

Exploring the Nikon D3200

The Nikon D3200 is an amazing piece of machinery. It has features and specifications that surpass the top-end professional camera models released just a few years ago. Whether this is your first dSLR or you have been shooting with one for a while, being comfortable with the location and functions of all the controls on the Nikon D3200 enables you to capture any scene as it happens.

This chapter covers all of the buttons, levers, switches, and controls on the outside of the camera. It also explains the information displayed when you look through the viewfinder, as well as that displayed on the rear LCD screen when the Info (i) or Information Edit (i) buttons are pressed. This chapter also covers the Guide mode (GUIDE) feature that is designed to be a guide to taking photos and the camera's functionality.



Even when it's set to one of the auto modes, you can get outstanding photos with the D3200.

Key Camera Controls

The best thing you can do with your new camera is familiarize yourself with the location of all of its controls. The following sections identify and explain the controls, buttons, levers, and switches located on the outside of the camera.

The top of the camera

The top of the Nikon D3200 is home to two of the most important controls on the camera: The Mode dial and the shutter-release button. The top of the camera is also where the On/Off switch and the dedicated Movie-record button are located, as shown in Figure 1.1.



1.1 The Nikon D3200 viewed from above.

Here are the controls on the top of the D3200:

- ▶ **Focus ring.** The focus ring on the lens allows you to adjust the focus manually by rotating the lens to the left or right when the camera is set to Manual focus mode (M).
- ▶ **Zoom ring.** This ring on the lens allows you to change the focal length of zoom lenses, like the kit lens. You just rotate the ring to the left or right to zoom in or out.
- ▶ **Focal length indicator.** These markings show what focal length the lens is set to. For example, in Figure 1.1 the focal length was set at 24mm.
- ▶ **On/Off switch.** You have to turn the camera on for it to work and you do it here. Rotate the switch to the right to turn it on and to the left to turn it off.
- ▶ **Shutter-release button.** This is the most important button on the camera. Not only does it activate the autofocus and built-in light meter when pressed halfway, but when pressed all of the way, it causes the reflex mirror to move up and out of the way, the shutter to open, and the photo to be recorded. Pressing the shutter-release button lightly also wakes up the camera if it hasn't been used for a while and has gone to sleep. When the camera is in Playback mode (▶) or the Info display is active, lightly pressing the shutter-release button turns the display off.
- ▶ **Movie-record button.** When the Live View mode (Lv) is activated, press this button to record a movie. Press it a second time to stop recording.
- ▶ **Exposure Compensation (±)/Aperture (⊗)/Flash Exposure Compensation (±) button.** This button adjusts the exposure by increasing or decreasing the exposure compensation. Press the Exposure Compensation button (±) while rotating the Main Command dial to the right to increase the exposure. Rotate the dial to the left to decrease the exposure. When the Mode dial is set to Manual mode (M), this button acts as an Aperture button (⊗) and adjusts the aperture when the button is pressed while the Command dial is rotated. When this button is held down at the same time that the Flash Exposure Compensation button (±) is, and the Command dial is rotated, the Flash Exposure Compensation is adjusted.
- ▶ **Strap eyelets.** This is where you attach the supplied strap (or any camera strap) to the camera.
- ▶ **Info button (info).** Pressing this brings up the info display on the LCD screen. This is covered in much greater detail later in this chapter.

- **Mode dial.** The Mode dial is where you select the exposure mode. It has 13 modes, as shown in Figure 1.2. You can set the exposure mode by turning the dial to one of the following settings:



1.2 The Nikon D3200 Mode dial in detail.

- **Auto mode** (AUTO). This mode leaves the controls to the camera and turns your dSLR into a point-and-shoot. The flash fires if the camera believes the extra light is necessary.
- **Auto flash off mode** (⚡). This mode leaves the control of the settings to the camera, turning your dSLR into a point and shoot. In low light, the flash does not fire.
- **Portrait mode** (👤). This mode is ideal for taking photos of people in bright light.
- **Landscape mode** (🏞️). This mode is best suited for photos of landscapes. The built-in flash is not available.
- **Child mode** (👶). Use this mode when taking photos of children
- **Sports mode** (🏃). This mode is best suited for taking photos of sports or fast-moving subjects.
- **Close-up mode** (👉). Use this mode for taking close-up photos.
- **Night portrait mode** (🌃). Use this mode when taking photos of people at night or in situations where there is little available light.
- **Manual mode** (M). Use this mode to set the shutter speed, aperture, and ISO yourself.

