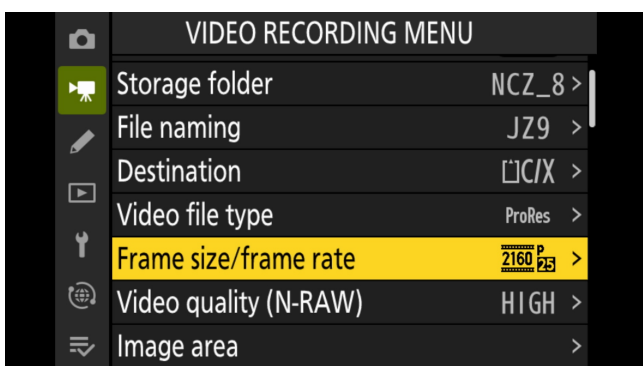
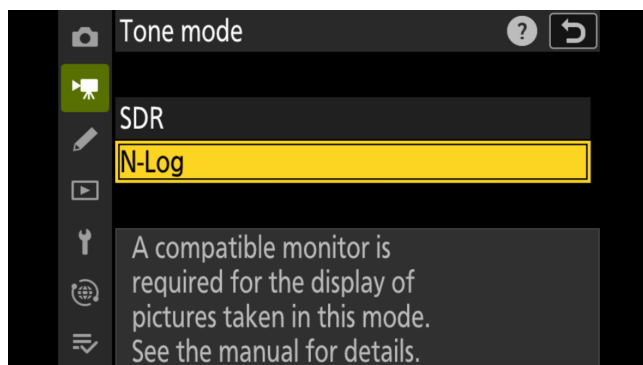
VIDEO RECORDING MENU



Video File Type - We recommend to record internal PRORES. File sizes are big, but quality is great and super easy to edit on most computers.



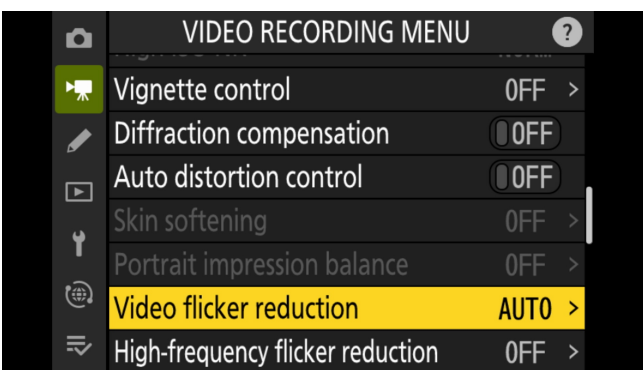
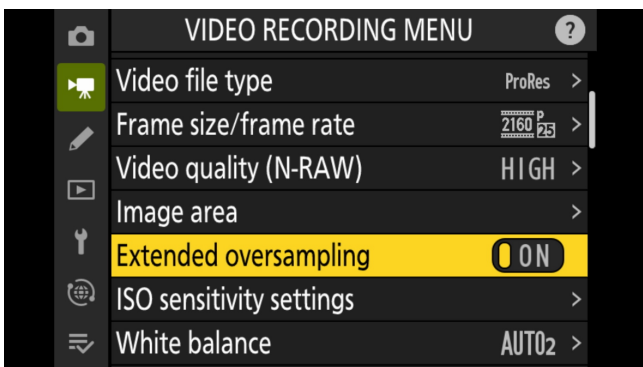
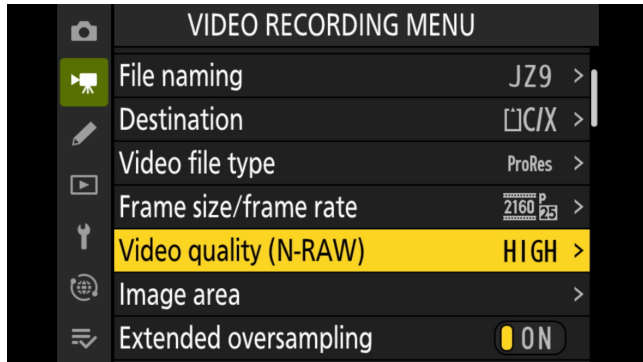
We chose PRO RES 422 HQ 10 bit
Chose SDR for standard look or N-Log for log format with no contrast and maximum dynamic range



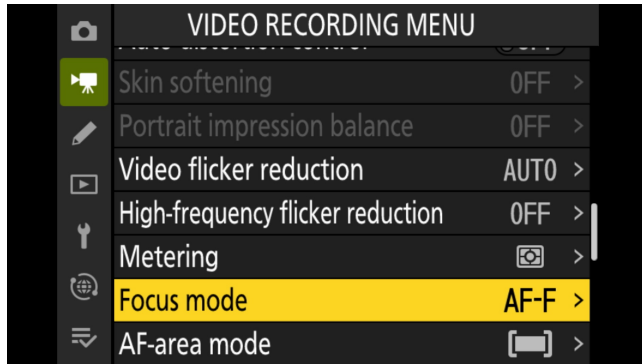
Frame size/rate - pick according to country - e.g. choose 4k 25 for Australia

VIDEO RECORDING MENU

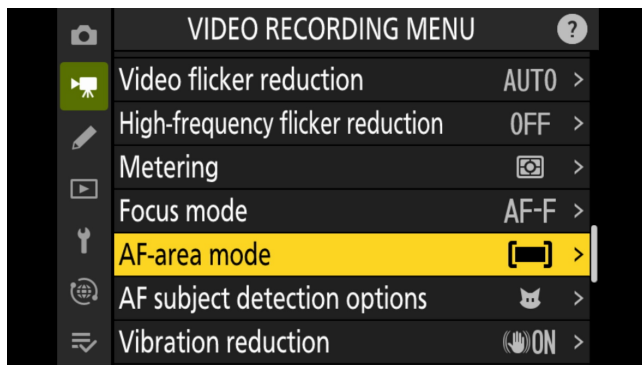
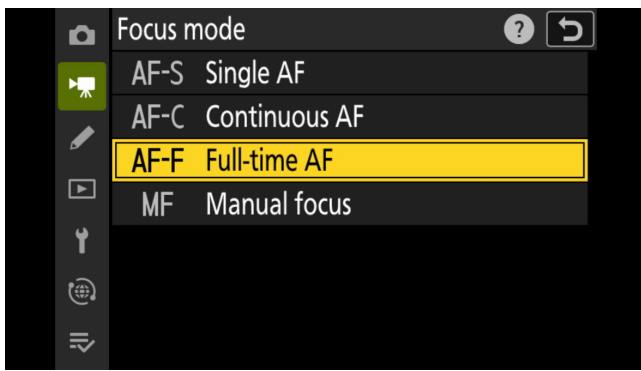
Additional Settings - As Illustrated



VIDEO RECORDING MENU

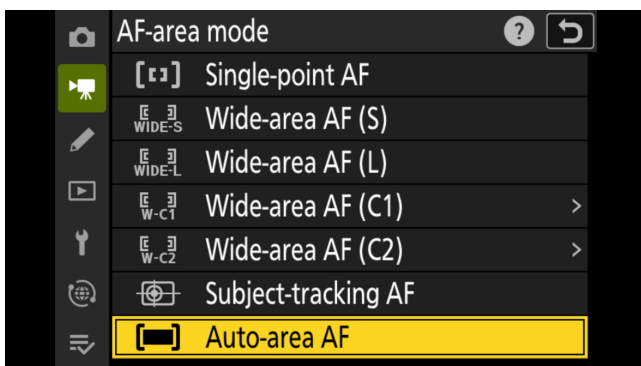


Focus Mode - AF-F - best tracking results, camera tracks all over viewfinder by itself



