Making Everything Easier!™

Canon® EOS Rebel T3/1100D

FOR DUMMIES®

Learn to:

- Quickly master the on-board controls
- Get great shots in auto or manual mode
- Print, download, and share your images easily

IN FULL COLOR!

Julie Adair King
Author of Digital Photography For Dummies

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Canon® EOS Rebel T3/1100D For Dummies®

Visit www.dummies.com/cheatsheet/canoneosrebelt31100d to view this book's cheat sheet.

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Cheat Sheet

Canon® EOS Rebel T3/1100D For Dummies®

by Julie Adair King and Robert Correll

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About the Authors

Julie Adair King is the author of many books about digital photography and imaging, including the best-selling *Digital Photography For Dummies.* Her most recent titles include a series of *For Dummies* guides to popular digital SLR cameras, including the *Canon EOS Rebel T2i/550D, T1i/500D, XSi/450D, XS/1000D,* and *XTi/400D,* and *Nikon D7000, D5000, D3100, D3000, D300s, D90, D60,* and *D40/D40x.* Other works include *Digital Photography Before & After Makeovers, Digital Photo Projects For Dummies, Julie King's Everyday Photoshop For Photographers, Julie King's Everyday Photoshop Elements,* and *Shoot Like a Pro!: Digital Photography Techniques.* When not writing, King teaches digital photography at such locations as the Palm Beach Photographic Centre. A graduate of Purdue University, she resides in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Robert Correll is the author of several books about digital photography, including camera-specific titles, digital cameras and technologies, general and specific digital photography techniques, and photo editing. His latest titles include *Canon EOS Rebel T3/1110D* and *Canon EOS 60D For Dummies* (both with Julie Adair King), *Digital SLR Photography All-in-One For Dummies, High Dynamic Range Digital Photography For Dummies, HDR Photography Photo Workshop* (two editions, both with Pete Carr), and *Photo Retouching and Restoration Using Corel PaintShop Pro* (three editions). When not writing, Robert enjoys family life, photography, playing the guitar, and recording music. Robert graduated from the United States Air Force Academy and now resides in Indiana.

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Introduction

In 2003, Canon revolutionized the photography world by introducing the first digital SLR camera to sell for less than $1,000, the EOS Digital Rebel/300D. And even at that then-unheard-of price, the camera delivered exceptional performance and picture quality, earning it rave reviews and multiple industry awards. No wonder it quickly became a best seller.

That tradition of excellence and value lives on in the EOS Rebel T3/1100D. Like its ancestors, this baby offers the range of advanced controls that experienced photographers demand plus an assortment of tools designed to help beginners be successful as well. Adding to the fun, the T3/1100D also offers the option to record full high-definition video.

This Rebel is so feature-packed, in fact, that sorting out everything can be a challenge, especially if you're new to digital photography or SLR photography, or both. For starters, you may not even be sure what SLR means, let alone have a clue about all the other techie terms you encounter in your camera manual — resolution, aperture, white balance, and ISO, for example. And if you're like many people, you may be so overwhelmed by all the controls on your camera that you haven't yet ventured beyond fully automatic picture-taking mode. That's a shame because it's sort of like buying a Porsche Turbo and never pushing it past 50 miles per hour.

Therein lies the point of *Canon EOS Rebel* T3/1100D *For Dummies.* In this book, you can discover not only what each bell and whistle on your camera does but also when, where, why, and how to put it to best use. Unlike

many photography books, this one doesn't require any previous knowledge of photography or digital imaging to make sense of concepts, either. In classic *For Dummies* style, everything is explained in easy-to-understand language, with lots of illustrations to help clear up any confusion.

In short, what you have in your hands is the paperback version of an in-depth photography workshop tailored specifically to your Canon picture-taking powerhouse. Whether your interests lie in taking family photos, exploring nature and travel photography, or snapping product shots for your business, you'll get the information you need to capture the images you envision.

A Quick Look at What's Ahead

This book is organized into four parts, each devoted to a different aspect of using your camera. Although chapters flow in a sequence that's designed to take you from absolute beginner to experienced user, we also tried to make each chapter as self-standing as possible so that you can explore the topics that interest you in any order you please.

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

- **Part I: Fast Track to Super Snaps:** This part contains four chapters that help you get up and running with your Rebel T3/1100D. Chapter 1 offers a brief overview of camera controls and walks you through initial setup and customization

steps. Chapter 2 explains basic picture-taking options, such as shutter-release mode and image quality settings, and Chapter 3 shows you how to use the camera's simplest exposure modes, including Full Auto and Creative Auto. Chapter 4 explains the ins and outs of using Live View, the feature that lets you compose pictures on the monitor, and also covers movie recording.

