

Canon EOS R8



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 Canon R8. 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.

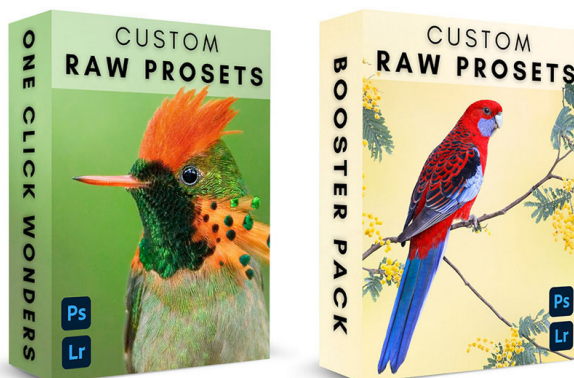
If you have any suggestions or find any typos please feel free to email me us – rgbartley@gmail.com

Thank you again and all the best!

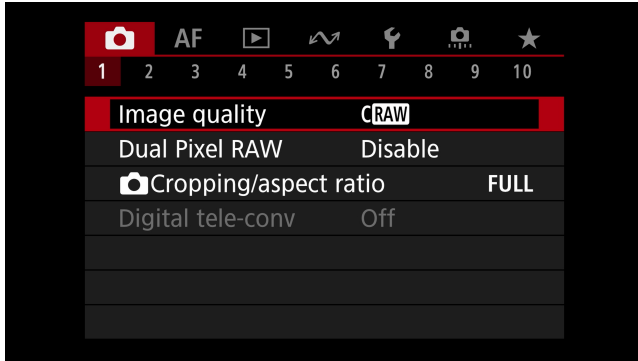
Glenn and Jan

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

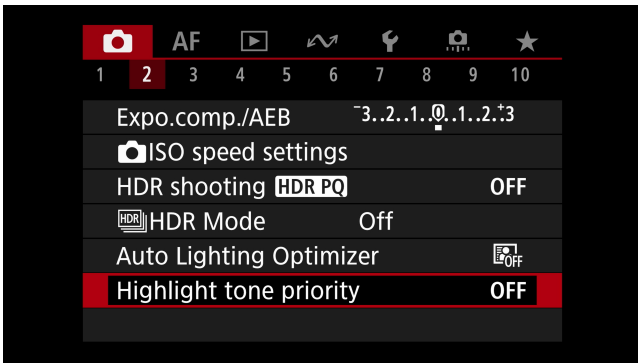
If you enjoy this guide you may want to check out our other guides on post processing and our PROSETS.



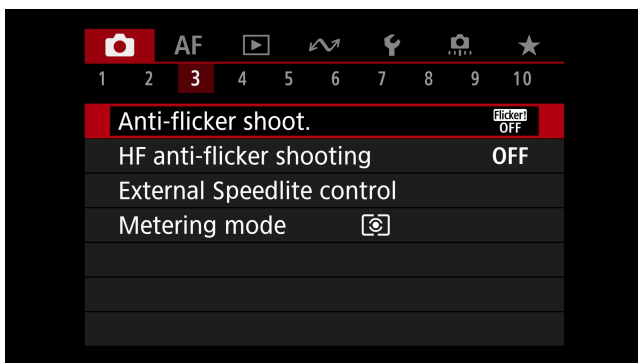
RED MENU



- **Image Quality** - RAW or cRAW
- **Dual Pixel RAW** - Disable.
- **Aspect ratio** - 3:2
- **Digital Teleconverter** - Off - This is only a digital zoom and only works on jpgs.

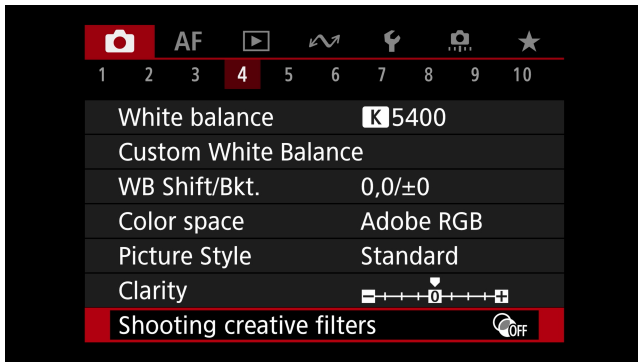


- **Expo.comp** - Use back camera wheel to control this.
- **ISO speed** - Displays existing ISO
- **HDR PQ** - Left off as default. Adjust to suit your needs if shooting in HDR mode.
- **HDR Mode** - Enable when you want to shoot an HDR image (jpg only)
- **Auto Lighting Optimizer** - Off
- **Highlight tone priority** - Off (unless very contrasty subject)

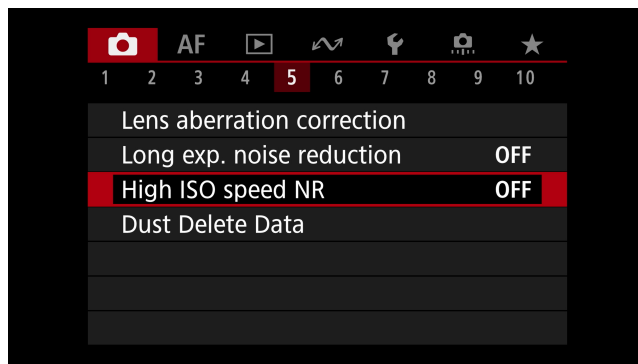


- **Anti Flicker Shoot** - Disable
- **HF Anti Flicker Shoot** - Off for nature
- **External Speedlight Control** - See pg 6
- **Metering Mode** - Evaluative (P.P.)

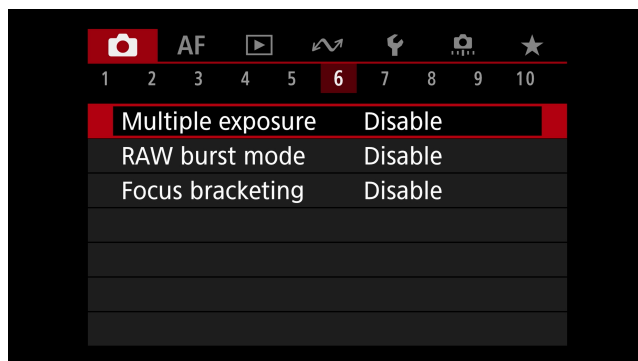
RED MENU



- **White balance** - We use kelvin and set according to conditions (usually 5200-5800)
- **Custom White balance** - Off
- **WB Shift** - Off
- **Color Space** - Adobe RGB
- **Picture Style** - Standard - edit to add sharpness if desired (affects JPG only and the preview on camera)
- **Clarity** - Affects only jpg. Bump up if you want to see images sharper on LCD
- **Shooting creative filters** - Off

