

Making Everything Easier!™

Olympus® PEN E-PL1

FOR

DUMMIES®

Learn to:

- Understand and use all the camera's controls
- Manipulate focus, color, and exposure for great shots in any setting
- Expand your creativity with special-purpose features

IN FULL COLOR!

Julie Adair King

Author of Digital Photography For Dummies



Get More and Do More at Dummies.com®



Start with **FREE** Cheat Sheets

Cheat Sheets include

- Checklists
- Charts
- Common Instructions
- And Other Good Stuff!

To access the Cheat Sheet created specifically for this book, go to
www.dummies.com/cheatsheet/olympuspenep1

Get Smart at Dummies.com

Dummies.com makes your life easier with 1,000s of answers on everything from removing wallpaper to using the latest version of Windows.

Check out our

- Videos
- Illustrated Articles
- Step-by-Step Instructions

Plus, each month you can win valuable prizes by entering our Dummies.com sweepstakes.*

Want a weekly dose of Dummies? Sign up for Newsletters on

- Digital Photography
- Microsoft Windows & Office
- Personal Finance & Investing
- Health & Wellness
- Computing, iPods & Cell Phones
- eBay
- Internet
- Food, Home & Garden

Find out **“HOW”** at Dummies.com

*Sweepstakes not currently available in all countries; visit Dummies.com for official rules.



Olympus® PEN E-PL1

FOR

DUMMIES®

Olympus® PEN E-PL1

FOR

DUMMIES®

by Julie Adair King



WILEY

Wiley Publishing, Inc.

Olympus® PEN E-PL1 For Dummies®

Published by
Wiley Publishing, Inc.
111 River Street
Hoboken, NJ 07030-5774

www.wiley.com

Copyright © 2010 by Wiley Publishing, Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana

Published by Wiley Publishing, Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana

Published simultaneously in Canada

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning or otherwise, except as permitted under Sections 107 or 108 of the 1976 United States Copyright Act, without either the prior written permission of the Publisher, or authorization through payment of the appropriate per-copy fee to the Copyright Clearance Center, 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923, (978) 750-8400, fax (978) 646-8600. Requests to the Publisher for permission should be addressed to the Permissions Department, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 111 River Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030, (201) 748-6011, fax (201) 748-6008, or online at <http://www.wiley.com/go/permissions>.

Trademarks: Wiley, the Wiley Publishing logo, For Dummies, the Dummies Man logo, A Reference for the Rest of Us!, The Dummies Way, Dummies Daily, The Fun and Easy Way, Dummies.com, Making Everything Easier, and related trade dress are trademarks or registered trademarks of John Wiley & Sons, Inc. and/or its affiliates in the United States and other countries, and may not be used without written permission. Olympus is a registered trademark of Olympus Corporation. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. Wiley Publishing, Inc. is not associated with any product or vendor mentioned in this book.

LIMIT OF LIABILITY/DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTY: THE PUBLISHER AND THE AUTHOR MAKE NO REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES WITH RESPECT TO THE ACCURACY OR COMPLETENESS OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS WORK AND SPECIFICALLY DISCLAIM ALL WARRANTIES, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION WARRANTIES OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. NO WARRANTY MAY BE CREATED OR EXTENDED BY SALES OR PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS. THE ADVICE AND STRATEGIES CONTAINED HEREIN MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR EVERY SITUATION. THIS WORK IS SOLD WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE PUBLISHER IS NOT ENGAGED IN RENDERING LEGAL, ACCOUNTING, OR OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES. IF PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED, THE SERVICES OF A COMPETENT PROFESSIONAL PERSON SHOULD BE SOUGHT. NEITHER THE PUBLISHER NOR THE AUTHOR SHALL BE LIABLE FOR DAMAGES ARISING HEREFROM. THE FACT THAT AN ORGANIZATION OR WEBSITE IS REFERRED TO IN THIS WORK AS A CITATION AND/OR A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF FURTHER INFORMATION DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE AUTHOR OR THE PUBLISHER ENDORSES THE INFORMATION THE ORGANIZATION OR WEBSITE MAY PROVIDE OR RECOMMENDATIONS IT MAY MAKE. FURTHER, READERS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT INTERNET WEBSITES LISTED IN THIS WORK MAY HAVE CHANGED OR DISAPPEARED BETWEEN WHEN THIS WORK WAS WRITTEN AND WHEN IT IS READ.

