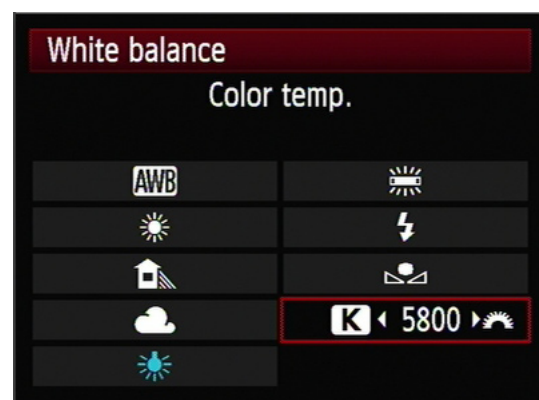


Tyler Stableford's Custom Functions for the Canon EOS 5D Mark II

Many people have asked me which settings I use for white balance, color space, video mode, and custom functions, etc. Here is list of the settings that I 'customize' on my Canon EOS 5D Mark II -- they are simply settings that I find helpful, and are in no way the absolute-best way. I hope that you find them useful!

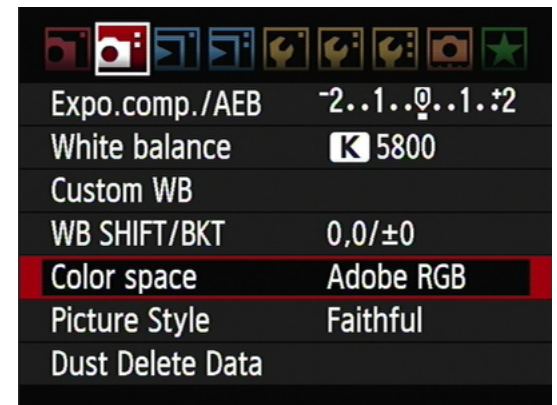
White Balance. For outdoor shooting, I commonly set my white balance to 5800K, even when using strobes and reflectors. I can always change the white balance later when processing the raw files.



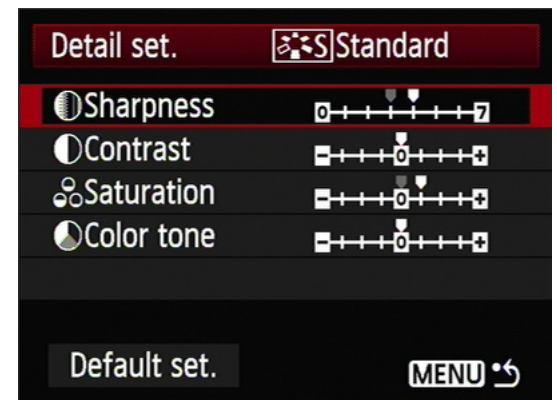
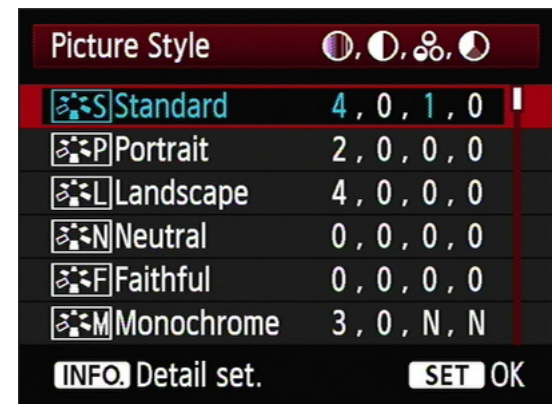
When shooting outdoors in variable light, I commonly bracket my images 2/3 stop on either side. This increases my success rate of 'keepers.'



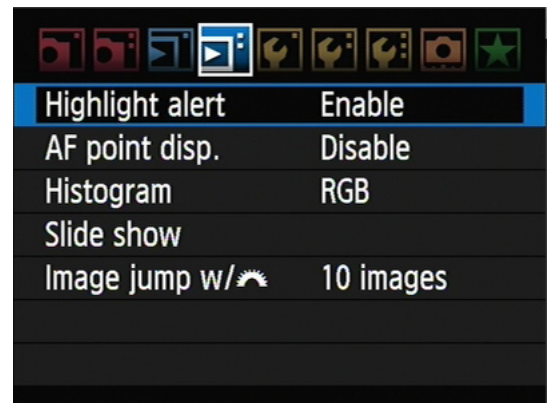
Select Adobe RGB over sRGB if you'll be shooting RAW, it's a larger color space.