- **Aperture-priority auto mode (A).** In this mode, you set the aperture and the camera uses the information from the built-in light meter to set the shutter speed and, possibly, the ISO.
- **Shutter-priority auto mode (S).** In this mode, you set the shutter speed and the camera sets the aperture based on the built-in light meter readings.
- **Programmed auto mode (P).** In this mode, the camera sets both the shutter speed and aperture based on the built-in light meter reading. However, you can override the camera's choices by rotating the Main Command dial (located on the back of the camera).
- **Guide mode (GUIDE).** This starts the Guide mode (GUIDE) which walks you through the controls of your camera and a variety of photographic situations. This mode is covered in more detail later in this chapter.

CROSS REF Exposure modes are covered in greater detail in Chapter 2.

- ▶ **Hot shoe cover.** This cover slides into the hot shoe to protect the electrical contacts when the camera is not in use. The D3200 ships with this cover in place, and it must be removed before a speedlight or any other accessory can be used in the hot shoe.
- ▶ **Hot shoe.** This is where external flashes (speedlights) and other accessories are attached to the camera. Electrical contacts in the hot shoe enable the camera to control attached speedlights and other accessories. This is also where accessories like the ME-1 microphone can be attached to the camera.
- ▶ **Focal plane indicator.** This mark on the camera shows the exact placement of the sensor in the camera. It allows you to measure the exact distance from the sensor to the subject, which is especially useful for macro photography.
- ▶ **Speaker.** The built-in speaker plays back the sound when reviewing recorded movies and emits a double beep when the camera has achieved focus.

The back of the camera

The back of the camera is dominated by the bright, 3-inch LCD screen. It is surrounded by some of the most often used controls, including the multi-selector, which enables you to easily navigate through the menu system and controls the focus points. The back of the camera is also where the viewfinder and the Command dial are located. By rotating the Command dial, you control many functions of the D3200—the functions change depending on the mode.



1.3 The back of the Nikon D3200.

Here is what you find on the back of your D3200:

- ▶ **Viewfinder.** The viewfinder is what you traditionally look through to compose your photographs. It shows you the view in front of the camera as seen through the attached lens. This allows you to accurately compose your images, as what you see through the viewfinder is exactly what is recorded when you press the shutter-release button all of the way. The viewfinder display also shows you a lot of information, which I cover later in this chapter.
- ▶ **Diopter adjustment control.** Not everyone's eyesight is equal, so this control allows you to adjust the focus in the viewfinder to suit your eyesight. Adjusting the Diopter is easy and should be done before taking any photos. Just look through the viewfinder, and then press the shutter-release button halfway to activate the autofocus. Once the camera achieves focus, look to see if the image in the viewfinder is in focus for you. If it is, then you are good to go. If it isn't, rotate the diopter adjustment control until the image is in sharp focus.

