

CANON R3 SETUP GUIDE



by

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The R3 has a lot to offer, and in this guide, I'll walk you through the settings that have worked best for me after extensive real-world use.

Some settings have a clear best option, while others come down to personal preference. Sometimes different shooting situations will require adjustments, but I aim to give you as much of an insight as possible into the camera and how to get stunning results!

To simplify the setup process, I've included a **.CSD file** that you can install directly onto your camera via the **yellow menu #5 (Save/Load cam settings)**. This will also install all my custom modes.

However, before installing it, **I strongly recommend saving your own settings first, so you can restore them if needed. Uploading my setup file will overwrite your current settings**, including file names. While this is a fast way to get started, some settings may not transfer correctly and will need to be adjusted manually. After installing the file, double-check your settings with this guide to ensure everything is set up properly.

Let's set up your camera now! I'll see you again at the end of the guide.

Jan

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CANON'S NEW PASSWORD FEATURE

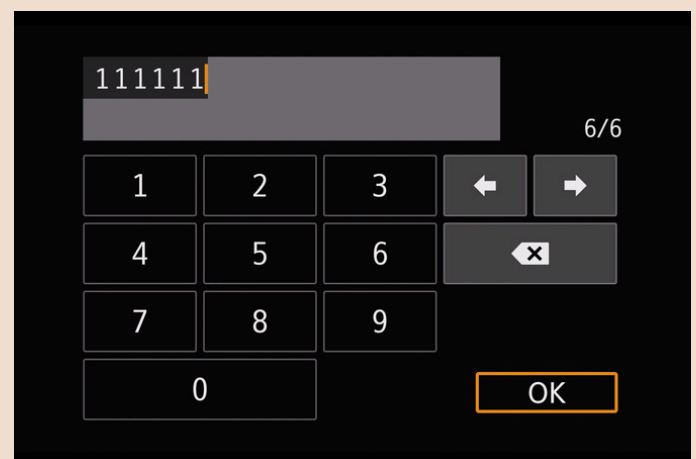
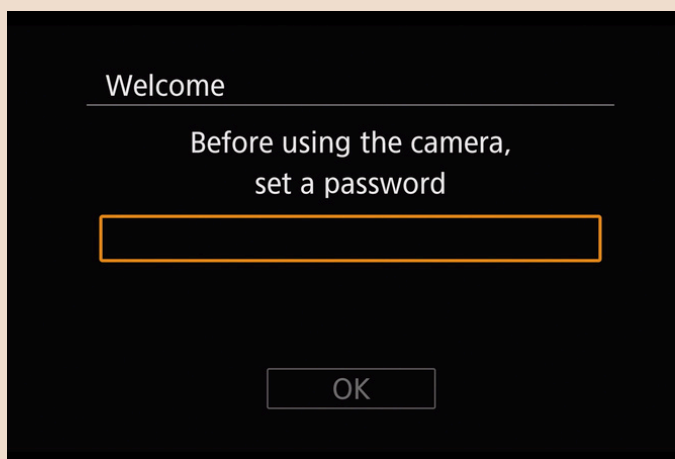
Starting July 2025, Canon added **password protection** for network settings, *however this change affects all users*. After updating to firmware version 1.6 (or newer), you will be asked to set a **6-digit password**.

Every time the camera restarts, it will prompt you to enter this password again. Don't worry, though, **this can be disabled**.

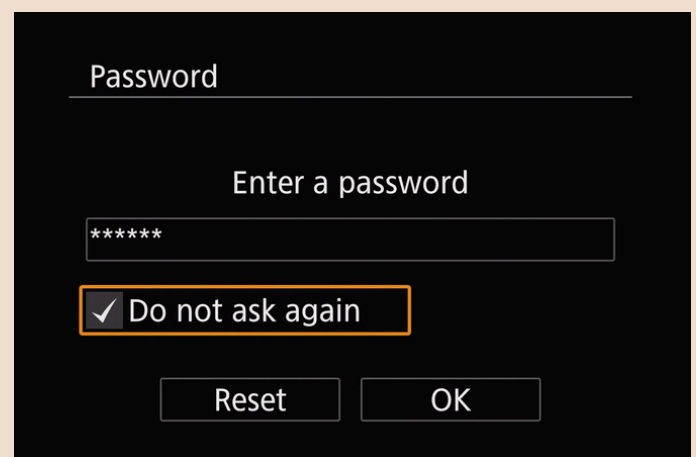
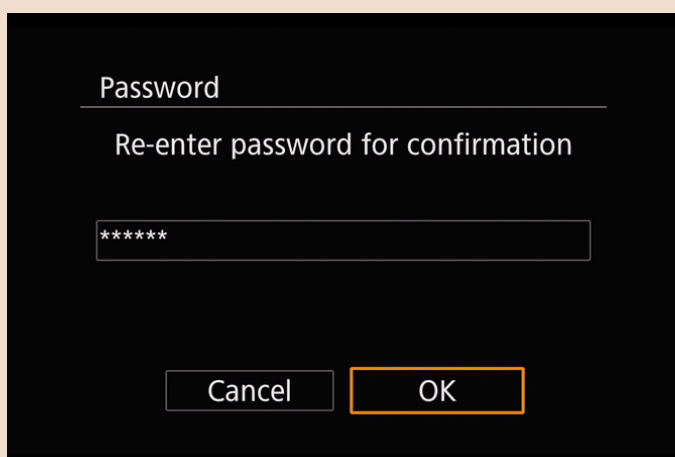
After restarting the camera you are prompted to type in the password and after doing that you can choose **“Do Not Ask Again”**, and after that the camera behaves like normal again from then on.

The password can be reset or overwritten by clicking reset and returning the camera to factory settings. So the password does not actually protect the camera from unauthorized use, only network details. Password settings can be found in **yellow menu #6**.

Below are the steps to follow after updating the firmware.



1. **Select password – Set** 6 digit combination and confirm, I used 111111



2. **Confirm password** – Camera will restart, but won't ask for password - turn it off

3. **On reboot** – Enter password and tick **‘Do not ask again’**, then click ok



**PHOTO
SETUP**

RED PHOTO MENU

This menu controls all our *core shooting settings*—
like image quality, drive mode, white balance, metering,
and display settings. It's where we fine-tune how the
camera captures photos.

We will make a lot of changes in this menu.

1/9: Image quality/size



Image quality – Adjust RAW/JPEG settings

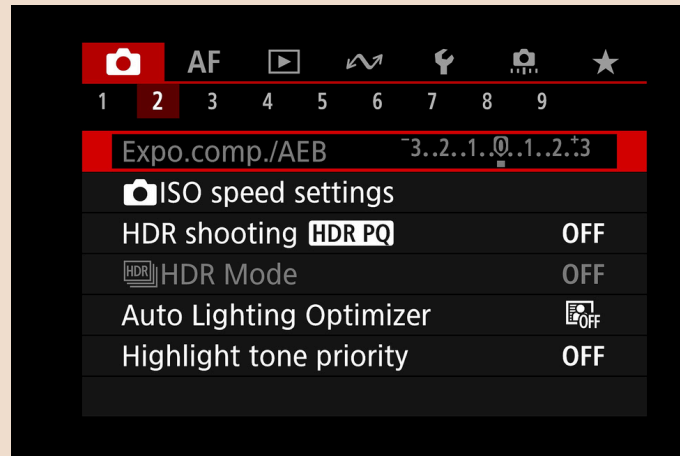
- CRAW for smaller file size and larger buffer
- RAW for max quality
- *In most situations I like to shoot **CRAW** because of the increased buffer size and minimal image quality loss. Shooting in full **RAW** I recommend when buffer size doesn't matter and we are dealing with difficult subjects that may require brightening when editing.*

Dual Pixel RAW – Disable – Special mode allowing you to later make small changes in Canon's DPP software

Cropping/aspect ratio – FULL

- Here you can select 1.6 crop mode if wanted





Expo. comp./AEB – Adjust exposure compensation and auto exposure bracketing settings

- Expo.comp for M (auto ISO), TV, AV, FV – Best to use dial on camera to adjust

ISO speed settings – Set ISO range for manual ISO, Auto ISO & set min. shutter speed

HDR shooting (HDR PQ) – HDR mode with PQ gamma

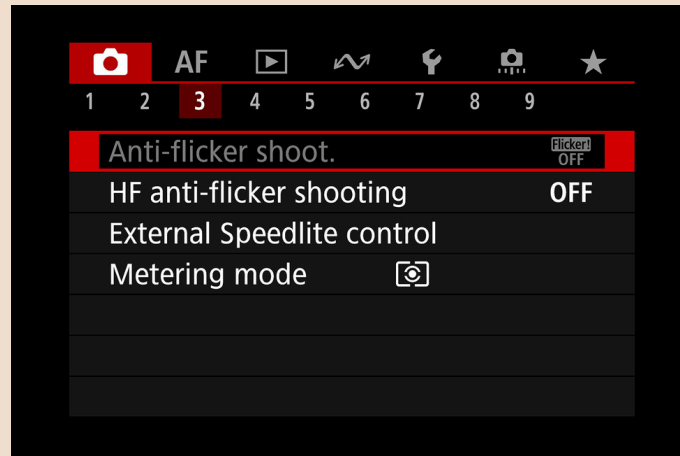
- Enable to shoot in HDR
- Works with RAW & Video

HDR Mode – OFF – Camera captures multiple images and merges them into one to increase dynamic range – JPEG only

Auto Lighting Optimizer – OFF – JPEG only – Automatic brightness or shadow adjustments

Highlight tone priority – OFF – More detail in highlights, but more noise in dark areas

- Works on RAWs
- I usually leave it off, but it can help when dealing with bright highlights
- D2+ is recommended
 - Will only work with certain software like DPP or Adobe



Anti-flicker shoot. – OFF – Prevents exposure inconsistencies under flickering light (e.g., fluorescent)

HF anti-flicker shooting – OFF – Prevents high-frequency LED flickering

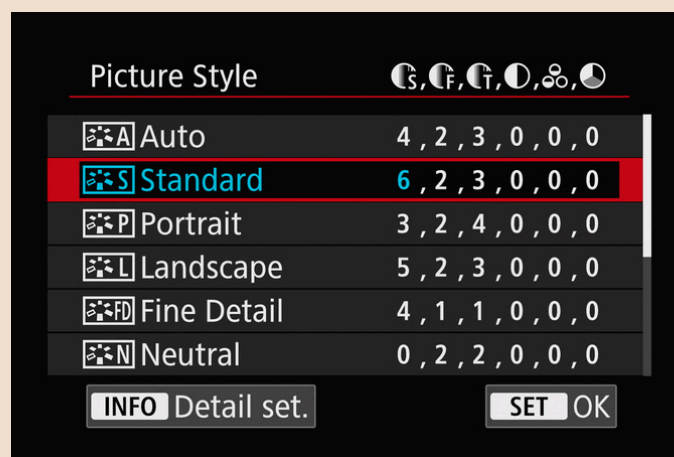
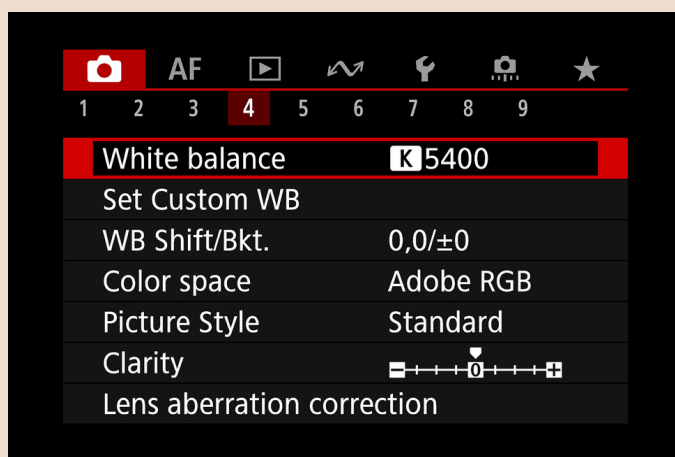
External Speedlite control – Flash settings for Canon Speedlites

Metering mode – Evaluative – Select metering mode

- *I like to use evaluative metering*
- *If shooting full manual like I do most of the time, the metering mode is irrelevant, since we control all settings*



R3 | EF 600 L IS II | 1.4X TC | F8 | ISO 3200 | 1/2000



White balance – Select different WB options

- I set WB manually to K 5400 and adjust from 5200 (cooler) to 5600 (warmer)
- This gives more balanced RAW files – AWB etc. can get too cold/warm
- When shooting RAW, WB can be adjusted during the editing process

Set Custom WB – Assign a custom white balance based on a reference image

WB Shift/Bkt. – Adjust tint of the WB

Color space – Adobe RGB or sRGB – I use Adobe RGB, this can be adjusted later when shooting in RAW

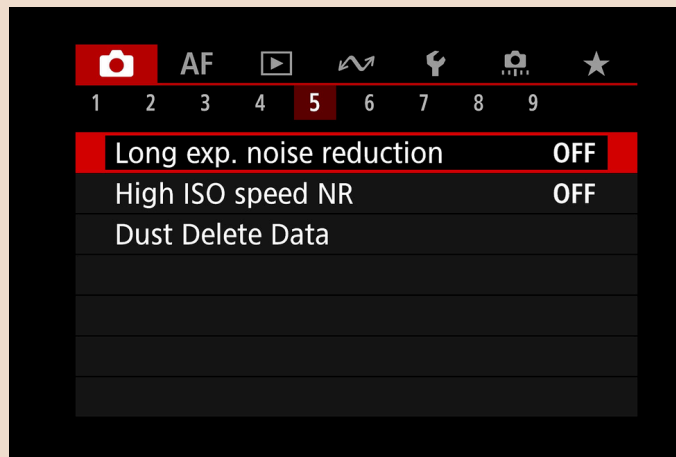
Picture Style – Select desired image look

- These settings affect the image look of JPEG/HEIF & the back of camera preview of RAW files
- I only shoot RAW, so I like to choose the **Standard** picture profile that gives me a good preview of colours and sharpness
 - Press **INFO** to access the sub menu, where you can adjust the settings for each colour profile
- I change the sharpness of the Standard profile to 6. This let's me judge the sharpness of the RAW file when zooming in the best.

Clarity – 0 – default – I don't add or remove clarity

Lens aberration correction – Enable/disable corrections for distortion, chromatic aberration, etc. – I usually leave these OFF

5/9: Quality correction

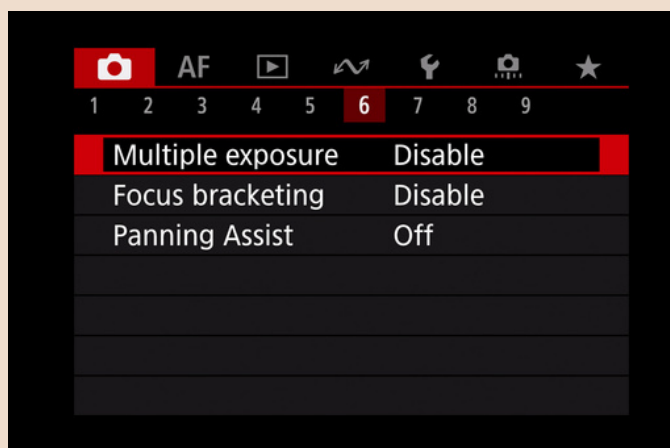


Long exp. noise reduction – OFF – Applies additional processing to reduce noise in long exposure images, particularly in dark areas

High ISO speed NR – OFF – JPEG only – Reduces image noise when shooting at high ISO settings, at the potential cost of some fine detail

Above NR & corrections can slow down the camera

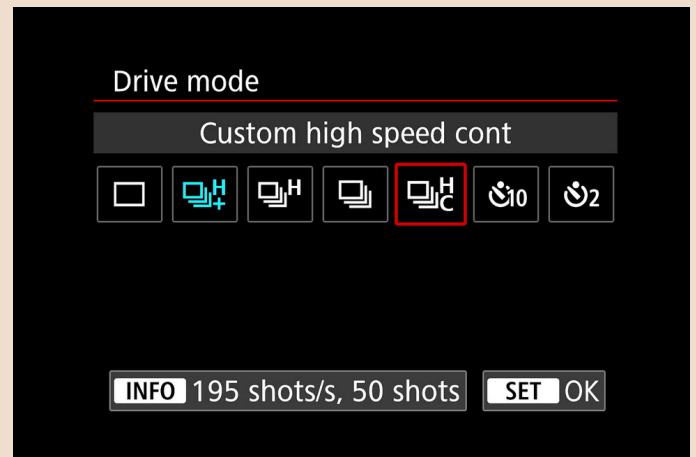
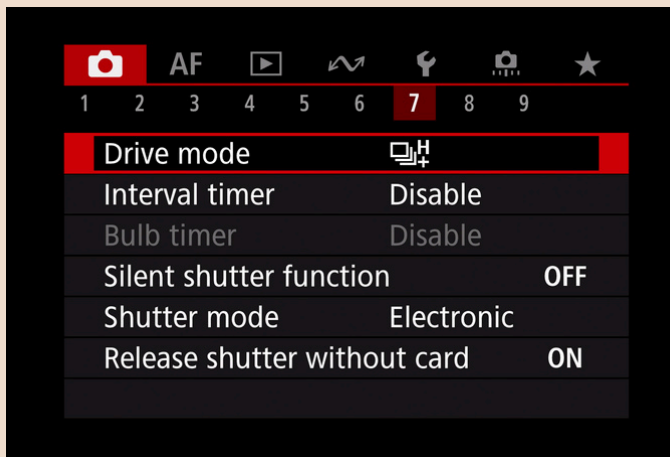
6/9: Various shooting



Multiple exposure – Disable – Combine multiple shots into one image

Focus bracketing – Disable – Capture multiple images with different focus points for stacking

Panning Assist – Helps to get sharp subjects with blurred backgrounds.



Drive mode – Sets the camera’s shooting behavior (single, continuous, timer, etc.)

- *I usually shoot in H+ mode (30 fps)*
- H mode has 15 fps
- Low mode has 5 fps
- *I'd recommend to either use H or H+.*
 - *The buffer fills up faster at 30fps*
- Hc mode is a special mode on the R3 allowing burst of up to 195fps for brief periods, limited to just 50 shots
 - *Press info to dial in frames*

Interval timer – Disable – Set automated shooting at set intervals for time lapse

Bulb timer – Disable – Controls long exposures without holding down the shutter manually

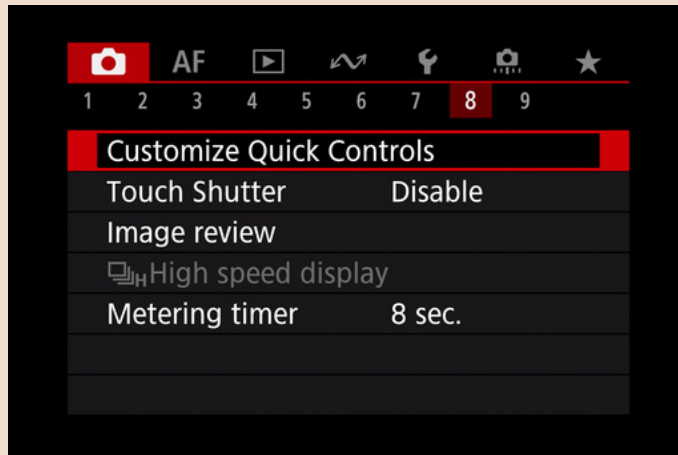
Silent Shutter Function – Off – Eliminates all camera sounds, including sensor shield in shut down

Shutter mode – Mechanical, Electronic 1st-curtain – Electronic Shutter (ES)

- *I usually recommend to use the ES for extra speed, the other two modes are limited to 12 fps*
- Using ES will increase rolling shutter effect in some situations
- It defaults to ES when pre-cont. shooting is enabled

Release shutter without card – Off

8/9: Assist shooting



Customize Quick Controls – Adjust the layout of quick settings (Q button) for easy access to important settings

Touch Shutter – Disable – Take image by pressing rear LCD

Image review – Select time and place for automatic image review

- I turn both options OFF. You can review images by pressing the play button on the back of the camera when needed.

