Exploring the Nikon D60

CHAPTER 1

In This Chapter

Key components of the D60

Viewfinder display

Shooting info display

This chapter covers the key components of the Nikon D60. These are the features that are most readily accessible because they are situated on the outside of the camera: the buttons, knobs, switches, and dials.

If you are upgrading or switching from another dSLR, some of this may be a review, but there are some new features that you may or may not be aware of, so a quick read-through is a good idea even if you are an experienced Nikon dSLR user.

For those who may be just beginning in the world of dSLRs, this chapter is a great way to get acquainted with some of the terms that are used in conjunction with your new camera.

So fasten your seatbelts, and get ready to explore the D60!

Key Components of the D60

If you've read the Quick Tour, you should be pretty familiar with the basic buttons and switches that you need to do the essential settings. In this section, you look at the camera from all sides and break down the layout so that you know what everything on the surface of the camera does.

This section doesn't cover the menus, only the exterior controls. Although there are many features you can access with just the push of a button, oftentimes you can change the same setting inside of a menu option. Although the D60 doesn't have the same amount of buttons as some of its bigger siblings in the Nikon line, it does have quite a few of them. Knowing exactly what these buttons do can save you loads of time and help you get the shot.

Top of the camera

The top of the D60 is where you find some of the most important buttons and dials. This is where you can change the shooting mode and press the Shutter Release button to take your photo. Also included in this section is a brief description of some of the things you find on the top of the lens. Although your lens may vary, most of the features are quite similar from lens to lens.

- **Shutter Release button.** In my opinion, this is the most important button on the camera. Halfway pressing this button activates the camera's autofocusing and light meter. When you fully depress this button the shutter is released and a photograph is taken. When the camera has been idle and has "gone to sleep," lightly pressing the Shutter Release button wakes up the camera. When the image review is on, lightly pressing the Shutter Release button turns off the LCD and prepares the camera for another shot.
- **On/Off switch.** This switch, located around the Shutter Release button, is used to turn the camera on and off. Push the switch all the way to the left to turn off the camera. Pull the switch to the right to turn your camera on.
- **Mode dial.** This is an important dial. Rotating this dial allows you to quickly change your shooting mode. You can choose one of the Digital Vari-Program modes, one of the semiautomatic modes, or you can choose to set the exposure manually.

For a detailed description of all of the exposure modes, see Chapter 2.

- **Exposure compensation/ Aperture button.** Pressing this button in conjunction with spinning the Command dial (the Command dial is the wheel on the rear of the camera) allows you to modify the exposure that is set by the D60's light meter or the exposure you set in Manual exposure mode. Turning the Command dial to the right decreases exposure, while turning the dial to the left increases the exposure. This button also doubles as the Aperture button when the camera is set to Manual exposure mode. Pressing the button while rotating the Command dial allows you to adjust your lens aperture. Additionally, when pressing this button in conjunction with the flash mode you can adjust your flash exposure compensation by rotating the Command dial.
- **Active D-Lighting.** Pressing this button and rotating the command dial allows you to quickly turn on and off the Active D-Lighting function. Active D-Lighting helps to keep your highlights and shadow areas from being too dark or too light in high contrast situations.
- **Focal plane mark.** The focal plane mark shows you where the plane of the image sensor is inside the camera. When doing certain types of photography, particularly macro photography using a bellows lens, you need to measure the length of the bellows from the front element of the lens to the focal plane. This is where the focal plane mark comes in handy.

- **Hot shoe.** This is where an accessory flash is attached to the camera body. The hot shoe has an electronic contact that tells the flash to fire when the shutter is released. There are also a number of other electronic contacts that allow the camera to communicate with the flash to enable the automated features of a dedicated flash unit such as the SB-600.
- **Focus ring.** Rotating the focus ring enables you to manually focus the camera. With some lenses, such as the high-end Nikkor AF-S lenses, you can manually adjust the focus at any time. With the kit lens you must set the lens to Manual focus using the Focus mode switch on the side of the lens. Rotating the focus ring while the lens is set to autofocus can damage your lens.
- **Zoom ring.** Rotating the zoom ring allows you to change the focal length of the lens. Prime lenses do not have a zoom ring.
- **Focal length indicators.** These numbers indicate which focal length in millimeters your lens is zoomed to.

