GENERAL

canon 60d tips and tricks

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Introduction

When you first pick up the Canon EOS 60D, you may feel overwhelmed by its many buttons, dials, and menu options. While the camera's versatility is one of its greatest strengths, mastering it takes time and practice. This guide is designed to walk you through the essential tips and tricks that will help you unlock the full potential of your Canon 60D, whether you're a beginner looking to improve your photography or an experienced shooter seeking to refine your workflow.

We'll cover everything from basic settings and advanced features to shooting techniques, post processing tips, and essential accessories. By the end of this article, you'll be able to navigate the camera's interface with confidence, capture stunning images in a variety of conditions, and streamline your editing process. Let's dive in and discover the secrets that make the Canon 60D a beloved tool among photographers worldwide.

Getting to Know the Canon 60D

The Canon EOS 60D is a 12 megapixel full frame DSLR that debuted in 2010. Despite its age, it remains a solid choice for hobbyists and semi professionals thanks to its robust build, excellent image quality, and extensive feature set. The camera offers:

- Full frame CMOS sensor for rich detail and low noise performance.
- ISO range 100–6400 (expandable to 12800) for versatility in low light situations.
- Dual autofocus points with 9 point AF system.
- Built in Wi Fi and GPS for easy image transfer and location tagging.
- Full HD 1080p video recording with continuous autofocus.
- Optional remote shutter release and time lapse mode.

Understanding these core features is the first step toward mastering the camera. The following sections break down the key settings and functions that will help you get the most out of your 60D.

1. Basic Camera Settings

1.1 Setting the ISO

ISO determines your sensor's sensitivity to light. On the Canon 60D, the **ISO dial** is located on the top of the camera body. For most shooting conditions, keep ISO at the lowest value (100 or 200) to minimize noise. When shooting in low light or with a fast shutter speed, raise ISO gradually. Use the **Auto ISO**function sparingly, as it can lead to unpredictable results.

1.2 Aperture and Shutter Speed

Use the **mode dial** to select **Manual (M)**, **Shutter Priority (Tv)**, or **Aperture Priority (Av)** modes. In **Manual mode** , you control both aperture and shutter speed, giving you full creative control. In **Tv mode**, set the shutter speed and let the camera choose the aperture. In **Av mode**, set the aperture and let the camera pick the shutter speed. Remember that aperture influences depth of field, while shutter speed affects motion blur.

1.3 White Balance

The Canon 60D offers several white balance presets: **Auto, Daylight, Cloudy, Shade, Tungsten, Fluorescent, Flash, Custom**. For consistent results, use the **Custom White Balance** by photographing a neutral gray card under the lighting conditions you'll shoot in. This ensures accurate color reproduction.

1.4 Focus Mode and AF Points

Press the **AF button** to switch between **One Shot AF** (for stationary subjects) and **AI Servo AF** (for moving subjects). Use the **AF point selector** to choose a single point or **Zone AF** for broader coverage. For portrait photography, place the focus point on the subject's eye for sharp detail.

2. Advanced Camera Features

2.1 Dual Pixel CMOS AF

While the Canon 60D doesn't feature Dual Pixel AF, it does have a **9 point AF system** that can be enhanced with compatible lenses. For those who need more precise focusing, consider adding a **Canon EF EF-S lens** with a wide aperture (f/1.8 or f/2.8).

2.2 RAW vs. JPEG

Shoot in **RAW** to capture maximum dynamic range and editing flexibility. RAW files retain all sensor data, allowing you to adjust exposure, white balance, and sharpness in post processing without degrading image quality. JPEG is convenient for quick sharing but sacrifices flexibility.

2.3 Continuous Shooting and Burst Mode

The 60D can shoot at up to 5.5 frames per second in **Continuous Shooting (C2)** mode. Use this mode for action photography, sports, or wildlife. Keep the **shutter speed** fast enough to freeze motion (e.g., 1/500s or faster) and set the **AF mode** to AI Servo for continuous tracking.