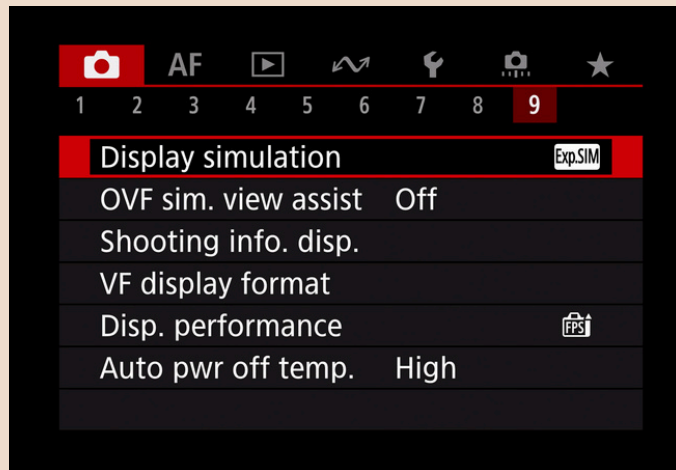
High speed display – For smoother display – Greyed out if Electronic Shutter is active

Metering timer (8 sec.) – Sets how long the camera meters before resetting



R3 | RF 100-500 | 7.1 | ISO 12800 | 1/200 | FILL FLASH

9/9: Assist shooting



Display simulation – Adjusts the EVF/LCD to match exposure settings

OVF sim. view assist – OFF – Mimics optical viewfinder (No exp. preview)

Shooting info. disp. – Choose what appears on LCD screen & EVF

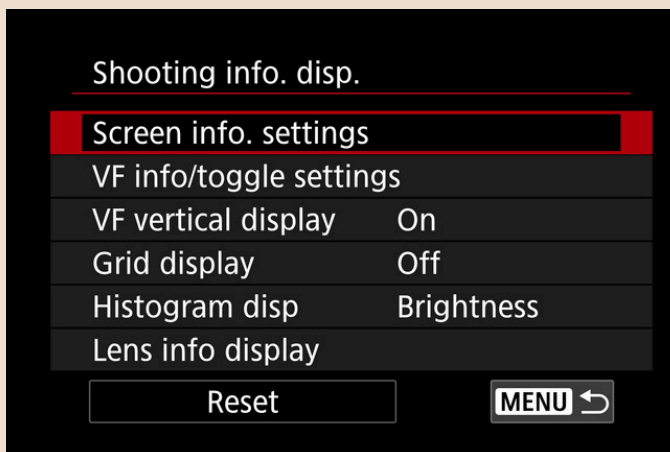
- Press INFO on back of camera to toggle through display options

VF display format – (default) Changes aspect/layout of viewfinder info display

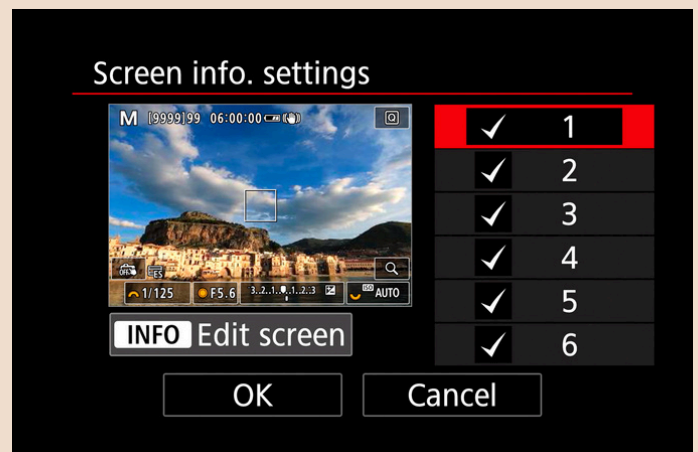
Disp. performance – *Smooth* – Increases refresh rate for smoother motion

Auto pwr off temp. – High – Delays overheat turn-off for longer recording

→ **submenu: Shooting info. disp.**



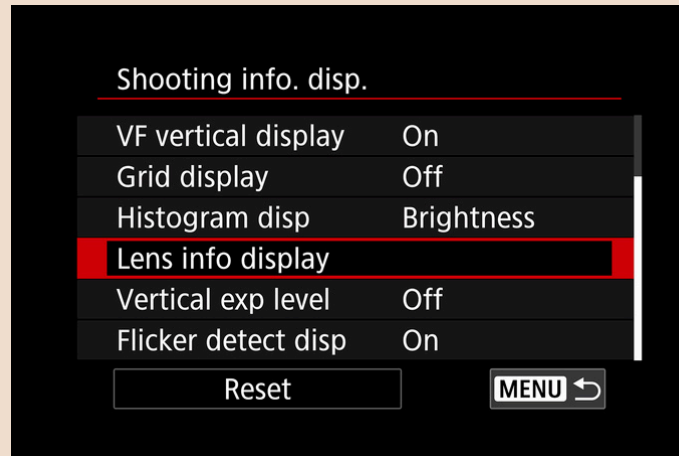
→ **submenu: Screen info. settings**



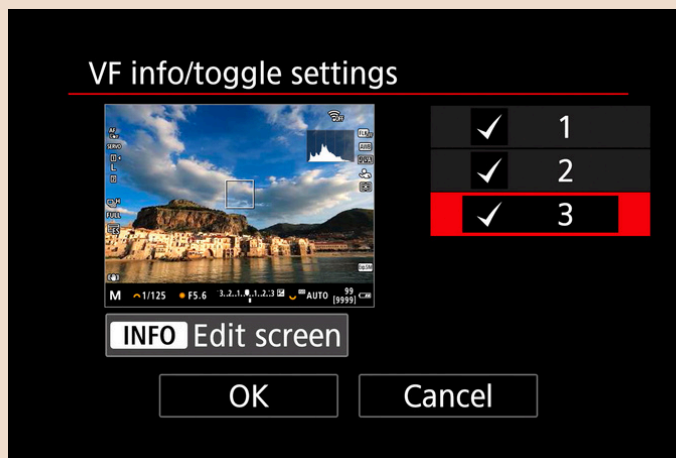
Screen info. settings – Tick/Untick wanted/unwanted options

- Press *INFO* to adjust which items are displayed in each option
- To keep it simple, you could untick most options and just add whatever you want to just one or two options

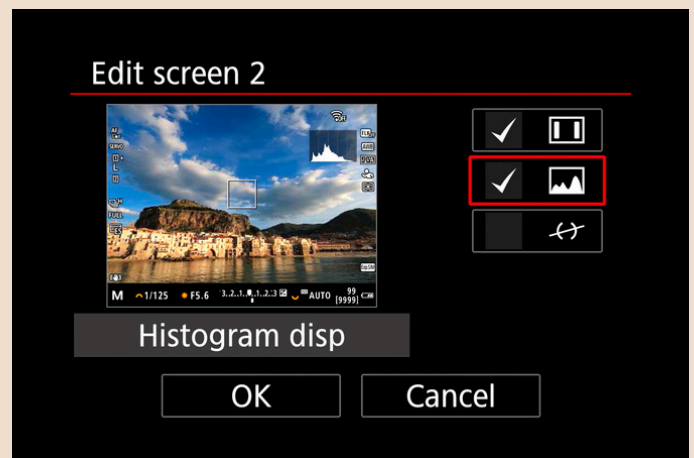
→ submenu: Shooting info. disp. Cont'd



→ submenu: VF info/toggle settings



→ submenu: Edit screen 2



VF info/toggle settings – Set what will be displayed in the viewfinder

- Press *INFO* to select which items are displayed in each option
- Tick/Untick wanted/unwanted options
- I usually leave just 1-2 options ticked and add elements to each option (i.e. histogram), so there are not so many options to toggle through

VF vertical display – **ON** – Auto-rotate VF info for vertical shots

Grid display – **OFF** – Choose Grid overlay to help with composition

Histogram disp – **Brightness** – **Set to Small** – Shows histogram in EVF

Lens info display – Shows lens details in EVF (i.e. focal length)

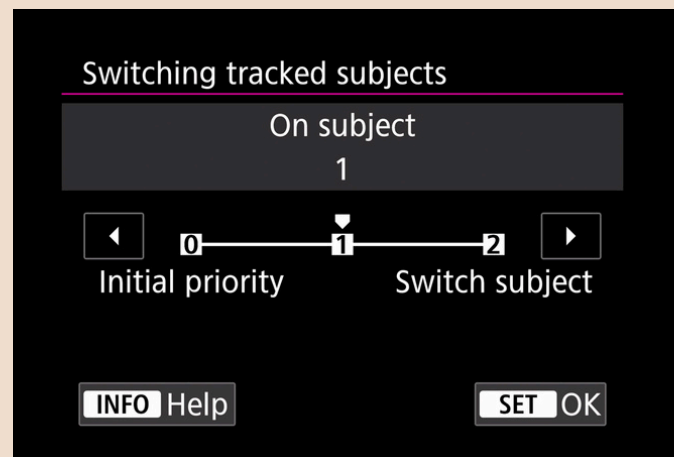
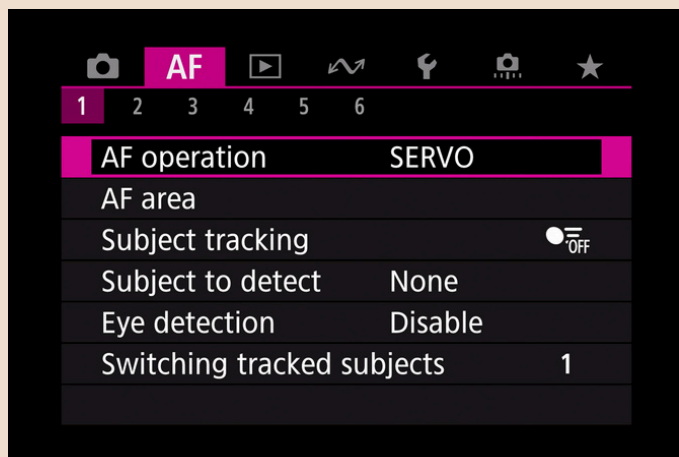
Vertical exp level – Shows exposure level on the side of the EVF

Flicker detect disp – Shows a warning when flickering light (like fluorescent bulbs) is detected

PINK PHOTO MENU

This menu handles everything related to *focusing*. It's where you set how the camera detects and follows your subject.

We will make important changes here and finish setting up the AF in the green custom button menu.



AF Operation: SERVO – Continuous focus for moving subjects

- *I always shoot in servo and just let the back button go if I want to focus on a specific point and have focus stay there*

AF Area – Choose AF points or zones best suited to the shooting situation

On the R3, I like to use triple back button autofocus. We will set this up across a few different menus.

- *My base autofocus is **Spot** (in all orientations). It allows us to move the focus point wherever we want and focus without any tracking interfering. This is the ideal base AF mode, offering full control and making pre-focusing easy.*
- ***We will need to turn off all subject detection and tracking in this menu, otherwise the camera will still track even in spot AF***
- *We will set up **Animal Eye tracking AF** later. It will be assigned to the AF-ON button in the **orange menu**, not here and will overwrite this menu*

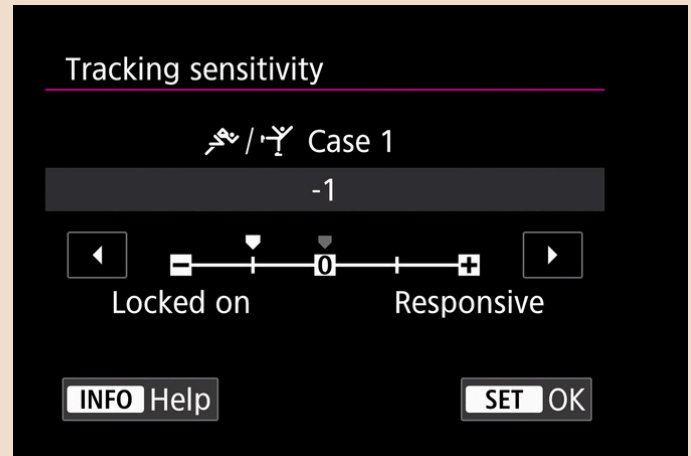
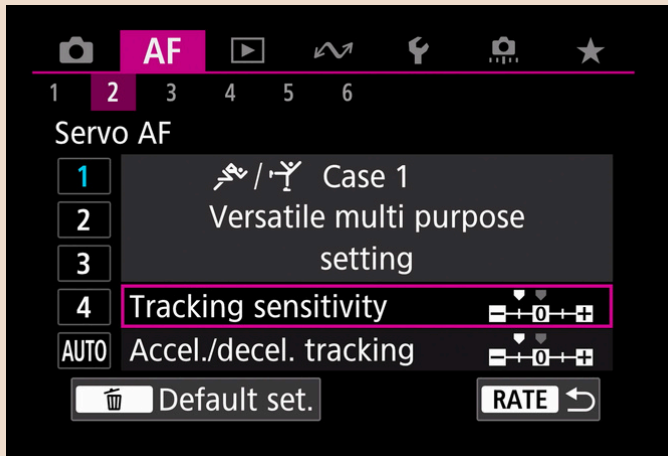
Subject tracking – Off – Enables full-area tracking in modes like Spot

AF, leave off here, because we don't want that for our base AF mode

Subject to detect – None – Select subjects to detect, not needed here

Eye detection – Disable – Turn on/off eye detection, not needed for here

Switching tracked subjects – 1 – Select camera's response to new subjects entering the frame. Typically we want to select 1 or 0 here for more lock on our initial target



Servo AF characteristic – Select tracking behaviour

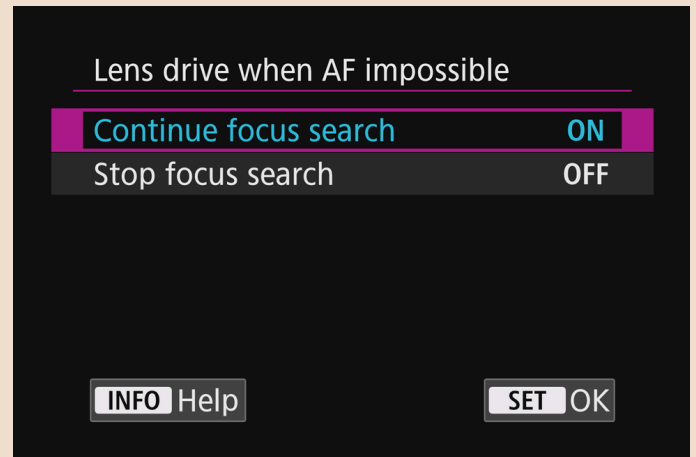
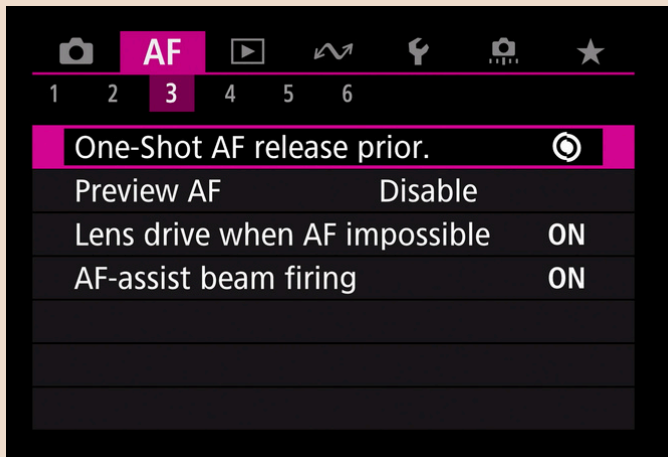
On the R3 I had great success with the settings that I also use on the R5 and R6 II.

- Tracking sensitivity: **-1**
- Accel./decel. tracking: **-1**

Alternatively I'd suggest to use AUTO. This has given me good and consistent tracking and AF stickiness.



R3 | EF 600 L IS II | 1.4X TC | F5.6 | ISO 6400 | 1/200



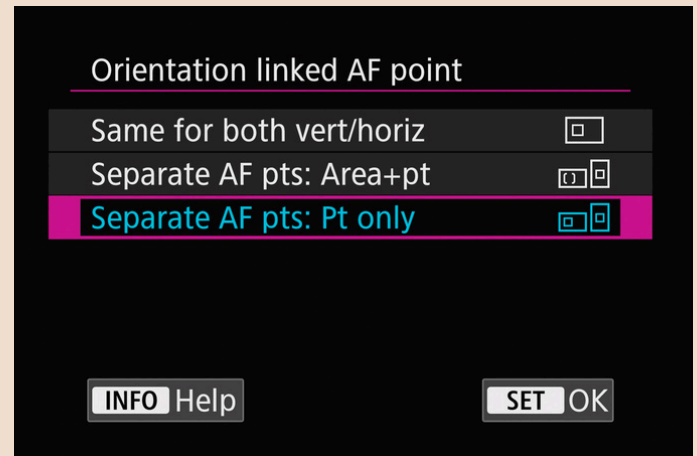
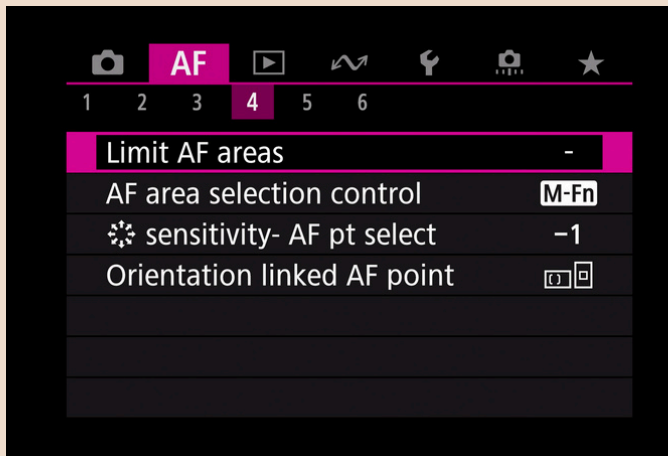
One-Shot AF Release Prior. – Set shutter to fire immediately or wait for focus lock

Preview AF – Disable – Camera continuously attempts to focus, even when the focus button is not pressed (not recommended for photos)

Lens Drive When AF Impossible – ON – Determines if the camera keeps searching for focus across the range or stops searching when focus is lost

- **Continue focus search (ON)** – Lens keeps hunting if focus fails
- **Stop focus search (OFF)** – Lens stops searching when focus is lost
- *In theory, OFF would be the better choice, because it will stop the camera from jumping on to the background, but the problem is that you cannot easily focus into the distance or close up anymore. If a bird suddenly lands close to you and you have focused into the distance or the other way around, the camera won't focus unless you manually bring focus closer to the subject first.*
- *That's why I leave it ON, even though it lets the AF sometimes slip onto the BG. However, I feel like I miss too many shots when I can't quickly focus between different distances.*

AF-Assist Beam Firing – OFF – Stops infrared flashes being fired to assist focus



Limit AF areas – Select which AF modes appear when cycling

AF area selection control – M-Fn to cycle through different options

Controller sensitivity – AF point select – select speed of joystick

- I like to speed it up a bit for faster movement

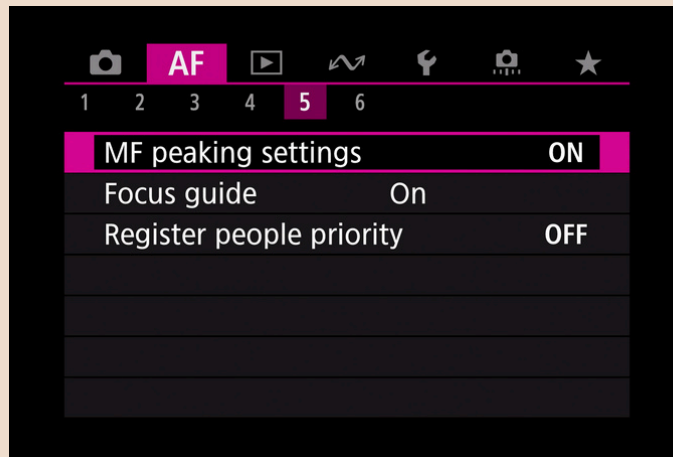
Orientation linked AF point – Select AF point/zone behaviour when changing orientation

- I use *Separate AF pts: PT Only*
- Assigns separate AF points for horizontal and vertical shooting. This helps to quickly switch between vertical and horizontal shooting and maintains the selected AF point for each orientation.



