

LEARNING MADE EASY



In Full Color

Nikon® D5600™

for
dummies®
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Get acquainted with all
your camera's features

Capture great images in both
auto and manual modes

Learn the secrets to getting
professional results

Julie Adair King

Photography instructor and author of
Nikon D5500 For Dummies

Nikon® D5600™

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Nikon[®] D5600[™]

by Julie Adair King

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Nikon® D5600™ For Dummies®

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Introduction

Nikon. The name has been associated with top-flight photography equipment for generations, and the D5600 only enriches that reputation, offering terrific features for capturing both still photos and high-definition digital movies. But the fun doesn't stop after the shoot: On top of everything else, the D5600 enables you to transfer photos wirelessly to certain smartphones and tablets so that you can instantly share images online. You can even use your smart device as a wireless remote control.

In fact, the D5600 offers so many features that sorting them all out can be more than a little confusing. And therein lies the point of *Nikon D5600 For Dummies*: With the help of this book, you can take full advantage of everything the camera has to offer, even if you're brand new to photography.

About This Book

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.

However, even if you have some photography experience — or quite a bit of experience, for that matter — this book has plenty to offer. I provide detailed information about all the camera's advanced exposure, focus, and color controls, explaining not just what each feature does but why and how to put it to best use.

In short, what you have in your hands is the paperback version of an in-depth photography workshop tailored specifically to your Nikon picture-taking powerhouse.

How This Book Is Organized

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've also made 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 what you can find in each part of the book:

- » **Part 1: Fast Track to Super Snaps:** Part 1 contains two chapters to help you get up and running. Chapter 1 guides you through initial camera setup, shows you how to view and adjust camera settings, and walks you through the steps of taking your first pictures using the Auto exposure mode. Chapter 2 introduces you to other exposure modes and explains basic picture options such as Release mode, Image Size (resolution), and Image Quality (JPEG or Raw). The end of Chapter 2 provides information on using flash.
- » **Part 2: Taking Creative Control:** Chapters in this part help you unleash the full power of your camera by detailing the advanced shooting modes (P, S, A, and M). Chapter 3 covers the critical topic of exposure; Chapter 4 explains how to manipulate focus; and Chapter 5 discusses color controls. Chapter 6 summarizes 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. Chapter 7 shifts gears, moving from still photography to HD movie recording.
- » **Part 3: After the Shot:** Chapter 8 explains picture playback features and how to connect your camera to a TV for large-screen playback. Chapter 9 topics include rating, deleting, and protecting photos, downloading images to your computer, processing Raw files, and resizing pictures for online sharing.
- » **Part 4: The Part of Tens:** In famous *For Dummies* tradition, this book concludes with two top-ten lists containing additional bits of information and advice. Chapter 10 details options for customizing your camera. Chapter 11 covers the tools found on the camera's Retouch menu, shows you how to use the Effects exposure mode, and explains a few other features that may come in handy on occasion, such as creating a slide show featuring your best work.
- » **Appendix: Intro to Nikon SnapBridge:** Nikon SnapBridge is an app you can install on certain Android and Apple iOS smartphones and tablets. It's this app that enables you to use the camera's wireless functions to connect your D5600 to your smart device. After making the connection, you can transfer photos to the device for viewing or easy uploading to social media sites or online photo-storage sites. You also can use the smart device as a wireless remote control. Check out the appendix for an overview of these features.

» **Cheat sheet:** When you have a minute or two, visit www.dummies.com and enter the name of this book in the search box. You'll find a link to a cheat sheet, which provides a handy reference to your camera's buttons, controls, and exposure modes.

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:



TIP

The Tip icon flags information that will save you time, effort, money, or some other valuable resource, including your sanity. Tips also point out techniques that help you get the best results from specific camera features.



WARNING

When you see this icon, look alive. It indicates a potential danger zone that can result in much wailing and teeth-gnashing if ignored. In other words, this is stuff that you really don't want to learn the hard way.



TECHNICAL
STUFF

Lots of information in this book is of a technical nature — digital photography is a technical animal, after all. But when I present a detail that is useful mainly for impressing your tech-geek friends, I mark it with this icon.



REMEMBER

I apply this icon either to introduce information that is 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.

