

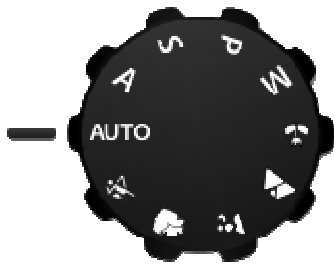
What do camera settings mean?

With most digital cameras the user is offered a range of shooting modes. These are often selected by using a thumbwheel to select a specific pictogram or letter which will then adjust the camera settings accordingly. Some cameras also allow the user to make further adjustments either in the viewfinder or on a menu on the LCD screen.

NB Unfortunately there is no common standard for either symbols or their meaning so this handout provides a generic guide which may or may not be appropriate for every setting on your camera. Your camera may not have all of these settings and may have a greater choice.

AUTO

Automatic Mode



This is the basic mode, the camera will make its best guess as to the settings and adjust the combination of shutter speed and aperture to provide a correct exposure. This setting will normally provide adequate results, and indeed some camera users never use any other setting.

If you have some knowledge about the effects of different apertures and shutter speeds you may wish to use one of the other settings.

M

Manual Mode

By using this setting the user has total control over both aperture and shutter speeds. This means that you may either inadvertently or deliberately over or under expose the image.

A

Aperture Priority Mode

Using this mode you can select the aperture that you want to use and the camera will then select the appropriate shutter speed. The advantage of this setting is that it enables you to use the aperture to adjust depth of field i.e. to throw a background out of focus or conversely to gain maximum sharpness.

S

Shutter Priority Mode

Using this mode you select the shutter speed that you want to use and the camera will then select the appropriate aperture. This is quite useful if you want to use a fast shutter speed to stop a moving subject.

P

Programme Mode

Using this setting you can normally select a shutter speed or aperture and the camera will then set the other parameter to give the correct exposure. If that is not possible the camera will adjust one or other setting to achieve a correct exposure.



Sports This pictogram indicates a setting which in most cameras will provide the fastest possible shutter speed so as to stop the motion of a moving subject.



Portrait setting this sets the focus to the nearest object, no matter where it is in the frame, so that the background is thrown out of focus. It has no specific effect on either shutter or aperture settings.



Close up setting the camera will normally focus on the object in the centre of the image. You may well be able to select an alternative point of focus using a different method.



Landscape setting the camera will normally focus on the closest part of the subject. The auto flash will turn off.



Night setting very often is a setting to set a balance between foreground people and a dark background. The flash may well go off but the shutter remains open to expose the background. NB Other cameras may do different things on this setting.



This symbol is for switching the flash off sometimes it is a setting on the turn wheel but is often a separate control or maybe just on the LCD screen

EXPOSURE a reminder

Aperture is sometimes referred to as the f number and it is a measure of the opening in the iris in the lens. The smaller the aperture the higher the f no and the less light enters the lens.

Shutter The shutter speed governs the length of time during which the light enters the camera and reaches the sensor or film.

Exposure is a combination of the intensity (aperture) and duration (shutter speed) of the light reaching the sensor or film.