R3 | RF 600 L IS | F5 | ISO 16000 | 1/200

5/6: MF related →



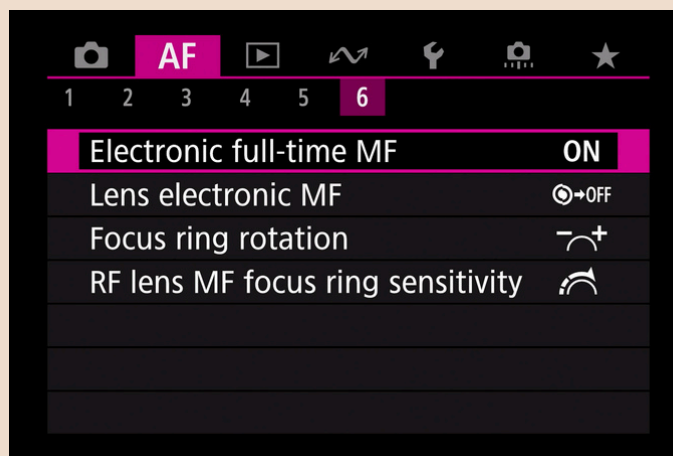
MF peaking – OFF – Highlights in focus areas

- Turn on for precise manual focus

Focus guide – OFF – Visual focus aid: Shows direction and confirmation of focus when enabled in MF mode

Register people priority: Option to register a certain person for the AF to prioritize

6/6: MF related →



Electronic full-time MF - On - Allows for manual focus when needed

Lens electronic MF – ON – Enable (actual size) – Allows manual focus tweaks while in AF: Great for fine-tuning focus

Focus ring rotation – (default) – Choose focus ring direction

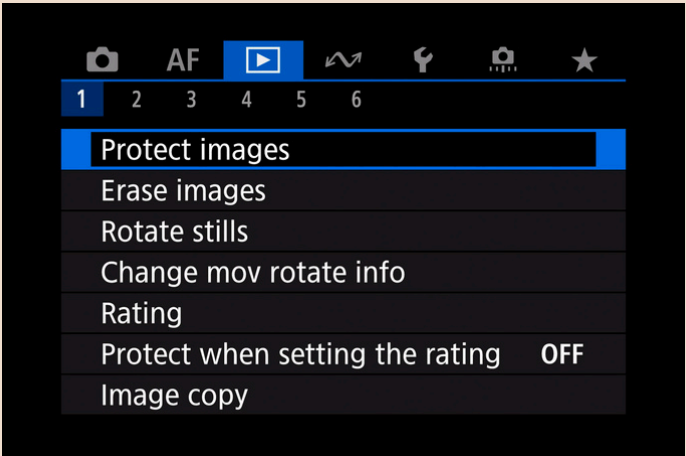
RF lens MF focus ring sensitivity – (default) – Adjust responsiveness of MF ring

BLUE PHOTO MENU

This menu manages *playback settings* like image review time, playback options, and how photos or videos are shown on the screen. It's all about how you view and manage your captured content.

We don't make many changes here.

1/6: File operation All left as default



Protect images – Prevent selected files from being accidentally erased

Erase images – Delete chosen photos or videos from the memory card

Rotate stills – Manually rotate images for correct orientation in playback

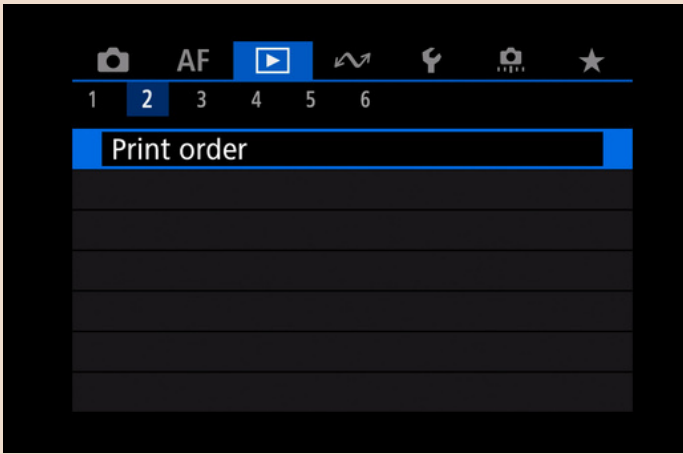
Change mov rotate info – Adjust playback rotation metadata for movies

Rating – Tag images with star ratings for easy sorting or culling

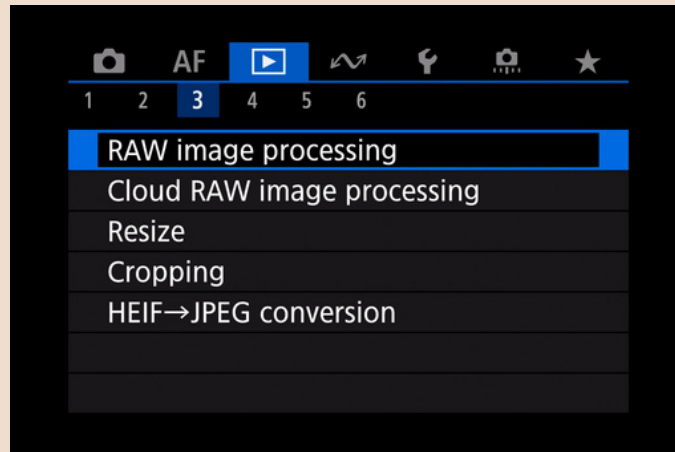
Protect when setting the rating - Rate and protect at the same time

Image copy – Copy photos/videos from one card slot to another

2/6: Image processing All left as default



Print order – Select images and settings for direct printing



RAW processing (RAW/DPRaw) – Develop RAW files directly in-camera.

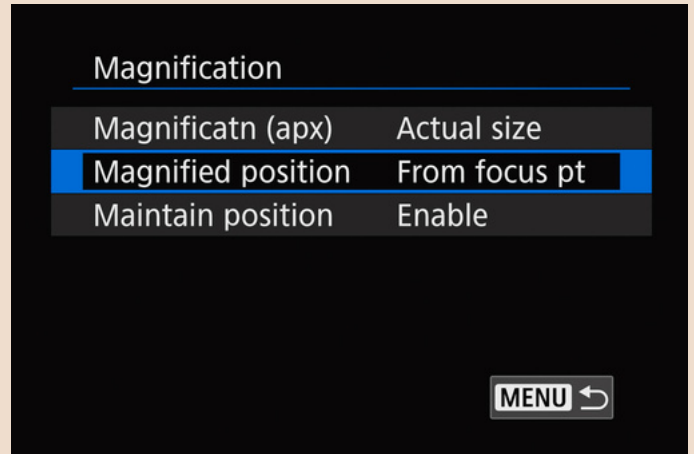
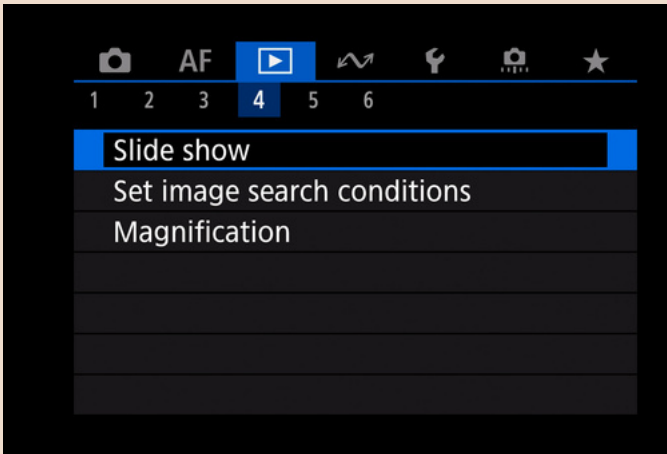
Cloud RAW image processing – Send RAW files to Canon's cloud for high-quality processing.

Resize – Create smaller copies of JPEG/HEIF images

Cropping – Trim image composition and save a new file from the cropped area

HEIF→JPEG conversion – Convert HEIF images into JPEG





Slideshow – Play back your photos as slideshow

Set image search conditions – Set criteria to find images on card

Magnification – Set zoom level for playback

- Set to Actual size (Zoom to 100% when pressing magnifying button)
- Set to From focus pt (Zooms in to focus point, rather than center)
- Enable maintain position (Helps when zooming though a burst of photos)



5/6: Various settings

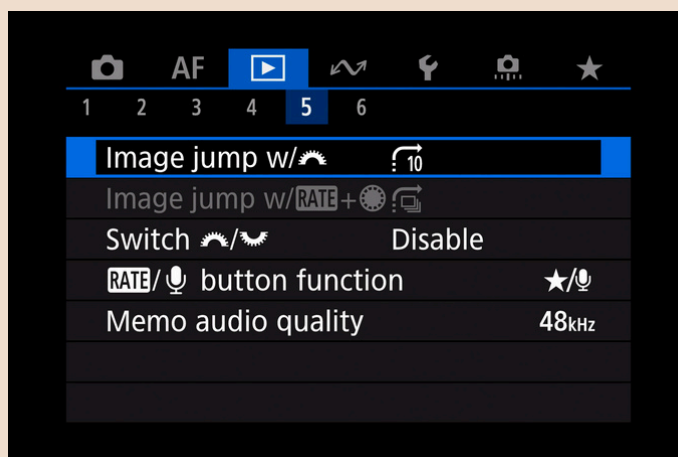


Image jump w/ Main Dial –

- I like to change it to 10 image jumps

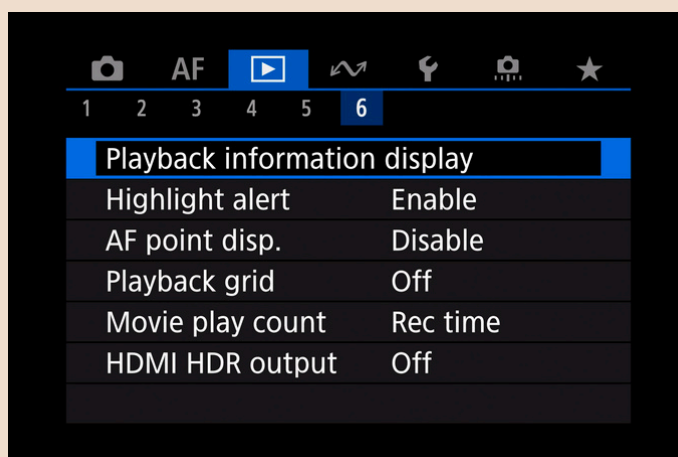
Image jump w/ RATE + Quick Control Dial – Jump to first image of scene

Switch Main/Quick Dial during playback (default) – OFF – Toggle between using Main and Quick Control Dials for playback scrolling

RATE btn function – Select function for rate button (default)

Memo audio quality – 48kHz – Sets audio for voice memos

6/6: Various settings



Playback information display – Choose what info is shown

Highlight alert – **Enable** – **Very helpful** – Blinks overexposed highlights to warn of clipping

AF point disp. – **Disable** – Shows AF point overlay in review images

Playback grid – **Off** – Turns off compositional grid overlay during playback

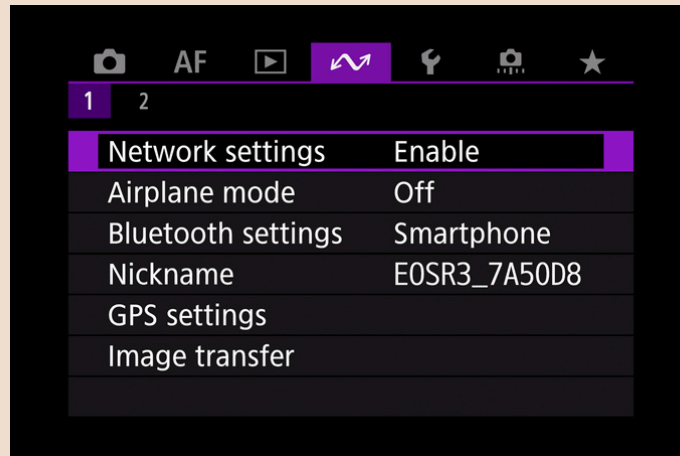
Movie play count – **Rec time** – Shows recording time instead of time code during video playback

HDMI HDR output – **Off** – Send HDR video to ext. recorder

PURPLE PHOTO MENU

This menu covers *communication settings* – including Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and other connectivity options. It's where you set up how your camera connects to smartphones, computers, or cloud services.

I don't make any changes here, except that I like to connect my phone to use the Canon Camera Connect app for remote shooting.



Network settings – Enable – Activates communication features like Wi-Fi and Bluetooth

Airplane mode – Off

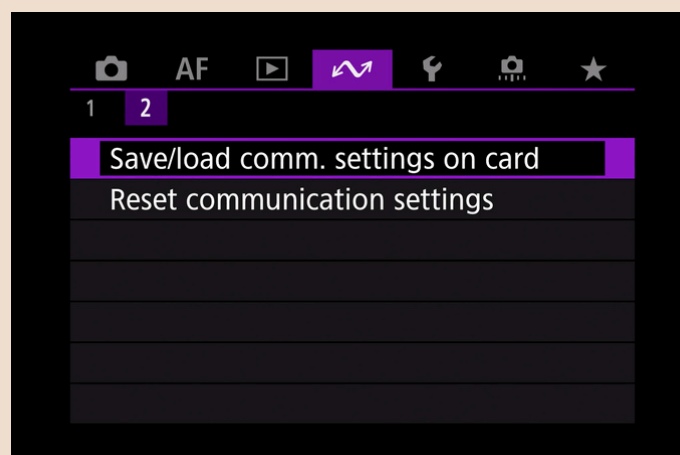
- I turn it ON when I am not connecting my phone. Leaving Wi-Fi on may slow down certain functions.

Bluetooth settings – Disable – Turns on Bluetooth for pairing with smart devices or remote controls

Nickname – Identifier shown when connecting via Wi-Fi/Bluetooth

GPS device settings – Configure GPS features when using compatible GPS accessories or smartphone link

Image transfer – Send images to other devices or ftp servers



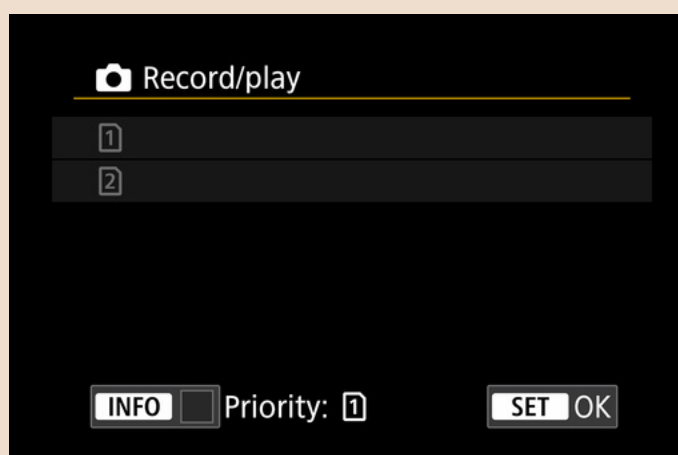
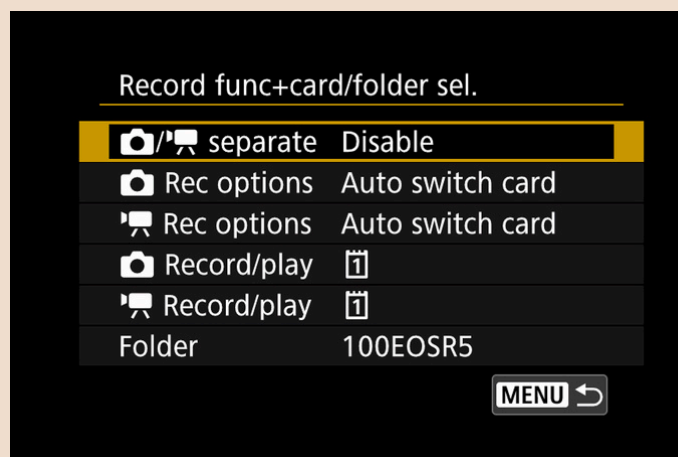
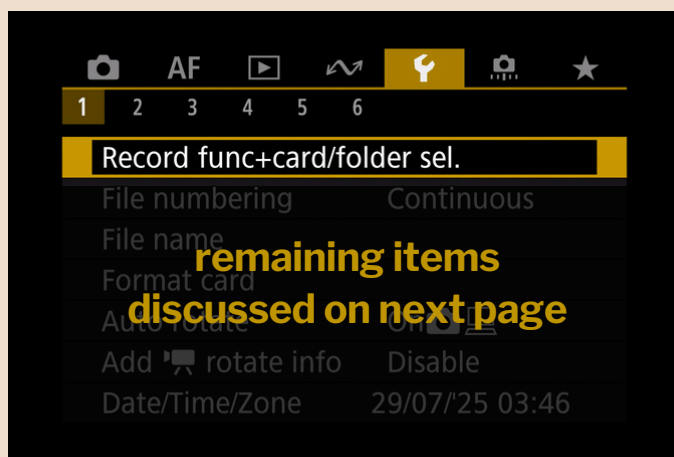
Save/load comm. settings on card – Backup or restore communication settings to/from memory card

Reset communication settings – Revert to default settings

YELLOW PHOTO MENU

This menu handles *setup and system settings* – such as video standard, card settings, screen brightness, and shutter sound. It's where you configure the general operation of your camera.

We will make minor changes here.



Record func+card/folder sel. – Set which card & folder to record to

- You can either write to one card first and then the other or write to both cards simultaneously (instant back-up). You can also choose to write videos to one card and stills to the other.
- *I usually write to one card and use the second as overflow (Auto switch card). If needed, write to both cards for instant back up*

Rec. func+card/ folder sel. submenu

Still/Video separate – Disable – Write photos & videos to the same card

Still Rec options – Auto switch card – Automatically switches to the second card when the first fills up

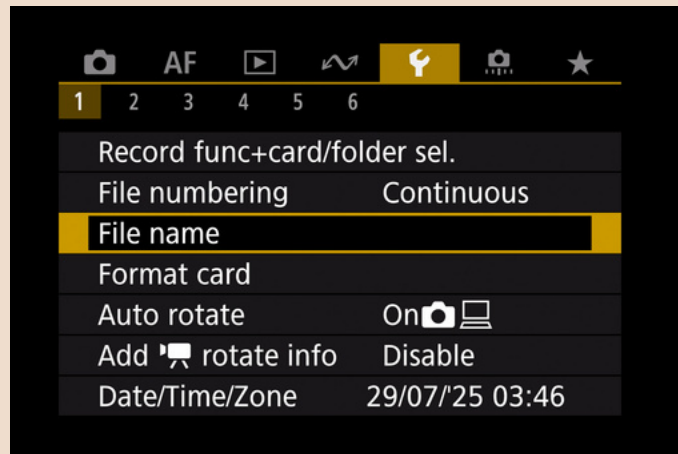
Video Rec options – Auto switch card – Automatically switches to the second card when the first fills up

Still Record/play – Card 1 – Sets card 1 for still photo recording and playback

Video Record/play – Card 1 – Sets card 1 for video recording and playback

Press **INFO** in the **Record/play submenu** to give priority to card 1 – will be used first

1/6: File/card setting Cont'd.