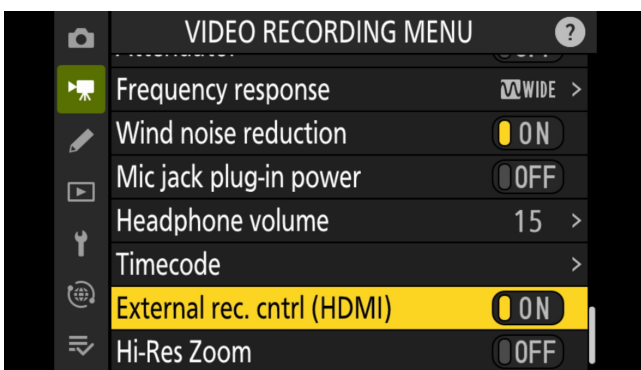
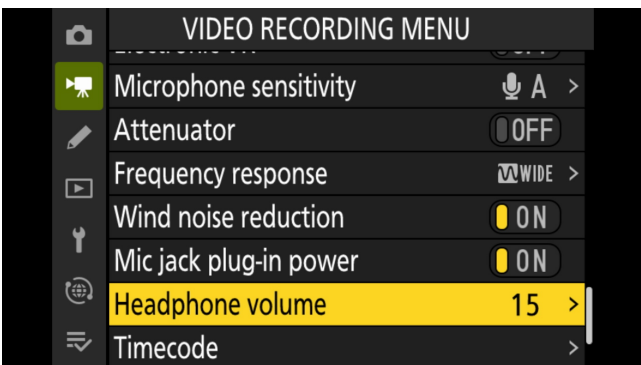
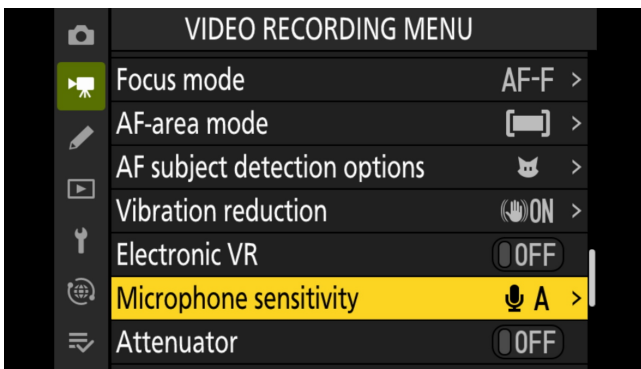
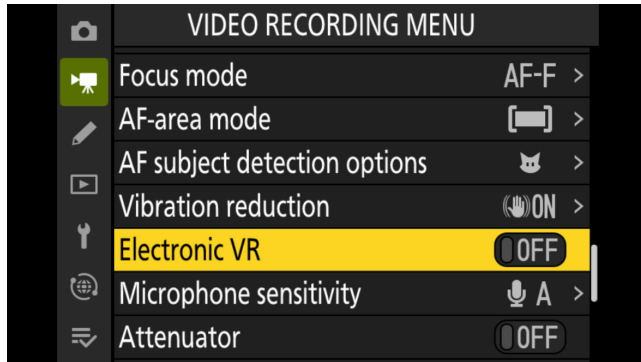
AF Area Mode - Auto Area AF
Subject detection - pick according to subject you're shooting

Vr On - standard (Same as Photo)

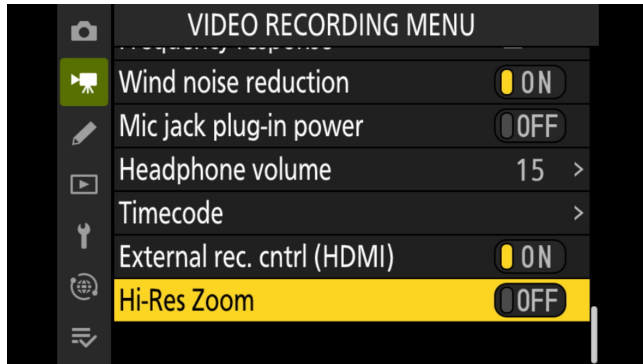


VIDEO RECORDING MENU

Additional Settings - As Illustrated

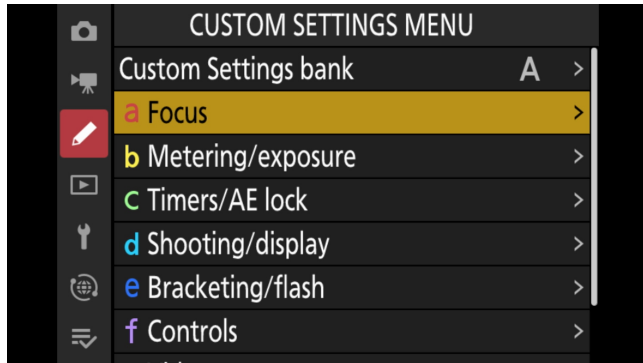


VIDEO RECORDING MENU

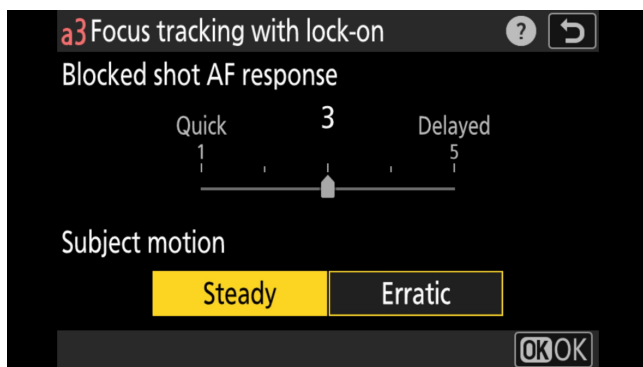
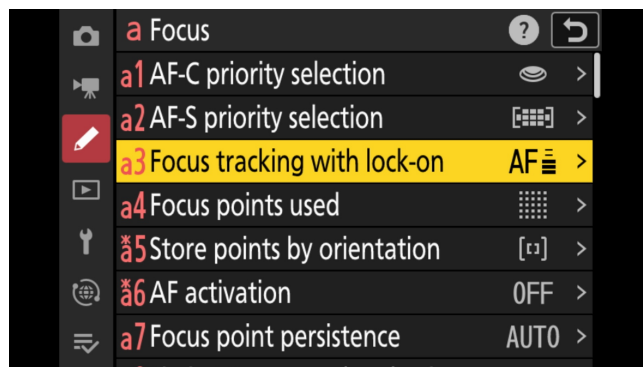


Hi Res Zoom - allows you to zoom 2x into 4k video without quality loss, but limited Af modes available. Great feature if assigned to a zoom ring on the lens.

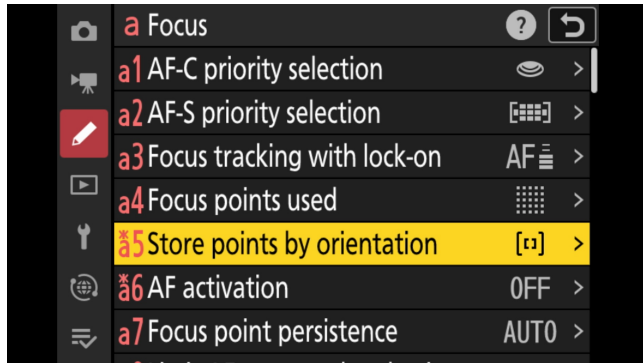
CUSTOM SETTINGS MENU



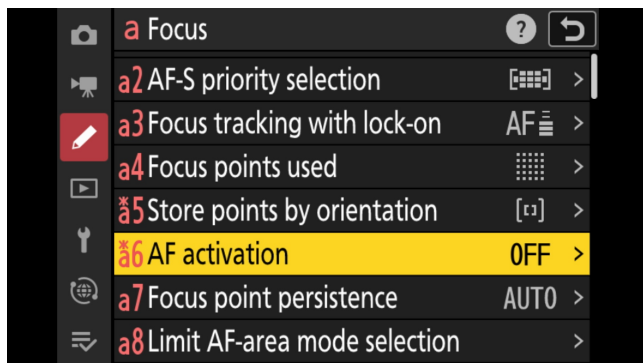
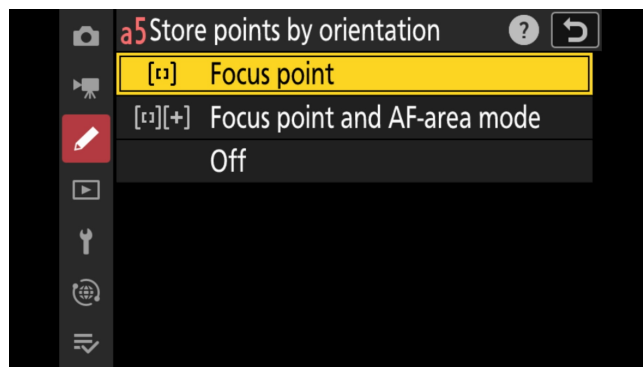
Focus tracking with lock - ON - Blocked shot 3
- Subject motion steady



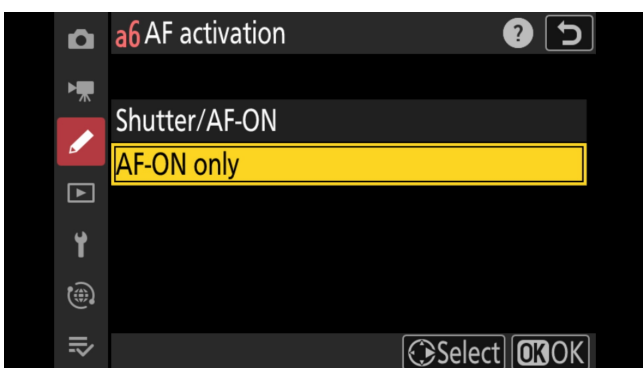
CUSTOM SETTINGS MENU



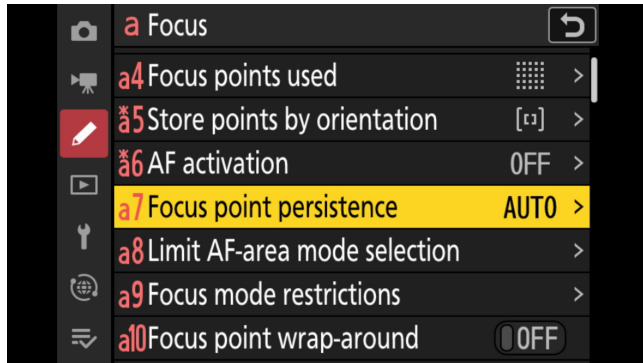
Store points by orientation - Focus Point



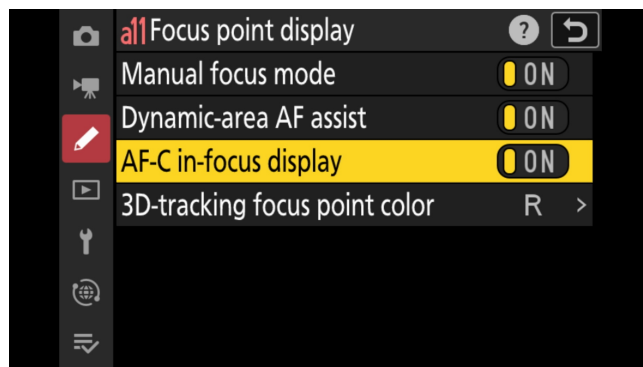
AF activation - Enable or disable focusing with the shutter button - We disable it for back button autofocus that we will set up later. So shutter button only meters and takes images.