Additionally, replicas of some of your camera's buttons and onscreen graphics appear in the margins and in some tables. I include these images to provide quick reminders of the appearance of the button or option being discussed.

Where to Go from Here

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 mind-boggling at first. So 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.

I know 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 D5600 is the perfect partner for your photographic journey, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to act as your tour guide.

1

Fast Track to Super Snaps

IN THIS PART . . .

Familiarize yourself with the basics of using your camera, from attaching lenses to navigating menus.

Get step-by-step help with shooting your first pictures in Auto mode.

Find out how to select the exposure mode, Release mode, Image Size (resolution), and Image Quality (JPEG or Raw file type).

Discover options available for flash photography.

- » Preparing the camera for its first outing
- » Getting acquainted with the touchscreen and other camera features
- » Viewing and adjusting camera settings
- » Setting a few basic preferences
- » Taking a picture in Auto mode

Chapter **1**

First Steps, First Shots

Shooting for the first time with a camera as sophisticated as the Nikon D5600 can produce a blend of excitement and anxiety. On one hand, you can't wait to start using your new equipment, but on the other, you're a little intimidated by all its buttons, dials, and menu options.

Well, fear not: This chapter provides the information you need to start getting comfortable with your D5600. The first section walks you through initial camera setup; following that, you can discover how to view and adjust picture settings and get my take on additional setup options. At the end of the chapter, I explain how to take pictures using Auto mode, which offers point-and-shoot simplicity until you're ready for more advanced options.

Preparing the Camera for Initial Use

After unpacking your camera, you have to assemble a few parts. In addition to the camera body and the supplied battery (be sure to charge it before the first use), you need a lens and a memory card. Later sections in this chapter provide details

about working with lenses and memory cards, but here's what you need to know up front:



» **Lens:** You can mount a wide range of lenses on your D5600, but some aren't compatible with all camera features. For example, to enjoy autofocus, you need an AF-P or AF-S lens. (The 18–55mm lens featured in this book and sold in a kit with the D5600 body is an AF-P lens.) The camera's instruction manual offers details about lens compatibility. (The full manual is available online at the Nikon Download Center.)

The *AF* in AF-S and AF-P stands for *autofocus*. The *S* in AF-S stands for a *silent wave* focusing motor; the *P* refers to an autofocus technology known as a "stepping motor." Both are designed to deliver faster and quieter autofocus. How you implement autofocus differs between the two types, however. Read more about this issue later in this chapter, in the section "Familiarizing Yourself with the Lens."

» **SD (Secure Digital) memory card:** Your camera accepts only this type of card. Most SD cards carry the designation SDHC (for *High Capacity*) or SDXC (for *eXtended Capacity*), depending on how many gigabytes (GB) of data they hold. SDHC cards hold from 4GB to 32GB of data; the SDXC moniker is assigned to cards with capacities greater than 32GB.

With camera, lens, battery, and card within reach, take these steps:

1. **Turn the camera off.**
2. **Install the battery into the compartment on the bottom of the camera.**
3. **Attach a lens.**

First, remove the caps that cover the front of the camera and the back of the lens. Then align the *mounting index* (white dot) on the lens with the one on the camera body, as shown in Figure 1-1. After placing the lens on the camera mount, rotate the lens toward the shutter-button side of the camera. You should feel a solid click as the lens locks into place.



FIGURE 1-1: Align the white dot on the lens with the one on the camera body.

4. Insert a memory card.

Open the card-slot cover on the right side of the camera and orient the card as shown in Figure 1-2 (the label faces the back of the camera). Push the card gently into the slot and close the cover. The memory-card access light, labeled in the figure, illuminates briefly to let you know that the camera recognizes the card.

Memory-card access light



5. Rotate the monitor to the desired viewing position.

When you first take the camera out of its box, the monitor is positioned with the screen facing inward, protecting it from scratches and smudges. Gently lift the right side of the monitor up and away from the camera back. You can then rotate the monitor to move it into the traditional position on the camera back, as shown on the left in Figure 1-3, or swing the monitor out to get a different viewing angle, as shown on the right.

FIGURE 1-2:

Insert the memory card with the label facing the back of the camera.

Multi Selector/OK button



FIGURE 1-3:
Here are just two possible monitor positions.

6. Turn on the camera.

7. Set the language, time zone, and date.

When you power up the camera for the first time, you can't do anything until you take this step.