File numbering – Continuous – Maintains sequential numbering across card changes

File name – Customize the 4-character prefix for image file names

Format card – Erases all data on the selected card: Prepares it for use

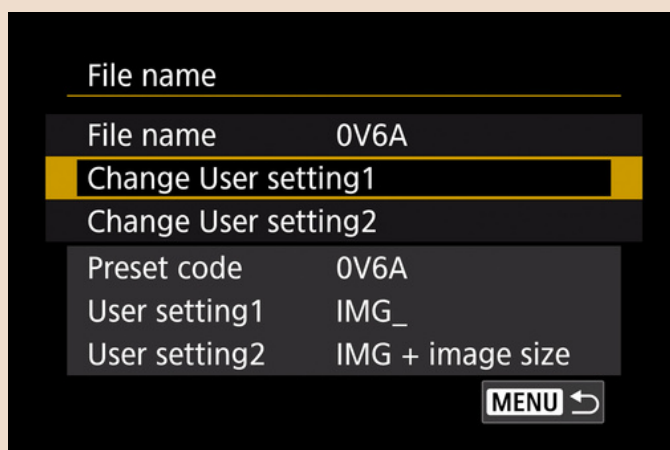
- To keep cards fresh, it's recommended to regularly tick “Low Level Format”
- Always format cards in camera before use

Auto rotate – On (camera + computer) – Images auto-rotate for display on both camera and computer

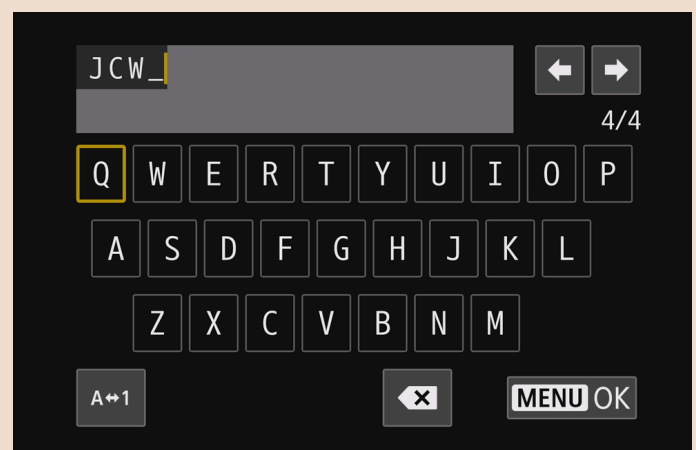
Add rotate info – Disable – No rotation metadata added to movie files

Date/Time/Zone – Set current date, time, and time zone

→ **submenu: File name → Stills**

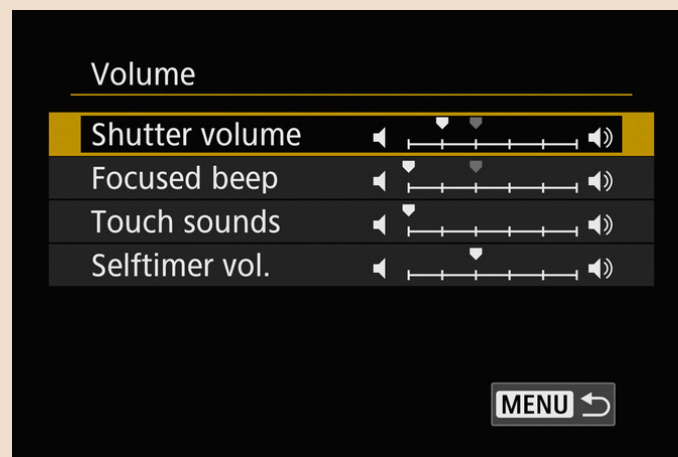
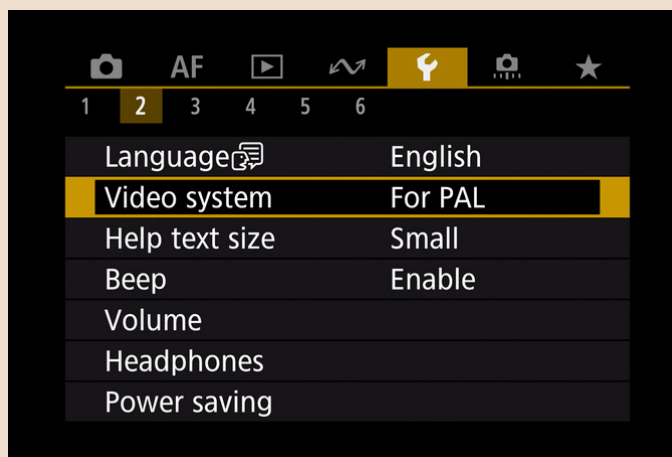


→ **submenu: File name**



Change User Setting – Adjust to rename files for stills

- If shooting AdobeRGB, the first letter will be replaced with an underscore



Language – Choose language for camera menus

Video System – Match region's video standard (PAL for EU/Asia, NTSC for US)

- ***This affects the video frame rates available***
 - **(PAL: 25,50,100 fps) (NTSC: 24,30,60,120fps)**
- For wildlife NTSC or PAL doesn't matter as much, but for shooting inside choosing correctly PAL/NTSC can stop flickering in video files

Help text size (Small) – Adjust size of on-screen help text

Beep (Enable) – This is where you **set up your camera sounds**

- **To be able to access the Volume menu, you have to enable 'Beep'**

Volume – Control volume for shutter sound, beep, etc.

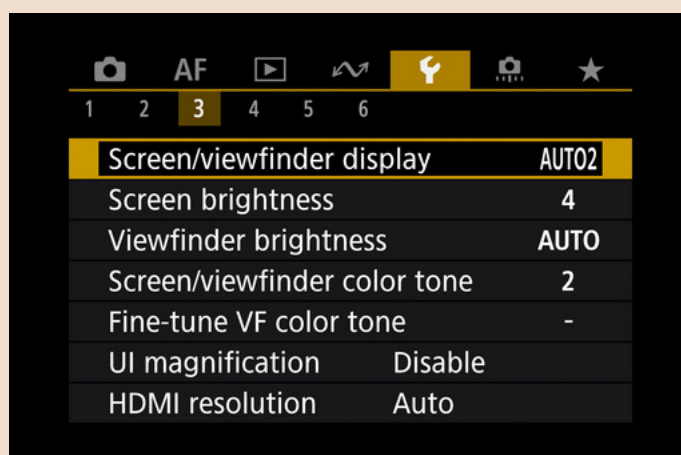
- *I usually disable all sounds*

Headphones – Enable/disable real-time audio monitoring (headphone jack required)

Power saving – Set when camera shuts off or goes to sleep

- *I usually leave the defaults to save battery, but it can make sense to extend the times of shooting from a hide for instance, so the camera doesn't turn off all the time*

3/6: Customize display



Screen/viewfinder display – Auto2 – Auto switches between EVF and screen

Screen brightness – Set to max to see on a bright day

Viewfinder brightness – Set EVF brightness: I leave it on auto most of the time

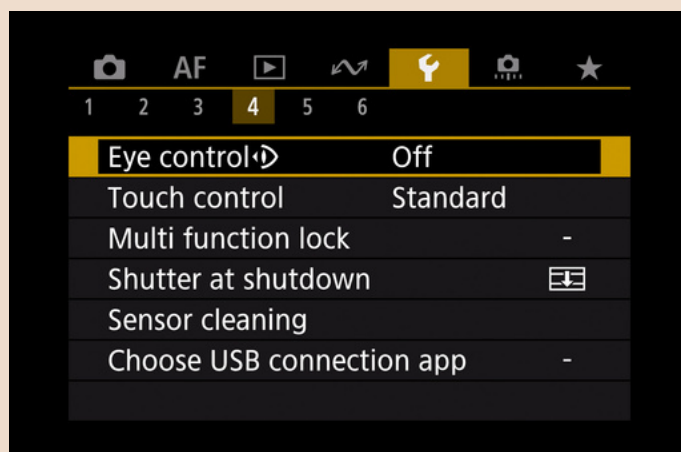
Screen/viewfinder color tone – **default** – Adjust color tone of LCD/EVF

Fine-tune VF color tone – **default** – Precise adjustment of viewfinder color

UI magnification – **Disable** – Enlarge interface text/icons for accessibility

HDMI resolution – Set output resolution for HDMI connection (Auto, 1080p, etc.)

4/6: Various settings All left as default



Eye control – Next page

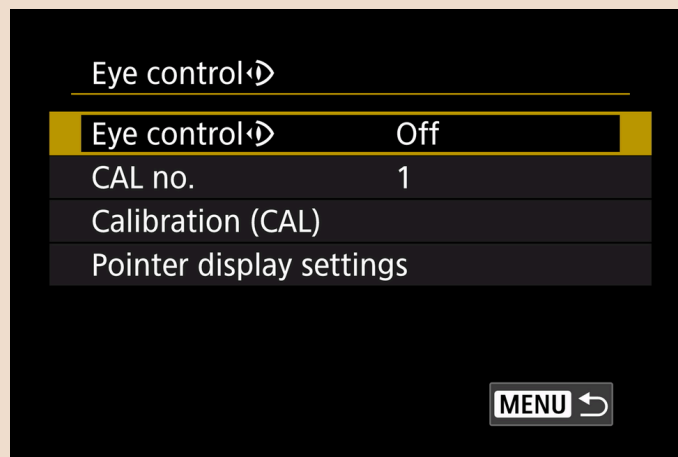
Touch control – Standard – Enables normal touchscreen operation

Multi function lock – Disable specific camera controls

Shutter at shutdown – Closes shutter when powering off – protects sensor

Sensor cleaning – Configure or manually start sensor cleaning

Choose USB connection app – Selects which app to use when connecting via USB



Next, we have the **eye-controlled AF menu**. This is an interesting function on the R5 Mark II, R3 and R1, *however I find it too unreliable to use on a regular basis.*

If you want to use the eye controlled AF, you need to assign one button in the **orange custom button menu** to '**Moving AF point & start AF by eye control**'. When you press that button, the camera will move the AF point to where you look and will start focusing. Could be one of the front buttons for instance.

- You should also assign a button to turn eye-controlled AF on/off, for instance the *LIGHT* or SET button on top of the camera. That allows you turn it on/off quickly.
- *One tip when using the eye controlled AF is to deactivate the pointer. The yellow or purple circle will drive you crazy after a while and it still works without it, which makes it much more comfortable to use.*

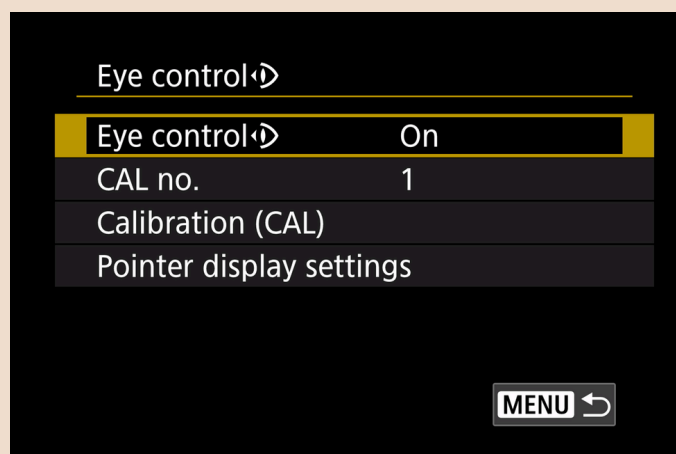
Eye control – Off – Disables eye-controlled focus point selection

- *I will still show you how to set it up on the next page*

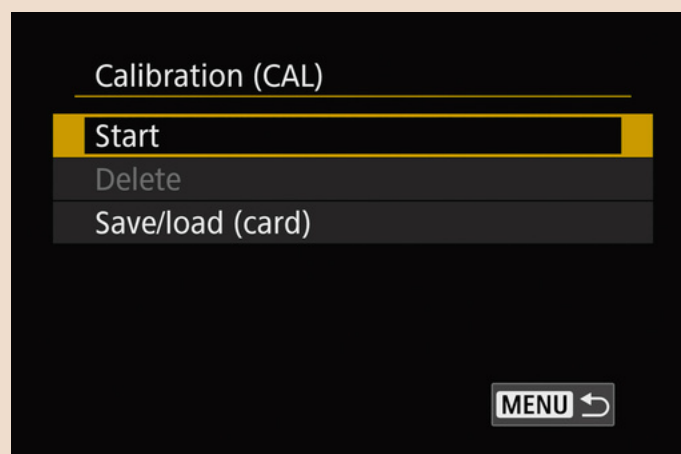
Touch control – Standard – Enables normal touchscreen operation

Clear all customized controls – Resets all custom button/dial settings to default

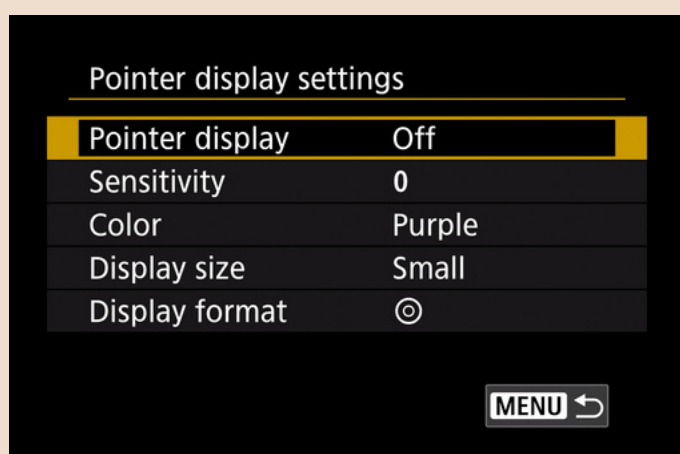
→ submenu: Setting up Eye Control



→ submenu: Calibration



→ submenu: Pointer display settings



Eye control – On – Enables AF point selection by tracking eye movement

CAL no. – 1 – Select calibration profile

Calibration (CAL) – Starts eye calibration for accuracy – Follow prompts in EVF

- *To get accurate results, calibrate in many different lighting scenarios as well as vertically and horizontally and save a few different profiles to use in different scenarios*

Pointer display settings – *I recommend turning it **OFF** for easier use of EVF, otherwise the pointer gets a bit annoying after a while – the R5II will still track your eyes*

Sensitivity – (default) Adjust how responsive the pointer is to eye movement

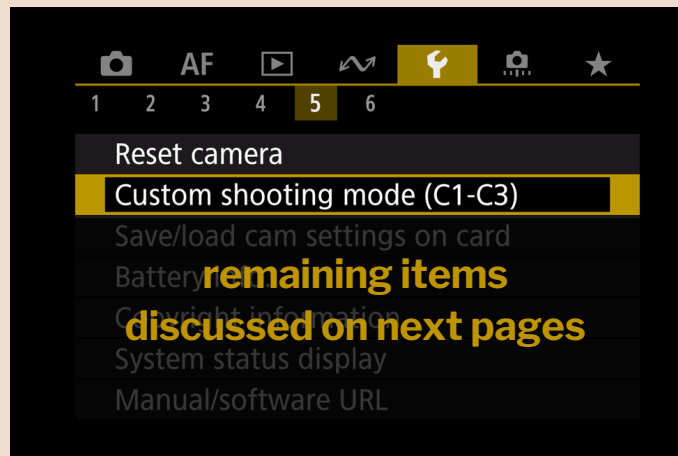
Color – Choose the pointer color for better visibility

Display size – Set the size of the pointer

Display format – Select the visual style of the pointer

It takes some getting used to, but with these settings you should get some good results. Often times when light changes, tracking will get inaccurate and needs calibration. **Eye-controlled AF** can work well for multiple subjects, where you can look directly at the subject you want to focus on and direct the AF that way.

5/6: Custom shooting mode

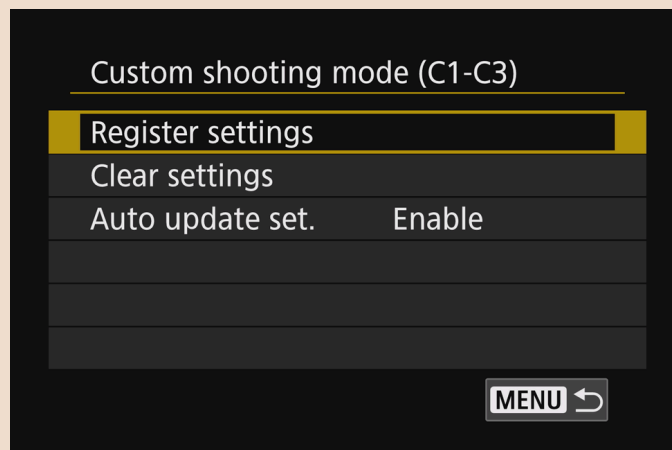


Reset camera – Restores all settings to factory defaults

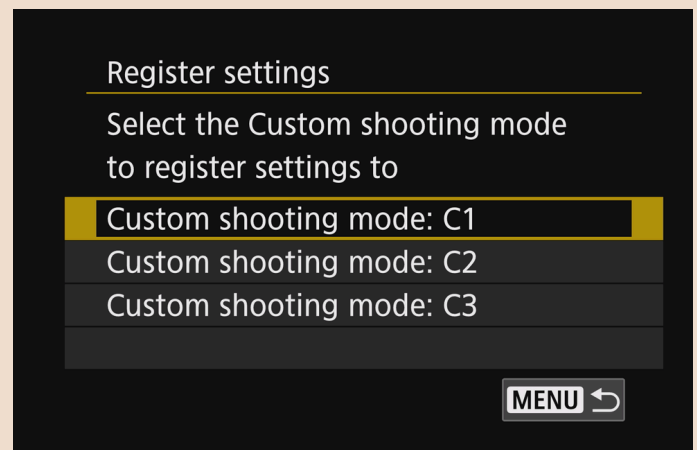
Custom shooting mode (C1–C3) – Here you can register custom shooting modes to recall when selecting C1,2,3 on the camera's mode dial

- *This can be very helpful when you want to quickly switch between different shooting modes and styles, i.e. you can set one mode for people and one mode for animals*

→ **submenu: Custom shooting mode**

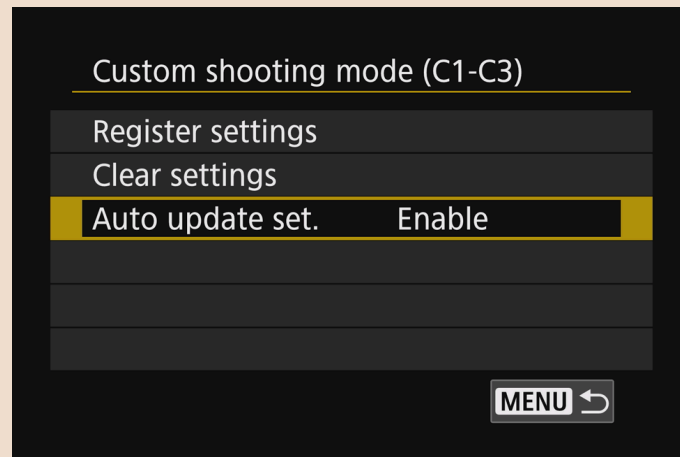


→ **submenu: Register settings**



Register settings – Save current camera setup as a custom mode

- *To register settings to a custom mode, select all settings you want to save as a custom shooting mode, AF mode, subject to detect, custom buttons, ISO, shutter speed, shooting mode etc.*
- *Once you have it all dialed in go to: **Custom shooting mode > Register Settings** and then select C1,2 or 3. This will save all your settings to that custom shooting mode and can be recalled by setting the mode dial to that custom mode.*
- *Press MENU to get back*

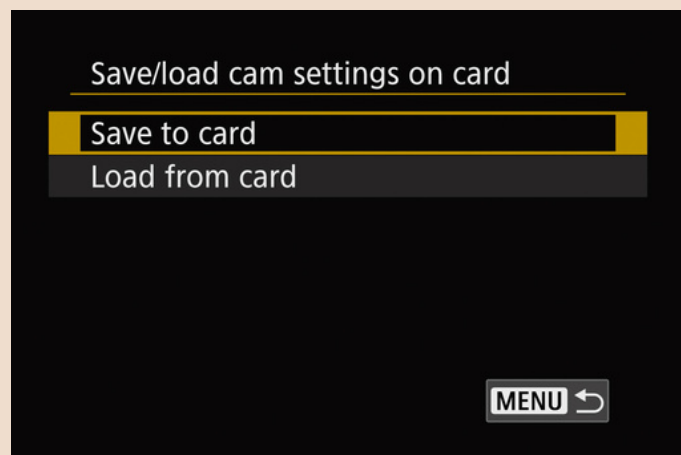
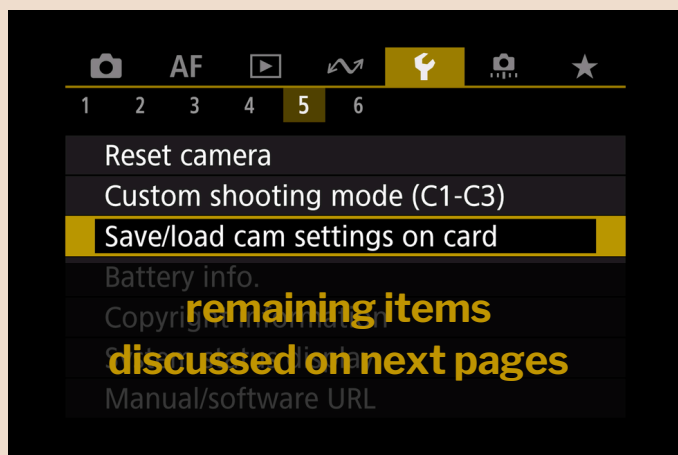


Clear settings – Reset saved custom mode to default

Auto update set. (Enable/Disable) – *Important*

- If enabled, any changes made while using a custom mode will be saved automatically to that custom mode
- This can be helpful if you use custom modes in changing environments
- If you prefer to always have the identical settings as your custom mode, disable it





This is the menu where you can install the camera set up file that comes with this guide.