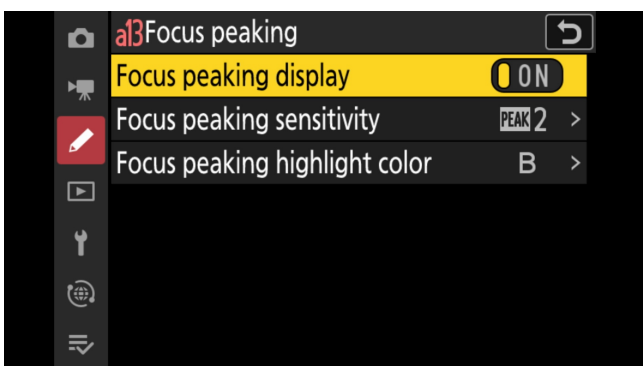
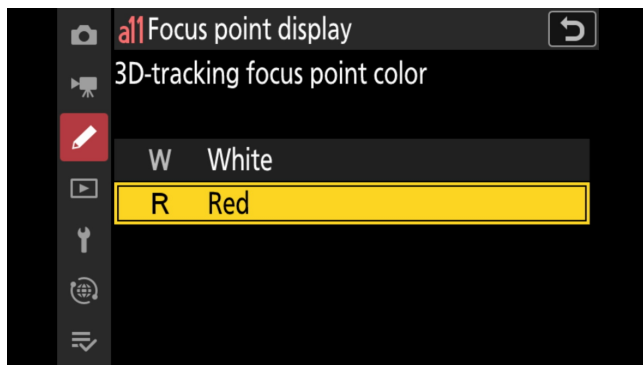
CUSTOM SETTINGS MENU



Focus point persistence - Auto

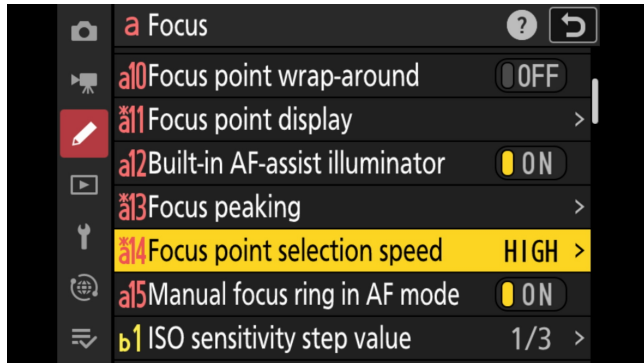


Focus point Display - select preferred colours

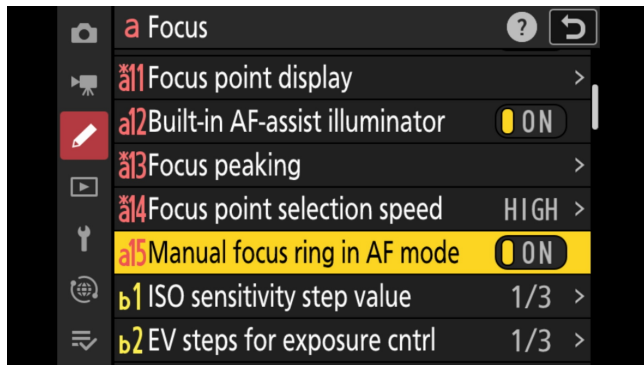


Focus Peaking - chose if you want to see peaking with MF

CUSTOM SETTINGS MENU

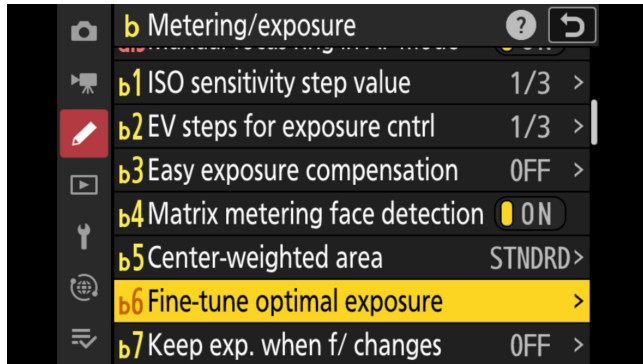


Focus point selection speed - high

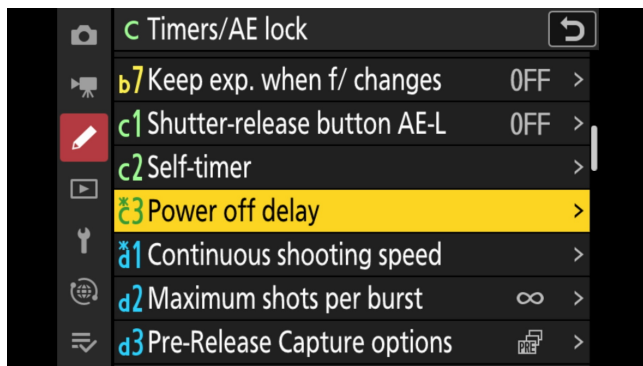


Manual focus ring in Af mode on - for constantly available MF

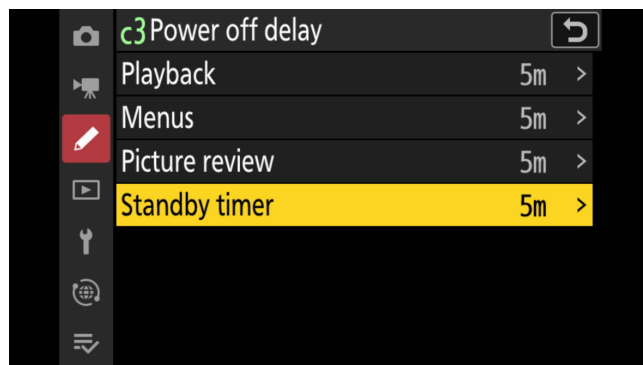
CUSTOM SETTINGS MENU



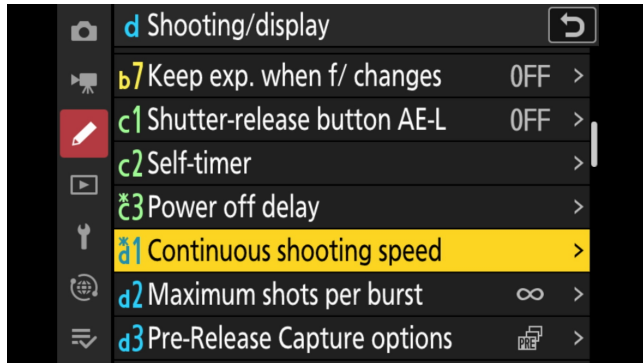
Additional Settings - As Illustrated



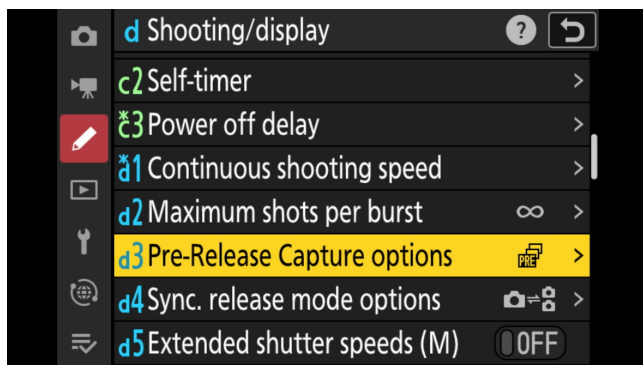
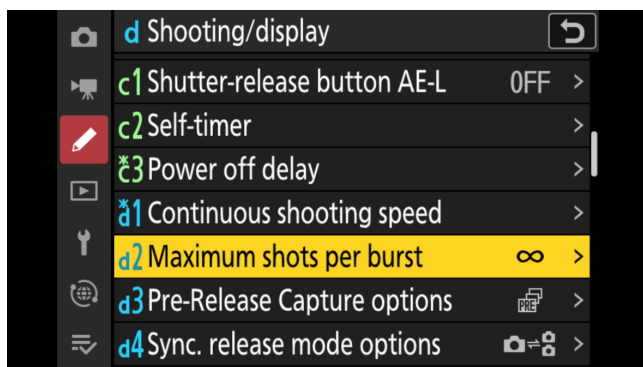
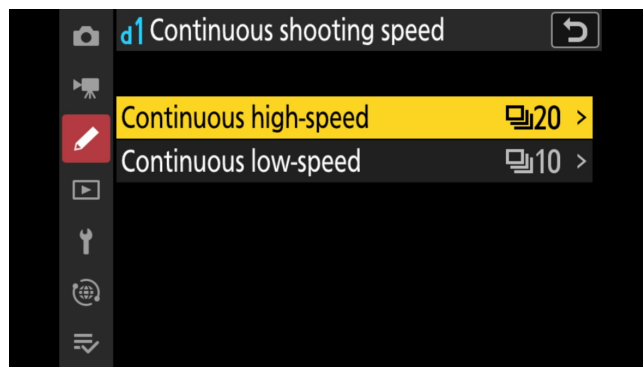
Power off - We like to keep it on longer than the default setting (PP)