For general information on our other products and services, please contact our Customer Care Department within the U.S. at 877-762-2974, outside the U.S. at 317-572-3993, or fax 317-572-4002.

For technical support, please visit www.wiley.com/techsupport.

Wiley also publishes its books in a variety of electronic formats. Some content that appears in print may not be available in electronic books.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2010929737

ISBN: 978-0-470-87950-4

Manufactured in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



About the Author

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 D5000, 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.

Author's Acknowledgments

I am deeply grateful for the chance to work once again with the wonderful publishing team at John Wiley and Sons. Kim Darosett, Steve Hayes, Jen Riggs, and Katie Crocker are just some of the talented editors and designers who helped make this book possible.

Special thanks also go to Chuck Pace, who brought a wealth of photography knowledge (and sense of humor) to his technical review of my work. And finally, I am indebted to Sally Smith Clemens and Richard Pelkowski at Olympus, who so graciously contributed hour upon hour of expertise and support to this project.

Publisher's Acknowledgments

We're proud of this book; please send us your comments at <http://dummies.custhelp.com>. For other comments, please contact our Customer Care Department within the U.S. at 877-762-2974, outside the U.S. at 317-572-3993, or fax 317-572-4002.

Some of the people who helped bring this book to market include the following:

Acquisitions and Editorial

Project Editor: Kim Darosett
Executive Editor: Steven Hayes
Copy Editor: Jennifer Riggs
Technical Editor: Chuck Pace
Editorial Manager: Leah Cameron
Editorial Assistant: Amanda Graham
Sr. Editorial Assistant: Cherie Case
Cartoons: Rich Tennant
(www.the5thwave.com)

Composition Services

Project Coordinator: Katherine Crocker
Layout and Graphics: Kelly Kijovsky
Proofreaders: Susan Hobbs,
Lauren Mandelbaum
Indexer: Steve Rath

Publishing and Editorial for Technology Dummies

Richard Swadley, Vice President and Executive Group Publisher
Andy Cummings, Vice President and Publisher
Mary Bednarek, Executive Acquisitions Director
Mary C. Corder, Editorial Director

Publishing for Consumer Dummies

Diane Graves Steele, Vice President and Publisher

Composition Services

Debbie Stailey, Director of Composition Services

Contents at a Glance

<i>Introduction</i>	1
<i>Part I: Fast Track to Super Snaps</i>	5
Chapter 1: Getting the Lay of the Land	7
Chapter 2: Choosing Basic Picture Settings	43
Chapter 3: Easy Breezy: Shooting in iAuto, Scene, and Movie Modes	73
<i>Part II: Working with Picture Files</i>	103
Chapter 4: Playback Mode: Viewing, Protecting, and Erasing Pictures (And Movies)	105
Chapter 5: Downloading, Printing, and Sharing Your Photos	139
<i>Part III: Taking Creative Control</i>	167
Chapter 6: Getting Creative with Exposure and Lighting	169
Chapter 7: Manipulating Focus and Color	213
Chapter 8: Putting It All Together.....	261
<i>Part IV: The Part of Tens</i>	277
Chapter 9: Ten Cool Creative (And Practical) Features.....	279
Chapter 10: Ten More Ways to Customize Your Camera	303
<i>Index</i>	319

Table of Contents

Introduction 1

A Quick Look at What's Ahead	1
Icons and Other Stuff to Note	2
Practice, Be Patient, and Have Fun!.....	4

Part 1: Fast Track to Super Snaps 5

Chapter 1: Getting the Lay of the Land 7

Taking a Quick Tour	7
Topside controls	8
Back-of-the-camera controls.....	9
And the rest	11
Working with Lenses	13
Attaching and removing lenses.....	13
Familiarizing yourself with the lens.....	15
Retracting and unlocking the lens	16
Working with Memory Cards	17
Ordering from Camera Menus	21
Monitor Matters: Customizing the Shooting Display	23
Enabling and disabling display styles	24
Zooming the live display.....	27
Monitoring and Adjusting Photography Settings	29
Setting your control screen preferences	30
Switching between control displays.....	32
Adjusting settings via the Live Control display	32
Using the Super Control Panel (SCP)	34
Reviewing Basic Setup Options	36
Cruising the Setup menu.....	36
Exploring setup options on the Custom menu	38
Restoring default settings	41