- **Part II: Working with Picture Files:** As its title implies, this part discusses after-the-shot topics. Chapter 5 explains picture playback features, and Chapter 6 guides you through the process of transferring pictures from your camera to your computer and then getting pictures ready for print and online sharing. You can also get help with converting pictures shot in the Canon Raw file format (CR2) to a standard format in Chapter 5.
- **Part II: Taking Creative Control:** Chapters in this part help you unleash the full creative power of your camera by moving into semiautomatic or manual photography modes. Chapter 7 covers the all-important topic of exposure, and Chapter 8 offers tips for manipulating focus and color. Chapter 9 wraps up the part with a quick-reference guide to the camera settings and shooting strategies that produce the best results for specific types of pictures: portraits, action shots, landscape scenes, close-ups, and more.
- **Part IV: The Part of Tens:** In famous *For Dummies* tradition, the book concludes with two top-ten lists containing additional bits of information and advice. Chapter 10 shows you how to fix less-than-perfect images using the free software provided with your camera. Chapter 11

closes out the book with a review of camera features that, though not found on most “Top Ten Reasons I Bought My Rebel T3/1100D” lists, are nonetheless interesting, useful on occasion, or a bit of both.

Icons and Other Stuff to Note

If this isn’t your first *For Dummies* book, you may be familiar with the large, round icons that decorate its margins. If not, here’s your very own icon-decoder ring:

This icon highlights information that’s especially worth storing in your brain’s long-term memory or to remind you of a fact that may have been displaced from that memory by another pressing fact.

When you see this icon, look alive. It indicates a potential danger zone that can result in much wailing and teeth-gnashing if it’s ignored.

Lots of information in this book is of a technical nature — digital photography is a technical animal, after all. But if we present a detail that’s useful mainly for impressing your geeky friends, we mark it with this icon.

- A Tip icon flags information that saves you time, effort, money, or another valuable resource, including your sanity.

Additionally, we need to point out a few other details that will help you use this book:

- **Other margin art:** Replicas of some of your camera's buttons and onscreen graphics also appear in the margins of some paragraphs and in some tables. We include these images to provide quick reminders of the appearance of the button or option being discussed.
- **Software menu commands:** In sections that cover software, a series of words connected by an arrow indicates commands you choose from the program menus. For example, if a step tells you, "Choose File⇒Export," click the File menu to unfurl it and then click the Export command on the menu.
- **Camera firmware:** *Firmware* is the internal software that controls many of your camera's operations. This book was written using version 1.0.4 of the firmware, which was the most current at the time of publication.

  Occasionally, Canon releases firmware updates, and you should check its Web site (www.canon.com) periodically to find out whether any updates are available. (Chapter 1 tells you how to determine which firmware version your camera is running.) If you download an update, be sure to read the accompanying description of what

it accomplishes so that you can adapt this book's instructions as necessary.

About the Software Shown in This Book

In chapters that cover picture downloading and editing, we show you how to get things done using the free Canon software that ships on one of the two CDs in your camera box. (The other CD contains the software manuals in electronic form.) Rest assured, though, that the tools used in these programs work similarly in other programs, so you should be able to easily adapt the steps to whatever software you use.

eCheat Sheet

As a little added bonus, you can find an electronic version of the famous *For Dummies* Cheat Sheet at www.dummies.com/cheatsheet/canoneosrebelt31100d. The Cheat Sheet contains a quick-reference guide to all the buttons, dials, switches, and exposure modes on your camera. Log on, print it out, and tuck it in your camera bag for times when you don't want to carry this book with you.

Practice, Be Patient, and Have Fun!

To wrap up this preamble, we want to stress that if you initially think that digital photography is too confusing or too technical for you, you're in very good company. *Everyone* finds this stuff a little mind-boggling at first. Take it slowly, experimenting with just one or two new camera settings or techniques at first. Then, every time you go on a photo outing, make it a point to add one or two more shooting skills to your repertoire. With some time, patience, and practice, you'll soon wield your camera like a pro, dialing in the necessary settings to capture your creative vision almost instinctively.

So without further ado, we invite you to grab your camera and a cup of whatever it is you prefer to sip while you read and then start exploring the rest of this book. Your Rebel T3/1100D is the perfect partner for your photographic journey, and we thank you for allowing us, in this book, to serve as your tour guides.