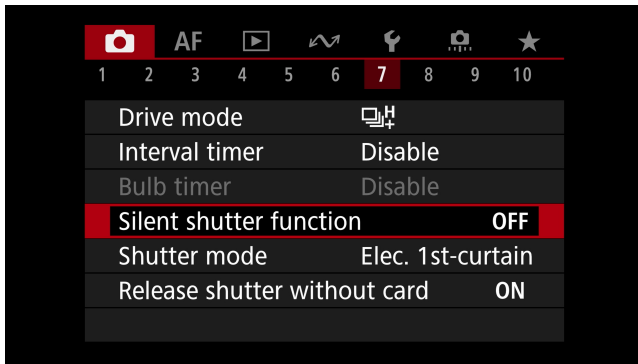


- **Lens aberration correction** - Off
- **Long exp noise** - Off
- **High ISO speed NR** - Off
- **Dust Delete Data** - Set if dust becomes a problem



- **Multiple Exposure** - Disable
- **RAW Burst Mode** - Disable as default. Use this for "blast off" action (e.g. A bird about to take off from a perch).
- **Focus bracketing** - Disable

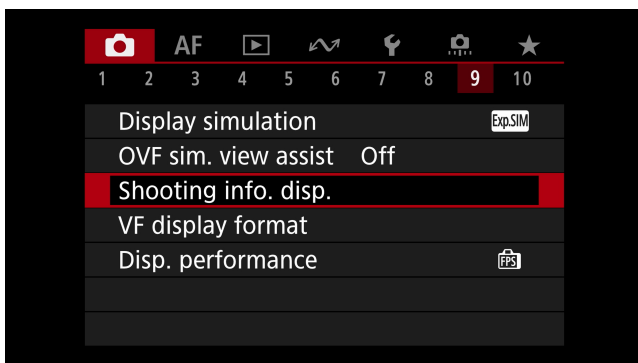
RED MENU



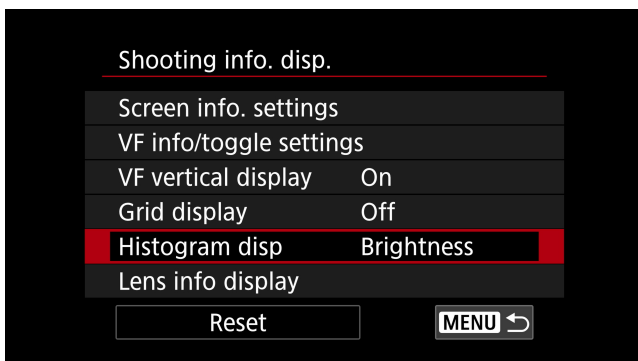
- **Drive mode** - H+ as default (40 fps in electronic / 6 fps in electronic first curtain).
- **Interval Timer** - Disable
- **Bulb timer** - Disable
- **Silent Shutter** - Off
- **Shutter Mode** - Use Elec 1st curtain by default. switch to electronic for fast action scenarios and flight (added to Green user menu).
- **Release Shutter without Card** - Off



- **IS Mode** - Digital IS Off
- **Customize Quick Controls** - If you want you can edit your Q menu here to suit your needs (P.P.)
- **Touch Shutter** - Disable
- **Image review** - Off / Disable.
- **High speed display** - Not enabled.
- **Metering timer** - mid range at 8 sec. Shorter may preserve battery life.

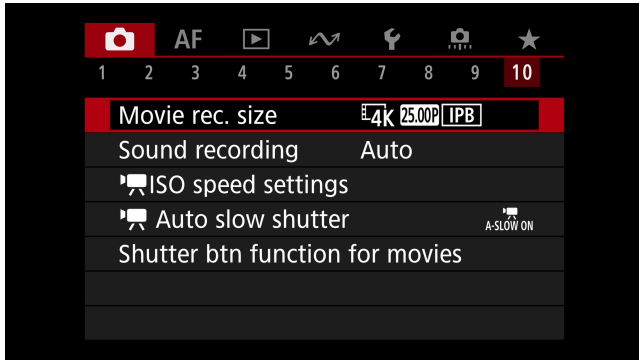


- **Display sim** - Exposure + DOF (P.P.)
- **OVF sim view** - Off
- **Shooting info disp** - See next menu
- **VF Display Format** - Option 1
- **Disp Performance** - Smooth



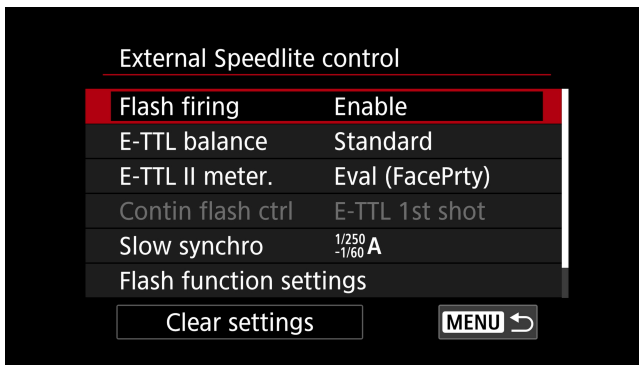
- **Screen Info** - I leave all options (PP). Select the options you want to see.
- **VF Info/toggle** - I leave all options (PP). Select the options you want to see.
- **VF vert disp** - On
- **Grid display** - I prefer 3x3
- **Histogram disp** - Brightness (small size) (PP)
- **Lens info disp** - Enable All if desired (PP)

RED MENU



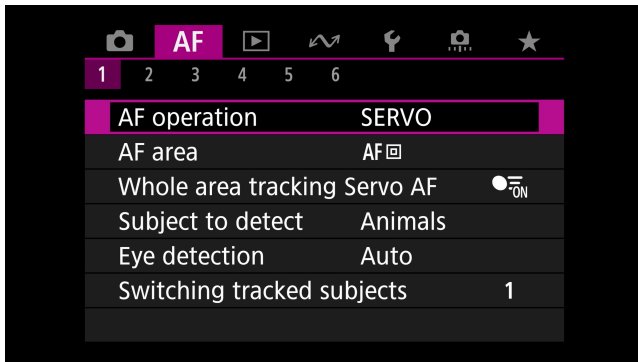
- **Movie Rec Size** - 4k 29.97 / 25 IPB
- **Sound** - Auto
- **ISO settings** - Only for auto ISO. Default
- **Auto slow shutter** - Enable
- **Shutter btn function** - Meter + movie servo. Could enable if you want to use the shutter button to start/stop video clips in video mode.