Chapter 2: Choosing Basic Picture Settings 43

Reviewing the Most Critical Options	44
Setting the Shutter-Release Mode	46
Changing Picture Proportions (Image Aspect Ratio).....	49
Stabilizing Your Shots	51
Using Face Detection.....	55



- Choosing the Right Quality Settings 57
 - Diagnosing quality problems..... 57
 - Considering resolution: How many pixels are enough?..... 59
 - Understanding file type (JPEG or Raw)..... 64
 - Selecting and customizing the Image Quality setting 68

Chapter 3: Easy Breezy: Shooting in iAuto, Scene, and Movie Modes. 73

- Going Fully Automatic with iAuto Mode..... 74
 - Adjusting picture settings in iAuto mode..... 75
 - Getting more creative with Live Guide 76
- Taking Pictures in SCN (Scene) Mode..... 81
 - Checking out the scene(s) 83
 - Taking a picture in SCN mode 90
- Becoming a Movie Mogul..... 93
 - Shooting your first movie 94
 - Understanding and modifying movie settings 96

Part II: Working with Picture Files 103

Chapter 4: Playback Mode: Viewing, Protecting, and Erasing Pictures (And Movies) 105

- Customizing Playback Timing..... 106
- Viewing Images in Playback Mode 107
 - Viewing multiple images at a time 108
 - Viewing pictures in calendar view 109
 - Zooming in for a closer view 109
 - Rotating a photo 112
- Viewing Picture Data 114
 - Simplified display mode..... 116
 - Overall display 119
 - Histogram display 123
 - Highlight and Shadow display 124
 - Light Box display 125
- Protecting Photos..... 128
- Deleting Photos..... 129
 - Setting Raw+JPEG delete preferences..... 129
 - Deleting images one at a time 130
 - Deleting all photos 131
 - Deleting a batch of selected photos 131

Playing Movies	132
Creating an In-Camera Slide Show	135
Viewing Your Photos on a Television	137

Chapter 5: Downloading, Printing, and Sharing Your Photos 139

Choosing the Right Photo Software	139
Four free photo programs	140
Four advanced photo-editing programs	142
Sending Pictures to the Computer	144
Connecting your camera to a computer	145
Starting the transfer process.....	147
Processing Raw (ORF) Files	148
Processing Raw images in Olympus [ib]	149
Processing Raw images in Olympus Master 2.....	153
Processing Raw images in the camera	154
Planning for Perfect Prints	156
Allow for different print proportions	156
Check the pixel count before you print	158
Get print and monitor colors in sync	161
Preparing Pictures for E-Mail and Online Sharing.....	163

Part III: Taking Creative Control..... 167

Chapter 6: Getting Creative with Exposure and Lighting 169

Kicking Your Camera into High Gear	170
Introducing the Exposure Trio: Aperture, Shutter Speed, and ISO.....	170
Understanding exposure-setting side effects.....	172
Doing the exposure balancing act	177
Reading the Meter and Other Exposure Data	178
Choosing an Exposure Metering Mode.....	181
Setting ISO, f-stop, and Shutter Speed	186
Controlling ISO	187
Adjusting aperture and shutter speed	189
Tweaking autoexposure results with Exposure Compensation.....	194
Correcting lens vignetting with Shading Compensation.....	197
Using Flash in P, A, S, and M Modes.....	198
Understanding the flash modes	199
Adjusting flash output	206
Bracketing Exposure, ISO, and Flash	209

Chapter 7: Manipulating Focus and Color213

Understanding Focusing Basics.....	213
Choosing an AF Mode: MF, S-AF, or C-AF?	214
AF Area: One focus target or 11?.....	217
Matching autofocus settings to your subject.....	220
Autofocusing on stationary subjects: S-AF and Single Target.....	222
Focusing on moving subjects	224
Taking advantage of zoom-frame autofocus.....	229
Using manual focus.....	230
Manipulating Depth of Field	233
Controlling Color	239
Correcting colors with white balance	239
Changing the White Balance setting.....	241
Using One Touch White Balance.....	245
Fine-tuning White Balance settings	246
Bracketing white balance.....	249
Choosing a Color Space: sRGB versus Adobe RGB	252
Taking a Quick Look at Picture Modes	254