- ▶ **AE-L/AF-L (AE-L/AF-L)/Protect (Protect) button.** The Auto-exposure/Autofocus lock button (AE-L/AF-L) is used to lock the exposure and the focus, allowing the camera to be moved and the scene recomposed, without changing the focus or the exposure settings. When the camera is in Playback mode (▶), this button acts as the Protect button (Protect) which, when pressed, protects the displayed image from deletion.
- ▶ **Command dial.** This dial changes various settings on your camera, depending on which button is pressed at the same time the dial is rotated. It is also the dial used to change the exposure settings, depending on the exposure mode. In the default, out-of-the-box settings, the Command dial changes the shutter speed when the camera is in the Shutter-priority auto (S) or Manual (M) modes. The Command dial changes the aperture when the camera is in Aperture-priority auto mode (A). It also changes the aperture in Manual (M) mode when used in conjunction with the Exposure Compensation (±)/Aperture (⊕) button.
- ▶ **Live View button (Lv).** Pressing the Live View button (Lv) turns on the Live View mode (Lv). You then see on the LCD screen what will be captured by the camera when the shutter-release button is pressed or a video recording is started.
- ▶ **Multi-selector.** The multi-selector has different functions, depending on the mode of the camera. You navigate through the camera menus by pressing the multi-selector left (◀), right (▶), up (▲), and down (▼). When in Playback mode (▶), the multi-selector allows you to navigate among the images. You can also use it to move the focus point when the AF area mode is set to any mode other than Auto-area AF (□).
- ▶ **OK button (OK).** This button, like many others, has more than one function. When the camera is in Playback mode (▶), the OK button (OK) opens the Retouch menu (□) for the selected image. When navigating through menus, pressing the OK button (OK) selects the highlighted menu choice.
- ▶ **Release mode button (☺).** This button sets which Release mode is used when the shutter-release button is pressed.

CROSS REF The Release mode button (☺) and its other functions are covered in detail in Chapter 2.

- ▶ **Memory card access lamp.** This little light blinks when data from the camera is being written to the memory card. It is important that you don't turn the camera off or remove the memory card when this light is blinking.
- ▶ **Delete button (🗑️).** In Playback mode (▶️), pressing this displays the delete menu, which allows you to either delete the displayed image (press the Delete button (🗑️) a second time to do so), or cancel the deletion (press the Playback button (▶️) to do so).
- ▶ **LCD screen.** The LCD screen takes up most of the back of the Nikon D3200. This 3-inch screen has an impressive resolution of 921,000 dpi (dots per inch). The LCD screen is where you view the menus and current settings, review your images, and view the live feed when using the Live View mode (Lv).
- ▶ **Information Edit button (i).** Pressing this button shows the information display on the LCD screen. Press it a second time to adjust the settings on your camera.
- ▶ **Playback zoom out/Thumbnail (🔍)/Help (?) button.** This button has three different functions, depending on the mode. When in Playback mode (▶️) and zoomed into an image, this button zooms out. When the image is full frame on the back of the camera, press this button to change the view to thumbnail, which allows you to see 4, 9, or 72 images at a time. This way, you can easily search the images on the memory card.
- ▶ **Playback zoom in button (🔍).** This button is used to zoom in to images on the LCD screen, allowing you to check the focus and sharpness of an image.
- ▶ **Menu button (MENU).** This button activates the camera menu system.

CROSS REF The menu system is covered in detail in Chapter 3.

- ▶ **Playback button (▶️).** This button activates the Playback mode (▶️), allowing you to see the photos stored on the memory card.
- ▶ **Infrared (IR) receiver.** This enables the optional ML-L3 remote to fire the camera from a distance. There is also an infrared receiver on the front of the camera so that the remote can trigger the camera from either side.
- ▶ **Rubber eyecup.** The viewfinder is surrounded by a rubber eyecup that makes putting your eye to the camera more comfortable. The rubber eyecup can be removed by pushing it upward until it slides off the camera.

- ▶ **DK-5 viewfinder cap (not shown).** This cap stops any light from entering the viewfinder, which can cause the built-in light meter to give inaccurate results. This is useful when shooting a lot of video or using Live View mode (**Lv**) to take photos.

The front of the camera

The front of the Nikon D3200 has some key controls, including the button that allows you to change lenses. The front of the camera also houses the built-in microphone and a second infrared (IR) receiver.



1.4 The front of the Nikon D3200 with the 18-55mm lens attached.

The front view of the D3200 shows the following:

- ▶ **Built-in flash.** The Nikon D3200 has a built-in flash housed on top of the viewfinder. This allows you to take photos in low light without any extra equipment and, while it's not as versatile or powerful as a speedlight, it is very convenient.