EXTERNAL FLASH SETTINGS



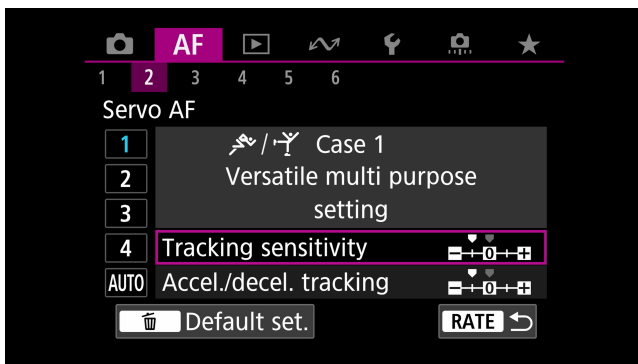
- **Flash Firing** - Enable
- **E-TTL II balance** - Ambience priority for a more natural look
- **E-TTL II meter** - Evaluative
- **Contin flash ctrl** - E-TTL 1st shot - speeds up continuous shooting with flash on
- **Slow synchro** - 1/250 - 30" A
- **Flash function settings** - ETTL, high speed sync, FEC as needed
- **Flash C.Fn setting** - These settings vary based on the model of EX flash used. Consult your flash manual.

PINK MENU



- **AF operation** - Servo
- **AF area** - Accurate single point
- **Subject tracking** - Off
- **Subject to detect** - Animals or Auto
- **Whole area tracking Servo AF** - Off
- **Eye detection** - Disable (we will enable for one of our back buttons)
- **Switching tracked subjects** - Set to 0 or 1

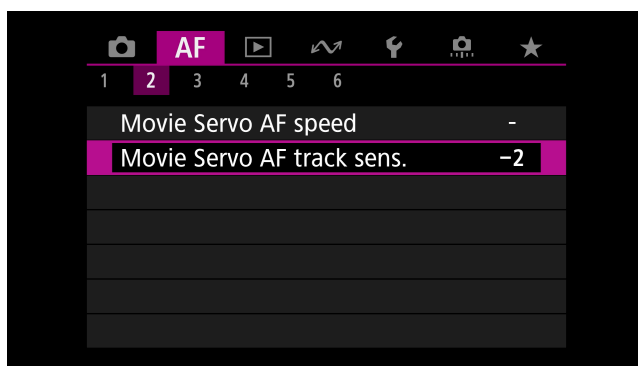
*NOTE - We set up our cameras to enable double back button focus mode. See orange menu for details on how to set this up.



Use case 1 or 2 with a few modifications. Using the focus point button switch both sliders to the left. This helps to hold on to birds in flight.

What is **MOST** important is to understand what each slider is doing:

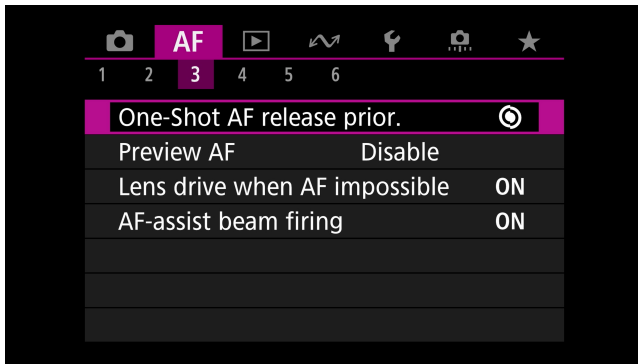
- **Tracking sensitivity** - if the AF point is tracking a subject, and then “sees” a new subject, how will it respond? [-1 or -2 to stay locked on].
- **Accel / decel tracking** - Set to [0 or -1] for a steadily-moving subject, or to [1 or 2] for one with a stop-and-start character.



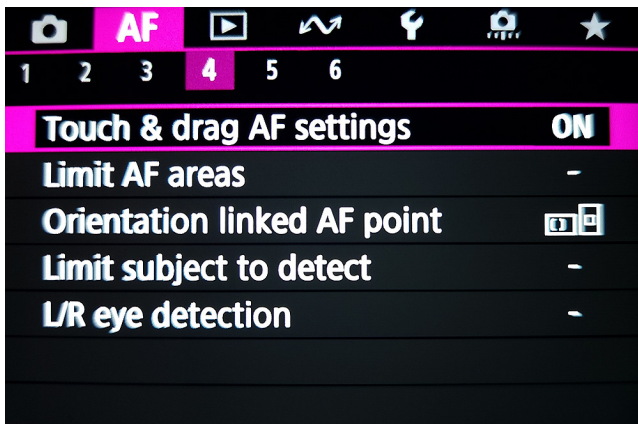
The “cases” presented mean little to wildlife photographers. Instead I suggest setting up custom settings for scenarios that you are most likely to encounter. For example:

- **Birds in flight** - The best strategy is always to lock on early and have the focus hold the subject as it approaches. [Set -2, -2].
- **Erratic, small & difficult birds** (e.g. swallows) - Those subjects that are very hard to keep the focus point one may require the focus to search quicker if the subject is lost [Set -1,1].

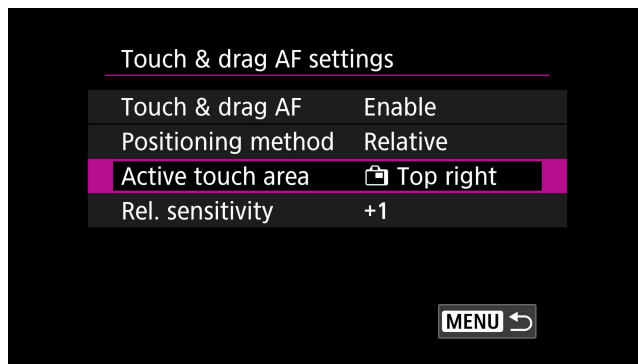
PINK MENU



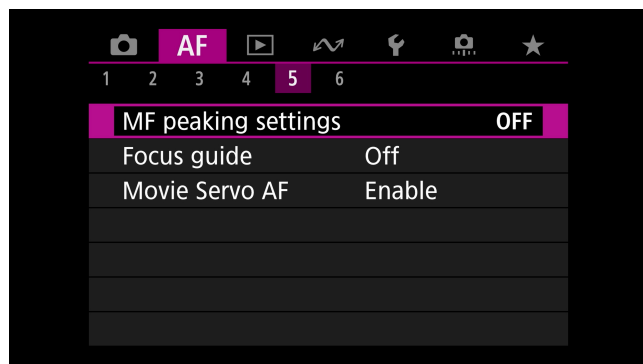
- **One shot af release prior** - Prioritize focus
- **Preview AF** - Disable
- **Lens drive when AF...** - ON
- **AF-assist beam** - ON