Chapter 8: Putting It All Together261

Recapping Basic Picture Settings	261
Shooting Great Portraits	263
Capturing action	268
Capturing scenic vistas	271
Capturing dynamic close-ups.....	273
Coping with Special Situations	275

Part IV: The Part of Tens..... 277**Chapter 9: Ten Cool Creative (And Practical) Features.279**

Altering Your Photos through the JPEG Edit Menu	280
Removing Red-Eye.....	281
Giving a Face the “Vaseline Lens” Treatment	282
Tweaking Color Saturation.....	283
Bringing a Subject Out of the Shadows.....	285
Cropping to a New Composition.....	286
Creating Monochrome and Sepia Tone Copies	288
Exploring the Art Filters	290
Creating a Multiple-Exposure Image	294
Shooting a multiple exposure.....	296
Using Image Overlay.....	299
Adding a Voice Annotation to an Image	301

Chapter 10: Ten More Ways to Customize Your Camera. 303

- Assign New Tasks to the Fn and Movie Buttons..... 304
- Adjust Focus and Exposure Locking..... 306
- Use Custom Resets to Store Picture Settings..... 307
- Create Your Own Shooting Mode..... 310
- Create Personalized Filenames..... 313
- Speed Up the Image Delete Process..... 314
- Specify a Default Print Resolution..... 315
- Check for Faulty Pixels..... 315
- Change the Timing of the Battery Warning..... 316
- Expand Your Lens Kit 317

Index 319

xiv

Olympus PEN E-PL1 For Dummies

Introduction

In 1959, Olympus revolutionized photography by introducing the first PEN, an ingenious marriage of single-lens reflex (SLR) and point-and-shoot camera designs. Offering the same interchangeable lens flexibility as an SLR model, but in a lightweight, compact body, the PEN lived up to the promise of its name: a camera that offered the features demanded by serious photographers yet was as easy to carry around as a pen.

Today, the PEN E-PL1 offers the same best-of-both-worlds approach to digital photographers. Like the original PEN, the E-PL1 packs a ton of photographic punch into a sleek, stylish package that doesn't break your back (or your wallet, for that matter).

The E-PL1 is so feature-packed, in fact, that it can be a challenge to sort out everything, especially if you're new to digital photography. In fact, 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. And that's a shame because it's sort of like buying a Porsche and never actually taking it on the road.

Therein lies the point of *Olympus PEN E-PL1 For Dummies*. Through this book, you can discover not just 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 things. 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 Olympus 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, I 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 brief preview of each part:

- ✔ **Part I: Fast Track to Super Snaps:** Part I contains three chapters to help you get up and running with your E-PL1. Chapter 1 offers a tour of the external controls on your camera, shows you how to navigate camera menus to access internal options, and walks you through initial camera 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 most automatic modes, iAuto and SCN (scene). Chapter 3 also shows you how to record high-definition movies.
- ✔ **Part II: Working with Picture Files:** This part offers two chapters, both dedicated to after-the-shot topics. Chapter 4 explains how to review your pictures on the camera monitor, delete unwanted images, and protect your favorites from accidental erasure. Chapter 5 guides you through the process of downloading pictures to your computer, preparing photos for printing or online sharing, and connecting your camera to a television for large-screen picture playback.
- ✔ **Part III: Taking Creative Control:** Chapters in this part help you unleash the full creative power of your camera by moving into the advanced shooting modes (P, A, S, and M). Chapter 6 covers the critical topic of exposure, and Chapter 7 explains how to manipulate focus and color. Chapter 8 summarizes all the techniques explained in earlier chapters, providing a quick-reference guide to the camera settings and shooting strategies that produce the best results for portraits, action shots, landscape scenes, and close-ups.
- ✔ **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 9 covers ten features geared to your fun and creative side, including the ART shooting mode and in-camera picture-editing tools. Chapter 10 wraps things up by detailing some camera features that, although not found on most “Top Ten Reasons I Bought My PEN E-PL1” 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:



- ✓ I apply this icon either to introduce 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 some other 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 ignored.
- ✓ Lots of information in this book is of a technical nature — digital photography is a technical animal, after all. But if I present a detail that is useful mainly for impressing your technology-geek friends, I mark it with this icon.
- ✓ A Tip icon flags information that will save you time, effort, money, or some other valuable resource, including your sanity.