CROSS REF For more information on the built-in flash modes, check out Chapter 2.

- ▶ **Microphone.** The built-in microphone records audio when recording video. Its location allows it to record what happens in front of the camera.

CROSS REF You can find more information on microphones in Chapter 4.

- ▶ **Lens release button.** Press this button to unlock the lens that is attached to your camera. Once the button is pressed in, rotate the lens to the right and remove it from the camera.
- ▶ **Infrared (IR) receiver.** This receiver allows the optional Nikon remote ML-L3 to work with the camera, even when you are in front of the lens. There is also an infrared (IR) receiver on the back of the camera.
- ▶ **AF-assist Illuminator/Self-timer lamp/Red-Eye Reduction lamp.** This lamp serves three purposes, depending on what you are doing with the camera. When photographing in low light, it comes on to help the autofocus lock onto the subject. When using the self-timer (Ⓢ), the lamp flashes as it counts down to the photo being taken. When using any of the Red-Eye Reduction modes, it illuminates the subject before the flash fires so that the pupils contract, reducing red-eye.

The left side of the camera

The left side of the camera is where the data connectors and most of the lens controls are located. Here's what you see when looking at the left side of your camera:

- ▶ **Connector cover.** The connectors are protected under this cover. To open it, place your fingernail in the groove at the rear and pull it out from the camera. To close the cover, just press it back into place.
- ▶ **External microphone connector.** When using an external microphone, it plugs into the camera here.
- ▶ **USB and A/V connector.** The Nikon D3200 comes with two cables that can be plugged in to the micro USB plug on the camera; one is a USB cable that connects the camera to the computer, and the other allows the camera to be connected to a television. Only one cable can be used at a time. This is also where the optional Nikon Wireless Mobile Adapter WU-1a plugs into the camera.



Autofocus (AF)/Manual focus (MF) switch

1.5 The left side of the Nikon D3200.

- ▶ **HDMI connector.** This mini-pin connector allows the camera to be hooked up to an HD television using the optional HDMI cable. This allows you to playback the content of your camera on an HDTV
- ▶ **Accessory terminal.** This plug allows the optional Nikon MC-DC2 remote cord and GP-1 GPS units to be attached to the camera.
- ▶ **Vibration Reduction (VR) switch** (VR). This switch on the lens turns the Vibration Reduction on or off. It allows the photographer to use slower shutter speeds and avoid camera shake.

CROSS REF For more information about Vibration Reduction (VR), see Chapter 4.

- ▶ **Autofocus (AF)/Manual focus (MF) switch.** This switch on the lens switches between autofocus (AF) and manual focus (MF). Most of the time, you will use the autofocus mode. However, in situations in which the built-in autofocus has difficulty achieving focus, switching to manual focus allows you to manually focus the lens. Manual focus is usually necessary when shooting scenes with very low contrast or in very dark environments.
- ▶ **Mounting mark.** Align this mark with the one on a lens to mount it correctly.

- ▶ **Function button (Fn).** The Function button (Fn) can be customized to access a variety of controls, and is set to adjust the ISO as the camera default. You can change it using the Button menu setting in the Setup menu (Y). Your choices are: Image quality/size, ISO sensitivity, White balance, and Active D-Lighting.
- ▶ **Flash mode (L)/Flash Exposure Compensation (L/FC) button.** This button controls the built-in flash modes. It also adjusts the Flash Exposure Compensation (that is, the power of the flash) when used in conjunction with the Exposure Compensation button (FC), located on top of the camera.

The right side of the camera

The right side of the camera is where you grip it. The area under your palm is where the memory card is inserted and the power connector is located.



1.6 The right side of the Nikon D3200.

Here is what you find on the right side of your Nikon D3200:

- ▶ **Memory card slot cover.** The memory card cover is opened by sliding it back toward the rear of the camera. It is spring loaded, so once it has been moved back it pops open. To close it, just reverse the process.