(Save/Load cam settings on card)

WARNING!

Before installing the new camera set up file, go to *Save/load settings* and make a copy of your current settings first, so you can put them back onto your camera in case you do not like my settings!

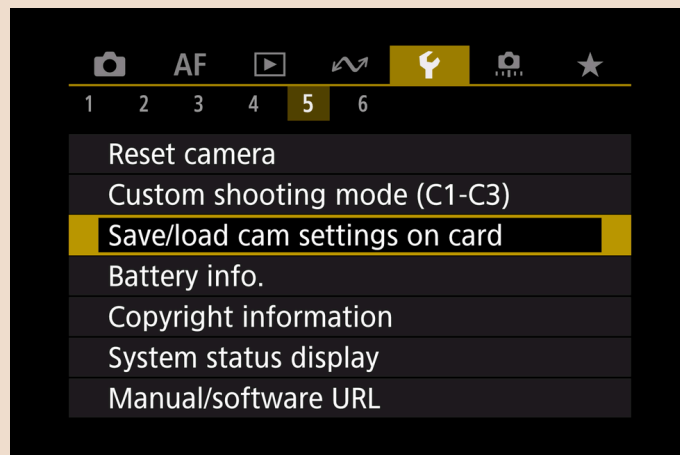
Save to card – Save current camera settings to a new camera settings file

- To save your current settings navigate to **‘Save/Load cam settings on card’** and then select **‘Save to card’**. This will create a **.CSD file** on your memory card you can save onto your computer as a back up.

Load from card – Load settings from a camera settings file

- **To install my camera set up file**, save the .CSD file onto an *empty memory card*
- *Make sure there are no other cards inside the camera*
- Then navigate to **‘Save/Load cam settings on card’** and select **‘Load from card’**
- That will install **most** of my settings onto your R3
- In some cases not all settings are copied over and you can either try it again or manually check with this guide to make sure everything is set up correctly
 - Sometimes the custom modes and video settings may not be transferred properly or are turned off (*Custom picture* in Custom modes for instance). *Re-adjust them manually.*

5/6: Custom shooting mode Cont'd.



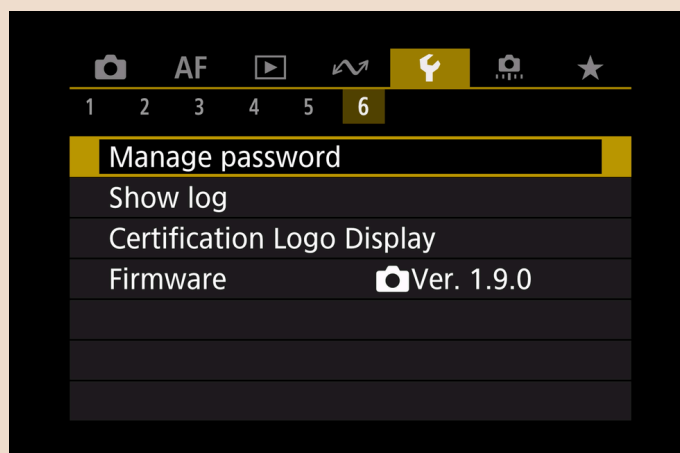
Battery info. – View charge level, shutter count, and recharge performance

Copyright information – Add photographer and copyright metadata

System status display - Display status

Manual/software URL – Access Canon's support site

6/6: Various settings All left as default



Manage password – Enable/Disable & adjust password

Show log – Shows password activity

Battery info. – View charge level, shutter count, and recharge performance

Certification Logo Display – Displays region-specific certification logos

Firmware – View or update camera firmware version

ORANGE PHOTO MENU

This menu deals with *camera operations and customization of controls* – like shooting modes, shooting speed, button functions, control dials and various other settings. It's where you tailor the camera to fit your personal shooting style.

We will make many important adjustments here.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Exposure level increments	1/3							
ISO speed setting increments	1/3							
Speed from metering/ISO Auto	AUTO↺							
Bracketing auto cancel	ON							
Bracketing sequence	0→+							
Number of bracketed shots	3							
Safety shift	OFF							

Exposure level increments – Sets EV adjustment steps for exposure

ISO speed setting increments – Sets ISO change steps (1/3 or 1 stop)

Speed from metering/ISO Auto – Determines if auto ISO adjusts shutter/aperture in M mode

Bracketing auto cancel – Disables bracketing after power-off or mode change

Bracketing sequence – Defines order of bracketed exposures

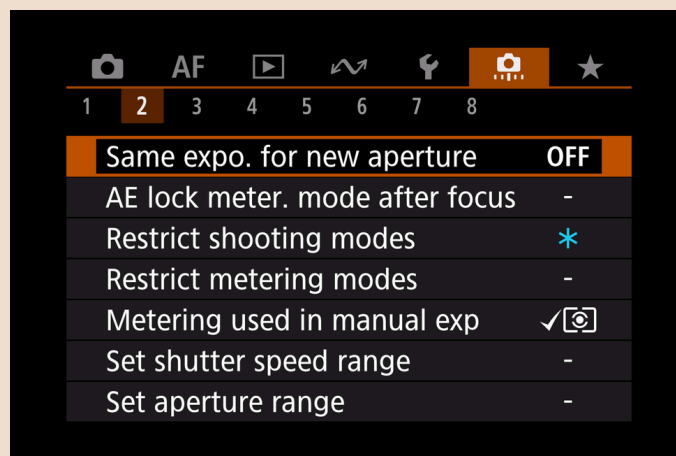
Number of bracketed shots – Number of images during bracketing

Safety shift – Prevents exposure errors by auto-adjusting shutter or aperture if limits are exceeded



R3 | RF 600 L IS | F5 | ISO 25600 | 1/200

2/8: Exposure All left as default



Same expo. for new aperture – Maintains exposure when changing lenses with different maximum apertures

AE lock meter. mode after focus – Option to hold exposure after autofocus

Restrict shooting modes – Limit available modes on Mode Dial

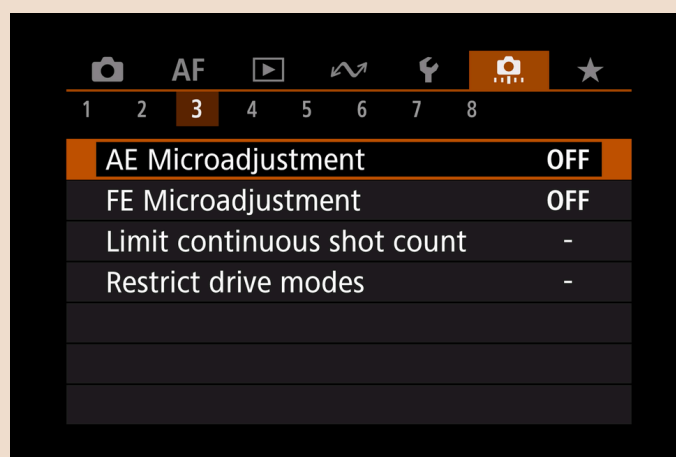
Restrict metering modes – Limit available modes

Metering used in manual exp – Metering display in manual exposure mode

Set shutter speed range – Customize minimum and maximum allowable shutter speeds

Set aperture range – Customize allowed aperture range for lens

3/8: Exposure All left as default

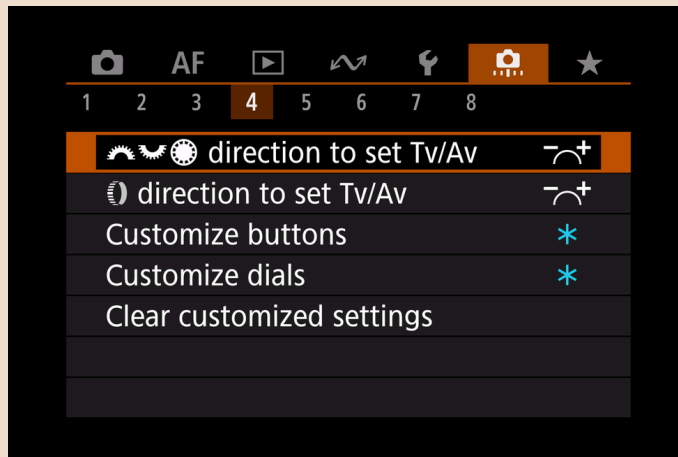


AE Microadjustment – Fine-tunes auto exposure

FE Microadjustment – Adjusts flash exposure (FE) compensation

Limit continuous shot count – No limit (default) – Set max number of shots per burst

Restrict drive modes – No Limit (default) – Limit available drive options (e.g., disable self-timer or low-speed burst) for streamlined menu access



I leave the first two as default

These let you adjust the direction of the wheel and control rings

Customize buttons for shooting

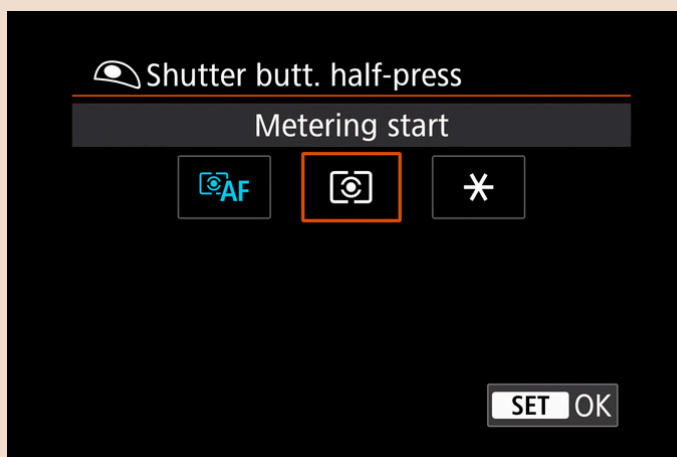
- Here we will assign our buttons for back button focus and assign specific settings to certain buttons.
- **We will set this up on the next page**

Customize dials/control ring – Set dial/control ring functions

- *I like the shutter speed on the rear dial in manual mode, but most people prefer the defaults*

Clear customized settings - Reset settings





Let's go through the photo custom controls on the left side, one by one. I usually leave the video options unchanged since I rely mainly on automatic tracking we will set up in the video section

Shutter button half-press – Metering start

- We want to set up back button autofocus, therefore I am disabling the focusing function from the shutter button and set it to **Metering start** only
- If you prefer to also focus with the shutter button, you can leave it active
 - *I like to have full control over the focus and like to separate it from image taking, so that the camera does not re-focus just before I take an image*

Movie Shooting Button – Movie Recording (default)

- If pressed in photo mode, the R6II will record in automatic video mode

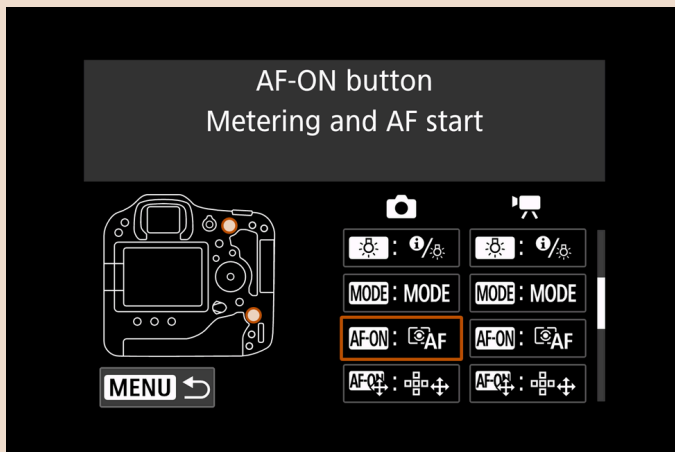
M-Fn – C – Cycle through custom shooting modes (*photo & video mode*)

M-Fn 2 – Start/Stop subject tracking – if active, camera tracks all over the EVF

Light button – Light up buttons/screens (default)

Mode – Mode – Switch shooting modes





AF-ON button

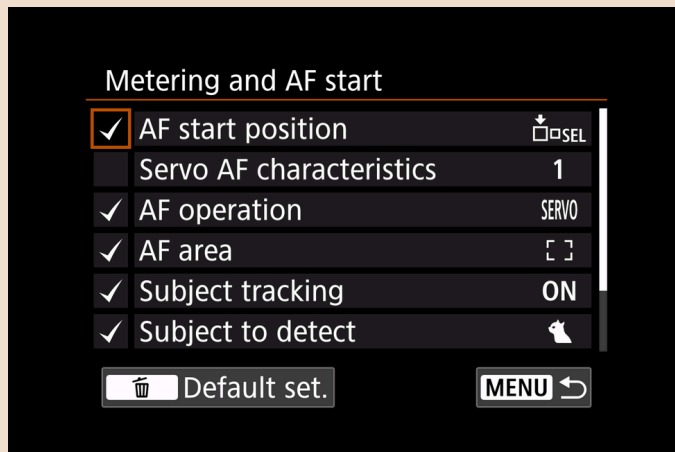
- We will assign eye tracking AF to the AF-On button. This can be done in two different ways

Option 1

- The easiest way is to navigate to **Eye Detection AF**, this will enable eye tracking while the AF-On button is held down. The subject detection will default to Auto

Option 2

- The other option is to select **Metering and AF start** and press *INFO* to access the sub settings menu. There we will select the settings we want the camera to execute when pressing AF-ON.
 - Details on the next page

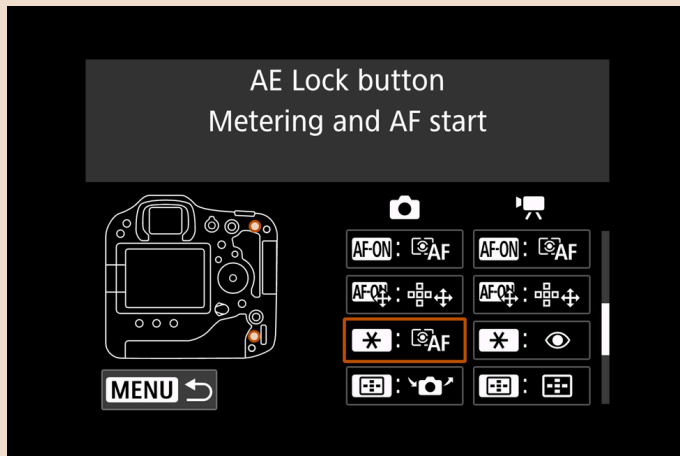


Here we select what happens when we press and hold the AF-ON button.

If unticked, the camera will default to what is set in the main menu

- *It makes sense to leave certain options unticked. Unticked options will not be overwritten when pressing the AF-ON button. That way we can select them in the main menu (mainly pink menu) and don't have to come to this sub menu for changes all the time.*
- ✓ **AF start position** – Uses current AF point selection at focus start
- Servo AF characteristics** – Select AF case – I leave it unticked
- ✓ **AF operation** – **SERVO** – Enables continuous AF for moving subjects
- ✓ **AF area** – Whole area AF (tracks subject all over EVF)
- ✓ **Subject tracking** **ON** – Allows subject tracking across the frame
- ✓ **Subject to detect** – **Animals** – Set to subject you want to photograph
- Spot detection** – *For motorsport* – track either car or driver - turn
- ✓ **OFF**
- Eye detection** – **AUTO** – Automatically detects and focuses on eyes, no bias

Now we have successfully assigned specific settings to the AF-ON button. Whether you chose option 1 or 2, it will now perform **animal eye tracking & metering start** when pressed. Press menu to return.



Let's keep going with the rest of the buttons, *a few more changes to make.*

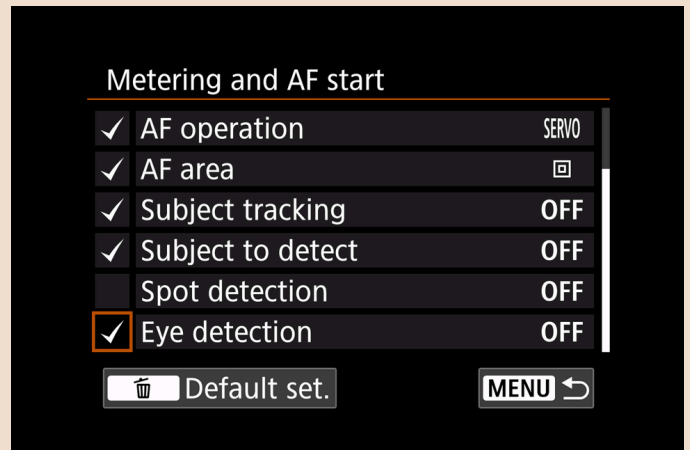
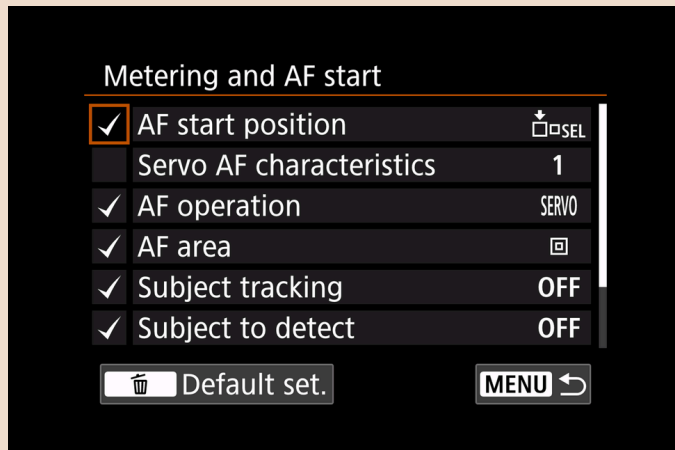
Setting up double back button autofocus

So far, we have disabled shutter button focusing and assigned animal eye tracking to the AF-ON button, but we have not yet assigned a button to do the focusing in our base AF mode (Spot) we set up in the **pink menu**. *This task I assign to the * button (AE lock).*

AE-Lock button (* button) – Metering and AF start for base AF mode

- Select **Metering and AF start** & press set to confirm
 - You can assign sub settings to this button as well if you press **INFO**, like we did for the AF-ON button.
 - On the R3 this can be a good option, to prevent the camera from tracking in Spot AF mode for instance. Otherwise just Metering and AF start without assigning sub settings is fine, as we have set all the needed settings for this button in the pink menu already.
- *We will set this up on the next page*





Here we select what happens when we press and hold the * button.