Additionally, I 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. I include these to provide a quick reminder 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 that you choose from the program menus. For example, if a step tells you to "Choose File→Print," click the File menu to unfurl it and then click the Print command on the menu.
- ✓ **Camera firmware:** *Firmware* is the internal software that controls many of your camera's operations. The E-PL1 uses two pieces of firmware, one for the camera body and one for the lens. This book was written using version 1.1 of the body firmware and 1.0 of the lens firmware, which were the most current at the time of publication.

Occasionally, Olympus releases firmware updates, and it's a good idea to check the Olympus Web site (www.olympus.com) periodically to find out whether any updates are available. (Chapter 1 tells you how to determine which firmware version your camera is running.)
- ✓ **Online cheat sheet:** To download a handy, tuck-in-your-camera bag reference guide to some of your camera's controls, visit the following Web address: www.dummies.com/cheatsheet/olympuspenepl1.

Practice, Be Patient, and Have Fun!

To wrap up this preamble, I 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. So take it slowly, experimenting with just one or two new camera settings or techniques at first. Then, each time you go on a photo outing, make it a point to add one or two more shooting skills to your repertoire.

I know that it's hard to believe when you're just starting out, but it really won't be long before everything starts to come together. 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.

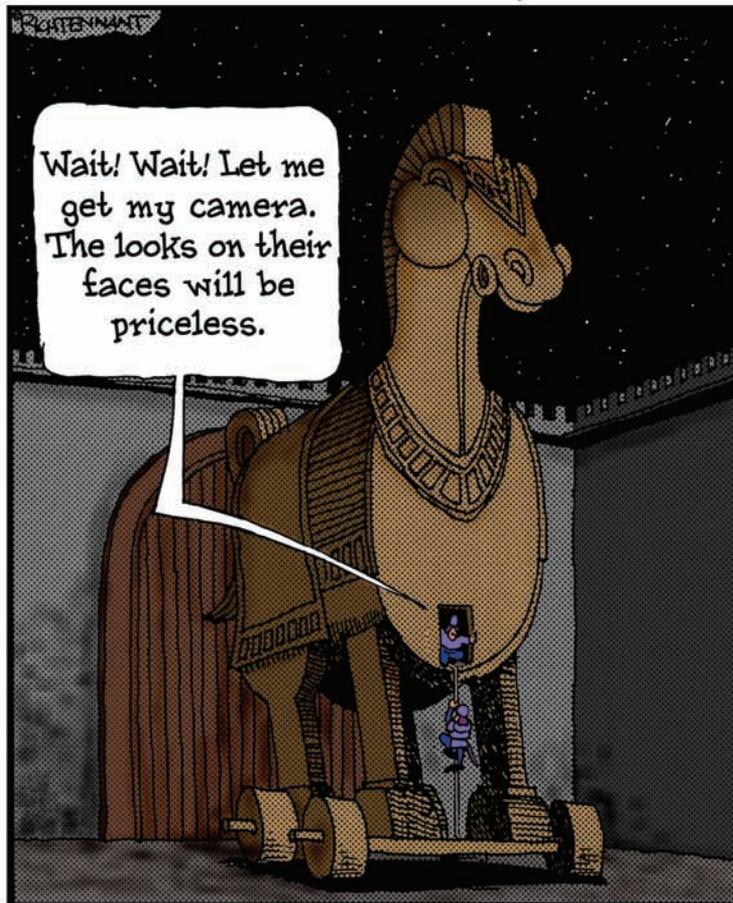
So without further ado, I invite you to grab your camera, a cup of whatever it is you prefer to sip while you read, and start exploring the rest of this book. Your PEN E-PL1 is the perfect partner for your photographic journey, and I thank you for allowing me, through this book, to serve as your tour guide.