I set my “Picture Style” settings to Standard, then customize them using the Info button to add one notch of extra sharpness and saturation. These settings are optimized for shooting video, but also seem to work well for stills.



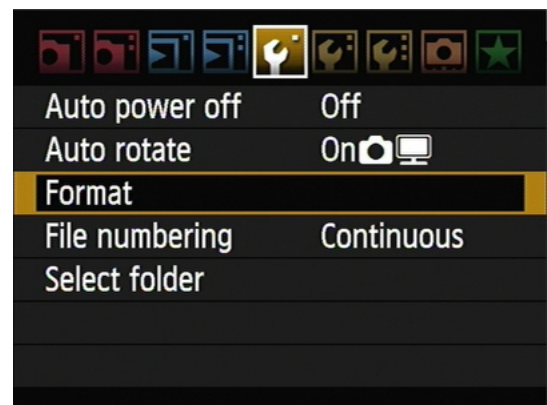
On my histogram/display screen, I like to have the highlight alert enabled, so the highlights flash white in the review screen. This doesn't mean I always decrease the exposure, just that I can see what's happening.



I set my Histogram readout to see the Red, Green and Blue channels. This is helpful to see if, say, a model's face is overexposed, as it will usually be in the Red channel.



I use the Format command to clear my flashcards; just be sure to move your cursor somewhere else after formatting so you don't accidentally format mid-shoot.



I customize my Live View/Movie Function settings to enable Live View, and add a detailed grid to the screen, which helps with leveling the horizon. See below for more details.



These are the settings I prefer to use, on the right:

Live View/Movie func. set.	
LV func. setting	📷+🎥/Exp.SIM
Grid display	Grid 2 ▯▯▯
Silent shoot.	Mode 1
Metering timer	16 sec.
AF mode	Live 🔍 mode
Movie rec. size	1920x1080
Sound recording	On

And under Live View Function Settings, I select
“Stills + Movie”

Live View function settings	
➔ Stills+movie	📷+🎥
Exposure simulation	Exp.SIM
LV func. setting	
Disable	
Stills only	
Stills+movie	
MENU Cancel	SET Next

Then I select ‘Exposure Simulation in the next option,
which allows for auto-exposure of video. (You can always
use the Exposure Compensation dial to +/- the exposure by
two stops.

Live View function settings	
Stills+movie	📷+🎥
➔ Exposure simulation	Exp.SIM
Screen settings	
Stills display	
Exposure simulation	
Movie display	
MENU Previous	SET OK

**If you’d like to shoot video in full manual-exposure
mode, select ‘Movie Display’ rather than ‘Exposure
Simulation.’ I use this when I want to get a very limited
depth of field, etc.

Live View function settings	
Stills+movie	📷+🎥
➔ Movie display	🎥 DISP.
Screen settings	
Stills display	
Exposure simulation	
Movie display	
MENU Previous	SET OK

Custom Functions:

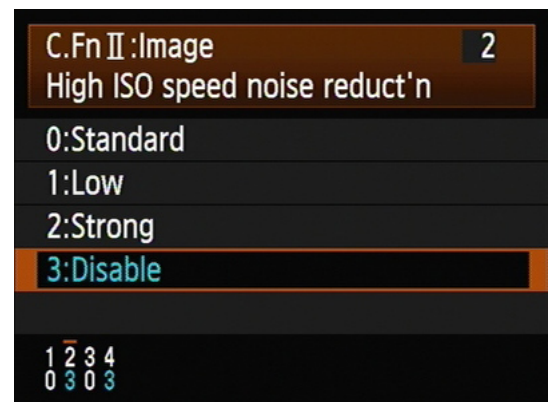
1-3: I like to enable ISO expansion, which most importantly lets me shoot at ISO 50 if I want to use a lower shutter speed etc.



1-4: Important to turn this to “off” or else your auto-bracketing will cancel after only 3 frames!



Because I hand-process each of my raw images, I don't want the camera doing it for me. It does a good job, though, so you can leave it on if you'd rather not spend the time dealing with noise reduction later.