CUSTOM SETTINGS MENU

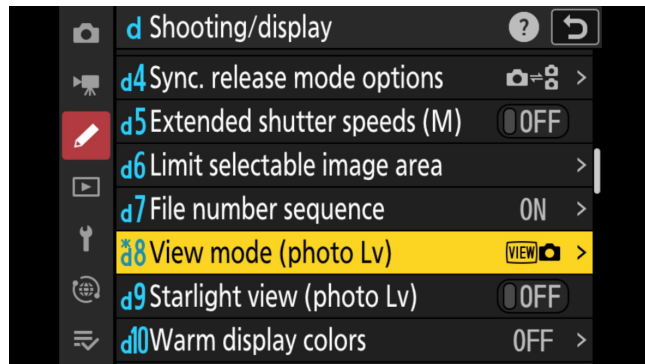


Continuous Shooting Speed - Select max fps - select low speed as desired (PP)

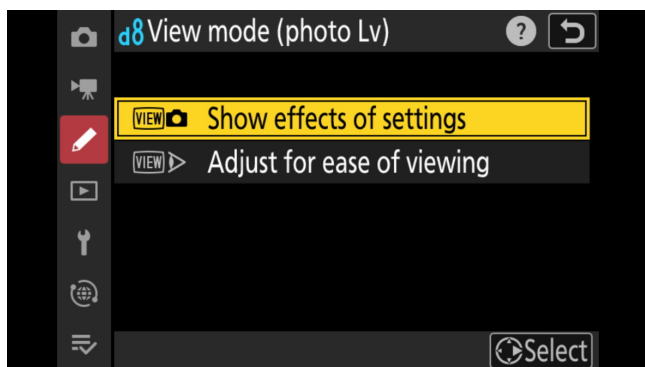


Pre-release - chose for pre capture settings - WARNING only available in JPEG

CUSTOM SETTINGS MENU

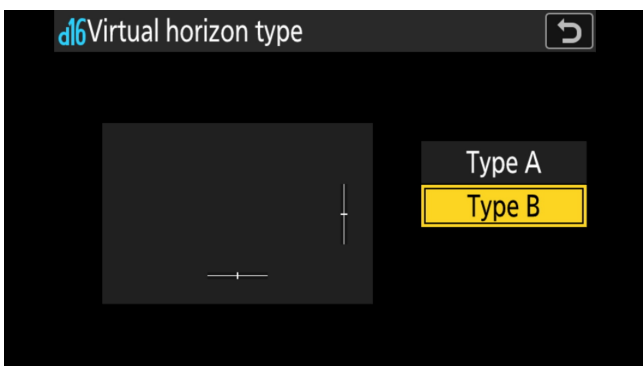
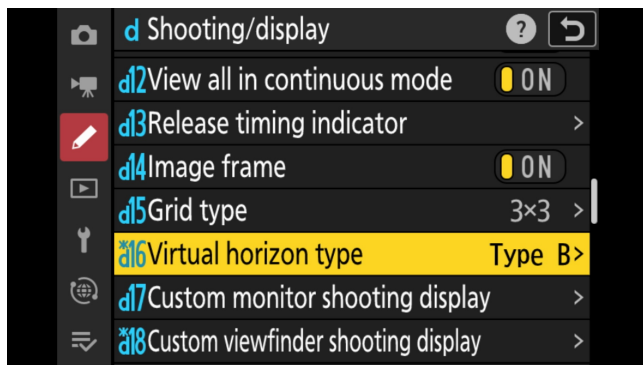
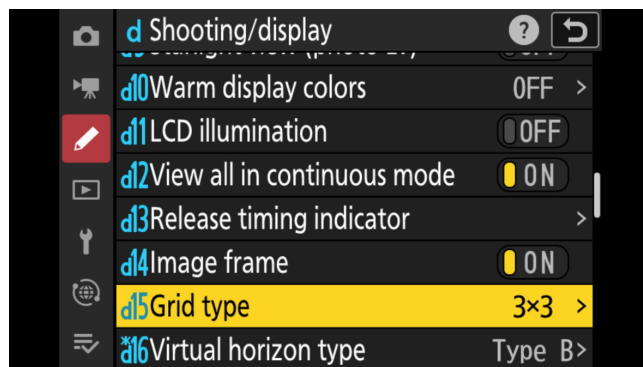
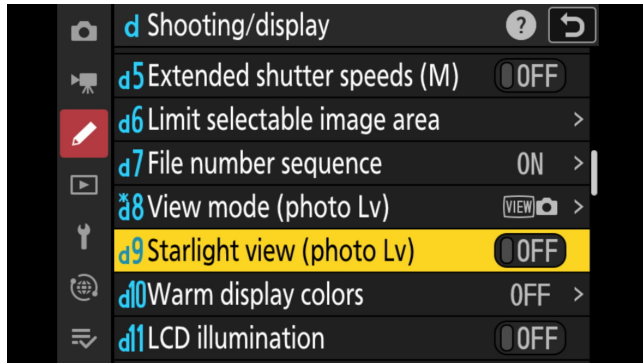


View Mode - Show effects of settings

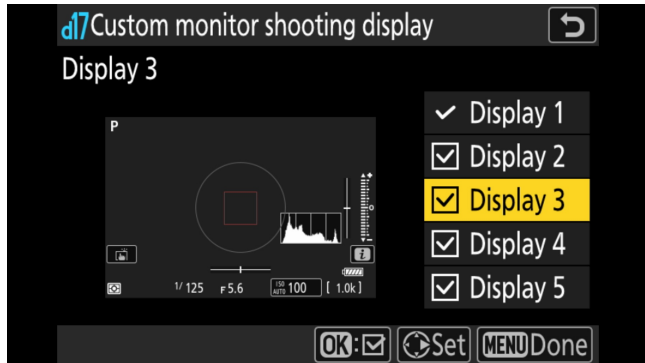


CUSTOM SETTINGS MENU

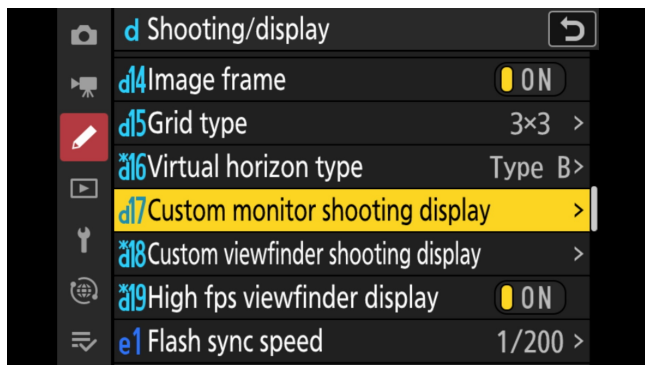
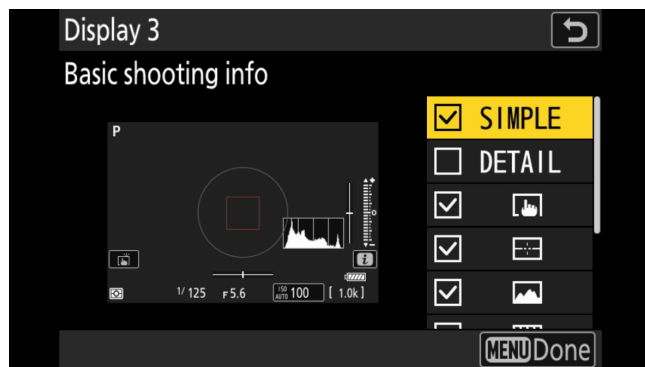
Additional Settings - As Illustrated (PP)