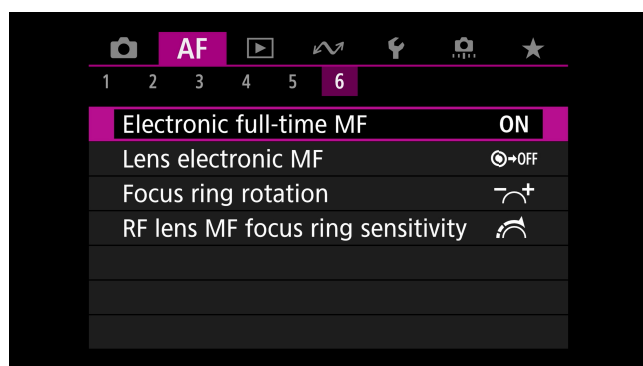
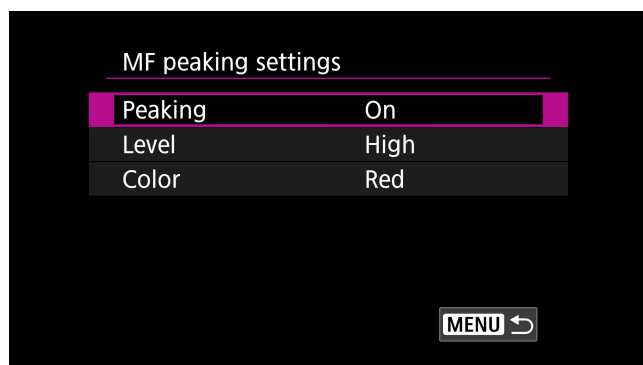
- **Touch and drag** - ON if you want to be able to move focus points with your thumb on the rear screen (PP - see below)
- **Limit AF areas** - leave all enabled (PP)
- **Orientation Linked pt** - Seperate points
- **Limit Subject to detect** - Leave all options.
- **L/R eye detection** - Leave as default.



PINK MENU

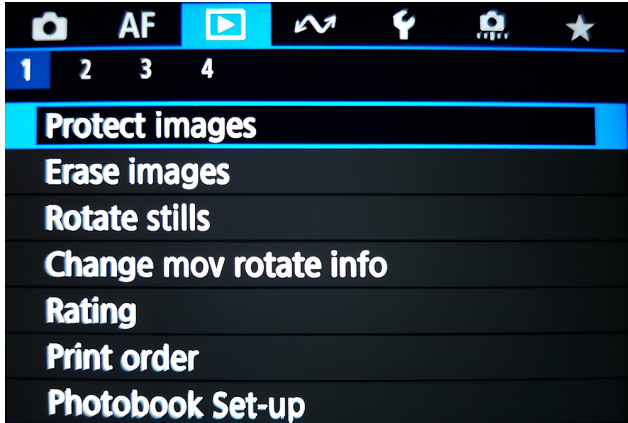


- **MF peaking** - On
- **Focus Guide** - Off
- **Movie Servo AF** - Enable

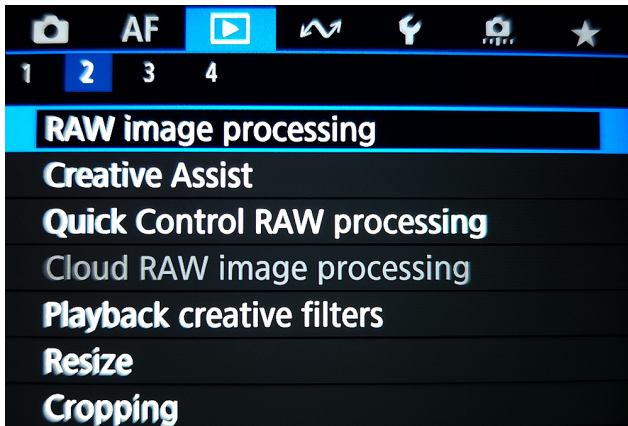


- **Electronic full time MF** - On
- **Lens electronic MF** - On (otherwise RF lenses will not MF)
- **Focus ring rotation** - Default
- **RF lens MF focus** - Default

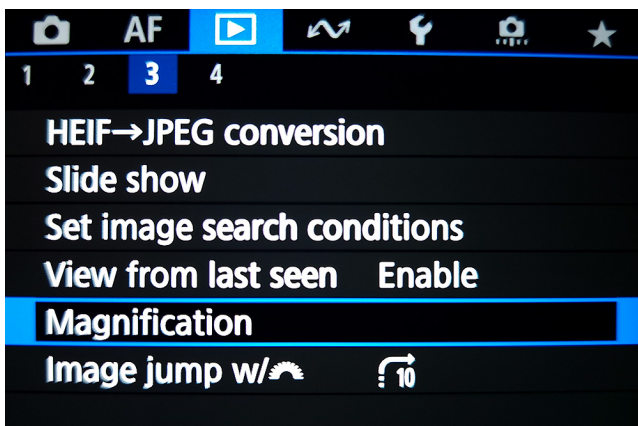
BLUE MENU



- **Protect images** - Use as needed.
- **Erase images** - I prefer to format card.
- **Rotate stills** - Not done on camera.
- **Change mov rotate info** - Default setting.
- **Rating** - Not done on camera.
- **Print order** - Only if printing directly.
- **Photobook set up** - Never used on camera

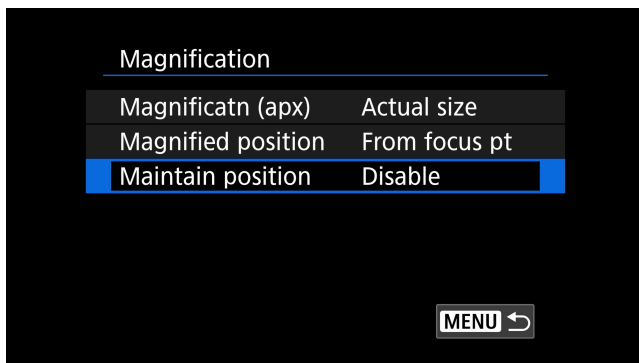
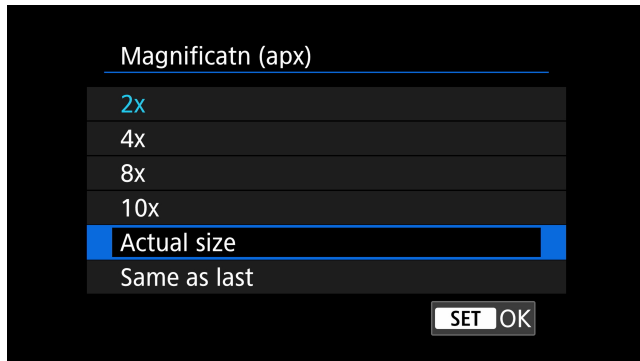


- **RAW Processing** - Better done on computer
- **Creative Assist** - Better done on computer
- **Quick RAW Processing** - Better done on computer
- **Cloud RAW Processing** - Better done on computer
- **Playback Filters** - Better done on computer
- **Resize** - Better done on computer.
- **Cropping** - Better done on computer.

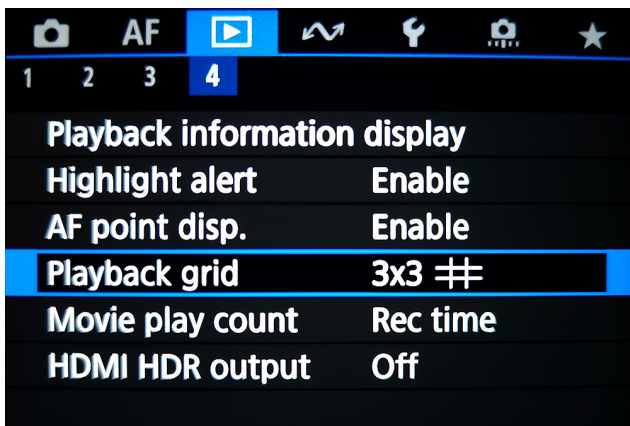


- **HEIF - JPG** - Better to shoot RAW
- **Slide show** - Never on camera.
- **Set Search Conditions** - Can limit search (e.g. only jpg, date, etc). Not very useful for most.
- **View from last seen** - Enable
- **Magnification** - Actual size from selected pt (P.P.)
- **Image jump** - 10 pics at a time (P.P.)