Part I

Fast Track to Super Snaps

The 5th Wave

By Rich Tennant



Making sense of all the controls on your PEN E-PL1 isn't something you can do in an afternoon — heck, in a week, or maybe even a month. But that doesn't mean that you can't take great pictures today. By using your camera's point-and-shoot automatic 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 automatic features and also addresses some basic setup steps, such as adjusting the viewfinder to your eyesight and getting familiar with the camera menus and buttons. In addition, chapters in this part explain how to obtain the very best picture quality, whether you shoot in an automatic or manual mode, and how to use your camera's movie-making features.



Getting the Lay of the Land

In This Chapter

- ▶ Taking a tour of external controls
 - ▶ Looking at lenses and memory cards
 - ▶ Using the optional electronic viewfinder
 - ▶ Selecting from menus
 - ▶ Customizing your display
 - ▶ Viewing and adjusting picture-taking settings
 - ▶ Customizing basic operations
-

At first glance, the Olympus PEN E-PL1 could easily be mistaken for just another digital point-and-shoot camera. But don't be fooled by your camera's diminutive size or the simplicity of its outward design: Under that small, sexy exterior lies a lot of photographic muscle.

This chapter covers the basics you need to start enjoying all the E-PL1 has to offer, introducing you to its external features, showing you how to work with interchangeable lenses, and explaining how to navigate menus and select camera settings. In addition, the last part of the chapter details options that enable you to customize basic camera operations.

Taking a Quick Tour

If you've used a digital camera before, some external controls on the E-PL1 may be familiar to you. The button that you press to erase pictures, for example, is marked with the universal delete symbol — a trash can. But some features are unique to the E-PL1, so the next three sections provide an overview of the function of each external control. (I discuss these controls in more detail later in this book.)



Topside controls

As shown in Figure 1-1, the top of the camera sports a couple features:



Figure 1-1: Use the Mode dial to choose a basic exposure mode.

- ✔ **Power button:** I won't insult your intelligence by telling you what this button does. But see the section "Exploring setup options on the Custom menu," near the end of this chapter, to find out about the Sleep setting. That setting enables you to specify how quickly you want the camera to automatically shut off to save battery power.
- ✔ **Shutter button:** I'm sure you also figured out this one. But see Chapter 2 to find out how to specify whether you want the camera to record a single shot, a continuous series of shots, or a self-timer shot each time you press the button.
- ✔ **Mode dial:** You select the shooting mode, or exposure mode, via this dial. Chapter 3 explains the simplest, most automatic modes — iAuto and Scene (SCN) — as well as Movie mode. Chapters 6 and 7 cover the more advanced photography modes (P, S, A, and M). For help with ART mode, check out Chapter 9.
- ✔ **Flash hot shoe:** *Hot shoe* is the traditional photography term for "contact on top of the camera for mounting an external flash." But on the E-PL1, the electrical contacts on the hot shoe also enable the camera to communicate with the optional electronic viewfinder. See the upcoming sidebar "Awesome add-on: The VF-2 electronic viewfinder," later in this chapter, for some additional information.



✓ **Focal plane marker:** See that little circle with the line through it, between the Mode dial and the hot shoe? That line represents the plane at which the lens focuses light onto the *image sensor* (the element that replaces film in a digital camera). If you ever need to know the exact distance between your subject and the camera, basing the measurement on this mark produces a more accurate camera-to-subject distance than using the end of the lens or some other external point on the camera body as your reference point.

Back-of-the-camera controls

Traveling over the top of the camera to its back, you see the controls labeled in Figure 1-2. The following list introduces you to each item:



Figure 1-2: Use the Start/OK button and surrounding arrow keys to navigate menus and adjust picture-taking settings.