- **If unticked, the camera will default to what is set in the main menu**
 - *It makes sense to leave certain options unticked. Unticked options will not be overwritten when pressing the AF-ON button. That way we can select them in the main menu (mainly pink menu) and don't have to come to this sub menu for changes all the time.*
- ✓ **AF start position – Uses current AF point selection at focus start**
- Servo AF characteristics – Select AF case - I leave it unticked**
- ✓ **AF operation – SERVO** – Enables continuous AF
- ✓ **AF area** – Spot AF – like DSLR AF, where you move the AF point
- ✓ **Subject tracking: OFF** – disables tracking, we don't want that in base spot mode
- ✓ **Subject to detect – OFF** – We don't want subject tracing here
- Spot detection – For motorsport** – track either car or driver – turn OFF
- ✓ **Eye detection – OFF** – We don't want eye tracking here

Now we have successfully set up **double back button AF**. The *button will perform precise Spot AF without any tracking and the AF-ON button will perform **animal eye tracking & metering start** when pressed. Press menu to return.



Optional: Action/ High Image Quality Button

Next, I like to set up another button, which I call either **action or high image quality button**, depending on which settings you choose.

- The idea is that we can press this button to quickly either get a **high shutter speed with high ISO for action** or a **slow shutter speed with low ISO for maximum image quality**
- On the R3, I usually dial in settings for fast action. This means: When I want to take a portrait, I get noisy files, because I have a high shutter speed and high ISO dialed in.
 - *That's why I assign the 'AF point button' to be my high image quality button*
- **Whenever I press that button, the camera will jump to a slow shutter speed and auto iso**, allowing me to take nice portraits at lower ISOs. When I let go, it reverts back to the main settings.

Let's set it up!

AF point button – Action or High IQ settings (Your choice)

- Navigate to '**Register/recall shooting func**'
 - Press *INFO* to enter sub settings menu
 - *See next page for details*



All adjustments you make in this menu and activate (✓) will overwrite your current camera settings while the button is pressed. Unticked settings will default to the ones in the main menu.

✓ **Shooting mode – Manual**

- This lets us lock in shutter speed and aperture

✓ **Shutter speed**

- 1/320 - 1/500 for high image quality mode
- 1/2000 to 1/4000 for action mode

✓ **Aperture – Adjust depending on the lens**

- I like to set it to around f/5.6
- If the aperture set here is larger than your lens can do, it will default to the max aperture on your lens, 6.3 for instance

✓ **ISO speed – Auto ISO**

- This will guarantee us good exposure without having to make any changes

Metering mode -

- Evaluative – For balanced result

✓ **Exposure compensation – Depends on the shooting situation**

- I leave it at 0 or set it to $-\frac{1}{3}$ for generally decent exposure

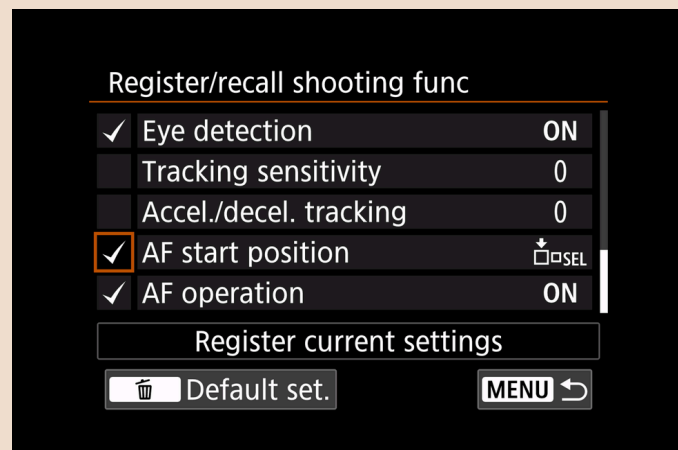
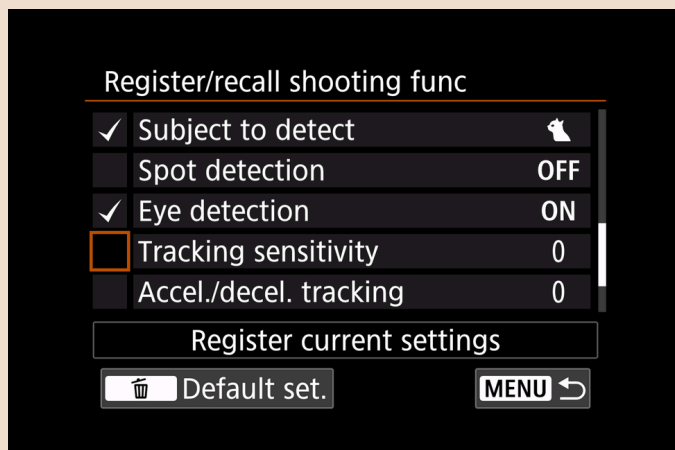
✓ **White balance – Choose AWB or manual**

- I set it to 5400K for balanced results

✓ **AF area – Whole Area AF**

- Let's camera find and track subject all over the EVF

✓ **Subject tracking – ON – Allows tracking all over EVF**



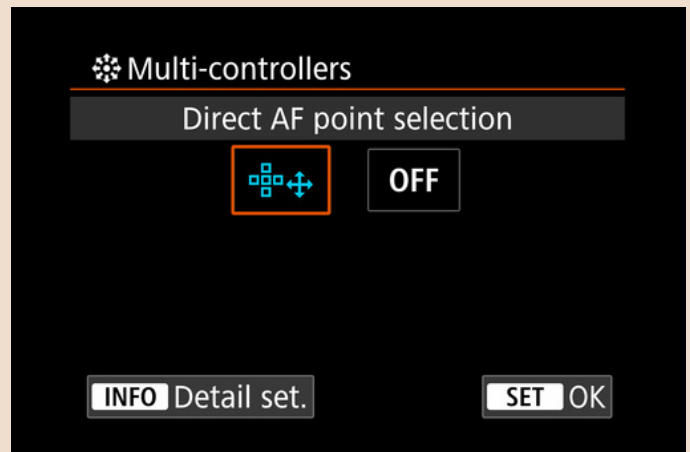
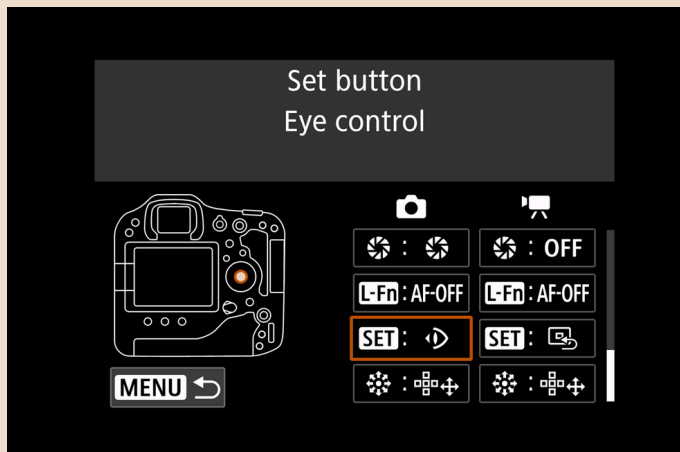
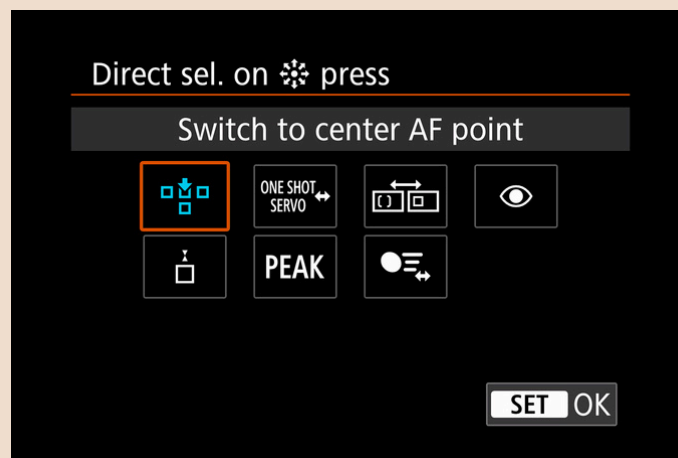
- ✓ **Subject to detect – Animals** – Set to subject you want to photograph
- Spot detection** – For motorsport – Track either car or driver - turn off
- ✓ **Eye detection – AUTO** – Automatically detects and focuses on eyes, no bias
- Tracking sensitivity** – 0 (not used) (defaults to pink menu settings)
- Accel./decel. tracking** – 0 (not used) (defaults to pink menu settings)
- ✓ **AF start position** – Current AF point
- ✓ **AF operation – ON** - Starts AF

DONE!

Press *MENU* to confirm and return to main custom button menu.

Now we have **triple back button AF** activated: **One emergency button, the * button to control our base AF** and the **AF-ON button for eye tracking**.



→ submenu: *Direct sel. on multi-controllers press*

Let's go through the remaining custom controls on the left side.

DOF Preview Button – default

L-FN button – AF OFF (default) – Select what happens when using the lens function button

Set button – OFF or Start/Stop Eye controlled AF (default)

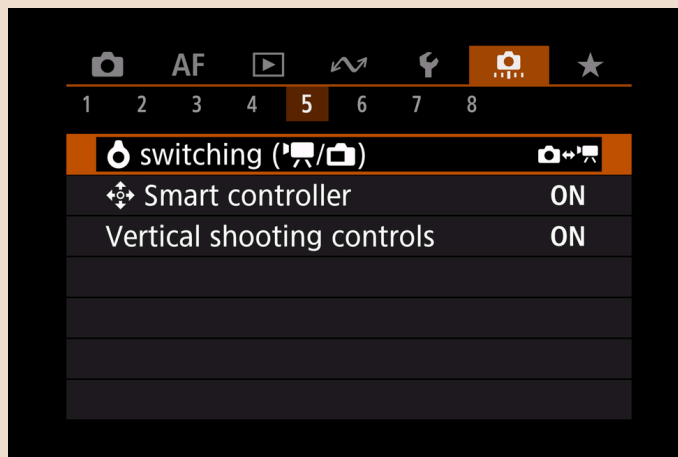
Multi-controllers – Select what happens when using the joystick

- I set it to '**Direct AF point selection**'
 - Press *INFO* to assign what happens when pressing the joystick
 - Select '**Switch to center AF point**' (AF point re-centers on press)

Now we have finally set up all custom buttons for photo!

I leave most video buttons unchanged.

5/8: Various settings



Switching (📷/🎥) – Switch from stills to video and back (*default*)

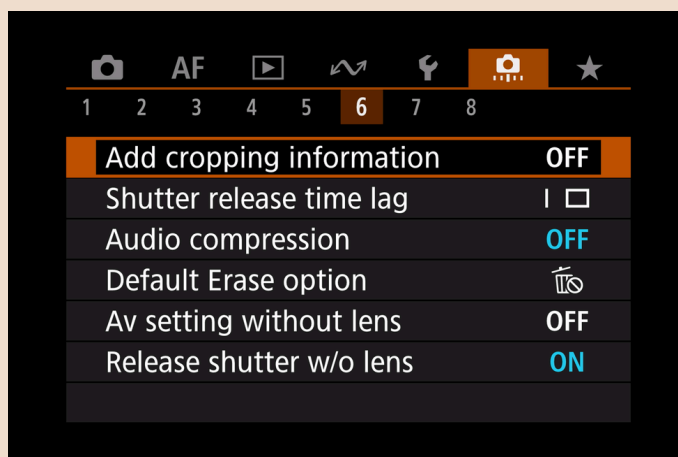
Smart controller – ON – Move AF points with your thumb on AF-ON button

- **Press Q to access the sub menu to dial back sensitivity**

- *For me the default speed moves the points too fast, so I change it to minus -2*

Vertical Shooting Controls - Enable/Disable buttons on built-in grip

6/8: Clear Functions



Add cropping information – OFF – Metadata for crop display in compatible software

Shutter release time lag – Adjusts shutter response

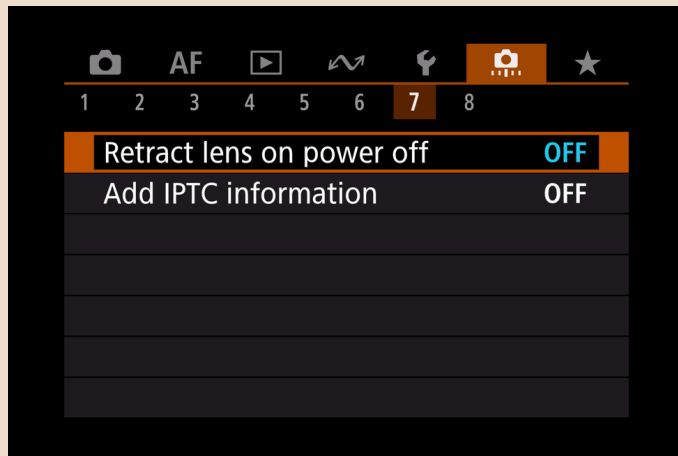
Audio Compression – OFF - Better quality audio than compressed

Default Erase option – Sets the default behaviour when erasing images

Av setting without lens – ON – Enables aperture adjustment without lens

Release shutter w/o lens – ON – Allows shutter release with no lens attached

7/8: Various settings

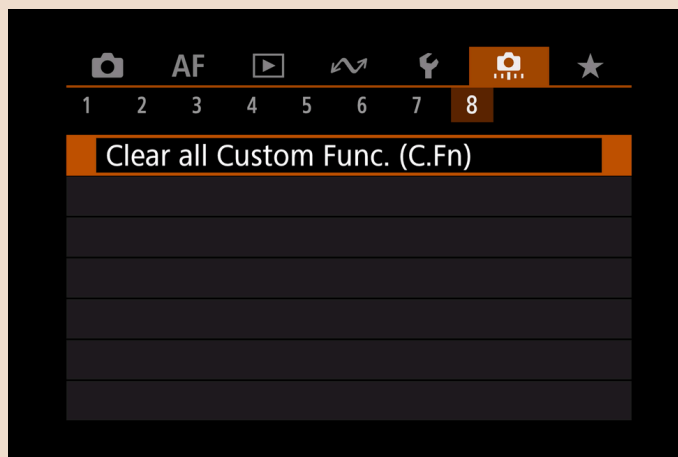


Retract lens on power off – **OFF** – Important

- If this is set to ON the camera will lose focus every time it goes into standby mode or gets turned off
- This mode is there to protect lenses that protrude out like the RF 35/1.8, but is useless for long lenses

Add IPTC information – OFF – Lets you embed IPTC metadata like author and copyright into image files

8/8: Clear Functions



Clear all Custom Functions (C.Fn) – Erase all custom functions

DARK GREEN PHOTO 'MY MENU'

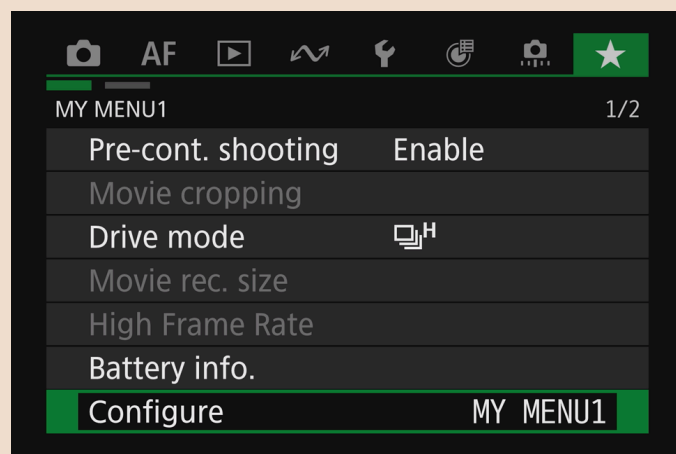
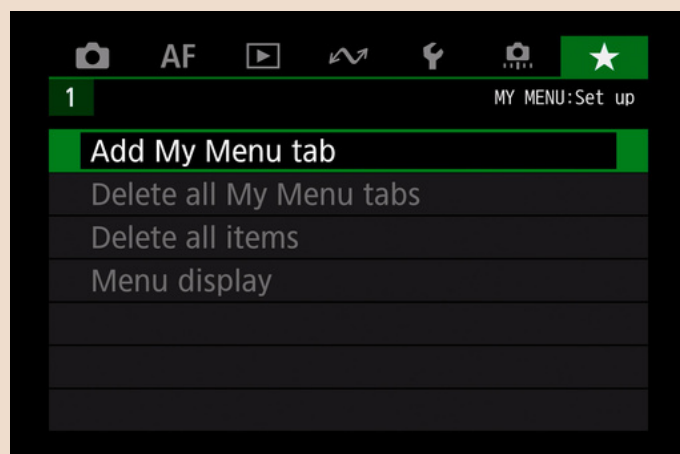
This menu lets you create a *personalized menu page* with your most-used settings and functions. It's designed to give you quick access to the features you use most, all in one place.

This menu is the same for photo and video.

1/1: My Menu management

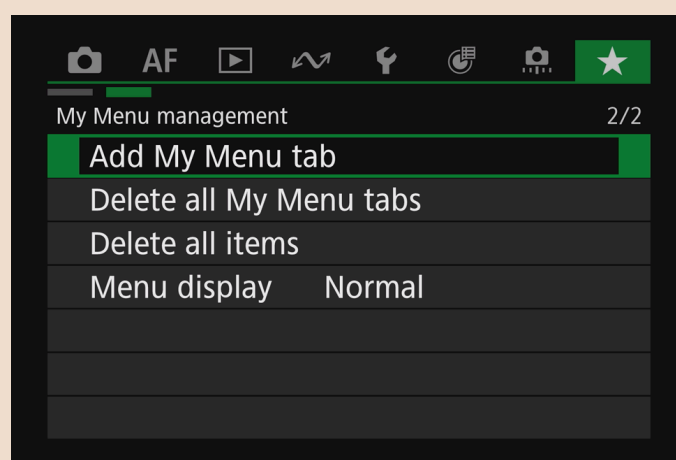
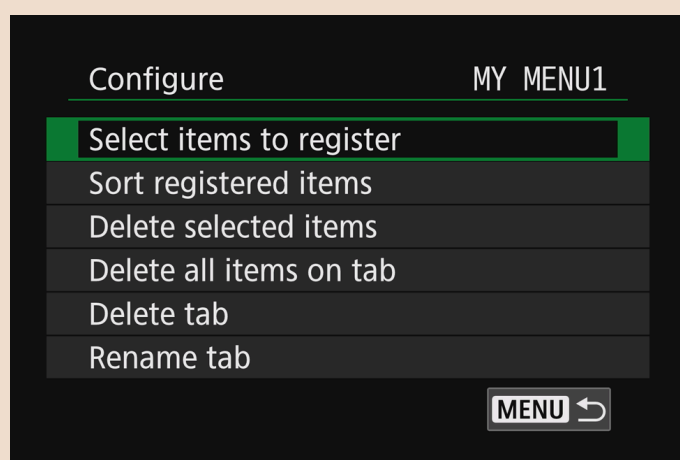
Sample 'My Menu' tab

This is what the page looks like when my menu isn't set up



→ submenu: Configure MY MENU1

→ submenu: Configure My Menu



My Menu – Create a custom menu for your most used settings

- This gives you quick access to menu items, without having to search through the whole

Add My Menu tab – Create a new My Menu page to add items .