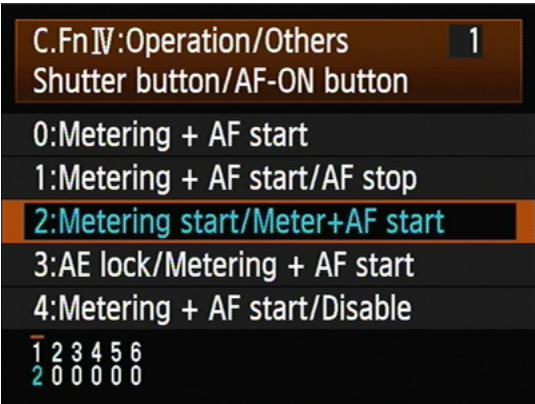
When shooting in snow, on water, in heavily backlit scenes, or with lots of clouds in the scene, Highlight Tone Priority captures more detail in the highlights. I recommend it; it bumps your minimum ISO to 200, but that's not a big deal.



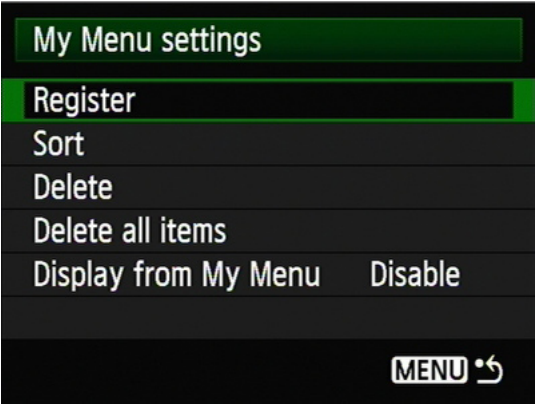
I disable Auto Lighting Optimizer (which is like the Fill Light command in Lightroom), as I like to do my own processing. Experiment and see what works for you!



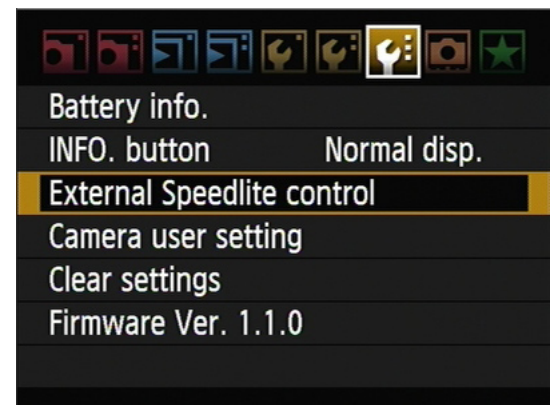
I like this Custom Function 4-1 to be set to #2. This allows me to focus using the thumb button, rather than having the camera focus when I press the shutter button halfway down.



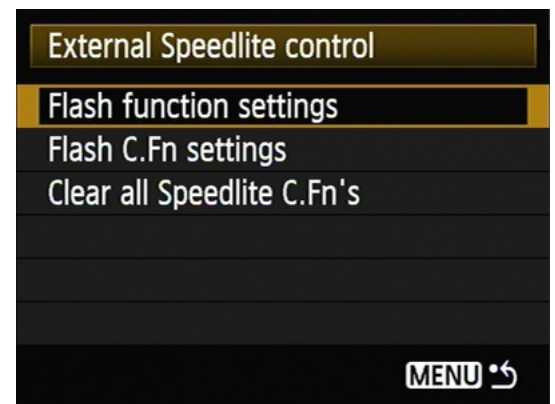
I like to register my most-used settings on the last page of the display, under My Menu Settings. Click 'Register' to start adding your favorites. See the screen below for my setup.



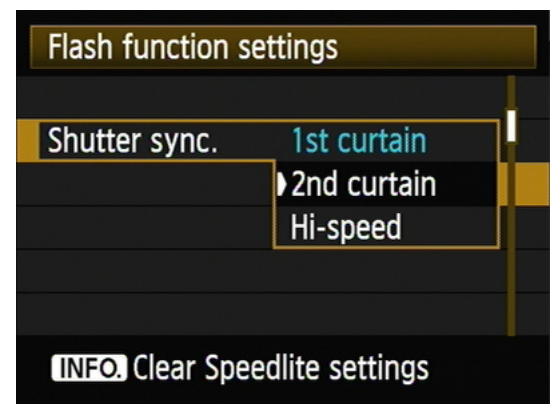
Speedlites: When you have a Speedlite attached to your camera (not needed with the 7D as it has a pop-up flash capable of serving as a wireless transmitter), you can use this pane to control both your on-camera flash as well as all wireless flashes.