2.4 Video Recording and Time Lapse

The camera records full HD 1080p video at 30fps. For time lapse photography, use the **Time Lapse (TL)** mode and set the interval between shots. Combine with a tripod to create smooth motion blur sequences or dynamic landscape shots.

2.5 Image Stabilization and Lens Options

While the Canon 60D itself does not have built in optical image stabilization, many lenses feature **Optical Image Stabilization (OIS)**. Pairing the camera with an OIS lens can reduce camera shake, especially in low light or when shooting handheld.

3. Shooting Techniques

3.1 Composition Basics

Apply the **Rule of Thirds** by placing key elements along grid lines. Use **leading lines** to guide the viewer's eye. For landscapes, capture the horizon at the top or bottom third to emphasize sky or foreground.

3.2 Depth of Field Control

To create a shallow depth of field, use a wide aperture (f/1.8–f/2.8) and a longer focal length. For portraits, keep the subject in focus while blurring the background. For landscapes, use a smaller aperture (f/8–f/11) to keep everything sharp.

3.3 Low Light Photography

In low light situations, combine a wide aperture, a slower shutter speed, and a higher ISO. Use a tripod or image stabilized lens to avoid camera shake. Consider **bracketing** exposures to ensure you capture the best image.

3.4 Macro Photography

Use a macro lens or the 60D's **Macro mode** to capture fine details. Keep the camera steady with a tripod and use a **remote shutter release** to eliminate vibration.

3.5 HDR Imaging

For high contrast scenes, shoot a bracketed set of exposures (e.g., " 2, 0, +2 EV). Merge them in post processing to retain detail in both shadows and highlights. The 60D's RAW format is ideal for this workflow.

4. Post Processing Workflow

4.1 RAW Development

Use **Adobe Lightroom** or **Capture One** to process RAW files. Adjust exposure, white balance, contrast, and clarity. Apply **local adjustments** to enhance specific areas of the image.

4.2 Noise Reduction

Apply **Noise Reduction** sparingly to avoid loss of detail. Use the **Detail** panel in Lightroom to fine tune the balance between noise reduction and sharpness.

4.3 Color Grading

Use **HSL/Color** sliders to refine hue, saturation, and luminance. For cinematic looks, experiment with **split toning** or **graduated filters**.

4.4 Export Settings

Export images in **JPEG** for web use (set quality to 80–90%) and in **TIFF** or **PNG** for print. Include **metadata** such as camera settings and GPS coordinates.

5. Essential Accessories

- Tripod – Stabilize the camera for low light and time lapse shots.
- Remote Shutter Release – Avoid camera shake when pressing the shutter button.
- Extra Batteries – The 60D's battery life is limited; keep spares on hand.
- Memory Cards – Use high speed SD cards (UHS I) to handle burst mode and RAW files.
- Lens Hood – Reduce lens flare and protect the front element.
- Filter Set – ND filters for long exposures, polarizers for reflections.
- Cleaning Kit – Maintain lens and sensor cleanliness for optimal image quality.

6. Maintenance and Care

6.1 Cleaning the Lens and Sensor

Use a **lens cleaning cloth** and **lens cleaning solution** to wipe the glass. For sensor cleaning, use a **sensor cleaning kit** with a soft brush and sensor cleaning fluid. Avoid touching the sensor with your fingers.

6.2 Firmware Updates

Check Canon's website for firmware updates. Updating can improve performance, add features, and fix bugs. Follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully.

6.3 Storage and Backup

Store the camera in a cool, dry place. Backup images to an external hard drive or cloud storage to protect against data loss.

7. Canon 60D Tips & Tricks

7.1 Custom Buttons

The 60D allows you to assign frequently used functions to **custom buttons** on the camera body. For example, set **Button 1** to **ISO** for quick adjustments, and **Button 2** to **White Balance**.

7.2 Quick Control Dial

Use the **Quick Control Dial**to adjust exposure compensation, focus, or ISO on the fly. This feature is invaluable during dynamic shooting situations.

7.3 Scene Modes

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