BLUE MENU

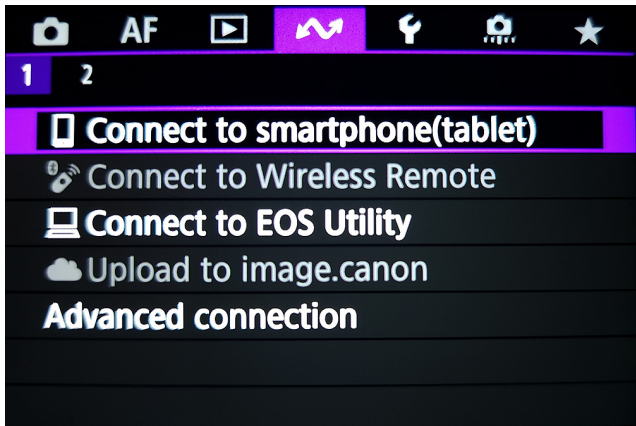


- **Maintain position** - Disable to maintain zoomed in position when scrolling through images.

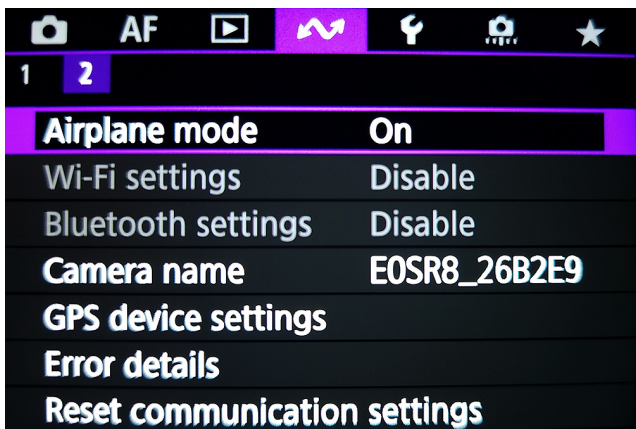


- **Playback Info Display** - (P.P.)
- **Highlight alert** - Enable
- **AF point disp** - Enable (P.P.)
- **Playback grid** - Various grids to check level and composition (P.P.)
- **Movie play count** - What to display during movie playback (P.P.)
- **HDMI HDR Output** - Off

PURPLE MENU

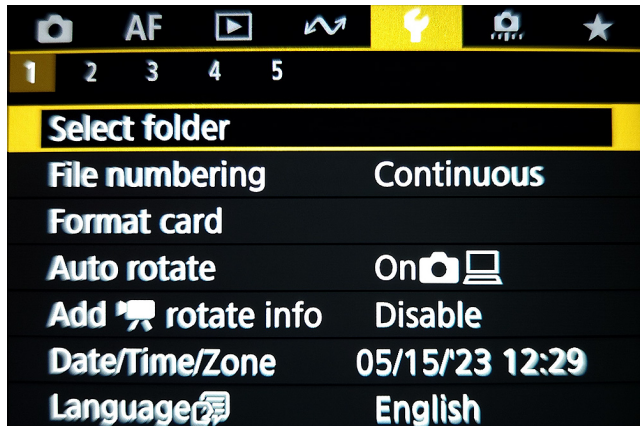


** NOTE - This menu and these settings are more targetted at photojournalists. Most nature photographers have no need for such image transfer capabilities. If you wanted to connect your camera to your smartphone via the Canon connect app this is where you would do so.

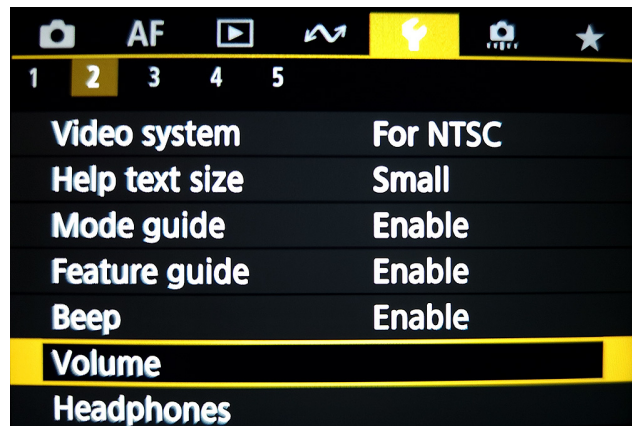


- **Airplane Mode** - On (PP) I dont use any of the wifi settings to save battery life
- **WIFI Settings** - Disable. Uses battery and slows down frame rate.
- **Bluetooth Settings** - Disable
- **Camera Name** - Change if you like (PP)
- **GPS Settings** - I prefer not to use as it drains battery. (PP)
- **Error Details** - Describes error details.
- **Reset** - If you need to start fresh

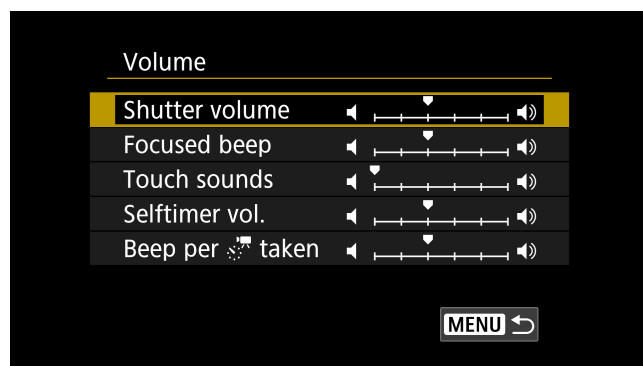
YELLOW MENU



- **Select Folder** - Selects folder on card if there are multiple folders
- **File numbering** - Continuous (P.P.)
- **Format card** - I format each time I use a card
- **Auto rotate** - On (middle setting) (P.P.)
- **Add movie rotate info** - Disable
- **Date/Time** - Set accordingly
- **Language** - Set accordingly



- **Video System** - For NTSC (North America) PAL for most other countries.
- **Help Text Size** - Small
- **Mode Guide** - Default
- **Feature Guide** - Default
- **Beep** - Enable to be able to adjust shutter sound in electronic shutter mode (see below)
- **Volume** - Default
- **Headphones** - Default