Cross-Reference *For more information on lenses, see Chapter 4.*

Image courtesy of Nikon, Inc.

1.1 Top-of-the-camera controls

Back of the camera

The back of the camera is where you find the buttons that mainly control playback and menu options, although there are a few buttons that control some of the shooting functions. Most of the buttons have more than one function—a lot of them are used in conjunction with the Command dial or the multiselector. On the back of the camera you also find several key features, including the all-important viewfinder and LCD.

- **LCD.** This is the most obvious feature on the back of the camera. This 2.5-inch, 230,000-dot liquid crystal display (LCD) screen is a very bright, high-resolution screen. The LCD is where you view all of your current camera settings as well as review your images after shooting.
- **Eye sensor.** This sensor detects when you put the camera's viewfinder up to your eye. This is used to automatically turn off the shooting information displayed on the LCD and turn on the Viewfinder shooting information.
- **Viewfinder.** This is what you look through to compose your photographs. Light coming through the lens is reflected from a single front-silvered mirror and a pentaprism enabling you to see exactly what you're shooting. Around the viewfinder is a rubber eyepiece that gives you a softer place to rest your eye and to block any extra light from entering the viewfinder as you compose and shoot your images.

Image courtesy of Nikon, Inc.

1.2 Back-of-the-camera controls

- **Diopter adjustment control.** Just to the right of the viewfinder, hidden behind the eyecup, is the Diopter adjustment control. Use this control to adjust the viewfinder lens to suit your individual vision differences (not everyone's eyesight is the same). To adjust this, look through the viewfinder, and press the Shutter Release button halfway to focus on something. If what you see in the viewfinder isn't quite sharp, slide the Diopter adjustment up or down until everything appears in focus. The manual warns you not to put your finger or fingernail in your eye. I agree that this might not be a good idea.
- **AE-L/AF-L/Protect.** The Auto-Exposure/Auto-Focus lock button is used to lock the auto exposure (AE) and autofocus (AF). You can also customize the button to lock only the AE or only the AF, or you can set the button to initiate AF (this setting is in the Custom Settings Menu, CSM-12). When in playback mode this button can be pressed to lock an image to protect it from being deleted. A small key icon will be displayed in the upper left-hand corner of images that are protected.

For more information on the Custom Settings menu see Chapter 3.

- **Command dial.** This dial is used to change a variety of settings depending on which button you are using in conjunction with it. By default, it is used to change the shutter speed when in Shutter Priority and Manual mode or the aperture when in Aperture Priority mode. It is also used to adjust Exposure compensation and change the Flash mode.
- **Multiselector.** The multiselector is another button that serves a few different purposes. In Playback mode, the multiselector is used to scroll through the photographs you've taken, and it can also be used to view image information such as histograms and shooting settings. When in certain Shooting modes, the multiselector can be used to change the active focus point when in Single point or Dynamic area AF mode. This is the button used to navigate through the menu systems.
- **OK button.** When in the Menu mode, press this button to select the menu item that is highlighted.
- **Delete button.** When reviewing your pictures, if you find some that you don't want to keep you can delete them by pressing this button marked with a trashcan icon. To prevent accidental deletion of images the camera displays a dialog box asking you to confirm that you want to erase the picture. Press the Delete button a second time to permanently erase the image.
- **Playback button.** Pressing this button displays the most recently taken photograph. You can also view other pictures by pressing the multiselector left and right.
- **Menu button.** Press this button to access the D60 menu options. There are a number of different menus including Playback, Shooting, Custom Settings, and Retouch. Use the multiselector to choose the menu you want to view.

