

Making Everything Easier!™

Sony Alpha **α SLT-A65/A77** **FOR** **DUMMIES®**

Learn to:

- Navigate camera controls to set up shots and capture video
- Select the best lens for your photo
- Take control with manual settings for exposure, flash, focus, and color

IN FULL COLOR!

Robert Correll

*Author of Digital SLR Photography
All-in-One For Dummies*



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Visit www.dummies.com/how-to/content/sony-alpha-slt-a35a55-for-dummies-cheat-sheet.html to view this book's cheat sheet.

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Cheat Sheet

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Dummies®***

by Robert Correll



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About the Author

Robert Correll is the author of several books about digital photography and imaging, including Digital SLR Photography All-in-One For Dummies. His most recent titles include Sony Alpha SLT-A35/A55 For Dummies; Photo Retouching and Restoration Using Corel PaintShop Pro X4, Third Edition; HDR Photography Photo Workshop, Second Edition (with Pete Carr); Canon EOS Rebel T3/1110D and Canon EOS 60D For Dummies (both with Julie Adair King); and High Dynamic Range Digital Photography For Dummies.

When not writing, Robert enjoys family life, photography, playing the guitar, grilling, and recording music. Robert graduated from the United States Air Force Academy and resides in Indiana.

Dedication

To my family.

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Introduction

The story of the Sony A65/A77 begins with two other camera manufacturers, Konica and Minolta. These storied names in camera history merged in 2003, but soon thereafter (2006) decided to leave the camera business and focus on other, more business-oriented technologies. Go figure. They transferred all their camera assets to Sony, which has continued developing the Konica Minolta dSLR line under the Sony Alpha brand name. Since 2006, Sony has established itself as a serious player in the dSLR community, offering both entry-level and full-frame professional models.

Recently, Sony has upped the technological ante by introducing cameras, including the A65/A77, with translucent mirrors: *dSLTs* (digital single-lens translucent). Traditional dSLRs, like their SLR forefathers, use a reflex mirror to bounce light coming through the lens up into the viewfinder so you can compose the scene and focus with the assurance that you're seeing what the camera sees. Just before the shutter opens to take the photo, though, the mirror has to flip up out of the way to expose the film or sensor as the shutter opens,. That's the loud "clunk" you hear when you take a picture with a dSLR and why the mirrors are called reflex mirrors. They move. The translucent mirror in the A65/A77 doesn't have to flip up out of the way when you take a picture. The light bounces off it *and* goes right through it, whether you're framing, focusing, or taking the picture. Having a stable, translucent mirror makes the camera quieter, faster, lighter, and more mechanically reliable.

Another new-to-dSLR feature of the A65/A77 is the electronic viewfinder. Instead of seeing light bounced off a mirror, through a prism, and out the viewfinder (a lot of light was bouncing in the old days), you look at a high-contrast, high-resolution electronic display. The electronic viewfinder functions like its

optical counterpart in many ways, but it has some major advantages. You can look at camera menus, view photo and movie playback, check shooting functions, turn on a histogram, and see other displays impossible for normal viewfinders.

About This Book

This book's purpose is to put the right information in your hands so you can take advantage of the technological prowess of your A65/A77. You don't need to know anything about photography before opening these pages. In classic *For Dummies* style, I explain everything in easy-to-understand language and use plenty of color photos to show off the cameras and make the photographic concepts easier to understand.

How This Book Is Organized

This book is organized into four parts. Each one has a particular focus. They flow from what you need to start out to more advanced subjects. You can read the book from start to finish and progress from beginner to advanced user — or you can jump to any section in any chapter and dig right in. Use the table of contents, the index, and the chapter cross-references to jump to sections with related information.

Here's a quick look at what you can find in each part.

Part I: Pictures Worth Keeping