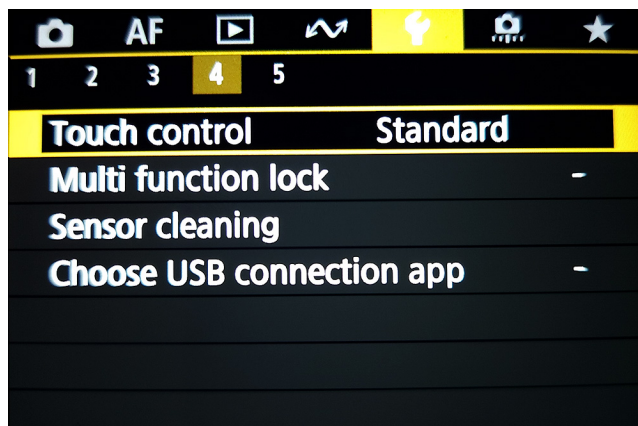


- **Volume** - Note that you can adjust the volume of the various sounds on the R8

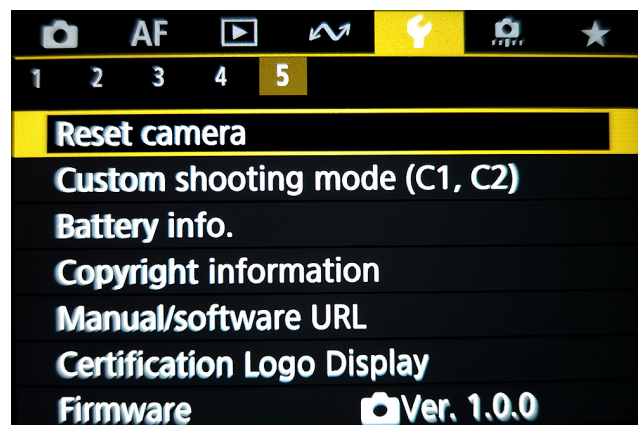
YELLOW MENU



- **Power Saving** - Disable,Disable,5min,Disable.
- **Screen Display** - Auto 2 (PP)
- **Screen Brightness** - 4 (PP)
- **Viewfinder Brightness** - Auto
- **Fine-tune VF color** - 2 (PP)
- **UI magnification** - Disable
- **HDMI Rez** - Auto

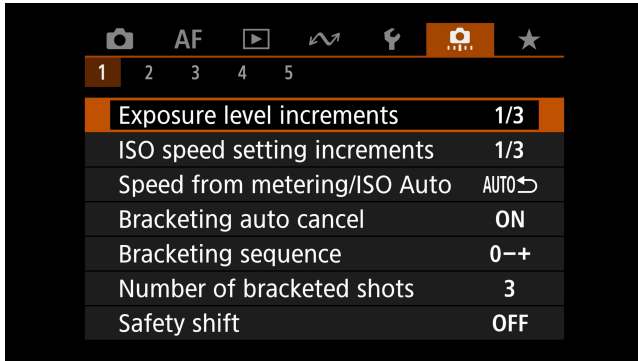


- **Touch control** - Standard
- **Multifunction lock** - Default
- **Sensor cleaning** - cleaning options as needed
- **USB App** - For use with specific software

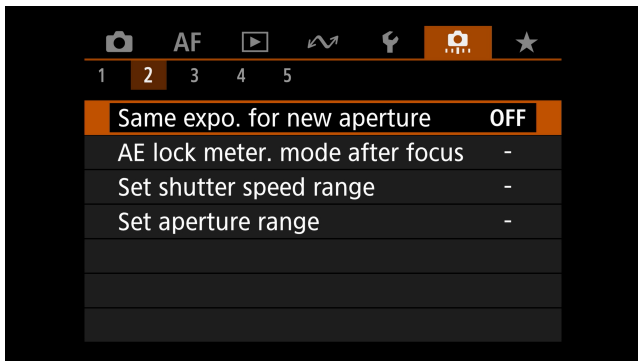


- **Reset Camera** - Resets everything
- **Custom shooting modes** - Use this to save custom settings. For example one mode for general shooting, one mode for flight, etc. Can also save specific video shooting modes.
- **Battery Info** - Displays battery level and performance
- **Copyright** - Add your copyright info (PP)
- **Manual URL** - links to manual web URL
- **Logo Display** - Displays Logo
- **Firmware** - Displays Firmware

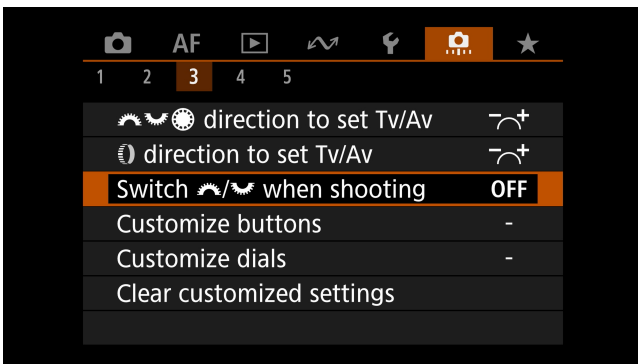
ORANGE MENU



- **Exposure level increments** - 1/3
- **ISO setting increments** - 1/3
- **Speed from metering** - Auto
- **Bracketing auto cancel** - ON - shuts off EXP / WB bracketing after camera turned off. (P.P.)
- **Bracketing sequence** - P.P.
- **Number of bracketed shots** - 3 or 5 (P.P.)
- **Safety Shift** - OFF

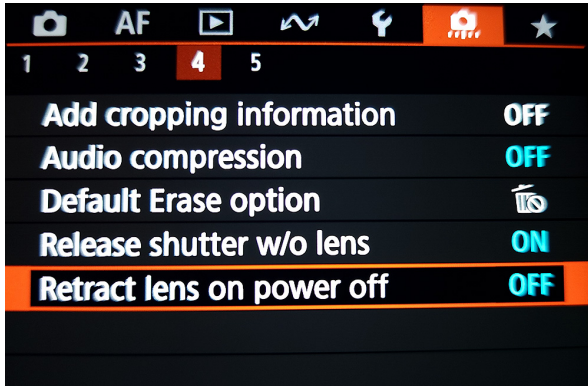


- **Same expo for new aperture** - Off
- **AE lock meter** - I enable for all metering modes.
- **Set shutter speed range** - Full range
- **Set aperture range** - Full range

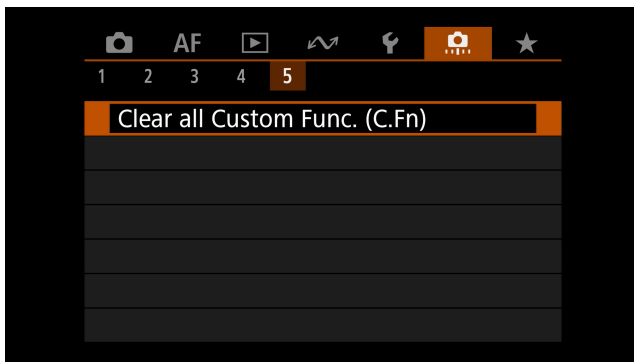


- **Dial direction** - Default
- **Direction for TV/AV** - Default
- **Switch when shooting** - Off
- **Customize buttons** - Many camera buttons can be customized to user P.P. (e.g. assigning back button focus). See below for how I set up my camera.
- **Custom dials** - Set according to P.P (see below)
- **Clear custom** - To reset