- **Thumbnail/Zoom out/Help button.** In Playback mode, pressing this button allows you to go from full-frame playback (or viewing the whole image) to viewing thumbnails. The thumbnails can display either four images or nine images on a page. When viewing the menu options, pressing this button displays a help screen that explains the functions of that particular menu option. When in Shooting mode, pressing this button explains the functions of that particular mode.
- **Zoom in/Info display/Quick settings button.** When reviewing your images you can press the Zoom in button to get a closer look at the details of your image. This is a handy feature for checking the sharpness and focus of your shot. When zoomed in, use the multiselector to navigate around within the image. To view your other images at the same zoom ratio you can rotate the Command dial. To return to full-frame playback, press the Zoom out button. You may have to press the Zoom out button multiple times depending on how much you have zoomed in. When the camera is "asleep" pressing this button displays the Shooting info. When the Shooting info is displayed, pressing the button again gives you access to the Quick Settings menu. When in the Quick Settings menu, use the multiselector to highlight the desired setting to change then press the OK button to access the options.

The Zoom in / Info display / Quick settings button is one of two buttons that has a green dot beside it. The other button is the Active D-Lighting button. Pressing and holding these two buttons at the same time for 2 seconds resets all camera menus and settings to camera default.

For more detailed information on the Quick Settings menu, see Chapter 3.

- **Memory card access lamp.** Located just to the right of the Delete button is the memory card access lamp. This light will flash green when the camera is saving to the memory card. Under no circumstances should you try to remove the memory card when this lamp is lit. You can damage your card and/or camera and lose your images.

Front of the camera

The front of the D60 (lens facing you) is where you find the buttons to quickly adjust the flash settings as well as some camera-focusing options, and with certain lenses you will find some buttons that control focusing and Vibration Reduction (VR).

- **Flash pop-up/Flash mode/Flash Exposure compensation button.** Press this button to open and activate the built-in Speedlight. Pressing this button and rotating the Command dial on the rear of the camera allows you to choose a flash mode. You can choose from among Front-curtain sync, Red-eye reduction, Red-eye reduction with

slow sync, Slow sync, and Rear curtain sync. After the flash pops up, pressing this button in conjunction with the Exposure compensation button and rotating the Command dial allows you to adjust the Flash Exposure Compensation (FEC). FEC allows you to adjust the flash output to make the flash brighter or dimmer, depending on your needs.

Cross-Reference *For more information on flash modes see Chapter 6.*

- **Self-timer/Function (Fn) button.** By default, pressing this button activates the camera's self-timer. When the self-timer is on, the camera delays the shutter release to allow you to get into the picture or to reduce vibration caused by shaking the camera when pressing the Shutter Release button while the camera is attached to a tripod. This button can also be set to provide other functions. You can set the button to quickly change from single to continuous shot, image quality, ISO sensitivity, or white balance via the Quick settings menu. Pressing the Fn button and rotating the Command dial changes the settings for the specific function assigned. The Fn button can be assigned to a specific function in CSM 11.

Cross-Reference *For more information on the Custom Settings menu (CSM), see Chapter 3.*

- **Lens release button.** This button disengages the locking mechanism of the lens, allowing the lens to be rotated and removed from the lens mount.

Image courtesy of Nikon, Inc.

1.3 Front right camera controls

- **Lens Focus mode selector.** This switch is used to choose between using the lens in Auto or Manual focus.
- **VR switch.** If your lens features Vibration Reduction (VR) technology, this switch allows you to turn the VR on or off. When shooting in bright light it's best to turn the VR off to reduce battery consumption.
- **Built-in flash.** This option is a handy feature that allows you to take sharp pictures in low-light situations. Although not as versatile as one of the external Nikon Speedlights such as the SB-800 or SB-600, the built-in flash can be used very effectively and is great for snapshots.
- **AF-assist illuminator.** This is an LED that shines on the subject to help the camera focus in dim lighting. The AF-assist illuminator only lights when in Single focus mode (AF-S) or Automatic focus mode (AF-A).
- **Infrared receiver.** This allows you to wirelessly control the camera's shutter release using the optional ML-L3 infrared transmitter.

Sides and bottom of camera

The sides and bottom of the camera have places for connecting and inserting things such as cables, batteries, and memory cards.

Image courtesy of Nikon, Inc.

1.4 Left front camera controls

Right side

On the right side of the camera (with the lens facing you), are the D60's output terminals. These are used to connect your camera to a computer or to an external source for viewing your images directly from the camera. These terminals are hidden under a plastic cover that helps keep out dust and moisture.