Configure – Add items or make adjustments to My Menu tab

Select items to register – Register menu items to your My Menu page

- For instance, AF settings or video modes you want to quickly access

You can only add 6 menu items to one page, after that you have to create a second My Menu tab.

Go to '**Menu Display**' (4th image) to set the camera to always show the My Menu page first when pressing the menu button on the camera.

- Normal for standard menu display.
- I assigned the DOF Preview button to display the menu for quick access

VIDEO SETUP



**To access the video menu,
change the R3 to video
mode (back of camera)**

RED VIDEO MENU

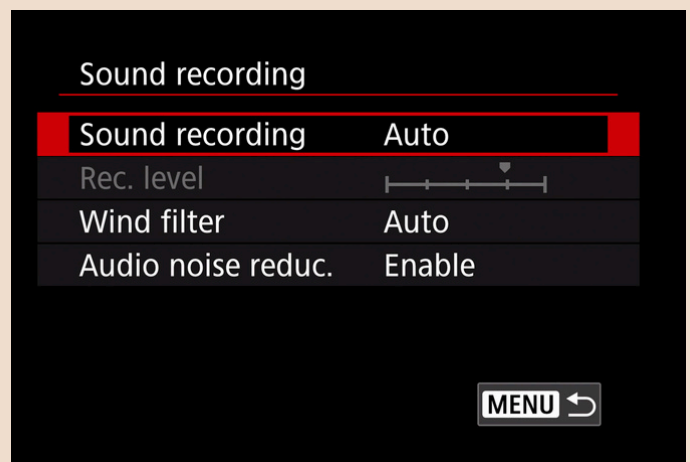
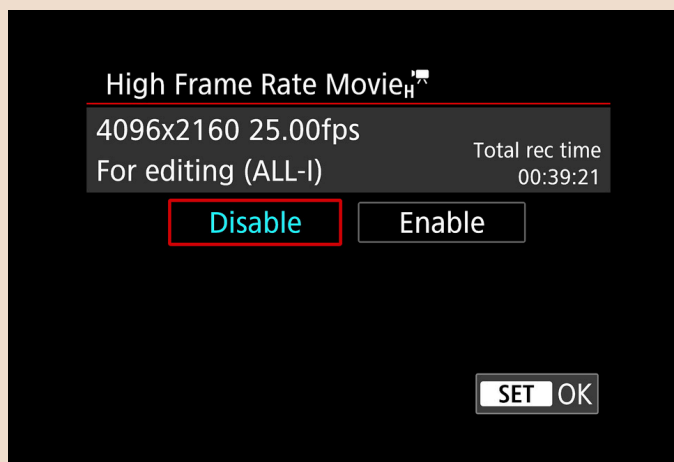
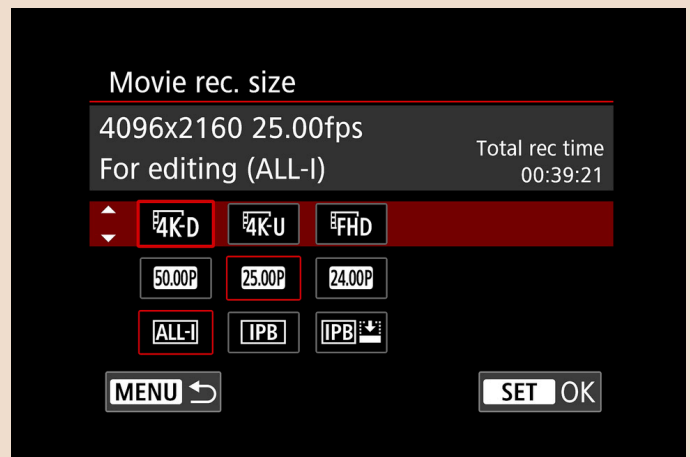
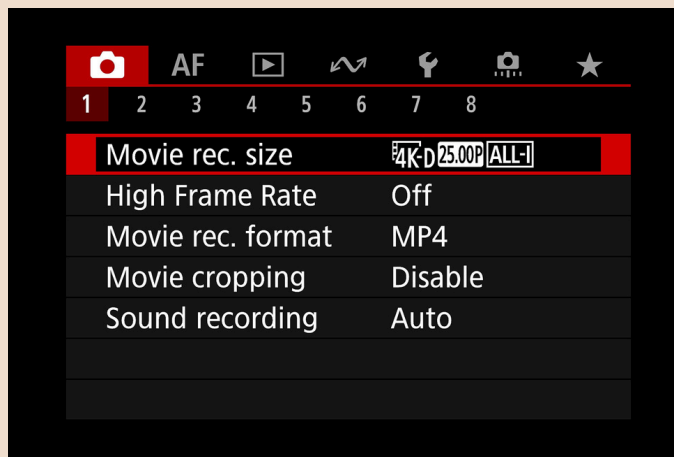
This menu controls your *video recording settings* –
such as resolution, frame rate, compression format,
and audio settings. It's where you set up how your
camera captures video.

***To access the video menu, change the R3 to video
mode (back of camera).***

Not all items in the video menu are for video only.

**There's a lot of overlap with the photo menu we have
already set up: These items will remain the same.**

In the video part of this guide I will focus only on the
settings that are different and needed for video. I will skip
tabs or sections if they are identical to the photo menu.



Movie rec. size – Set resolution, frame rate & compression

- Selecting PAL or NTSC in the **yellow menu #2** will determine what frame rates are displayed here
- On the R3 I like to shoot in 4k 50/60p or 4k 25/30p
- Select Standard ALL-I for better image quality (larger files)

High Frame Rate – Enable to record in slow motion in 100/120 fps

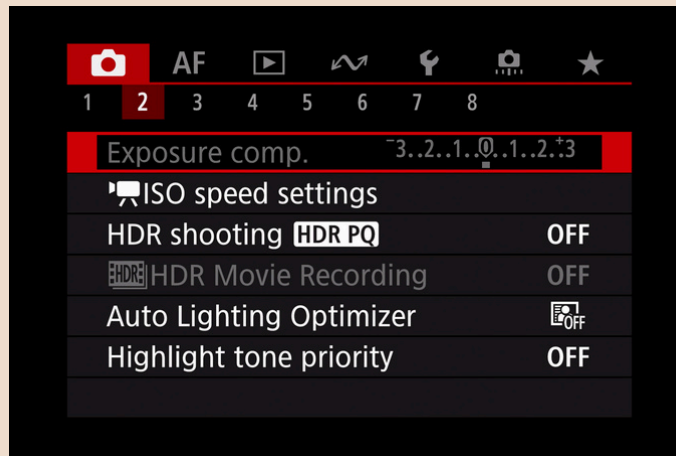
Movie rec. format - MP4 or RAW (6k)

Movie cropping – **Disable** – Enable to shoot in with 1.6x crop, works also in 4k

Sound recording – Auto – Enables audio capture during movie recording

- Select manual to control audio levels
- Wind Filter - Enable
- Audio noise reduc. - Enable

2/8: Exposure



Exposure comp. – Adjust brightness for movie exposure manually

ISO speed settings – Set manual or auto ISO range for video recording

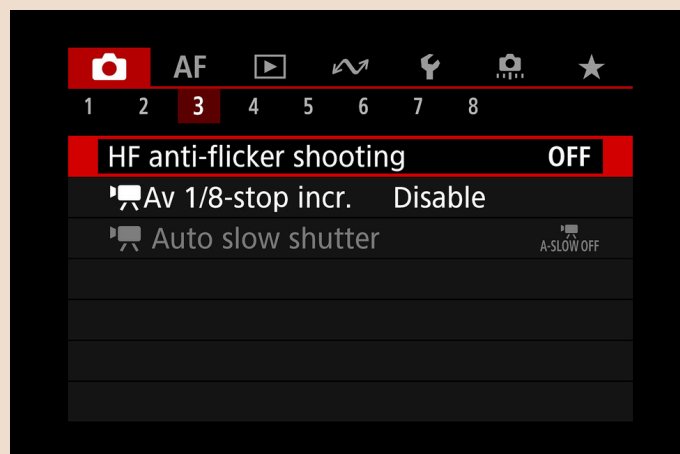
HDR shooting (PQ) – Off – HDR mode with PQ gamma, captures wider dynamic range

HDR Movie Recording - OFF

Auto Lighting Optimizer – Off – Automatic brightness or shadow adjustments

Highlight tone priority – Off – More detail in highlights, but more noise in dark areas - does not work in LOG format

3/8: Shutter

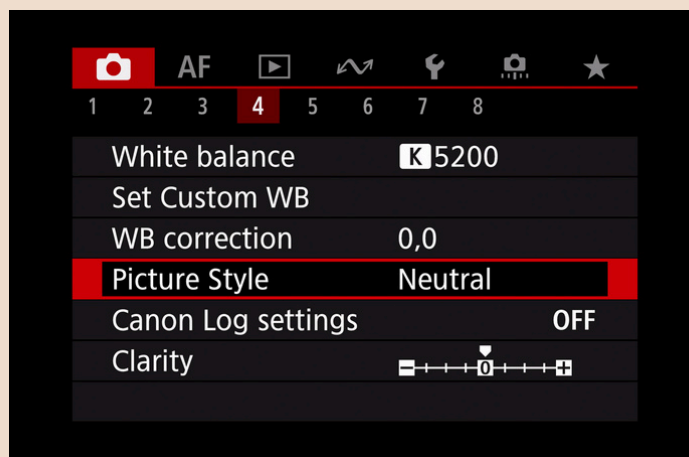


HF anti-flicker shooting – OFF – Reduces flicker under high-frequency lighting

Av 1/8-stop incr. – *Disable* – Keeps aperture changes in standard 1/3-stop steps

Auto slow shutter – Disabled – Camera won't drop shutter speed to brighten low light scenes

4/8: Color/tone/Dynamic range



White balance – 5200K – I set a manual WB between 5100 and 5800 based on the scene I am shooting

Custom WB – Assign a custom white balance based on a reference image

WB correction – 0,0 – No tint or color bias correction applied

In this menu we pick either a **standard recording style** or **LOG format** (Canon Log Settings) for our videos.

- LOG files have maximum dynamic range (minimal contrast), but require more extensive editing
- For most casual users, leaving LOG off and selecting a picture style is likely sufficient and will make editing much easier or sometimes unnecessary

OPTION 1 – NO LOG

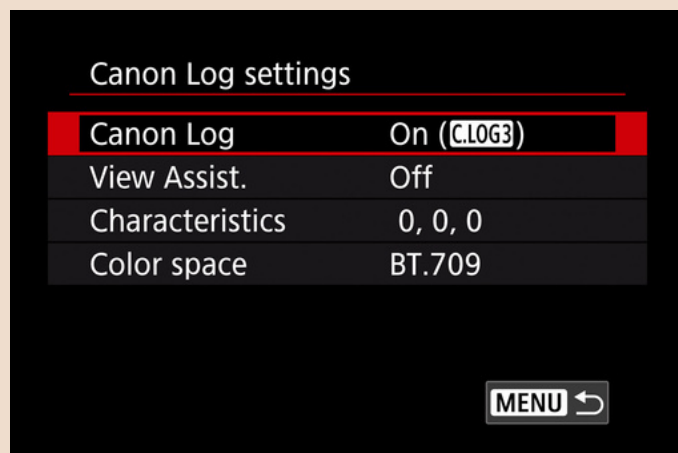
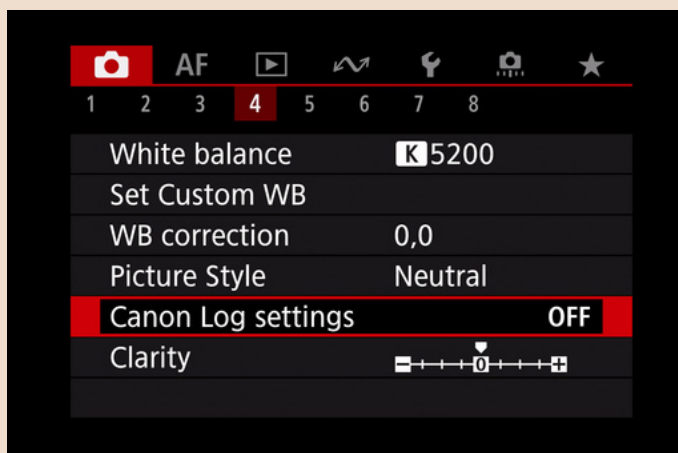
Canon Log settings– Off – Uses standard Picture Style instead of a custom profile

Picture Style – *Image look of video files*

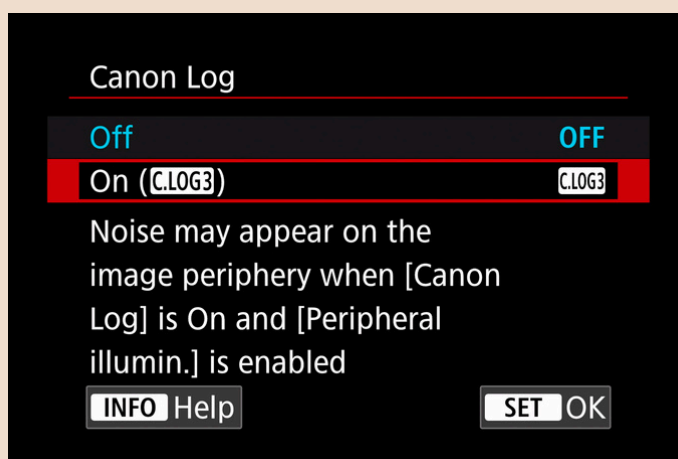
- Choose **standard** or **neutral** for a softer video look
- Don't apply too much sharpening, as files may look oversharpened
- *I would not recommend to use my photo picture style settings for filming*

Clarity – 0 – Adjust mid-tone contrast

Shooting creative filters - Off - greyed out - apply filters



→ submenu: Canon Log

**OPTION 2 – LOG****Canon Log settings– ON**

- **Activating LOG may grey out other menu items**
- **Canon Log– ON** (Activates LOG format)

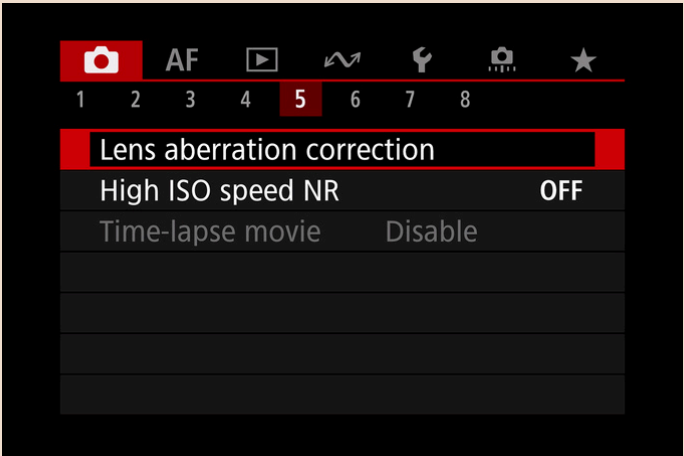
Canon Log – ON (Activates LOG format) - Select C.LOG3
Rest left as default



CLOG3 | not graded |

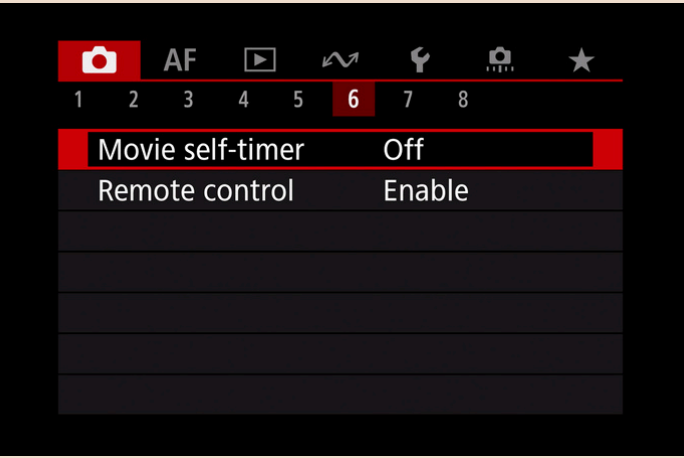
You can see the need for editing with these files, but it gives max. dynamic range

5/8: Corrections



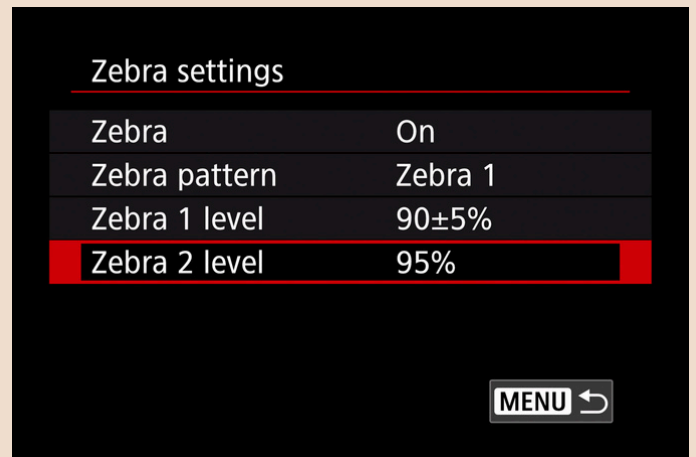
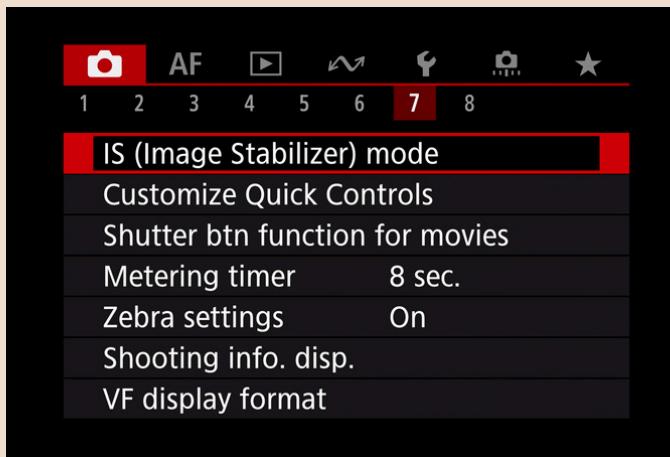
Lens aberration correction – Enable/disable corrections for distortion, chromatic aberration, etc.
High ISO speed NR – **OFF** – Noise reduction in high ISO settings
Time-lapse movie – Automatically captures frames at set intervals and creates a finished 4K or Full HD video in-camera

6/8: Various shooting



Movie self-timer – **Off** – Delays start of video recording
Remote Control – Enable/Disable recording with remote





IS (Image Stabilizer) mode – Adjusts stabilization strength and method

- Digital IS – *OFF* – Digital IS is digital image stabilisation and *not to be confused with the IS in the lens.*

Customize Quick Controls – Adjust the layout of quick settings (Q button) for easy access

Shutter btn function for movies – Define what the shutter button does in movie mode - I like to set it to start/stop recording video

