



# USING BACK BUTTON AUTO-FOCUS

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# Using Back Button Auto-focus

- What is it?
- Why use it?
- Potential Issues
- Setting it up
- My personal experience



# Default DSLR Settings

- Exposure setting and auto-focus controlled by the shutter button
- Half press sets exposure and focus
- Separate controls to:
  - change location of AF focus point
  - switch between single shot and continuous AF (AI Servo)



# There is Another Way

- Nearly all DSLRs can disable AF on shutter release
- Reassign AF to another button on back of the camera
- Press this button once – activates single shot AF
- Release button – locks focus
- Keep button pressed – activate continuous AF
- Press shutter release – sets exposure and captures image



# Potential Benefits

- Allows you to easily swap between continuous and single autofocus
- Allows you to easily lock focus
- Helps prevent focus errors
- Makes it easy to swap between auto and manual focus



# Potential Issues

- Tricky to set up
  - Different for every make (and even varies across models from same make)
  - Requires delving into the menu
- Need to remember to press the focus button!
- Does not enable you to do anything you cannot do with the default set up



# Set up – General Principles

- 1. Disable AF on the shutter release
- 2. Enable AF on the chosen back button
- 3. Switch AF mode to Continuous



## Set Up – Canon

- If your model has an AF-ON button use this







## Set Up – Canon

- If not, use the AE Lock button - labelled \*





## Set Up – Canon using AF ON button

- Make sure you are in a “Creative Zone” mode (P, Tv, Av, M)
- Press Menu
- Select Custom Functions (C.Fn)
- Select Custom Function IV: Operation/Others
- Select menu 1: Shutter button/AF-ON button
- Select option 2: Metering Start/Metering + AF Start
- Exit from menu
- Press AF button to call up AF Mode menu
- Select AI Servo



## Set Up – Canon using AE lock button

- Make sure you are in a “Creative Zone” mode (P, Tv, Av, M)
- Press Menu
- Select Custom Functions (C.Fn)
- Select Custom Function 12: Shutter/AE lock button
- Select option 1: AE lock/AF
- Exit from menu
- Press ► to call up AF Mode menu
- Select AI Servo



## Set up - Nikon

- [https://youtu.be/R1aUw3\\_WUBQ?t=201](https://youtu.be/R1aUw3_WUBQ?t=201)



# Personal Experience

- Initially kept forgetting to press the \*\*\*\* button especially on first use
- Can be tricky if you use several different cameras including ones where BBAF is not possible
- Definitely speeds things up especially if you often compose with the subject off centre



# Back Button Auto-focus

- Not for everyone but..
- ...please do try it for a while



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