- **Video out.** This connection, officially called Standard video output, is used to connect the camera to a standard TV or VCR for viewing your images on-screen. The D60 is connected with the EG-D100 video cable that is supplied with the camera.
- **USB port.** This is where the USB cable plugs in to attach the camera to your computer to transfer images straight from the camera. The USB cable is also used to connect the camera to the computer when using Nikon's optional Camera Control Pro 2 software.

1.5 The D60's output terminals

Left side

On the left side of the camera (lens facing you) is the memory card slot cover. Sliding this door toward the back of the camera opens it so you can insert or remove your memory card.

1.6 Memory card slot cover

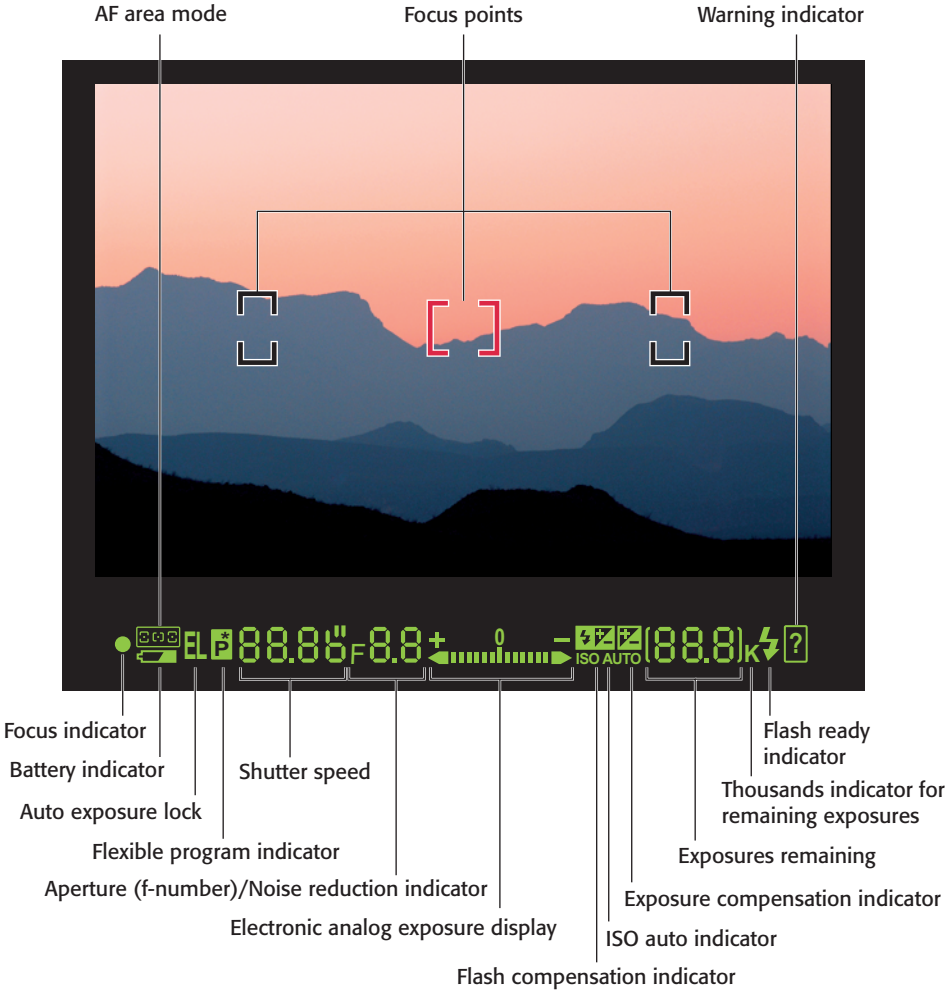
Bottom

The bottom of the camera has a couple of features that are quite important.

- **Battery chamber cover.** This covers the chamber that holds the EN-EL9 battery that is supplied with your D60.
- **Tripod socket.** This is where you attach a tripod or monopod to help steady your camera.

Viewfinder Display

When looking through the viewfinder not only do you see the image you are composing, but there is also a lot of useful information about the photo you are setting up. Here is a complete list of all the information you can get from the viewfinder display.