Fn 

- ✓ **Flash Up switch:** To raise the built-in flash, slide this switch to the right and release it. Chapter 3 introduces you to flash; Chapter 6 gets into more advanced flash features. (To close the flash, just press its top gently down.)
- ✓ **Accessory port:** If you buy the optional electronic viewfinder (a choice I highly recommend), it attaches into this slot. See the upcoming sidebar “Awesome add-on: The VF-2 electronic viewfinder” for more details. The port also enables you to attach an optional stereo microphone.
- ✓ **Fn (Function)/Thumbnails button:** This button performs a different function depending on whether you’re shooting pictures or reviewing them in playback mode:
 - *Shooting function:* By default, pressing this button during shooting toggles the Face Detection feature on and off. (Chapter 2 introduces you to Face Detection.) But you can set the button to perform a variety of other functions instead (see Chapter 10).
 - *Playback function:* During playback, pressing the button cycles the display from single-image view to thumbnails view to calendar view. See Chapter 4 for playback details.

To save time and space, I refer to this button simply as the Fn button from this point forward.



- ✓ **Zoom button:** As on most digital cameras, pressing this button during playback magnifies the image. But here’s a twist: On the E-PL1, you can also magnify the live view during shooting, which can be helpful for fine-tuning focus. See the later section “Zooming the live display” in this chapter for details.
- ✓ **Movie/Protect button:** As indicated by its name, this button also accomplishes a different act depending on whether you’re shooting or reviewing pictures:
 - *Shooting mode:* By default, this button is used for one-button movie recording. Press the button to start recording, and press again to stop. Chapter 3 explains the art of E-PL1 movie making.
 - *Playback mode:* Note the little blue key directly above the button. That symbol indicates that during playback, you press the button to “lock” the picture file and protect it from accidental erasure. Chapter 4 has details. (As a reminder of the button’s playback function, the key is blue, just like the symbol on the Playback button.)

You can change the shooting function of the Movie button, just as you can assign a different task to the Fn button. Chapter 10 provides details.



- ✓ **Playback button:** Press this button to set the camera to playback mode. See Chapter 4 for all the ways you can customize the playback display.

- ✓ **Menu button:** Press this button to access camera menus; see the section “Ordering from Camera Menus” for the fine points you need to know about the process.
- ✓ **Info button:** Pressing this button changes the amount and type of data displayed on the monitor during shooting and playback. The upcoming section “Monitor Matters: Customizing the Shooting Display” explains how you can tweak the display in shooting mode; Chapter 4 covers playback display options. This button also comes into play for some other operations, such as changing the level of magnification when you zoom the display.
- ✓ **Start/OK button and arrow pad:** This collection of buttons is key to most operations on the camera.

After displaying menus, for example, use the arrow keys to select a menu item and then press the Start/OK button to select that item. You also use the Start/OK button during shooting to access control screens that enable you to quickly adjust picture-taking settings. And notice that each of the four arrow keys bears a label: The label tells you that you can press the button to directly access the function indicated by the label. For example, you can display flash settings by pressing the right-arrow key — the one sporting the lightning bolt, which is the universal symbol for flash.

To save time and space in this book, I refer to the Start/OK button as just OK (okay?). And I refer to the arrow keys by their position on the arrow pad — “press the right-arrow key, press the down-arrow key,” and so on.



- ✓ **Erase button:** During playback, you can erase photos by pressing this button. Chapter 4 has details.
- ✓ **Speaker:** Finally, note the tiny holes just above the OK button/arrow key cluster. When you play movies or picture files that contain sound, the audio comes wafting through those holes, which lead to the internal speaker. (And yes, you read me correctly: You can annotate your still photos with audio notes; see Chapter 9 to find out how.)

And the rest . . .

Just for good measure, the following list details features found on the front, right side, and bottom of the camera:

- ✓ **Connection ports:** Under the flap on the right side of the camera, you find two ports that enable you to connect the camera to other devices, as shown in Figure 1-3. The USB/AV (Universal Serial Bus/Audio Video) port is for connecting the camera to a computer, printer, or standard definition television set. The HDMI (High-Definition Multimedia Interface) port enables you to connect the camera to an HD display for playback.

Cables for making the USB/AV connections ship with the camera. To make an HD connection, you must purchase an HD cable. (Chapter 4 has details about connecting to a television; Chapter 5 explains how to connect the camera to a computer for picture download.)

- ✓ **Battery/memory card chamber:** Open the cover on the bottom of the camera to access the chamber that holds both the battery and the memory card, as shown in Figure 1-4. The upcoming section “Working with Memory Cards” details installing and using memory cards.