- ▶ **Memory card slot.** The Nikon D3200 uses SecureDigital (SD) memory cards. They are inserted into the camera here with the label facing toward the back of the camera. The memory card slot is spring loaded, so push the card in until it clicks. To remove the card, press down to release it and it pops out of the slot. The memory card can only be inserted in one way, with the label towards the back of the camera and the contacts towards the front. It should never be forced into the camera.
- ▶ **Power connector cover.** There is a little black rubber cover on the bottom edge of the camera, right under the memory card slot cover. This is where the optional EP5 power adapter cord can be plugged in.

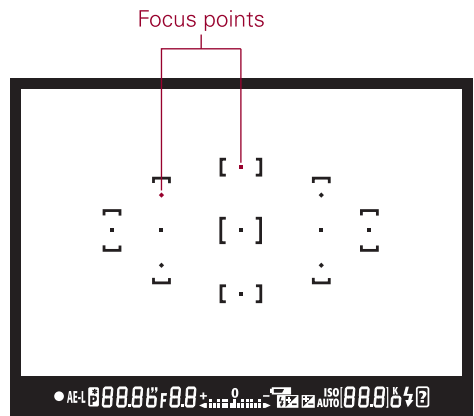
The bottom of the camera

The bottom of the D3200 is where the battery goes and a tripod can be attached. It is textured so that when a tripod is attached tightly, the camera does not move. On the bottom of the Nikon D3200, you find the following:

- ▶ **Tripod socket.** You can easily attach a tripod or monopod here. Some camera straps also attach here.
- ▶ **Battery chamber cover.** This cover protects the battery chamber.
- ▶ **Battery chamber.** The battery chamber is where the supplied EN-EL14 battery goes. The battery can only slide in one way and should never be forced.
- ▶ **Battery cover latch.** To remove the battery, slide the orange plastic latch toward the back of the camera. This latch keeps the battery in place, even if the battery chamber cover opens inadvertently.

The Viewfinder Display

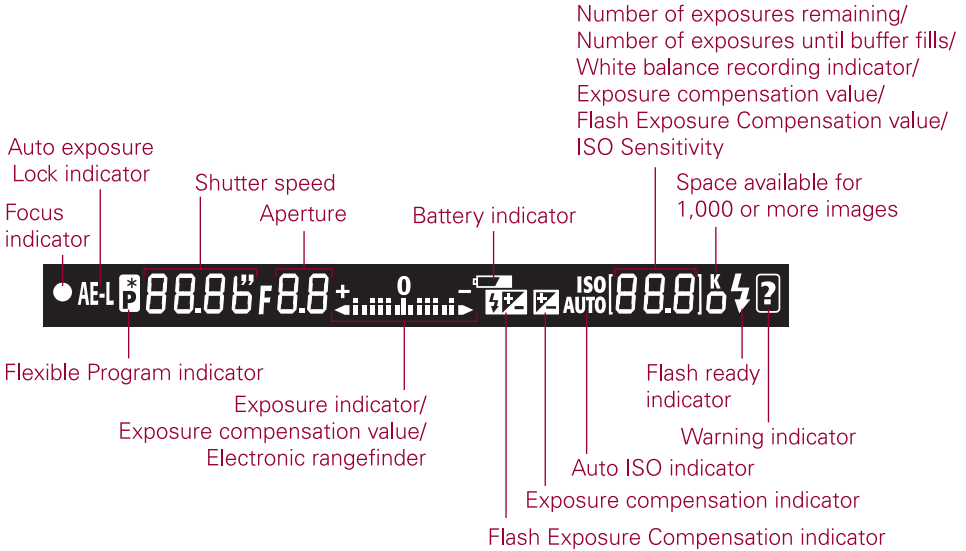
When you look through the viewfinder, you see not only the scene in front of the camera as it appears through the attached lens, but also a lot of information, such as camera settings and the exposure value. You also see the main area where the focus points appear (shown in Figure 1.7) and the information bar across the bottom, as shown in Figure 1.8.





