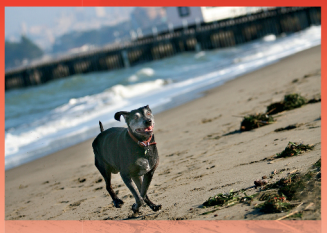
Free Gray/Color Checker Card Inside!

Michael Corsentino

Canon® EOS 6D Digital Field Guide



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Canon® EOS

6D

Digital Field Guide

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Michael Corsentino

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Michael Corsentino is an award-winning, contemporary wedding and portrait photographer, Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom expert, Capture One Pro Certified Professional, author, contributing writer for Photoshop User magazine, and columnist for *Shutter Magazine* and *Resource Magazine*. Based in Northern California and shooting digitally since 1999, Michael shot his first image when he was 12-years-old and hasn't put his camera down since.

Michael is equally passionate about educating photographers, and loves to share his lighting and posing secrets, post-processing techniques, timesaving workflow strategies, and shooting philosophy at his workshops and speaking engagements. Learn more at www.michaelcorsentino.com and www.corsentinoblog.com, or follow Michael on twitter: @Corsentino.

To my dear mother, Stephanie. Without your beautiful love, caring, and lifelong support of my artistic dreams I wouldn't be who I am today. Thank you so much!

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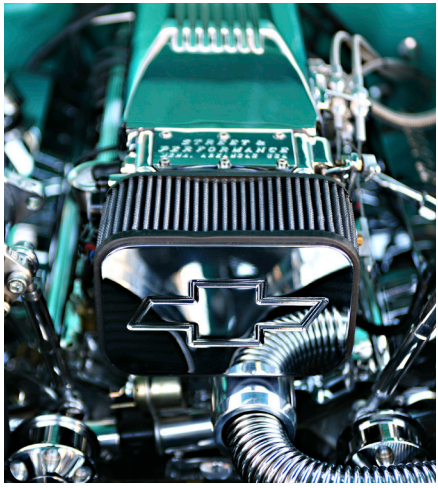

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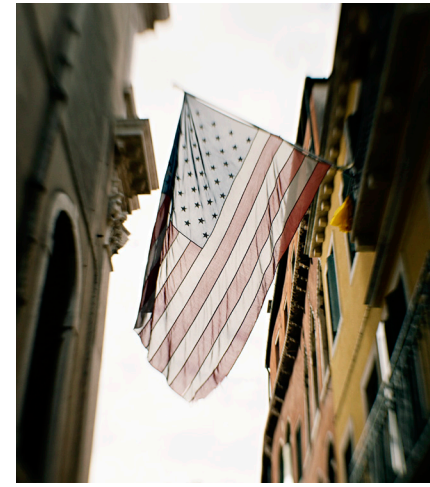

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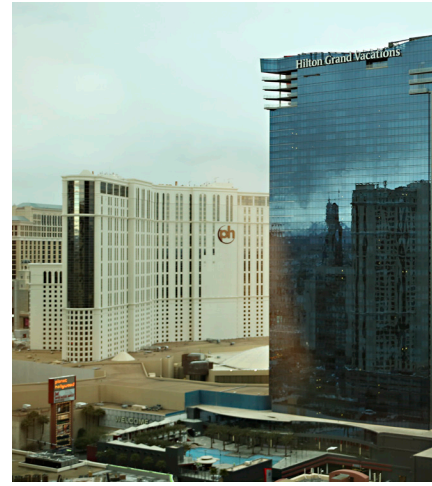

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Introduction

Welcome to the *Canon EOS 6D Digital Field Guide*. This book was written and designed to help you get the most from Canon's newest (and lightest) full-frame dSLR. This 20.2-megapixel camera delivers the excellent image quality you've come to expect from Canon, and speedy performance at 4.5 frames per second. Under the hood of the 6D, is the latest iteration of Canon's venerable DIGIC processor, DIGIC 5+, which is 17 times faster than the DIGIC 4 processor. Of course, you also get 14-bit files that provide smooth tonal gradations and rich color. The 6D also introduces the best low-light ISO performance to date, a huge boon for event shooters. Also exciting are the many built-in dSLR Wi-Fi features, such as posting images directly from the camera to popular social media sites — another first for Canon.

A multitude of carry over and trickle-down features from Canon's 5DMKII, 5DMKIII, and 7D give 6D owners a lot of bang for their buck considering the 6D's price as of this writing is $1,400 less than a 5D MKIII. Two of these features — multiple exposures and HDR (High Dynamic Range) shooting — are not only fun but also practical. The HDR image series can be processed in the camera or later in an HDR program of your choice.