1.7 Viewfinder display showing all icons

- **Focus indicator.** This is a green dot that lets you know if the camera detects that the scene is in focus. When focus is achieved, the green dot lights up; when the scene is not in focus, the green dot blinks.
- **Focus point display.** When in Dynamic-area or Single Point AF modes this shows you which AF point is chosen by showing it with a bracket around it. When set to Closest Subject mode no AF point is chosen
- **EL lock.** When this is lit you know that the auto exposure has been locked.
- **Flexible program indicator.** When this is lit it lets you know that the exposure has been modified from the original settings defined when using the Programmed Auto exposure mode. To return to the default settings rotate the Command dial until this indicator disappears.

- **Shutter speed display/noise reduction indicator.** This shows how long your shutter is set to stay open. When the camera is performing noise reduction "job nr" is displayed here.
- **Aperture/f-stop display.** This shows what your current lens opening setting is.
- **Electronic analog exposure display/Exposure compensation/Rangefinder.** Although Nikon gives this feature a long and confusing name, in simpler terms this is your light meter. When the bars are in the center you are at the proper settings to get a good exposure; when the bars are to the right you are underexposed; and when the bars are to the left you are overexposing your image. This feature is especially handy when using Manual exposure. When the Exposure Compensation button is pressed this indicates how much over- or underexposure is being set. When the Rangefinder option is turned on (CSM 19) this shows you a bar graph that indicates distance. When the subject is in focus there is one bar on either side of a 0. When the bars are displayed to the left this indicates that you are focused in front of the subject; bars to the right indicate that the focus is falling behind the subject. Use the focus ring to adjust the focus. The Rangefinder display is not available when shooting in Manual exposure mode. The range finder function is only available in Manual focus mode and is automatically activated when you attach a non-CPU manual focus lens.
- **FEC indicator.** When this is displayed your Flash exposure compensation is on.
- **Exposure compensation indicator.** When this appears in the viewfinder, Exposure compensation is activated, and you may not get a correct exposure.
- **Remaining exposures.** This set of numbers lets you know how many more exposures can fit on the memory card. The actual number of exposures may vary according to file information and compression. When the Shutter Release button is half-pressed, the display changes to show how many exposures can fit in the camera's *buffer* before the buffer is full and the frame rate slows down. The buffer is in-camera memory that stores your image data while the data is being written to the memory card. This area also indicates that the white balance is ready to be set by flashing PRE it displays the amount of exposure compensation and FEC when the exposure compensation button is pressed. It tells you whether the Active D-Lighting is on or off when the Active D-Lighting button is pressed, and also indicates when your camera is attached to a computer.
- **Flash ready indicator.** When this is displayed the flash, whether it is the built-in flash or an external Speedlight attached to the hot shoe, is fully charged and ready to fire at full power.
- **Warning indicator.** When this question mark icon is flashing the camera is warning you that there may be a problem with your settings. Press the Help button to view the warning.

- **Battery indicator.** This appears when the battery is low. When the battery is completely exhausted this icon blinks and the shutter release is disabled.
- **Auto ISO indicator.** This is displayed when the automatic ISO setting is activated to let you know that the camera is controlling the ISO settings.
- **K.** This lets you know that there are more than 1,000 exposures remaining on your memory card.

Shooting Info Display

When the camera is turned on the Shooting info is automatically displayed on the LCD monitor screen. The Shooting info display shows some of the same shooting information that appears in the viewfinder, but there are also some settings that are only displayed here. When this is displayed on the LCD you can view and change the settings without looking through the viewfinder. The Shooting info remains on display until no buttons have been pushed for about 8 seconds, your eye is put up to the viewfinder, or the Shutter Release button is pressed.

This display shows you everything you need to know about your camera settings. Additionally, the camera has a built-in sensor that knows when the camera is being held vertically and the Shooting info is displayed upright no matter which way you hold your camera.