CUSTOM SETTINGS MENU



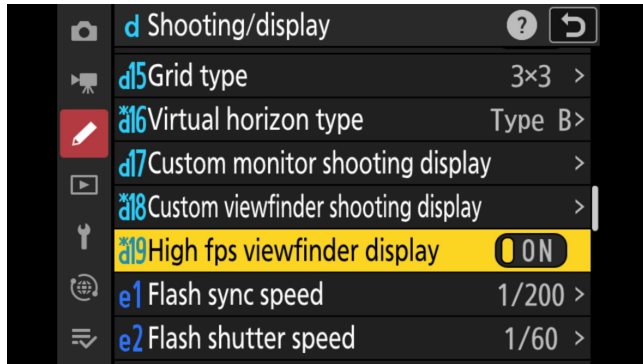
Custom Monitor Shooting Display - select what will be shown on the display



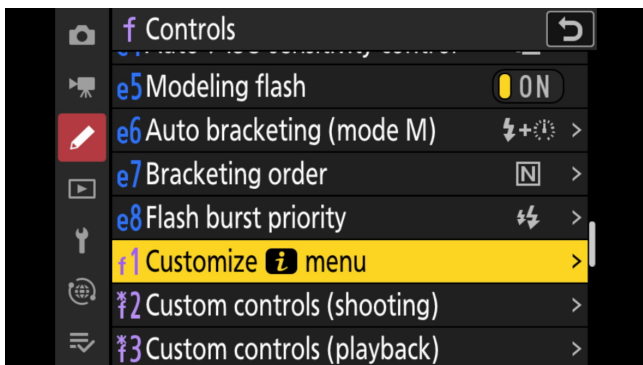
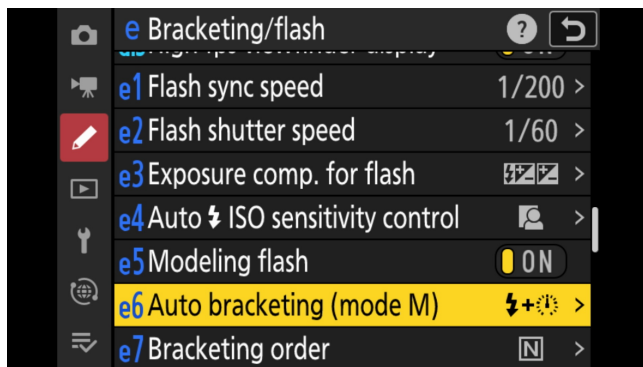
Custom Viewfinder Shooting Display - select what you see in EVF- We like the histogram for instance (PP)



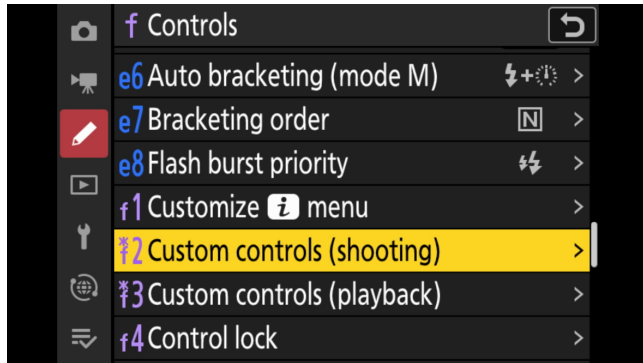
CUSTOM SETTINGS MENU



High fps viewfinder display - on



CUSTOM SETTINGS MENU



This is where we will set up all the focusing and custom buttons. We have already disabled shutter button focus, so now we need to set up double back button AF.

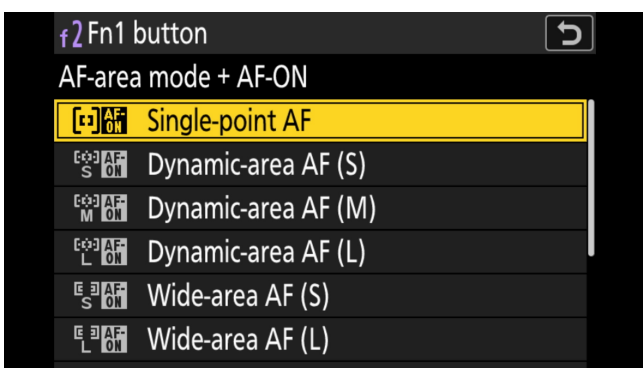
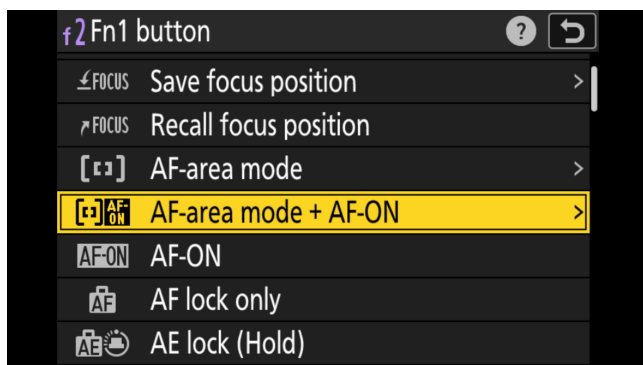
We want to assign focusing to the display button (wide area) and AF-On Button (3D).

You can set it up as desired but we like to use the wide area to find the bird initially and then use 3D tracking to take over and track the bird.

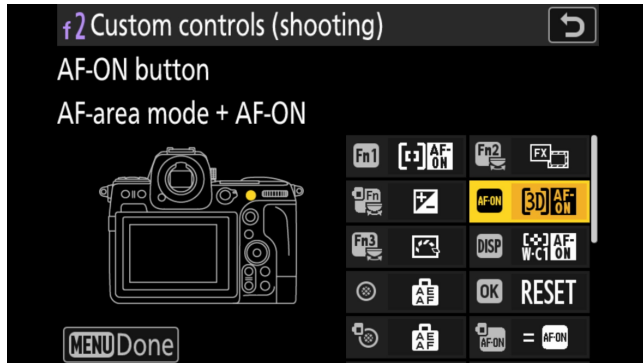


NOTE - For Birds in flight a smaller narrower wide area works better than the larger one we set up here.

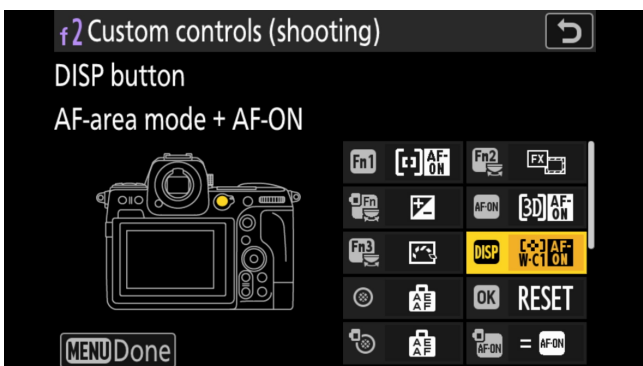
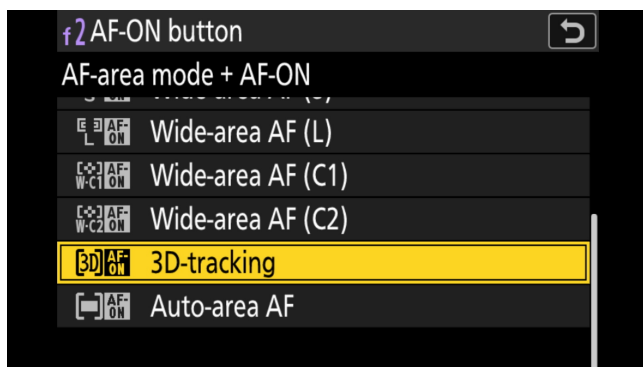
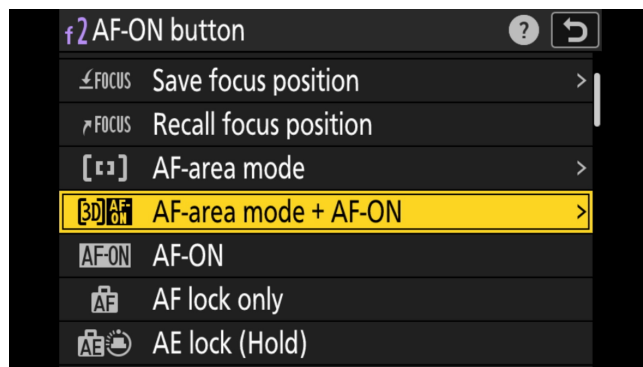
Fn1 - Set to single point AF for precise focusing if needed - press and hold down for focusing