The 6D is a fully capable still photography camera, but it is also an exciting storytelling tool with onboard high-resolution, and low noise video capture. There are two compression methods available for video recording, and audio levels can be controlled manually during recording. The Time code feature for movies offers four setup options, giving you flexibility when arranging clips.

For professional photographers, the 6D is a great primary or secondary camera; it's versatile enough to shoot demanding assignments, handle low light with ease, and keep on ticking with a shutter rated at 100,000 actuations. For aspiring professionals, the full-frame 6D is the ideal camera to help take their work and creative expression to the next level. The camera offers a full complement of creative and automatic options, intuitive controls, and a menu system that is easy to understand and navigate — all in a lightweight package with solid build quality at a relatively low cost.

Because the intended audience for the 6D is beginner to advanced amateur, this book reflects these levels. However, I know that some experienced photographers will buy this book, too, so I've tried to strike a balance and make the material useful to them as well.

Feel free to jump around the book at will, and reference random chapters in whole or in part. This is a great way to work when you're using the book to find a specific topic or feature. However, to lay a solid foundation for your experience with the 6D, and photography in general, I recommend that you read Chapters 1 through 5 first. These chapters cover important topics designed to help you learn about the camera from the ground up. They also cover essential basics, such as understanding and achieving great exposures and focus, best practices, setting up a good workflow, and getting great color. From there, you can explore Live View and Movie shooting, working with flash, and the 6D Wi-Fi functions in any order you want.

The team at Wiley and I hope that you enjoy reading and using this book as much as we enjoyed creating it for you.

D E B A K

Quick Tour

Whether you just got your Canon EOS 6D or you've been using it for a while, it's important to set up the camera for the image quality and program settings that suit your preferences and skill level. This Quick Tour gives you a brief look at the 6D's key controls and provides the basics for quickly setting up and using the camera.

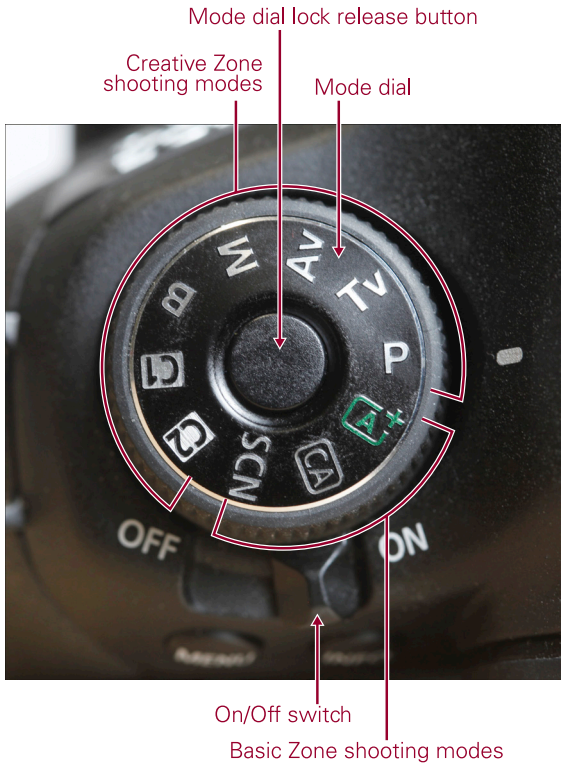
The 6D is versatile and fun to use. You can begin by using one of the automated modes or leverage a full range of creative options using the semi-automatic and manual modes — the choice is yours. As you gain experience, you gain the power and skills you need to take image creation with the 6D to the next level.

The sophisticated, yet simple-to-use capabilities of the Canon EOS 6D don't disappoint. Exposure: ISO 400, f/5.6, 1/1600 second with the Lensbaby Composer.

Key Canon EOS 6D Controls

The camera controls you'll use most often are easily within reach. The following main controls can be used together or separately to control key functions on the 6D:

- **Mode dial.** This dial enables you to choose an exposure mode and is grouped into two Zones: Basic and Creative. The Basic Zone is great for beginners who don't yet have a solid grasp of how to set exposure properly on their own. It's comprised of the following automatic modes: Scene Intelligent Auto (), Creative Auto (), and Special Scene (SCN). The second section on the Mode dial includes the Creative Zone exposure modes, which consist of Program Auto Exposure (AE for short) (**P**), Shutter-priority AE (**Tv**), Aperture-priority AE (**Av**), Manual (**M**), and Bulb (**B**), as well as two Custom modes, () and (), which users can use to program their favorite settings. Creative Zone exposure modes give you significantly more control over exposure settings; therefore, they are appropriate for more experienced or adventurous users. For the purpose of this Quick Tour, select Program AE (**P**) to get up and running quickly. Program AE mode (**P**) is fully automatic, but unlike the Basic Zone modes, it allows you to override the settings the camera determines to be optimum, and gives you access to all menu items and most camera features.