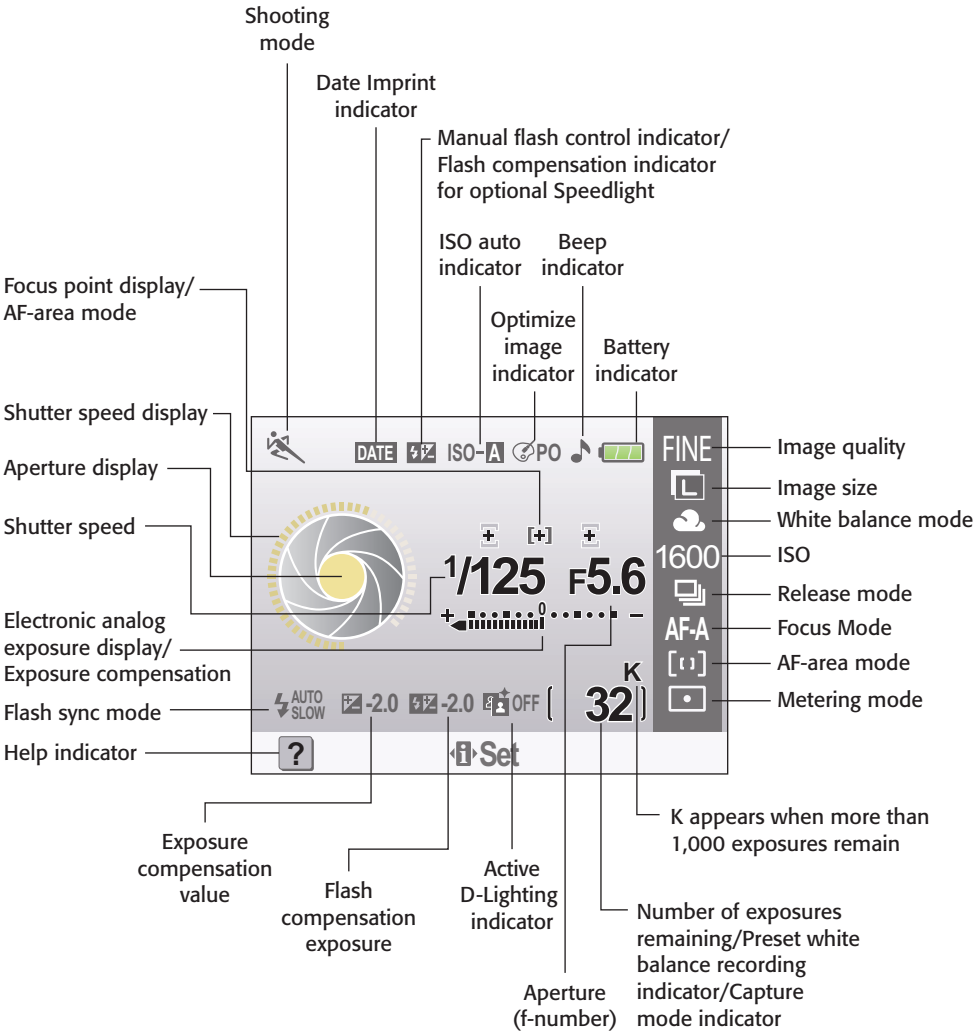
The camera also allows you a number of options on how the information is displayed. You can choose between Classic, Graphic, and Wallpaper. You can also change the color of the Shooting info display. You can choose black, blue, or orange. You can also choose a different display for the DVP and P, S, A, and M modes. These setting can be accessed in the Setup menu under the Info display format menu.

For more info on the Set-up menu, see Chapter 3.

- **Shooting mode.** This displays the shooting mode that your camera is currently set to. This can be one of the DVP modes, in which case the display will be the appropriate icon or one of the semiauto modes such as P, S, A, or M, in which case the display shows the corresponding letter. This display changes when the Mode dial is rotated.
- **Shutter speed.** This shows in seconds or fractions of seconds how long your shutter will stay open when the Shutter Release button is pressed.
- **Aperture (f- number).** This tells you how wide your aperture or lens opening is. The terms *aperture* and *f-stop* are interchangeable. Higher f-numbers denote smaller openings while lower f-numbers mean that the opening is wider, letting in more light.
- **Shutter speed display.** When set to the Graphic mode this gives you a visual idea about the length of your shutter speed.
- **Aperture display.** When set to Graphic mode this shows you approximately what your lens opening looks like.