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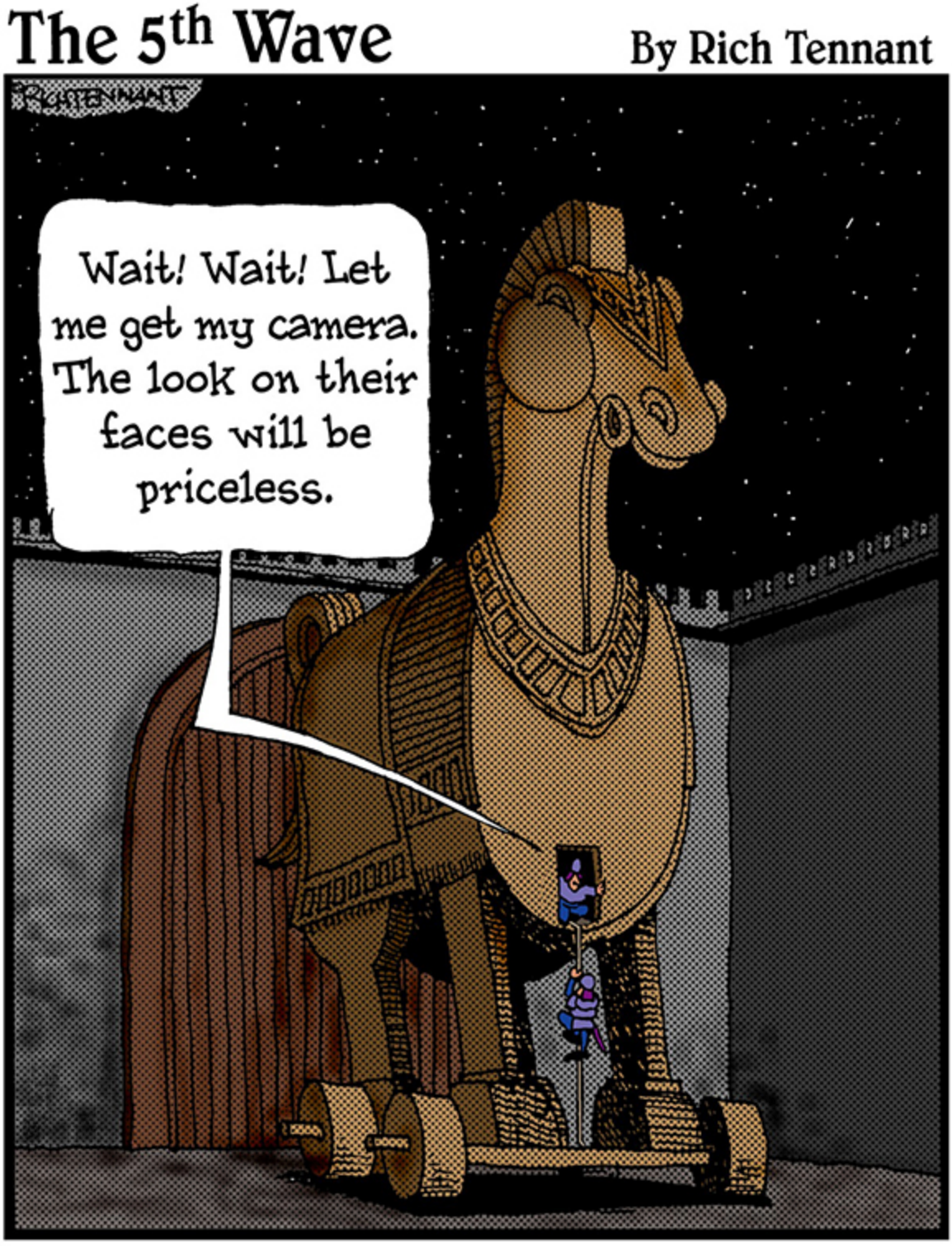
Part I

Fast Track to Super Snaps



Making sense of all the controls on your T3/1100D isn’t a task you can complete in an afternoon — or, heck, in a week or maybe even a month. But that doesn’t mean you

can’t take great-looking pictures today. By using your camera’s point-and-shoot exposure modes, you can capture terrific images with very little effort. All you do is compose the scene, and the camera takes care of almost everything else.

This part shows you how to take best advantage of your camera’s most-automatic photography modes and also addresses some basic setup steps, such as adjusting the viewfinder to your eyesight and getting familiar with the camera menus, buttons, and dials. In addition, chapters in this part explain a few picture-taking settings that come into play in any exposure mode and show you how to use your camera’s Live View and movie-making features.