TIP

The easiest way to adjust the settings is to use the touchscreen, which is enabled by default. To select an option or display a menu of settings, just tap it on the screen, just as you do with any touchscreen device. If you see an OK symbol in the lower-right corner of the screen, tap it to finalize your selection and return to the previous screen. To exit a screen without making changes, tap the exit arrow shown in the upper-right corner of the screen.

If you prefer, you also can use the Multi Selector and OK button, labeled in Figure 1-3, to navigate menus. You can find more details about using the touchscreen and other ways to adjust settings later in this chapter.

8. Adjust the viewfinder to your eyesight.



WARNING

This step is critical; if you don't set the viewfinder to your eyesight, subjects that appear out of focus in the viewfinder might actually be in focus, and vice versa. If you wear glasses while shooting, adjust the viewfinder with your glasses on.

You set viewfinder focus by rotating the adjustment dial labeled in Figure 1-4. After taking off the lens cap and making sure that the camera is turned on, look through the viewfinder and press the shutter button halfway. In dim lighting, the flash may pop up.

Ignore it for now and concentrate on the row of data that appears at the bottom of the viewfinder screen. Rotate the dial until that data appears sharpest. The markings in the center of the viewfinder, which relate to autofocus, also become more or less sharp. Ignore the scene you see through the lens; that won't change because you're not actually focusing the camera. When you finish, press down on the flash unit to close it if necessary.

Viewfinder adjustment dial



FIGURE 1-4: Rotate this dial to set the viewfinder focus for your eyesight.

9. If using a retractable lens, unlock and extend the lens.

The lens barrels of AF-P kit lenses, as well as some AF-S lenses, extend and retract. When you're not shooting, you can retract the lens so that it takes up less space in your camera bag. But before you can take a picture or even access most camera menu items, you must unlock and extend the lens. A message appears on the monitor to remind you of this step.



REMEMBER

To extend the lens, press the lens lock button, highlighted in Figure 1-5, while rotating the lens barrel toward the shutter-button side of the camera. To retract the lens, press the button while rotating the lens in the other direction.

FIGURE 1-5:
If using a retractable lens, press the lens lock button while rotating the lens barrel to extend and retract the lens.



That's all there is to it — your camera is now ready to go. From here, my recommendation is that you keep reading this chapter to familiarize yourself with the main camera features and basic operation. But if you're anxious to take a picture right away, skip to the last section of the chapter, which guides you through the basic process. Just promise that at some point, you'll read the pages in between, because they do contain important information.

Checking Out External Controls

Scattered across your camera's exterior are numerous features that you use to change picture-taking settings, review your photos, and perform various other operations. In later chapters, I discuss all your camera's functions in detail and provide the exact steps to follow to access them. This section provides just a basic "what's this thing do?" guide to each control. (Don't worry about memorizing the button names; throughout the book, I show pictures of buttons in the page margins to help you know exactly which one to press.)



REMEMBER

Keep in mind, too, that you can adjust many settings by simply tapping the touchscreen, which is sometimes faster than fiddling with the camera buttons. I explain how to use the touchscreen later in this chapter.

Topside controls

Your virtual tour begins with the bird's-eye view shown in Figure 1-6. There are a number of features of note here:

- » **Shutter button/power switch:** Okay, I'm pretty sure you already figured out this combo button. But you may not be aware that you need to press the

shutter button in two stages: Press and hold the button halfway and wait for the camera to initiate exposure metering and, if you're using autofocus, to set the focusing distance. Then press the button the rest of the way to take the picture.