QT.1 The Mode dial.

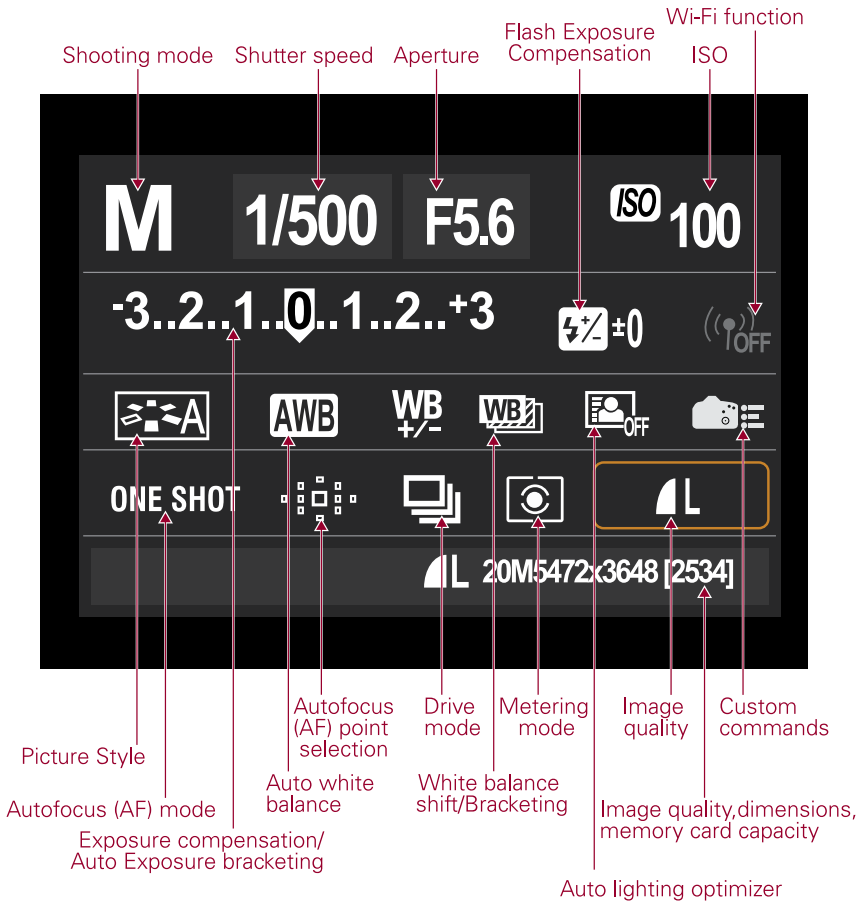
- **Quick Control dial (◌), Multi-controller (✲), and Set button (SET).** When shooting in any one of the Creative Zone exposure modes — Program AE (**P**), Shutter-priority AE (**Tv**), Aperture-priority AE (**Av**), Manual (**M**), Bulb (**B**), and the two custom modes (C1) and (C2) — you use the Quick Control dial (◌) to make adjustments to the ISO, and autofocus (AF), drive, and metering modes. Each setting is represented by a corresponding icon displayed on camera's top LCD panel. When you use the camera's menus, you'll use the Quick Control dial (◌) as well as the Multi-controller (✲) to navigate through the menu system, view options, and make selections. The Quick Control dial (◌) enables you to rotate through options and the Multi-controller (✲) allows you to move up, down, left, and right. With the Quick Control dial (Q), you can navigate the shooting controls and set almost all the relevant ones without having to access the menu system. Pressing the Set button (SET) confirms your choices.

QT.2 The Quick Control dial, Set button, and Multi-controller.

- **Main dial (▭) and shutter button.** Use the Main dial (▭) to move among camera menu tabs, make selections on the Quick Control screen, change the aperture in Aperture-priority AE shooting mode (**Av**), and change the shutter speed in Manual shooting mode (**M**). Half-press the shutter release button to set the focus and exposure. Continue holding the shutter button down halfway to lock both the exposure and focus, allowing you to recompose without losing these readings. Press the shutter button fully to capture the image.

QT.3 The shutter button and Main dial.

