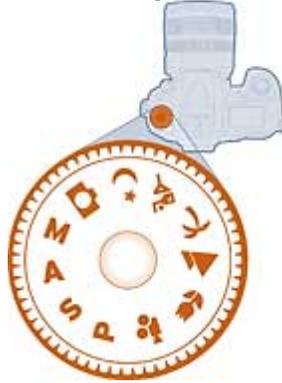


Digital Camera Icons Demystified

When you look at your digital camera, do you see all of the little icons on it? Yours may look different than everyone else's, but somewhere on your camera, you should be able to find them.

**What are they for?
What do they all mean?**



Each one represents a different mode on your camera. When you're taking a picture, you can choose between the modes to take the perfect picture. Usually, choosing the right mode either results in a great picture or a dud, so it's very important to understand what each one does.

These icons may not be in clear sight for you, but more than likely, you will see them in a type of control dial right on the top of your camera. If you don't see them anywhere on the actual camera, you might have to go into the main menu to find them.

Basic Icons



Camera On/Off: This turns your camera on/off.



Monitor: This turns on/off your viewing screen.



Battery: Shows you how much power is left in your battery.



Timer: Sets timed shutter release so you can be in the picture. Time varies from camera to camera. This setting allows reduces the effects of you pushing on the shutter release in extreme low light settings.



Playback: Allows you to view the pictures stored on your digital camera using your LCD display.



Delete: Removes unwanted images. Your camera will typically give you a pop up menu asking if you want to delete “this image” or “all images”. Once deleted, pictures can not be restored.



USB Port: This is the location to plug your USB cable into to download photos to your computer.

Camera Setting Icons



Automatic: This is usually the default setting for most digital cameras. The icon on your camera may read as "AUTO." This one automatically sets the camera's flash and focus by using the normal, average exposure settings. This can be used for normal picture taking, but if you want some special effects added to your pictures, keep reading.



Close Up: This mode should be used for any pictures you're taking from approximately two feet away or closer. If you really want to narrow in on a subject, use this one. Also, keep in mind that the flash probably won't automatically come on with this mode, so you'll have to set it manually yourself. You can take life-size pictures of insects, flowers, and other small subjects in this mode, but the focus range at such distances is very narrow.



Landscape: This one is used for any pictures you're taking of distant subjects. Also, the flash should not be on for these types of pictures. The landscape mode is also sometimes indicated by an 8 symbol.



Action/Sport Mode: If you take a lot of pictures of moving objects, this is the mode you'll want to use. It sets the shutter speed on your camera to its fastest mark so you can catch the subjects in motion. For these types of pictures, you should just use the flash as needed.



Night Mode: This mode is obviously used for pictures you take at night or for any low-light conditions. It uses a slow shutter speed and it may also use the flash automatically. The icons for this one may be a little different from camera to camera. Another one that is commonly used is a backlight mode that has a fill flash picture. This mode also helps with

shadowed objects. Be sure to hold the camera very still. When the shutter speed slows down, the lens stays open longer – MEANING – you will get a blurry camera if you don't hold still.



Portrait Mode: This one is used mostly for faces of people. It helps to blur out the background so you can focus in more on a person's face. It is used well with the red eye reduction mode, for a full effect, as well.



Sand and Snow: Brightly colored or glaring backgrounds can trick the camera into underexposing the subject. This mode overexposes the scene to gain details that would otherwise be lost.



Video Mode: Want to make videos with your digital camera? Then set your dial on this one. You can shoot short video clips with this mode.

Flash Setting Icons



AUTO

Auto Flash: This setting allows the camera to determine the appropriate flash levels.



Fill (force) Flash: This flash setting will fire regardless of whether the camera thinks it's necessary.



No Flash: This turns off the flash.



Red-eye Reduction Flash: This helps to reduce the problem of red-eye by initiating a series of small flashes just before the main flash ignites.

Advanced Setting Icons



Image Stabilization: If you're known to have shaky hands when you're taking pictures, use this mode. It helps to stabilize your camera so the image won't come out all blurry.



Manual Mode: This is also a very common mode to use. You use buttons on the camera's body to set both shutter speed and aperture size. Remember, though, that you're working without a safety net--the camera won't protect you from under- or overexposure.

A·Av



Aperture-Priority Mode: With this one, you can manually set your camera's aperture setting (which is the diameter of the lens), while your camera controls the shutter speed for you. When you set the size of the aperture, your camera automatically provides the right shutter speed to deliver a correct exposure. Rely on this mode to blur the background or to keep the entire image in sharp focus.

STTV



Shutter-Priority Mode: This one is just the opposite of the one above. With it, you can manually determine the shutter speed, while your camera controls the aperture.

Well, there you have it. The most common digital camera icons explained just for you. With this tip and a little extra help from your camera's manual, you can be a picture taking pro in no time!