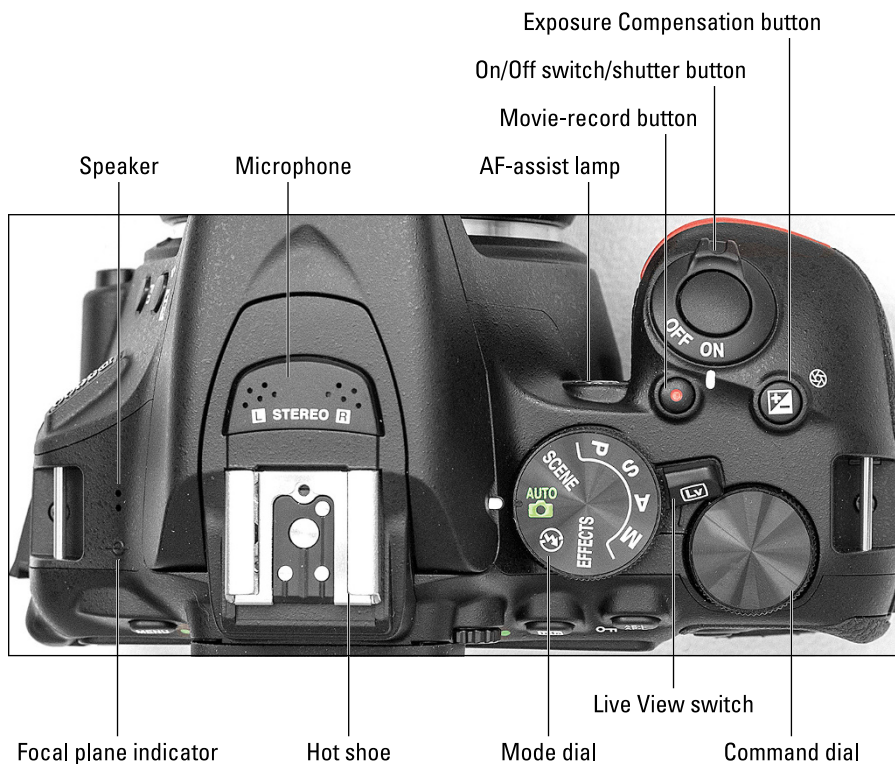


FIGURE 1-6: Rotate the Live View switch to shift from viewfinder to Live View photography.

- » **Mode dial:** With this dial, you choose the exposure mode, which determines which picture-taking settings you can control. You get a number of automatic, beginner modes as well as four advanced modes (P, S, A, and M). Effects mode enables you to apply special effects as an image or movie is captured; the Scene setting accesses automatic modes designed for specific types of shots (portraits, landscapes, and so on). Chapter 2 introduces you to each exposure mode.
- » **Command dial:** After you activate certain camera features, you rotate this dial, labeled in the figure, to select a setting. For example, to choose a shutter speed when shooting in shutter-priority (S) mode, you rotate the Command dial.



» **Exposure Compensation button:** The main use of this button is to apply Exposure Compensation, which enables you to tweak autoexposure results when using some exposure modes. Hold the button down while rotating the Command dial to adjust the setting. Chapter 3 explains Exposure Compensation.

» **Live View switch:** Rotate this switch to turn *Live View* on and off. In Live View mode, the scene in front of the lens appears on the monitor, and you can't see anything through the viewfinder. You then can compose a photo using the monitor. For movie recording, you must use Live View; you can't shoot a movie using the viewfinder. The last section of this chapter introduces you to Live View photography; see Chapter 7 for help with movie making.



» **Record button:** After shifting to Live View mode, press this button to start recording a movie. Press it again to stop recording.

» **AF-assist light:** In dim lighting, this light turns on briefly to help the camera locate your focusing target. The light also comes on when you use red-eye reduction flash and the Self-Timer shutter-release mode, both covered in Chapter 2.

» **Flash hot shoe:** *Hot shoe* is photography-speak for a terminal that enables you to connect an external flash. On the D5600, the hot shoe also serves as a mount for the optional Nikon ME-1 and ME-W1 stereo microphones.

» **Microphone:** If you don't attach an external microphone, movie audio is recorded using the camera's built-in microphone.

» **Speaker:** When you play a movie, sound comes out of these holes.

» **Focal plane indicator:** If you need to know the exact distance between your subject and the camera, as you might if you need to photograph objects for scientific or legal documentation, the focal plane indicator is key. The mark indicates the plane at which light coming through the lens is focused onto the camera's image sensor. Basing your measurement on this mark produces a more accurate camera-to-subject distance than using the end of the lens or another external point on the camera body as your reference point.



TIP

Back-of-the-body controls

On the back of the camera, shown in Figure 1-7, you find the following features:

» **Menu button:** Press this button to access menus of camera options. See "Navigating Menus," later in this chapter, for details.

» **Viewfinder adjustment dial:** Rotate this dial to adjust the viewfinder focus to your eyesight; see the first section of this chapter for details.