ORANGE MENU

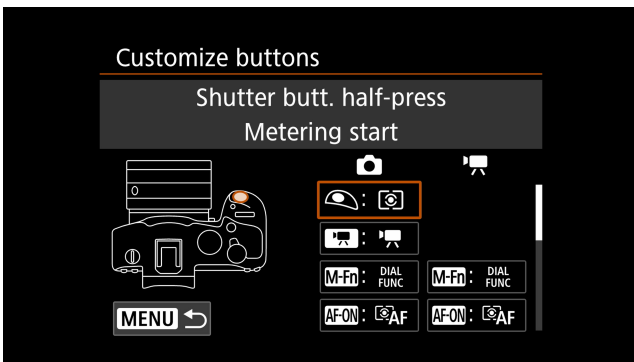


- **Add cropping info** - Better done in Photoshop
- **Audio compression** - Disable for max audio quality in video.
- **Default Erase** - Erase selected
- **Release shutter w/o lens** - Default.
- **Retract lens** - OFF - If this is set to ON the camera will lose focus every time it goes in to standby mode.



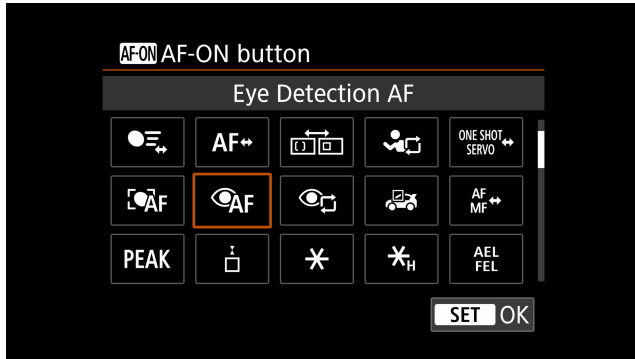
- **Clear all Custom Func** - To reset

HOW WE SET OUR CUSTOM BUTTONS



- **Shutter** - Metering start
- **AF ON** - Eye Detection Autofocus (details on customization below)
- * **Button** - Metering and AF Start - Single Servo Point (details on customization below)
- **Mfn** - RAW Burst Mode (PP)
- **DOF Preview** - Start/Stop subject tracking function in all autofocus modes - this is really nice to be able to turn on and off as you choose.
- **Multi Controler** - Direct AF point Select

ORANGE MENU



ADDITIONAL CUSTOMIZATION OPTIONS

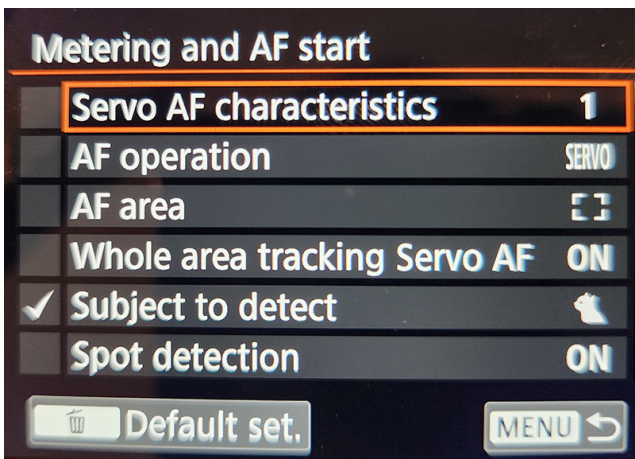
In orange menu 3 select customize buttons.

You can set up your back button focus options specifically to suit your needs. To customize either button hit INFO to access the **Detail Set**.

Ultimately we recommend setting up dual back button focus where one of the buttons is assigned to animal eye detect and the other is a small spot (either one shot or servo).

EXAMPLE - GLENN DOES THE FOLLOWING

Glenn likes to have the star button use the single detail AF point in one shot mode and the AF ON button set to use the animal eye detect. He sets the Servo AF characteristics to be the same case as we set up in the Purple 2 menu).



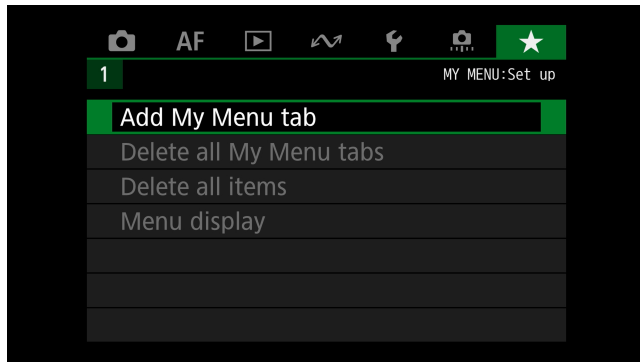
For the Servo eye detect button you will want to use the whole AF area. Subject tracking should be off (although you can turn it on with a separate custom button assigned to the DOF preview).

Subject to detect should be animals.

Spot detection can be on.

Eye detection can be left on.

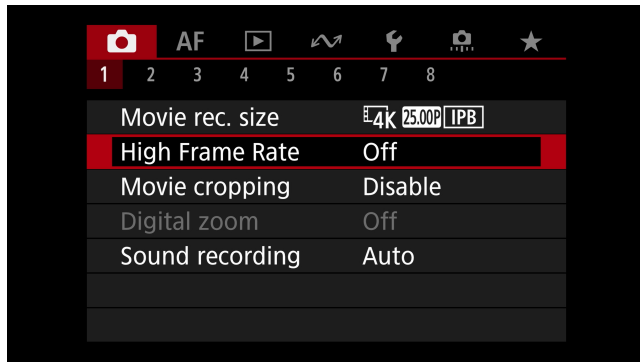
GREEN MENU



- **Add My Menu tab** - Up to 5 custom menus can be created, named and sorted according to P.P. This is a handy place to store menu settings that you may wish to access quickly such as mirror lockup, GPS, etc. (See above).
- **Menu display** - Can be personalized so that the menu button takes you straight to the “My Menu” or ONLY shows “My Menu” items.
- **Configure** - Add commonly accessed menu items here.
- You may wish to register the 2 AF parameters of Tracking Sensitivity, Accel/Decel? Shutter Mode? Expo Simulation? (PP)