To find out how to monitor the battery level, see the upcoming section “Monitor Matters: Customizing the Shooting Display.” And see Chapter 10 for a menu option that controls how depleted you want the battery to become before the camera warns you that you’re soon to be running on empty.

- ✓ **Tripod mount:** The little screw hole just next to the battery chamber is provided for mounting the camera on a tripod.

When the camera is mounted on a tripod, you can’t access the battery chamber. Double-check that your battery is charged and your memory card is inserted before you connect the camera to the tripod.

- ✓ **Lens-release button:** Last but not least is the little silver button on the front of the camera, next to the lens. Press the button to disengage the lens from the lens mount before removing the lens. The following section discusses this and other lens-related information.



Figure 1-3: Open the cover on the right side of the camera to reveal ports for connecting the camera to a computer or TV.



Figure 1-4: The battery and memory card share an apartment next to the tripod mount.



Working with Lenses

To take best advantage of the features of your E-PL1, match the camera body with a Micro Four Thirds lens. If you bought the E-PL1 kit, which includes the camera body plus the Olympus 14–42mm M.Zuiko Digital lens, you own this type of lens.



Micro Four Thirds refers to the camera design and technology that permits the E-PL1 to take such a small, lightweight form. If you're interested in the science and history of the Micro Four Thirds format, visit www.four-thirds.org, an Olympus educational Web site.

When dealing with lenses, the important point to know is that Micro Four Thirds lenses were designed specifically to partner with the E-PL1. Like the camera itself, these lenses are built to be as small and lightweight as possible, and they support the camera's entire range of features. (Note the *M* in M.Zuiko; it distinguishes Micro Four Thirds lenses from standard Zuiko lenses. As for *Zuiko*? It stems from two sources: an abbreviation created to refer to one of Olympus' original lens-manufacturing plants and a rough translation of the Chinese expression for "golden light." Won't you sound smart at the next meeting of the photo club!?)

At any rate, although you can mount other types of lenses on the camera, you need to purchase an adapter to do so. And with some lenses, you lose access to certain important camera features. For example, you can't use autofocus with some lenses; you must focus manually. The Olympus Web site has details about lens options.

Because of those complications — and because covering all the variations involved with using your camera with different types of lenses is way, way beyond the page count this book allows — instructions in this book presume that you're using a Micro Four Thirds lens, and illustrations feature the 14–42mm Micro Four Thirds kit lens. If you use a different lens, check your lens manual for help with any questions that you can't sort out.

With that bit of business out of the way — okay, it's probably about two or three bits — the next sections explain the basics of working with a Micro Four Thirds lens.

Attaching and removing lenses

Follow these steps to attach a Micro Four Thirds lens to your camera:

1. **Turn off the camera.**
2. **Remove the cap that covers the lens mount on the front of the camera.**
3. **Remove the cap that covers the back of the lens.**

4. **Hold the lens in front of the camera so that the little red dot on the lens aligns with the matching dot on the camera body.**

Official photography lingo uses the term *mounting index* instead of *little red dot*. Either way, you can see the markings in question in Figure 1-5.

Again, the figure (and others in this book) shows you the E-PL1 with the Olympus 14–42mm M.Zuiko Digital lens. Assuming that you stick with Micro Four Thirds lenses, other lenses should work and look much the same, but if you have any questions, consult the lens manual.

Mounting index dots



Figure 1-5: When attaching the lens, align the index markers as shown here.

5. **Keeping the dots aligned, position the lens on the camera's lens mount.**
6. **Turn the lens in a clockwise direction until the lens clicks into place.**

In other words, turn the lens away from the shutter button side of the body, as indicated by the red arrow in the figure.

To detach a lens, take these steps:

1. **Turn off the camera.**
2. **Locate the lens-release button, labeled in Figure 1-6.**
3. **Press the button while turning the lens counterclockwise until the lens disengages from the lens mount.**
4. **After removing the lens, protect it by placing the rear protective cap onto the back of the lens.**

If you aren't putting another lens on the camera, cover the lens mount with the protective cap that came with your camera, too.

Lens-release button



Figure 1-6: To disengage the lens, press this button.