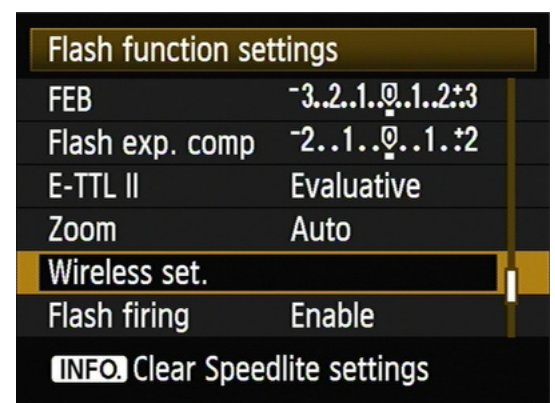
Click the “External Speedlite Control” button and then the ‘Flash Function Settings’ button to access the control panel.



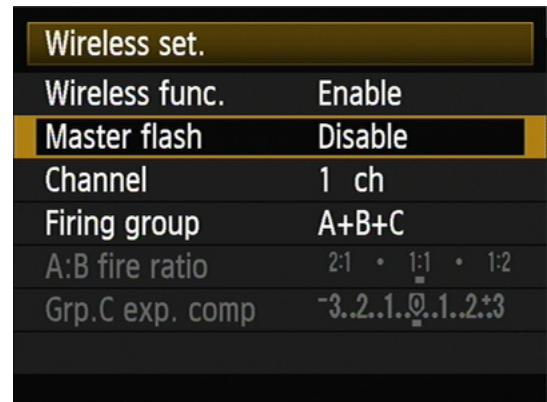
I prefer 2nd curtain shutter sync, it allows me to shoot at a slow shutter speed and have the flash freeze the action at the close of the shutter. I use Hi-Speed sync when shooting above 1/250th of a second, handy for sports etc.



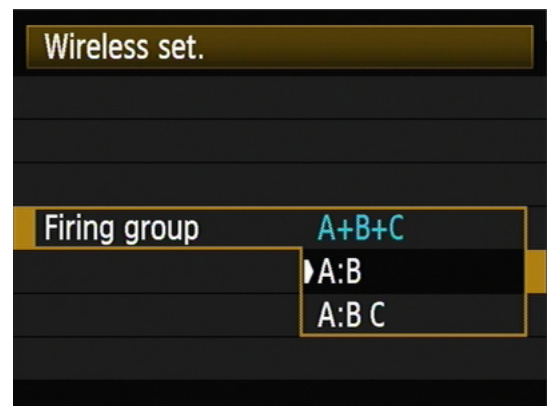
Wireless Settings will less you control your wireless flashes right from this pane.



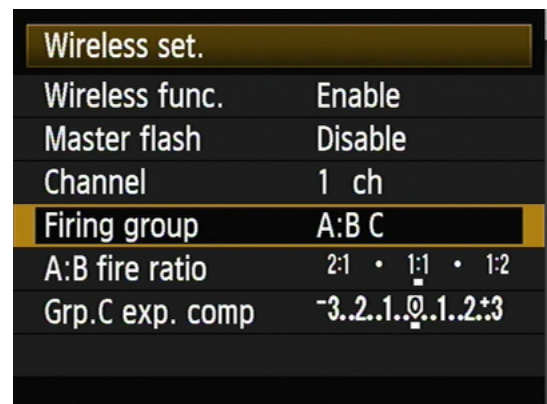
Here you can choose to enable or disable your ‘Master Flash,’ which is your on-camera flash. Make sure that ‘Wireless func’ above is Enabled if you want to trigger wireless flashes.



Here you can choose to have all flashes work together as one TTL unit (A+B+C), or set ratios of two wireless flash groups (A:B) or three flash groups (A:B C).



This is what the Wireless Settings panel looks like when I’m ready to shoot with three wireless flashes (or three groups of wireless flashes, as you can add multiple flashes to each group if desired).



Under the Flash Custom Function Settings under ‘External Speedlite Control “(see the image on the previous page), I often disable auto-power-off so the wireless flashes don’t go to sleep. It can be a hassle to wake them up, but it runs the batteries down more quickly.

Happy shooting!