CUSTOM SETTINGS MENU

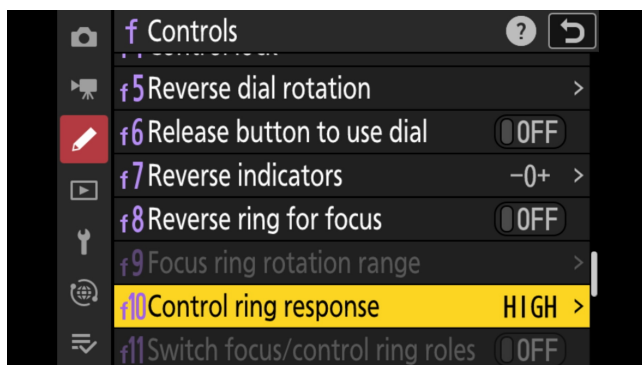
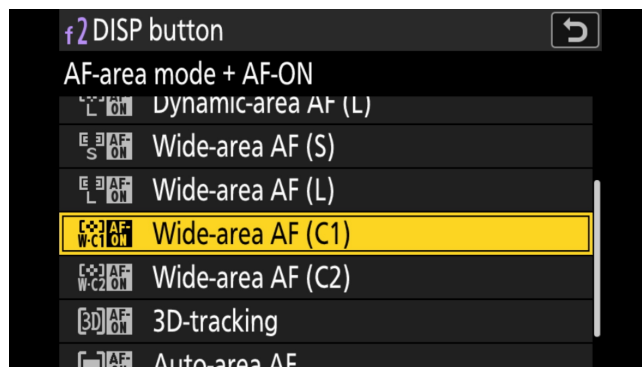
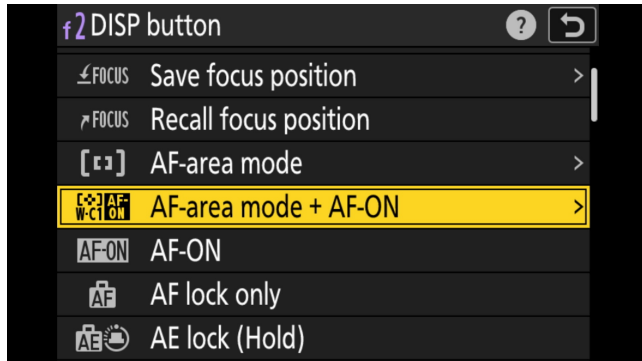


AF-ON - AF-area mode + AF-ON - 3D Tracking

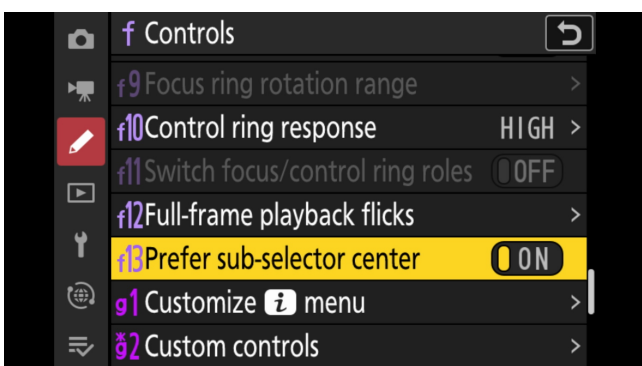


DISP - AF-area mode + AF-ON - wide area custom 19x11

CUSTOM SETTINGS MENU

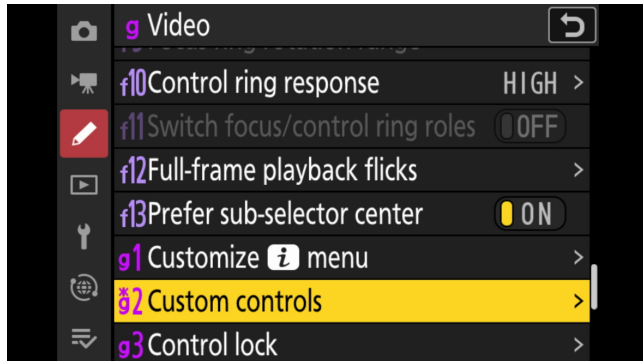


Control ring response - HIGH

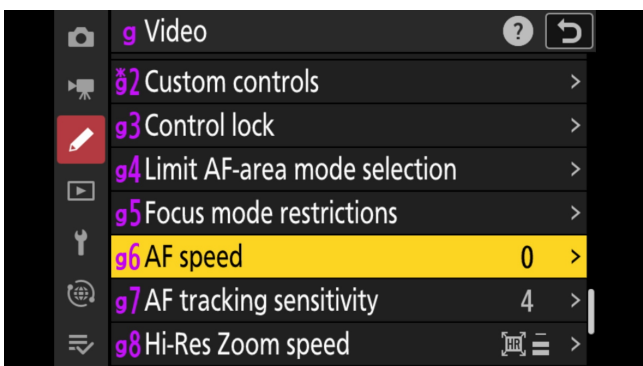
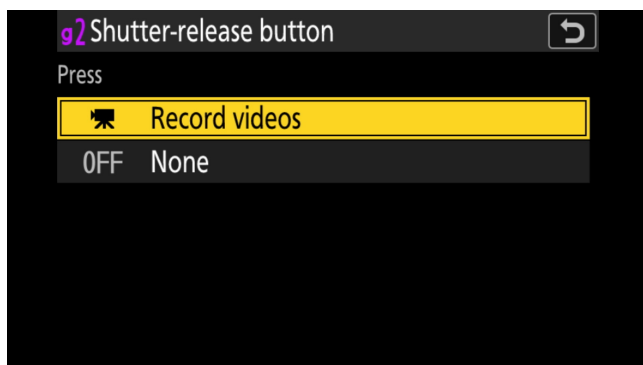
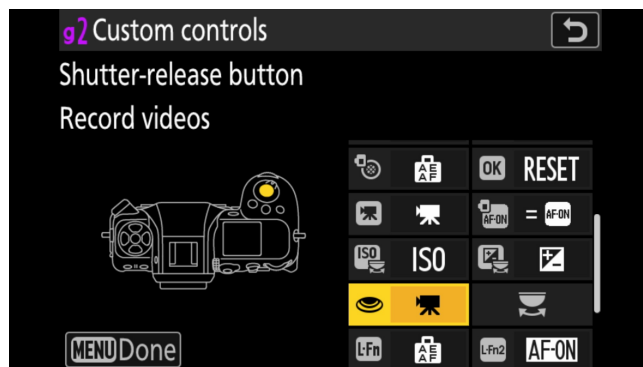


Prefer sub-selector center - ON

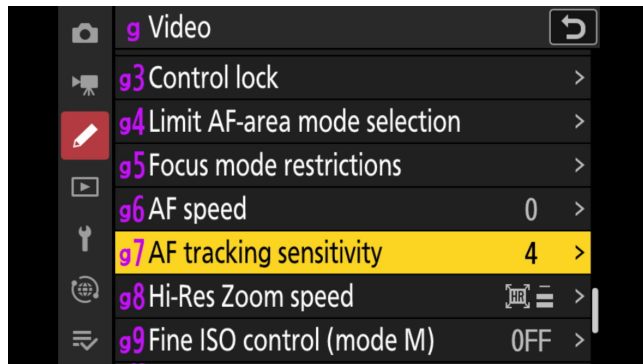
CUSTOM SETTINGS MENU



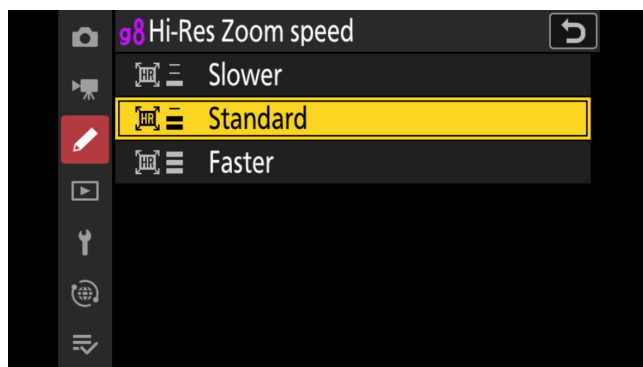
Video custom functions - We like to select video recording with the press of shutter button when in video mode and Af speed to 0