1.7 The main viewfinder display of the Nikon D3200.

The viewfinder displays the following information:

- ▶ **Focus points.** There are 11 focus points in the Nikon D3200, and the active points blink red. If none of the focus points is illuminated, press the shutter-release button halfway. You can change which focus point is active with the multi-selector.



1.8 The information bar across the bottom of the viewfinder display of the Nikon D3200.

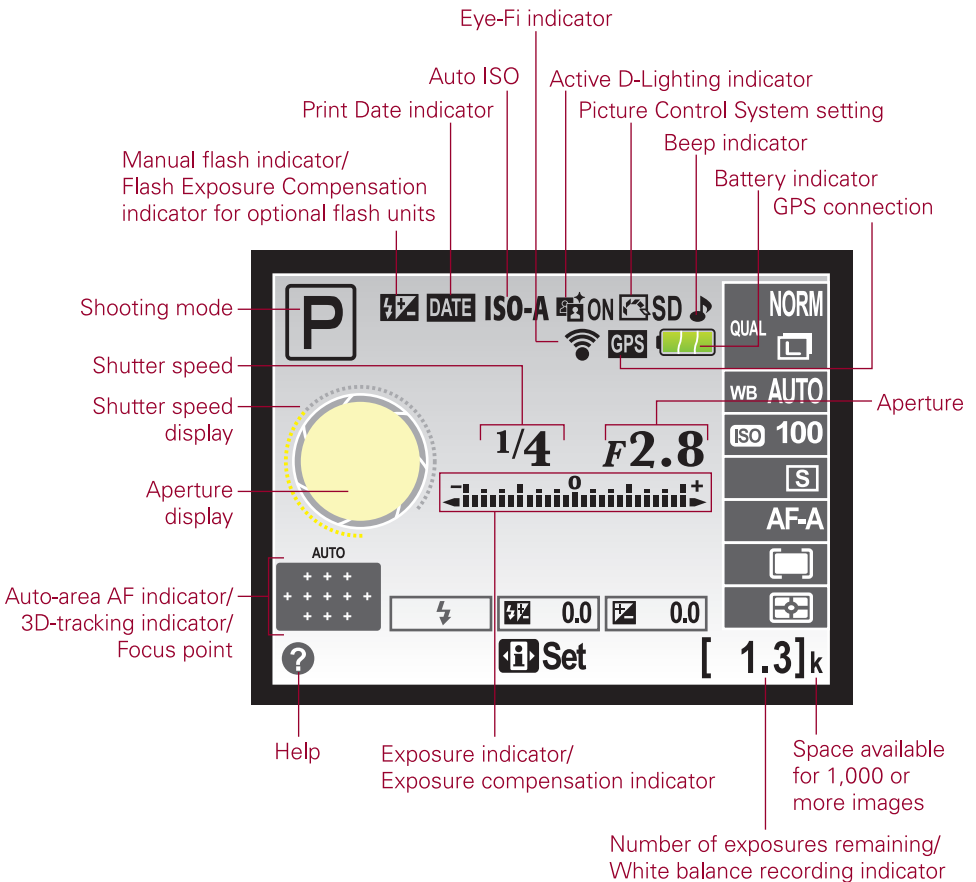
- ▶ **Focus indicator.** When the camera achieves focus, a green dot appears. If the camera cannot achieve focus, the dot blinks.
- ▶ **Auto exposure Lock indicator.** When you press the AE-L/AF-L button (), the Auto-exposure Lock indicator is illuminated.
- ▶ **Flexible Program indicator.** When you have adjusted the shutter speed and/or the aperture when in the Programmed auto mode (), this indicator illuminates.
- ▶ **Shutter speed.** This shows the selected shutter speed.
- ▶ **Aperture.** This shows the selected aperture as an f-stop.
- ▶ **Exposure indicator/Exposure compensation value/Electronic rangefinder.** Located at the bottom center of the viewfinder, the built-in light meter display helps you determine if your shot is over- or underexposed. When it believes that the image is overexposed, marks appear to the right of the center point. Marks to the left indicate that the meter believes that the image is underexposed. At

the bottom of the display, any applied exposure compensation is shown. When the electronic rangefinder function is turned on, the distance is also displayed here.