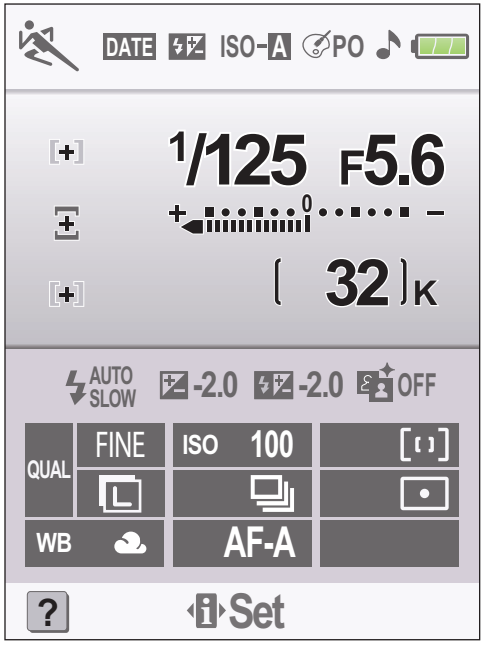
- **Electronic analog exposure display/Exposure compensation.** This is your light meter. When the bars are in the center, you are at the proper settings to get a good exposure; when the bars are to the right, you are underexposed; when the bars are to the left, you are overexposing your image. This feature comes in especially handy when using Manual exposure.
- **Flash exposure compensation.** This shows you the amount, if any, of flash exposure compensation. Flash exposure compensation (FEC) is used to make the flash more or less bright. FEC is set by simultaneously pressing the Flash mode button, the Exposure compensation button, and rotating the Command dial.
- **Flash sync mode.** This shows which mode your flash is set to. You can change the flash mode by pressing the Flash button and rotating the Command dial.
- **Exposure compensation value.** This shows the amount of exposure compensation, if any, that has been set. Exposure compensation is used to increase or decrease the amount of exposure to fine-tune your image.
- **Help indicator.** When this icon is flashing there may be a problem with one of your settings. Pressing the Help/Zoom out button displays information on rectifying the problem.
- **Active D-Lighting indicator.** This shows whether you have Active D-Lighting on or off. Active D-Lighting can be set by pressing the Active D-Lighting button and rotating the Command dial.
- **Number of remaining exposures/Preset white balance recording indicator/Capture mode indicator.** This shows you approximately how many exposures can be saved to your memory card. When the Preset White Balance is ready to be set this blinks PRE.
- **K.** This icon appears when you have more than 1,000 exposures remaining on your memory card.
- **Metering mode.** This displays which metering mode your camera is set to: Matrix, Center-weighted, or Spot.
- **AF-area mode.** This tells you which AF-area mode is selected: Closest subject, Dynamic area, or Single point.
- **Focus mode.** This tells you which focus mode your camera is set to: AF-A (Automatic), AF-C (Continuous), or AF-S (Single).
- **Release mode.** This lets you know what release mode your camera is set to: Single frame, Continuous, Self-timer, Delayed remote, or Quick response remote.

- **ISO sensitivity.** This tells you what your current ISO setting is.
- **White balance mode.** This displays which white balance setting you are currently using.
- **Image size.** This tells you the size of the image you are recording.
- **Image quality.** This display shows the quality or compression of the JPEG or shows that you are recording a RAW image.



1.8 LCD display Wide (landscape) orientation

- **Focus point display/AF-area mode.** This indicates which focus point is currently active. This also shows the AF-area mode currently in use.
- **Battery indicator.** This shows you the remaining charge on your battery.
- **Beep indicator.** This icon tells you whether you have the camera set to beep when focus is achieved.
- **Optimize image indicator.** This option lets you know which Optimize image setting your camera is currently set to. The options are Normal (N), Softer (SO), Vivid (VI), More vivid (VI*), Portrait (PO), Black-and-white (BW), or Custom.
- **ISO auto indicator.** When this icon is shown the camera is set to Auto ISO.
- **Manual flash control indicator/Flash compensation for optional Speedlight indicator.** When this is displayed the camera's built-in flash is being set manually. This icon also appears when an optional Speedlight is attached and FEC has been set.
- **Date imprint indicator.** This icon is shown when the optional date imprint function is applied. This function prints the date at the bottom of the image as it's being recorded.



1.9 LCD display Tall (portrait) orientation