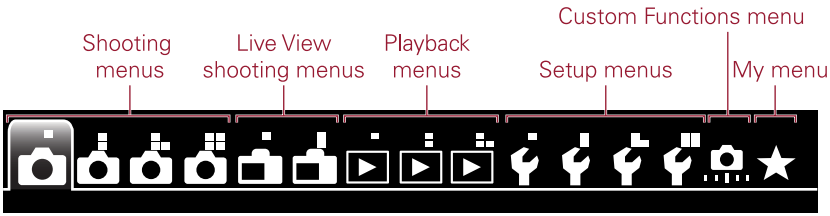
- **Live View shooting ( )/Movie shooting switch ( ).** Use this switch to change from shooting still images to movies. In Movie shooting mode use the Start/Stop button (START/STOP) in the center to start and stop movie recording.
- **Quick Control button (Q).** This button is on the back of the camera, and is handy for quick access to the camera settings you change most often as you shoot. Press the Quick Control button (Q), and then use the Multi-controller ( ) to select the setting you want to change. Turn the Main dial ( ) or Quick Control dial ( ) to adjust the setting. The number of settings you can adjust depends entirely on the shooting mode you choose. In the Creative Zone exposure modes — Program AE (**P**), Shutter-priority AE (**Tv**), Aperture-priority AE (**Av**), Manual (**M**), Bulb (**B**), and the two Custom modes (C1) and (C2) — you can adjust more camera settings than you can in the Basic Zone modes. When shooting in one of the Creative Zone modes, you can adjust White balance, Metering modes, Flash exposure compensation, and Picture Styles, just to name a few.



QT.4 The Quick Control screen.

The Canon EOS 6D Menu System

You set up much of the camera using the camera's menus. To help you navigate through the menus, similar settings are grouped and color-coded. Settings that affect shooting are located on the four Shooting menu tabs, which are highlighted in red when they're selected. The two Live View shooting menu tabs are next, and they're highlighted in red when selected. Following are three Playback menus, which are highlighted in blue when they're selected; three Setup menus, which are highlighted in yellow when they're selected; one Custom Functions menu, which is highlighted in orange when it's selected; and, last, one user settings menu tab (My Menu settings), which is highlighted in green when it's selected.



QT.5 The Canon EOS 6D menus.

It's important to note that available camera menus and their options change according to the shooting mode being used. In the automatic, or Basic Zone exposure modes, there are fewer options on camera menus than there are in the semiautomatic and manual modes in the Creative Zone exposure modes. Also, the menus change when you're in the Movie shooting ( ) and Live View shooting ( ) modes. So if you can't find one of the options mentioned in this book, first check to see what shooting mode the camera is in, and then switch to one of the Creative Zone exposure modes — Program AE (**P**), Shutter-priority AE (**Tv**), Aperture-priority AE (**Av**), Manual (**M**), Bulb (**B**), or one of the two Custom modes ( ) and ( ) — and check the menus again.

To use the camera menus, follow these steps:

1. **Press the Menu button (MENU) on the back of the camera.**
2. **Turn the Main dial ( ) to move to the camera menu tab that you want.** You can also press the left or right parts of the Multi-controller ( ) to move among the camera's menu tabs.
3. **Turn the Quick Control dial ( ), or press the top and bottom parts of the Multi-controller ( ) to move up and down through available menu options.**
4. **Press the Set button ( ) to display the sub-options or open additional screens.**

5. **Turn the Quick Control dial (◌) again, or press the top and bottom parts of the Multi-controller (✣) to move up and down through the available menu options.**
6. **Press the Set button (SET) to confirm your choices.**

Setting the date and time

QT.6 The Date/Time/Zone menu screen.

The camera asks you to set up the date and time the first time you turn it on. Once set, the date and time are included in the EXIF (Exchangeable Image File Format) data for every image you make. The EXIF data contains all the information about a picture, including the exposure information, camera settings, and the date and time you shot the picture. You can see this information when you view your images in ImageBrowser, a program on the EOS Solution Disk that comes with the camera. The date and time provides a handy record that you can use to recall when you took pictures, and it can help you organize images on your computer. You may need to reset the date and time if the battery runs out of power.

To set the date and time, follow these steps:

1. **On the Setup menu 2 tab (🔧), select Date/Time, and then press the Set button (SET).** The Date/Time screen appears with the month control selected.
2. **Press the Set button (SET) to activate the month control.** The camera adds up and down arrows to the month control.
3. **Press the up or down parts of the Multi-controller (✣) until the number of the current month appears, and then press the Set button (SET).**
4. **Press the right part of the Multi-controller (✣) to move to the next control, and then repeat Steps 2 and 3 to set the day, year, hour, minute, and second.**
5. **Select your Time zone by using the Multi-controller (✣) to highlight the Time zone selection option.** Highlighted option names appear at the top of the menu screen. Press the Set button (SET) to activate the Time zone options submenu, displaying an arrow above and below the highlighted field. Press the top or bottom of the Multi-controller (✣) to scroll through the available Time zones. Once the desired Time zone is displayed, press the Set button (SET) to confirm the Time zone selection.