CUSTOM SETTINGS MENU

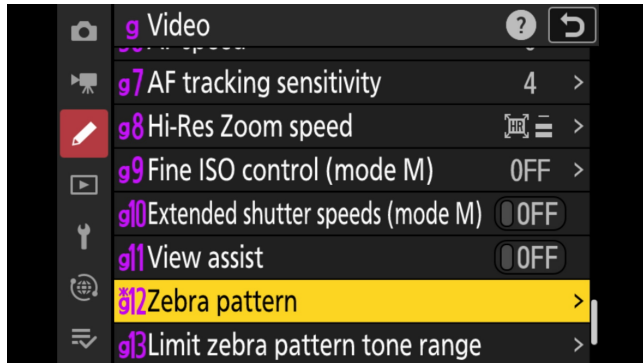


Af tracking sensitivity - 4

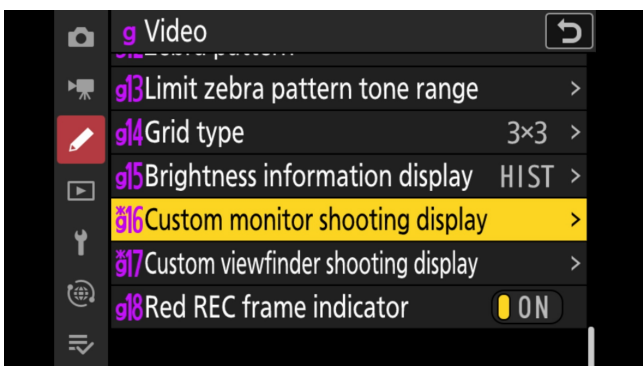
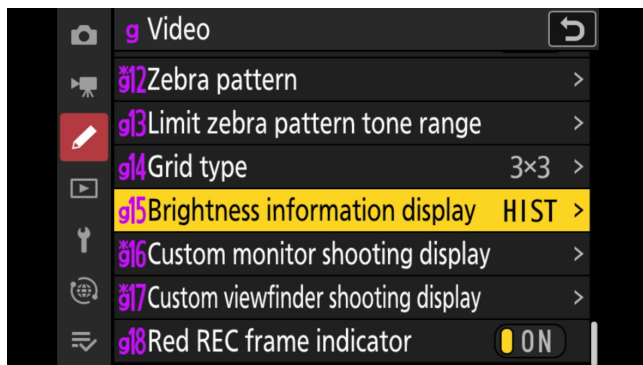
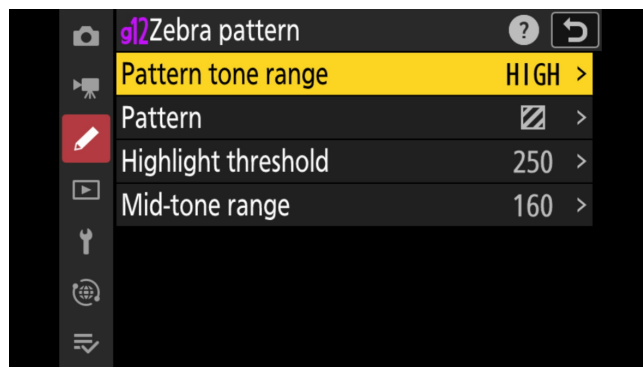


Hi Res Zoom Speed - PP if activated

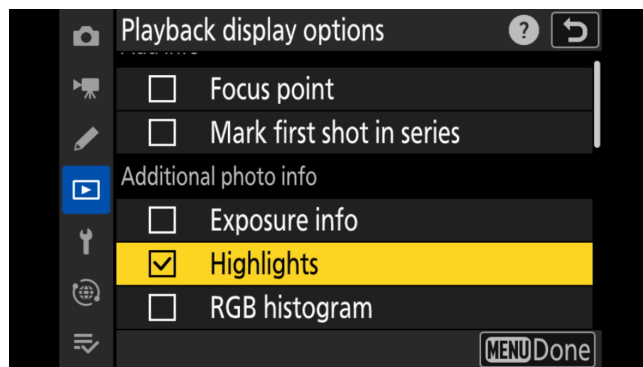
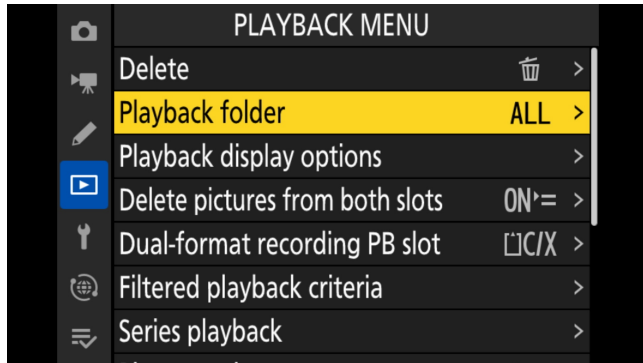
CUSTOM SETTINGS MENU



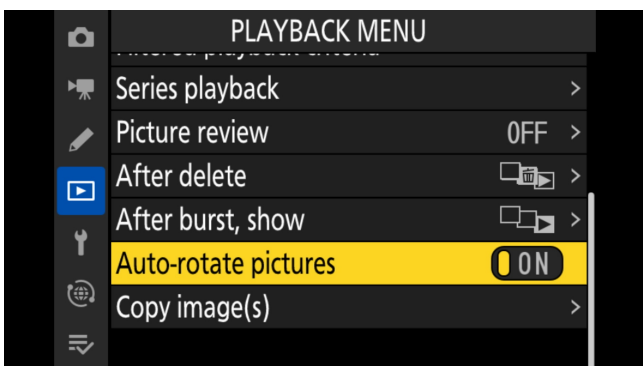
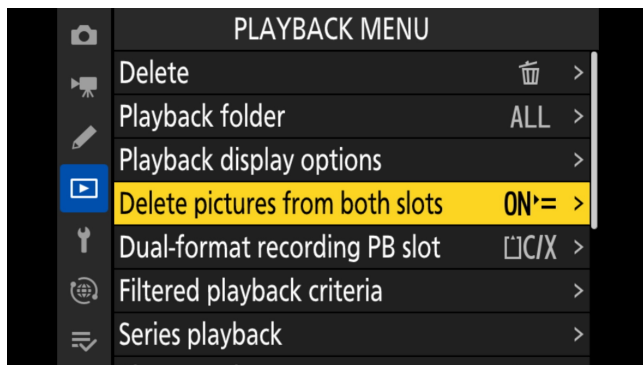
Zebra - select as desired



PLAYBACK MENU

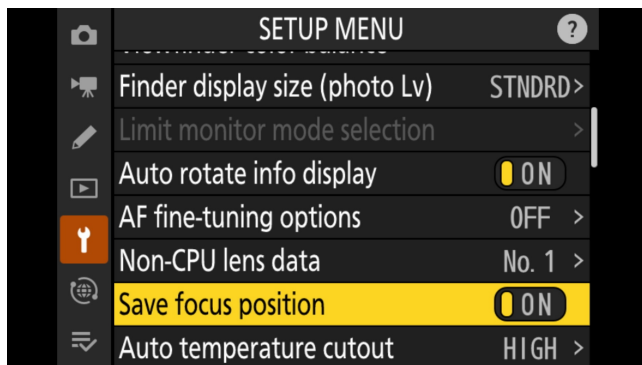
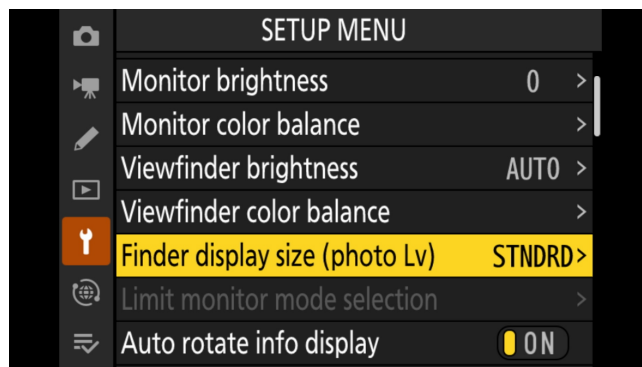
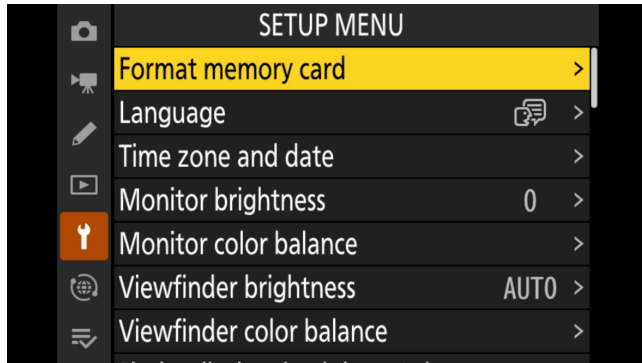


Playback display options - chose what is displayed when viewing images

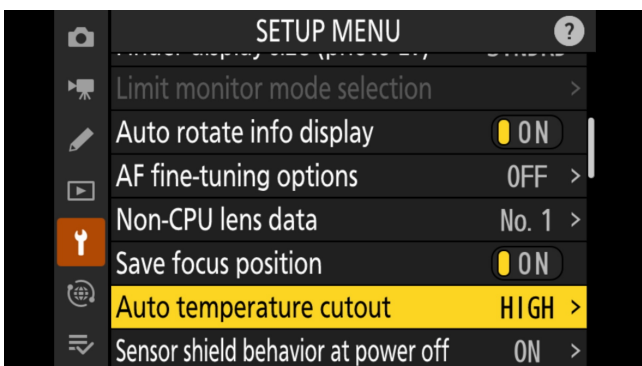


Auto rotate pictures - ON

SETUP MENU

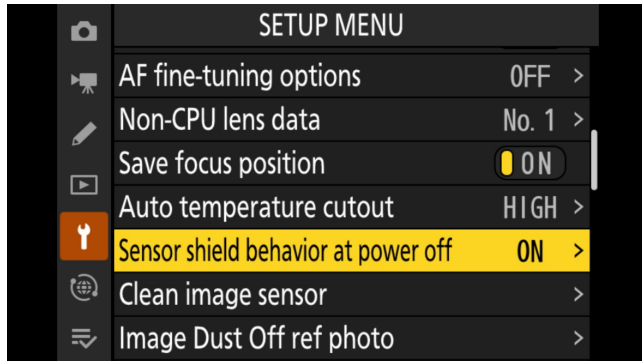


Save Focus position - This stops the lens from defocusing every time camera goes to sleep or is turned off