VIDEO MENUS OF NOTE

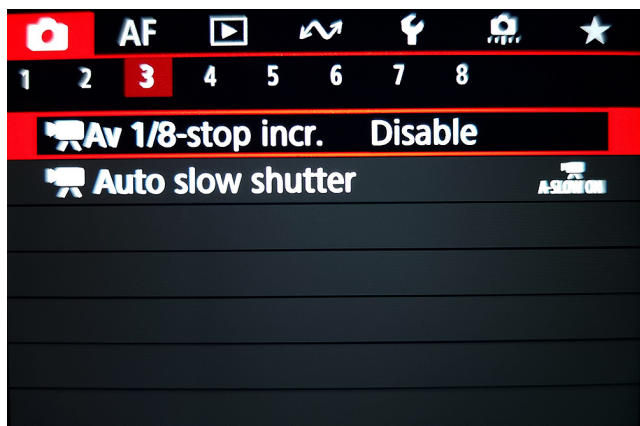
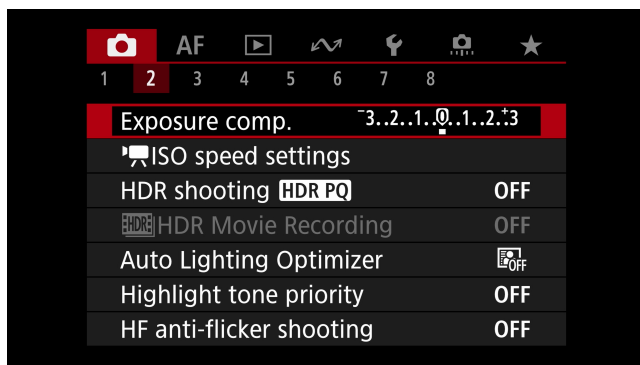
For the video menus we are showing you the specific settings that we recommend you change or settings that may require some explanation.



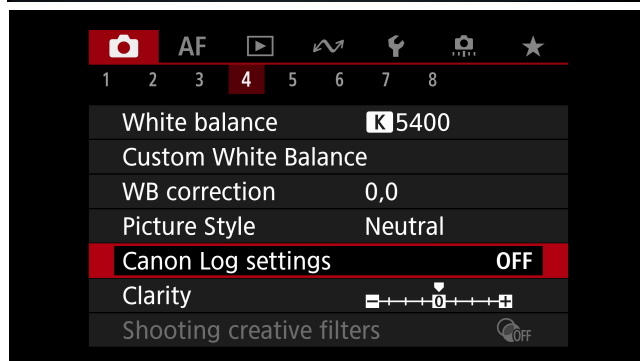
We recommend 4K. Depending on if you select NTSC or PAL you will either have 25/50 or 29.97/60 available.

High frame rate is only available in 1080P. You can enable this for slow motion footage.

Movie cropping - enable if you want to apply a 1.6x crop to your video.



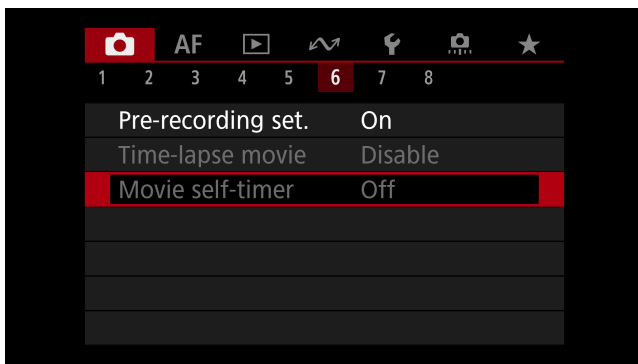
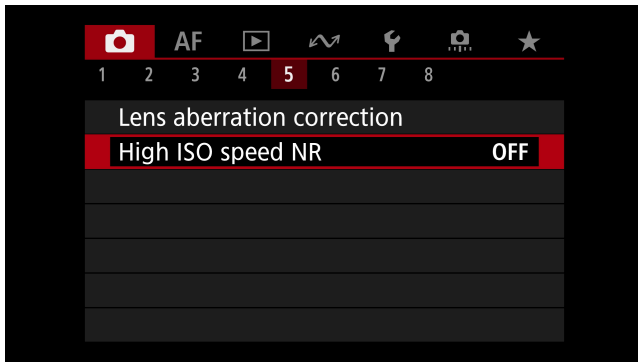
AV 1/8 - Disable unless you want very precise control of AV
Auto slow shutter - disable for more natural video



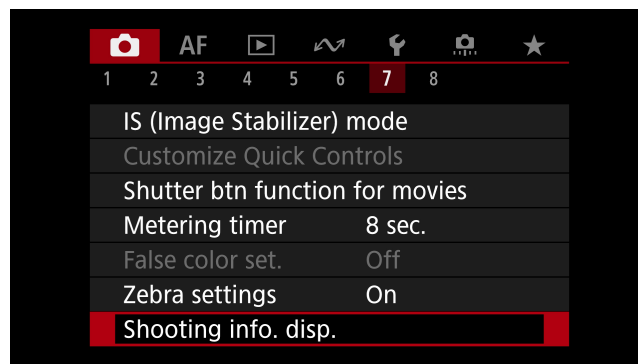
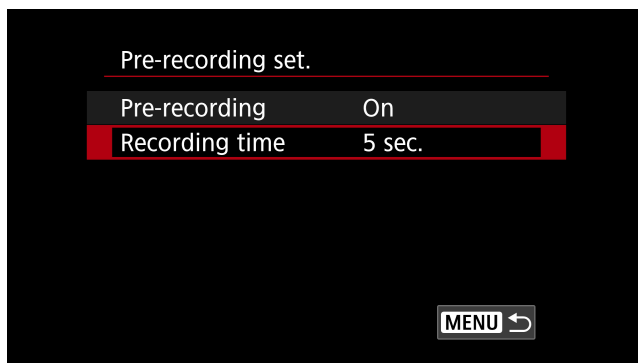
Picture style - This will affect the look of your video (unless you are shooting in Log) . You don't want it too saturated or too sharp, etc.

You can select Canon Log if you want a flat neutral profile with maximum dynamic range. This footage will require video editing and the codec for this file type is more difficult to edit.

VIDEO MENUS OF NOTE



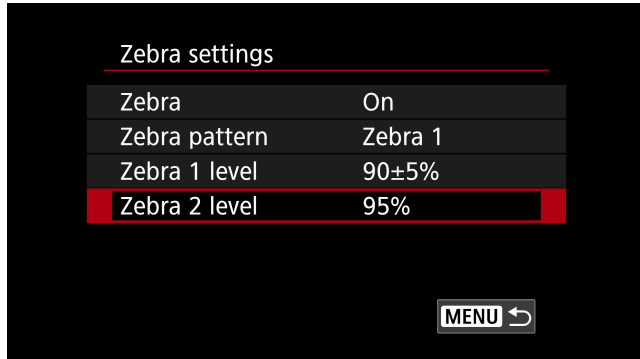
Pre-recording Set - If On records a constant loop of video for 5 seconds before you hit the record button.



Turn Shutter btn to "No Function" or start/stop recording (PP)

Turn on Zebras (see below)

VIDEO MENUS OF NOTE



Turn zebra settings on to show highlights that may be too bright. Use the zebra settings here to start and adjust to your needs.