Metering timer – 8 sec. – Sets how long the camera meters before resetting

Zebra settings – On – Highlights overexposed areas with stripes for exposure monitoring - see details on second slide

- I like to use zebras for video to identify too bright areas

Shooting info. disp. – Customize display of shooting information on screen (similar to photo)

VF display format – *(default)* Changes aspect/layout of viewfinder info display

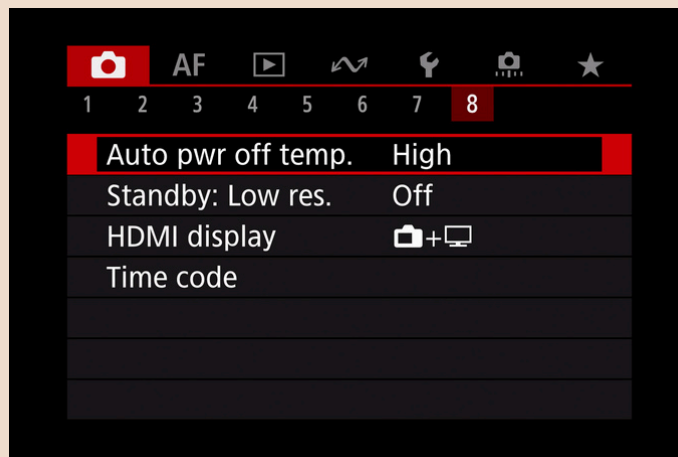
Zebra – On – Enables zebra stripe overlays for exposure assistance

Zebra pattern – Zebra 1 – Uses Zebra 1 pattern (can switch to Zebra 2 or both)

Zebra 1 level – 90±5% – Displays stripes for exposure around 90% brightness

Zebra 2 level – 100% – Highlights areas at peak brightness (100% exposure)

- *If you set the zebras too aggressively they will show up all the time and become irritating*



Auto pwr off temp. – High – Delays shutdown from heat

- *Important when using pre-shooting and video to delay early shut off & overheating*

Standby: Low res. – Off – Keeps full resolution preview when idle – important when using external screen

HDMI display – Output image to camera + external monitor simultaneously

Time code – *Enables SMPTE-compliant timecode for syncing multi-cam shoots*

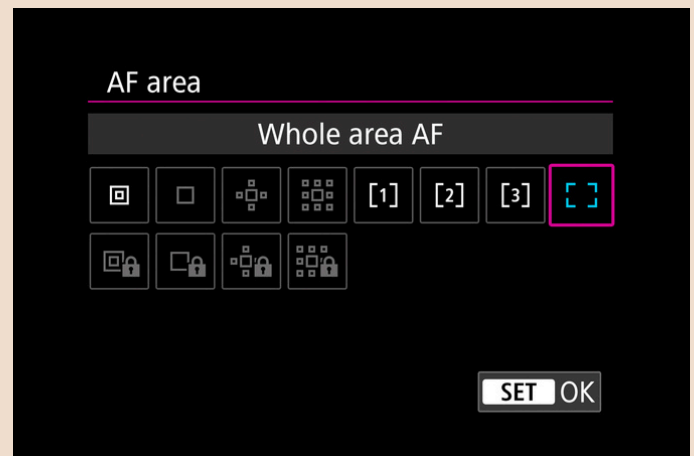
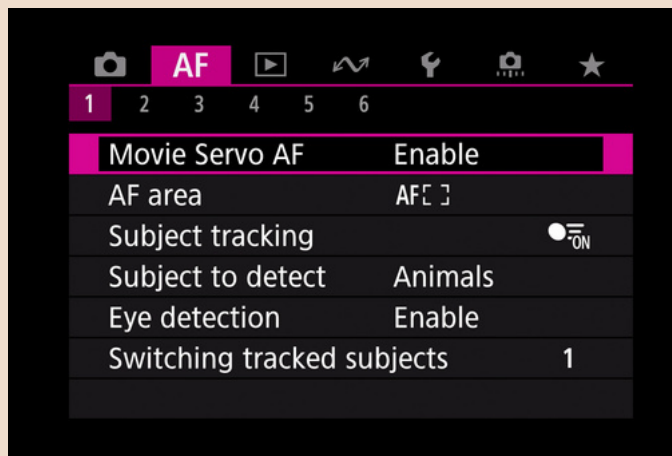


Zebra Display

PINK VIDEO MENU

This menu handles everything related to *focusing*. It's where you set how the camera detects and follows your subject when filming.

We will make a few changes here.



Movie Servo AF – Enable – Continuous autofocus during movie recording; keeps subjects in focus as they move – **camera never stops focusing**

AF area – Select autofocus areas

- I like to use whole-area tracking or a larger zone, letting the camera track the subject all over the viewfinder
- I remove options I never use for video to cycle faster through the remaining ones (**Pink video menu #4**) Limit AF areas

Subject tracking - Enable - Tracks subject all over EVF

Subject to detect – Animals – Prioritizes animal faces/eyes for tracking

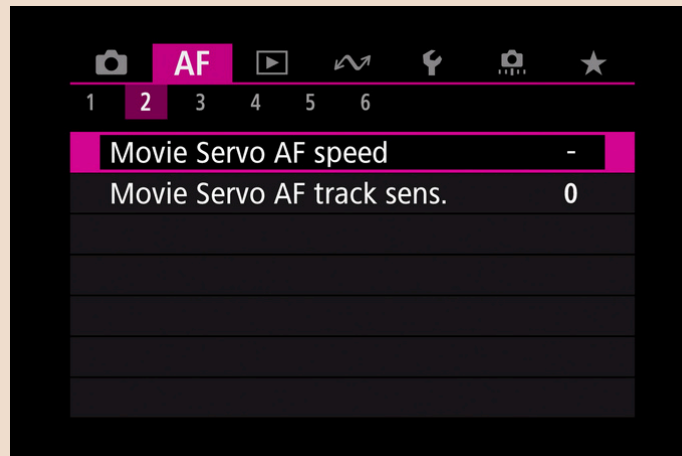
Eye detection – Enable – Select off, left, or right eye or auto

Switching tracked subjects – 1 – Sets how easily the camera switches between tracked subjects

- I either use 0 or 1 and make adjustments if needed. Generally you want video AF to be quite stable and locked on



2/6: Subject detection

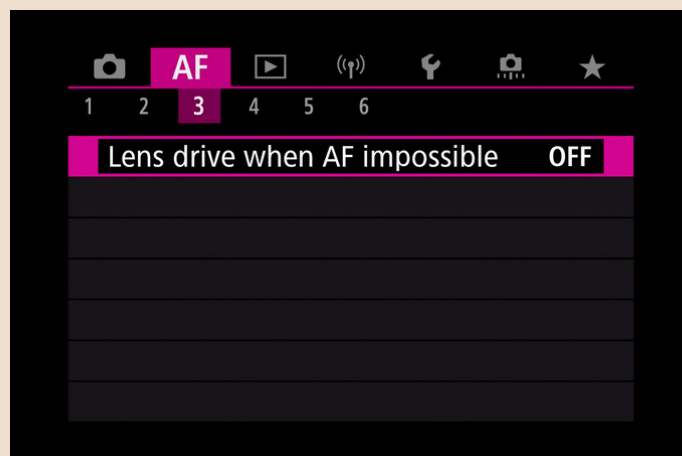


Movie Servo AF speed – 0 – Standard focus transition speed; adjust for faster or slower tracking

Movie Servo AF track sens. : 0 – Balanced tracking; less likely to shift focus unless subject moves clearly

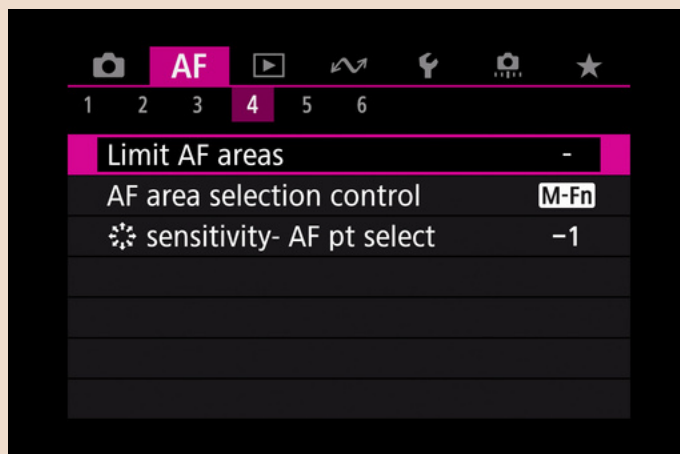
- Change for more/less aggressive setting

3/6: Customize AF operation



- **Lens drive when AF impossible – OFF** – Prevents focus hunting and camera getting stuck on BG, but requires pre-focussing for larger distance changes

4/6: Autofocus Settings

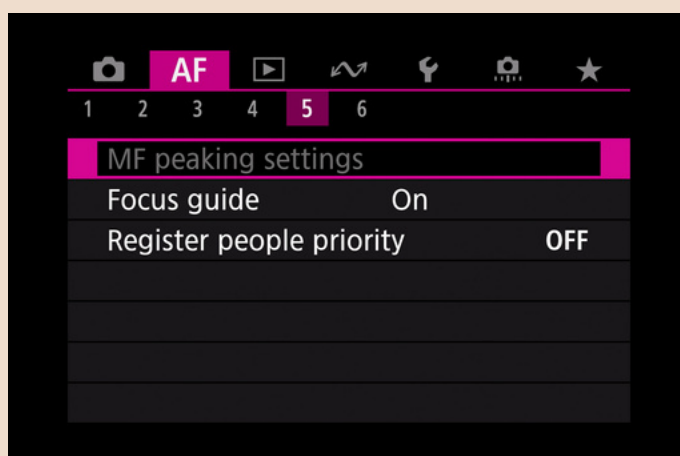


Limit AF areas – Select which AF area modes are available in the menu for quicker switching – disable not used ones

AF area selection control – Assign button to change AF area modes

Multi controller sensitivity – AF pt select: – 1 – Speed when moving AF points via controller (joystick)

5/6: Autofocus Settings

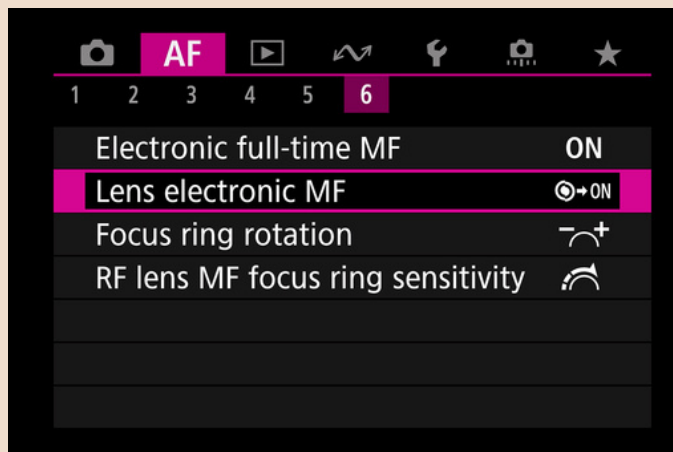


MF peaking settings – Greyed-out, because zebras are on – Highlights on focus edges in manual focus mode (enter to adjust level and color)

- *Helpful when using full MF and I would turn it on and zebras off*

Focus guide (Off) – Shows visual guide during manual focus; *useful for precise focus when using full manual mode* – works great in combination with the MF peaking

Register people priority – OFF – Option to register a certain person for the AF to prioritize



Electronic full-time MF – Electronic Full-time MF (Video) – Lets you manually adjust focus with the lens ring even when using autofocus during video recording.

Lens electronic MF (ON) – Enables electronic manual focus override – so you can always manually adjust focus, even when AF is running (important)

Focus ring rotation – (default) – Choose focus ring direction

RF lens MF focus ring sensitivity – (default) – Adjust responsiveness of MF ring



BLUE VIDEO MENU

No changes have been made to the blue menu in video mode compared to what we've done already in photo mode.

PURPLE VIDEO MENU

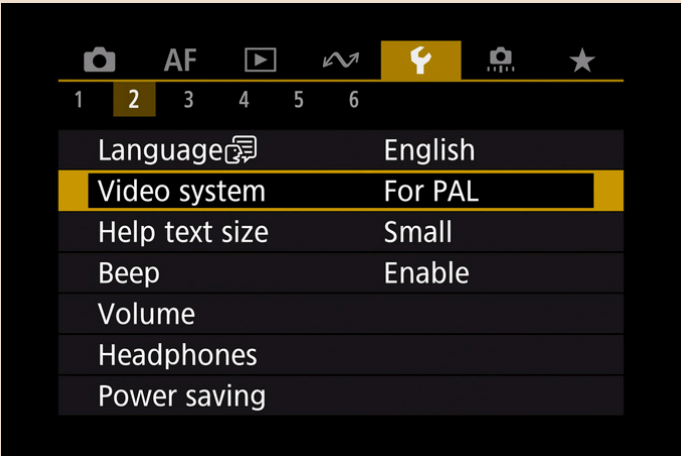
No changes have been made to the purple menu in video mode compared to what we've done already in photo mode.

YELLOW

VIDEO

MENU

No changes have been made to the orange menu in video mode compared to what we've done already in photo mode. Just remember, here you can assign NTSC/PAL video standard to select frame rate in the red menu

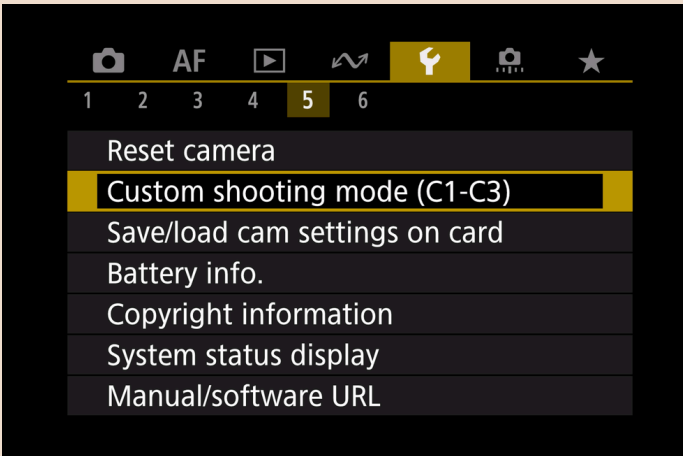


In the second tab, just remember that the system frequency is important. This will determine your available video frame rates.

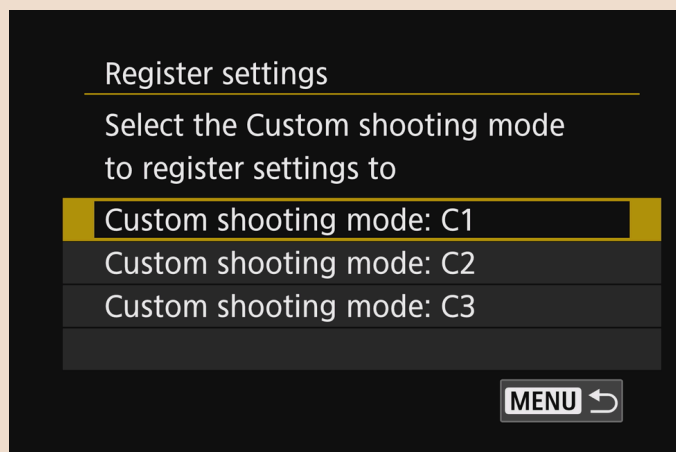
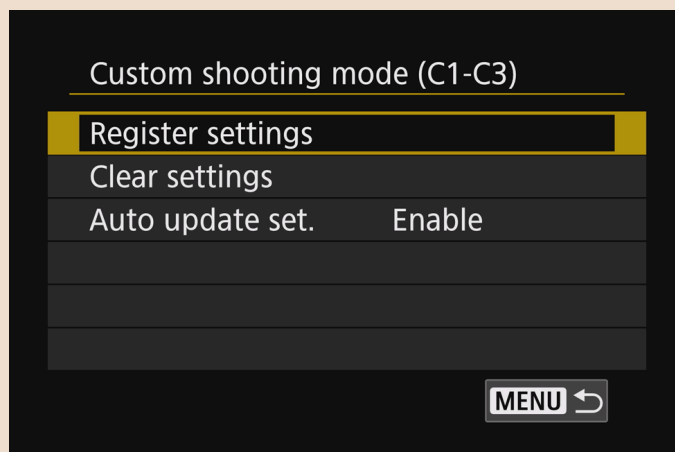
System frequency – Match region’s video standard (PAL for EU/Asia, NTSC for US)

- ***This affects the video frame rates available (PAL: 25,50,100 fps, NTSC: 24,30,60,120fps)***
- For wildlife it does not matter, but when filming inside, choosing the right location PAL/NTSC can stop flickering in video files

5/6: Custom Shooting mode



For video, this 5th yellow menu is important. This is where we save our custom functions. We can save 3 different frame rates and settings, so we can easily switch between video formats, without having to go into the red video menu. We just turn the dial on top instead.



Register settings – Save current camera setup to a custom mode

- **Select all settings you want to save** to a particular custom mode, AF mode, subject to detect, custom buttons, ISO, shutter speed, shooting mode, frame rate, etc.
- Once you have them dialed in, go to: **Custom shooting mode > Register settings** and then select **C1, 2 or 3**. This will save all your settings to that custom shooting mode and can be recalled by setting the mode dial to that custom mode.
- Press *MENU* to get back
- Make sure to set the shutter speed to double the frame rate

For instance you could save 4k 50/60p as C-Fn1 and 4k 25/30p as C-Fn3 for easy changes and slow motion to C-Fn2.

C-Fn1 - 4kD fine – 50.00p – ALL-I

C-Fn2 - 4kD – 100p – ALL-I

C-Fn3 - 4kD fine– 25p - ALL-I

Auto update set. (Enable/Disable) – Important

- If enabled, any changes made while using a custom mode will be saved automatically to that custom mode
 - This can be helpful, if you use custom modes in changing environments
- If you prefer to always have the identical settings as your custom mode, *disable it*

ORANGE VIDEO MENU

No changes have been made to the orange menu in video mode compared to what we've done already in photo mode.

DARK GREEN VIDEO 'MY MENU'

'My Menu' is identical for photo and video.

You've made it!



I hope my guide has helped you find the best settings for your R3. Now it's time to take it outside and take some amazing photos!

And: *Capturing great RAW files is just the beginning – **editing makes them truly stand out.***

Feeling stuck or overwhelmed just thinking about editing? Not sure where to start or how to finish? *I can help you.*

I created my **Lightroom** and **Photoshop Masterclasses** to guide you through the entire editing process and teach you my **fast & efficient workflow** – step by step and in easy-to-follow chapters.

You will be able to confidently transform even your most difficult to edit RAW files with ease and get stunning results every single time.

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 <p>NEW</p> <p>Jan Wegener</p> <p>NEXT GENERATION PHOTOSHOP MASTERCLASS</p>	 <p>NEW</p> <p>Jan Wegener</p> <p>LIGHTROOM MASTERCLASS</p>	<p><u>Next-Gen Photoshop Class</u></p> <p><u>Lightroom Class</u></p> <p>or</p> <p><u>Or roam the rest of my shop for more photography courses!</u></p>
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Find me here



I would love to hear your thoughts – please feel welcome to reach out, if you have further questions, feedback or want to share your ideas for future editions. I'm here to help you along the way and can't wait to hear about your photography progress, if you would like to share.

In the meantime, if you haven't already, you can head on over to YouTube and watch my R5II and other setup videos as an additional resource or find me on my other platforms. You can always say hi.

Find me and contact me here:



[@jan_wegener_](https://www.instagram.com/jan_wegener_)



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That is all for now! See you online or in the field!
Sending you all much love.



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