FIGURE 1-7: For quick access to primary picture settings, press the *i* button.

» **Eye sensor:** This window senses when you put your eye to the viewfinder and, in response, turns off the monitor to save battery power. Not working? Open the Setup menu and check the status of the item named Info Display Auto Off. The option should be set to On, as it is by default. If that's not the issue, you may simply need to press your eye closer to the viewfinder. Also, when you wear glasses, sometimes the sensor can't detect your eye. You do have the option of pressing the Info button, labeled in the figure, to turn the monitor on and off.



» **Info button:** When using the viewfinder to compose photos, press this button to display the Information screen, which shows key camera settings and various bits of information, such as the battery status. To turn off the screen, press Info again.



REMEMBER



REMEMBER



You also can display the screen by pressing the shutter button halfway and releasing it.

In Live View mode, pressing the Info button changes the type and amount of data that appears on the preview.

- » **AE-L/AF-L button:** During shooting, pressing this button initiates autoexposure lock (AE-L) and autofocus lock (AF-L). Chapter 3 explains autoexposure lock; Chapter 4 talks about autofocus lock.

In playback mode, pressing the button locks the picture file — hence the little key symbol that appears near the button — so that it isn't erased if you use the picture-delete functions. See Chapter 9 for details. (The picture *is* erased if you format the memory card, however.)

- » **Playback button:** Press this button to switch the camera to picture-review mode. Chapter 8 details playback features.

- » **i button:** During shooting, pressing this button activates a control strip that enables quick access to certain picture settings. I provide details in the later section "Adjusting Settings via the Control Strip." Press *i* again to exit the control strip. In Playback mode, pressing the button brings up a small menu that enables you to rate photos, edit them using the Retouch menu features, and tag them for later wireless transmission to a smartphone or tablet. I refer to the Playback menu as the *i-button menu*.

- » **Multi Selector/OK button:** This dual-natured control plays a role in many camera functions. You press the outer edges of the Multi Selector left, right, up, or down to navigate camera menus and access certain other options. At the center of the control is the OK button, which you press to finalize a menu selection or another camera adjustment.

In this book, the instruction "Press the Multi Selector left" means to press the left edge of the control. "Press the Multi Selector right" means to press the right edge, and so on.

- » **Delete button:** Sporting a trash can icon, the universal symbol for delete, this button enables you to erase pictures from your memory card. Chapter 9 explains the steps.

- » **Zoom In and Zoom Out buttons:** These buttons have several purposes, depending on what camera function you're using:

- *Picture playback:* In still-photo playback mode, pressing the Zoom In button magnifies the image; pressing Zoom Out reduces the magnification. After you display a photo at its normal magnification, you can press Zoom Out repeatedly to shift to thumbnails view, which displays multiple image previews at a time, and then to Calendar view, which simplifies the job of tracking down all pictures taken on a certain date. Pressing Zoom In cycles the display in the other direction.



TIP

- *Movie playback:* Press Zoom In to increase audio volume; press Zoom Out to lower it.
- *Live View mode:* Pressing the Zoom In button magnifies the live preview so you can check focus more closely. Pressing Zoom Out reduces the magnification amount. (Chapter 4 details this feature.)

Additionally, if you see a question mark symbol on a menu screen or other display, pressing the Zoom Out button displays a Help screen that contains information about the feature you're using. (Note the question mark symbol beneath the button.)

Both buttons also come into play when you use certain other camera features, such as applying changes from the Retouch menu.

Front-left features

The front-left side of the camera, shown in Figure 1-8, sports these features:



- » **Flash button:** In some exposure modes, pressing this button raises the built-in flash. In other modes, the camera controls whether flash is enabled.

By holding the Flash button down and rotating the Command dial, you can adjust the Flash mode (Fill Flash, Red-Eye Reduction, and so on). In some exposure modes, you also can adjust the flash power by pressing the button while simultaneously pressing the Exposure Compensation button and rotating the Command dial. The little +/- symbol that appears below the Flash button — the same symbol that's on the Exposure Compensation button — is a reminder of the button's role in flash-power adjustment.

Check out Chapter 2 for details on flash options.



FIGURE 1-8: Press the Flash button to use the built-in flash in P, S, A, or M mode.