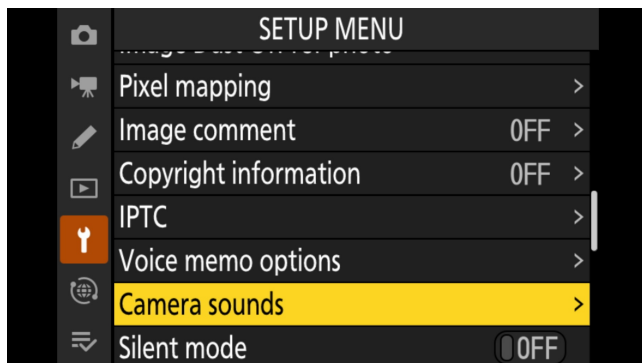
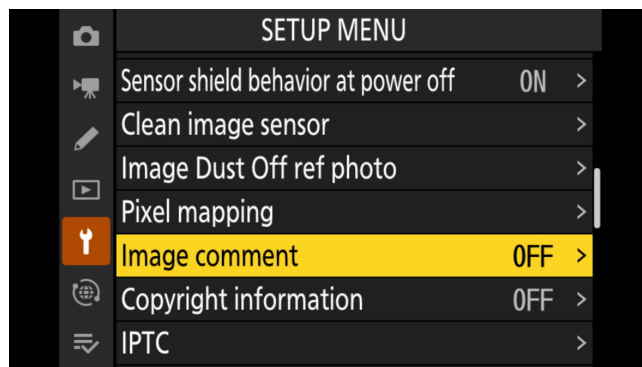


Auto temperature cutout - HIGH

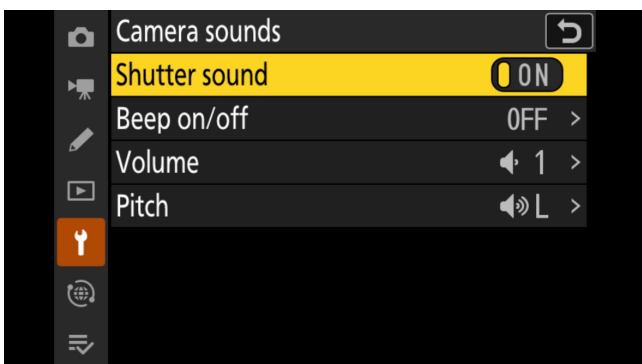
SETUP MENU



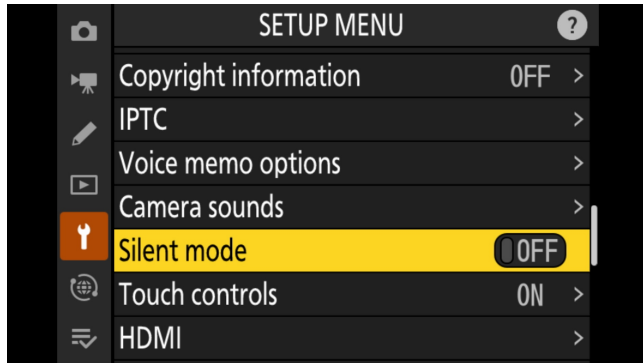
Sensor shield - on - covers sensor when camera is turned off



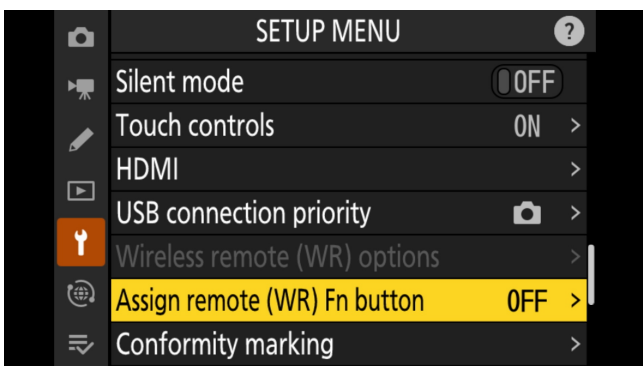
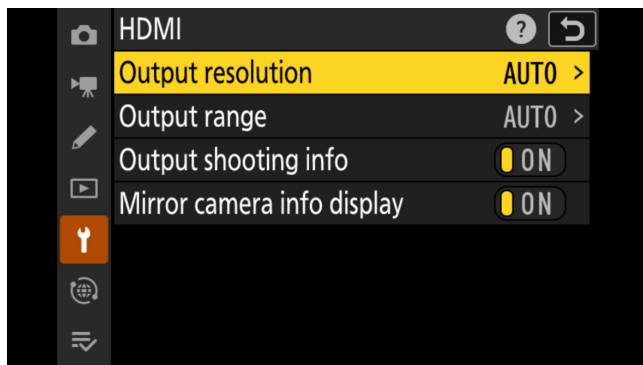
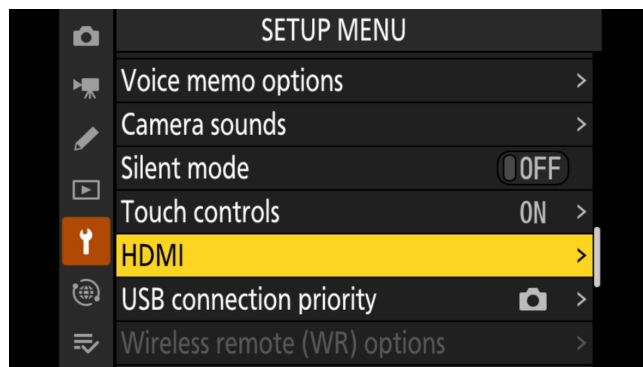
Camera Sounds - select custom shooting sounds as desired



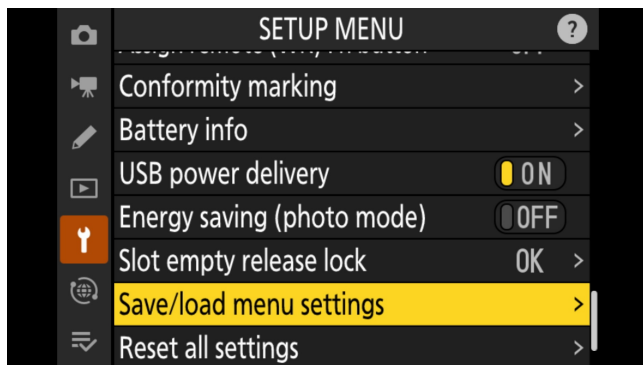
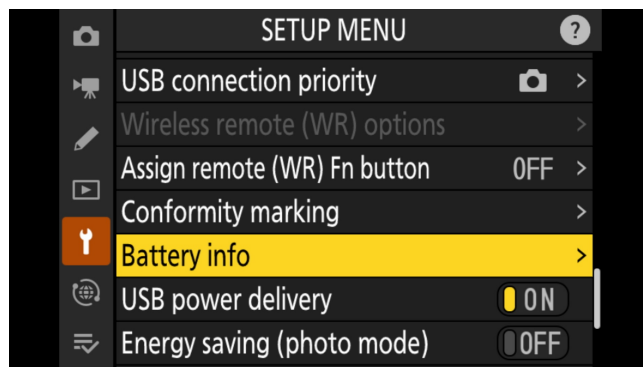
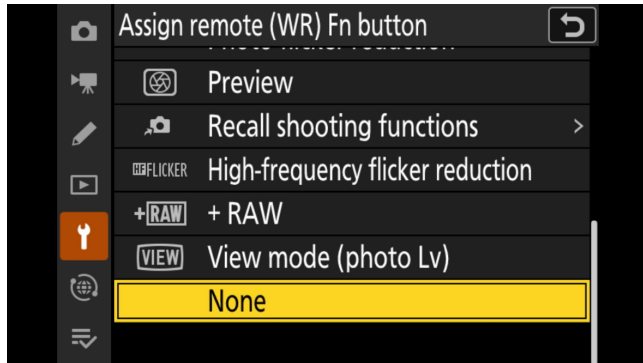
SETUP MENU



Silent mode - disables any sounds the camera makes including shutting sensor shield

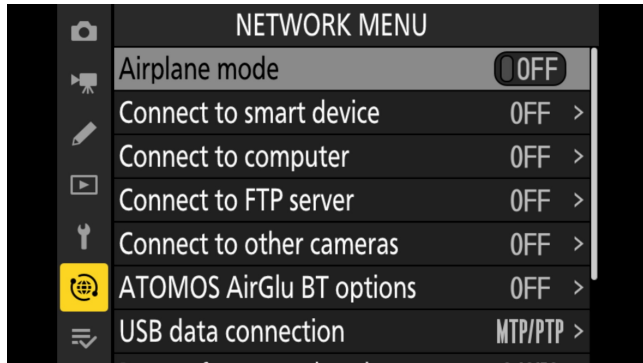


SETUP MENU



Save load menu settings - save or load your settings onto a card

NETWORK MENU



All Network settings off by default. Set up if you want to remotely transfer files. Generally not useful for wildlife photographers.