6. **To account for daylight saving time, use the Multi-controller (✣) to highlight the Daylight Savings Time enable/disable option, which appears to the left of the Time zone setting, and then press the Set button (SET) to activate the Daylight Savings Time submenu.** An arrow appears above and below the highlighted field. Press the top or bottom of the Multi-controller (✣) to choose Daylight Savings Time enable (☀) or Daylight Savings Time disable (☀OFF). Press the Set button (SET) to confirm your selection.
7. **Press the left or right part of the Multi-controller (✣) to navigate to the OK button, and then press the Set button (SET) to confirm your selections.**

Setting the image quality

Choosing the image-recording quality is an important decision because it affects the following:

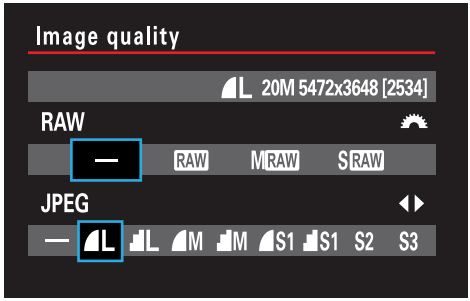
- **The maximum size at which you can print your images.** The higher the image quality, the larger the print you can make.
- **The number of images that you can store on the memory card.** The higher the image quality, the fewer images you can store on the card. Given that memory card prices have become much more affordable in recent years and their size has increased, it's worth getting a large memory card and taking advantage of the highest quality images the 6D can deliver.
- **The burst rate.** This is the maximum number of images captured when you shoot a series of images in rapid succession.

TIP The higher the image quality, the lower the burst rate. However, even at the Large/Fine quality, the burst rate using an 8GB memory card is 73 images. I recommend choosing the Large/Fine recording quality to get the highest quality JPEG images. Also, if you're an experienced photographer, I recommend you shoot RAW to get the best image quality possible.

Here's how to set the image quality using the Quick Control button (Q) (you also access and set image quality settings under the Shooting menu 1 tab):

1. **Press the Quick Control button (Q) on the back of the camera.** The Quick Control screen appears.
2. **Press the Multi-controller (✣) to select the Image-recording quality control located at the lower right of the screen, and then press the Set button (SET).** This control displays the currently selected image-recording quality as an icon; for example, a quarter-circle icon with the letter L appears if the camera is set to

Large/Fine JPEG recording. The Quality screen appears after you press the Set button (SET).



QT.7 The Image quality menu screen.

3. **Press the left or right parts of the Multi-controller (✣) to select the recording quality you want for JPEG capture or select the None symbol (—) if you don't want JPEGs captured, and then press the Set button (SET).** Use the Main dial (⟳) to select the recording quality you want for RAW capture, or the None symbol (—) if you don't want any RAW files captured. RAW and JPG files can be captured together simultaneously, which is sometimes a good option. As you move through the settings, the image dimensions in pixels and the number of images that you can store on the memory card installed are displayed at the top of the screen. The icons next to the letters on the Quality screen indicate the amount of compression. A quarter circle with a smooth edge, Large Fine (◢L), indicates low compression for high image quality while a jagged icon edge, Large Normal (▟L), indicates high compression for low image quality.

Choosing a Shooting Mode

While Chapter 3 is the best place to learn about the 6D's shooting modes in depth, here is a high-level summary to help you choose one:

- **When you want to set it and forget it, choose a shooting mode from the Basic Zone section of the Mode dial.** These include the Scene Intelligent Auto (A+), Creative Auto (CA), and Special Scene (SCN) modes. You can choose the image-quality settings and a few other options. Just press the Quick Control button (Q) to display the Quick Control screen that shows the adjustments you can make when using automated modes.

- **When you want more control with minimal adjustments, set the Mode dial to Creative Auto mode (CA).** Then press the Quick Control button (Q) on the back of the camera to display the Quick Control screen. On this screen, you can choose an Ambience setting that changes the overall contrast and color saturation of your images. You can set the level of the background blur, which is the same as changing the f-stop, only it's more intuitive. Just follow the onscreen instructions and press the left or right parts of the Multi-Controller (✣) to