- ▶ **Battery indicator.** The battery indicator only appears in the viewfinder display if the battery is running out of power. When it appears, it shows the battery with about one-third remaining; however, there may not be that much charge left. If it begins blinking, replace the battery immediately.
- ▶ **Flash Exposure Compensation indicator.** When Flash Exposure Compensation is applied, this is illuminated.
- ▶ **Exposure compensation indicator.** When exposure compensation is applied, this is illuminated.
- ▶ **Auto ISO indicator.** If you have set the Auto ISO sensitivity control (ISO-A) to On, this is illuminated.
- ▶ **Number of exposures remaining/Number of exposures until buffer fills/White balance recording indicator/Exposure compensation value/Flash Exposure Compensation value/ISO sensitivity.** When you look through the viewfinder, the number shown here is the number of images that the camera believes it has space to record on the memory card. This is based on the current settings, and can change depending on the camera settings and the actual scene being recorded. If there is no memory card in the camera, an E is displayed here. When you press the shutter-release button, the display changes to the number of images that can be recorded until the *buffer* (that is, the built-in memory to which the camera actually writes the image data before writing it to the memory card) is full. When you press the Exposure Compensation button (FZ), this display changes to show the amount of exposure compensation that is set. When the Flash Exposure Compensation button (FZ) is pressed, this display shows the amount of flash compensation dialed in. When setting a custom white balance, the display here shows PRE to indicate that the camera is ready to set the custom white balance.
- ▶ **K.** When there is enough space for more than 1,000 exposures on the memory card, a K appears.
- ▶ **Flash ready indicator.** When the built-in flash is deployed or an external flash unit is mounted in the hot shoe, this indicator lets you know when the flash is ready to fire.
- ▶ **Warning indicator.** When this question mark is illuminated, it means that the camera has sensed that an image may not be captured the way you intend (underexposed, blurry, and so on). You can press the Help button (?) on the back of the camera to see a message on the LCD screen.

The Information Display

The information display, shown in Figure 1.9, shows some of the information available in the viewfinder, but it is much brighter, clearer, and larger, making it much easier to read. You can also adjust many settings from this screen. There are two buttons that bring up the information display: The Info button (info) on top of the camera and the Information Edit button (i) on the back of the camera. The Info button (info) shows the information display the first time you press it and turns off the second time you press it, which is great if you are just checking your settings. However, if you want to adjust settings, press the Information Edit button (i). The information display appears the first time you press it, but when you press it again, it allows you to edit the settings. Press it yet again to get back to the main info screen. Press the shutter-release button or the Info button (info) to exit the display.



1.9 The information display in the Graphic mode.

The Nikon D3200 gives you options when it comes to the information display. You can choose between the Classic and Graphic (the style shown in Figure 1.9) modes, and you can also choose the color scheme for each. The display changes with the camera orientation, so if you're shooting in landscape or portrait mode, you still see the information right side up.

CROSS REF The information display options and how to change them are covered in more detail in Chapter 3.

The following details are shown on the information display:

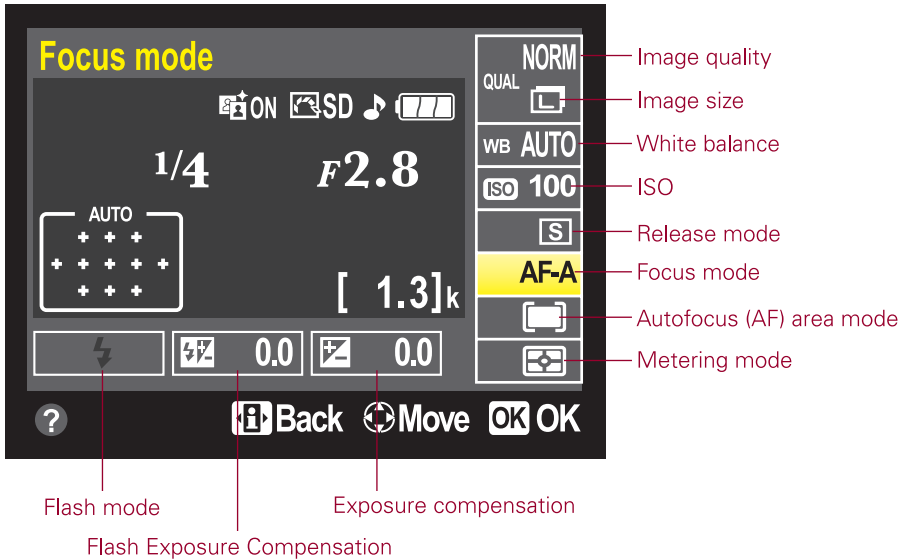
- ▶ **Manual flash indicator/Flash Exposure Compensation indicator for optional flash units.** This icon appears when using the built-in flash in Manual mode (M) and when the built-in flash is in the up position. If you use a speedlight and have dialed any flash compensation directly into the flash, then this icon is shown.
- ▶ **Print Date indicator.** This icon is shown when the date imprint function (which prints the date on the bottom of each image) is on.
- ▶ **Auto ISO.** When Auto ISO sensitivity control (ISO-A) is turned on, this icon is displayed.
- ▶ **Eye-Fi indicator.** When an Eye-Fi SD card is being used, this icon is shown. An Eye-Fi card allows you to send images from your camera to your computer using a Wi-Fi network. For more information, see www.eye.fi.
- ▶ **Active D-Lighting indicator.** When Active D-Lighting is turned on, this icon is displayed.
- ▶ **Picture Control System setting.** The currently selected Picture Control System setting icon is shown here.
- ▶ **Beep indicator.** A musical note icon appearing here lets you know that the beep (⦿) is turned on.
- ▶ **Battery indicator.** This shows the current battery life. It has four stages: At full power, three green bars are visible; at partial power, two green bars are visible; at low power, one green bar is visible; and when the icon flashes, the battery needs to be recharged or replaced.
- ▶ **GPS connection.** When the optional GPS module is attached, this icon is shown.
- ▶ **Aperture.** This shows the current aperture as an f-stop.
- ▶ **K.** When the memory card has enough space to record over 1,000 images, a K icon is shown here.

- ▶ **Number of exposures remaining/White balance recording indicator.** The number here indicates how many more images can be recorded on to the memory card using the current settings. When setting a custom white balance, PRE appears here.
- ▶ **Exposure indicator/Exposure compensation indicator.** This shows the currently set exposure and exposure compensation.
- ▶ **Help.** When this question mark is blinking, there may be a problem with recording the image properly using the current settings. Press the Help button (?) to display the perceived problem or error message on the LCD screen.
- ▶ **Auto-area AF indicator/3D-tracking indicator/Focus point.** This displays the current Autofocus area mode and which focus point is active.
- ▶ **Aperture display.** This shows the aperture graphically and changes as the aperture does.
- ▶ **Shutter speed display.** This shows the shutter speed graphically around the outside edge of the aperture display.
- ▶ **Shutter speed.** This shows the current shutter speed as a fraction of a second or in full seconds (from 1/4000 to 30 seconds), and Bulb.
- ▶ **Shooting mode.** This displays the shooting mode that is set on the Mode dial. If it is set to a Scene mode, the corresponding icon appears. If it is set to one of the semi-automatic modes (Manual (M), Aperture-priority auto (A), Shutter-priority auto mode (S), or Programmed auto (P), the corresponding letter is shown.

The other settings you see in the information display can be adjusted by pressing the Information Edit button (i) a second time. The screen changes from the information display to the screen shown in Figure 1.10. Use the multi-selector arrows to highlight the setting you want to adjust, and then press the OK button (OK). Another screen appears that allows you to change the setting and shows a thumbnail example of what changing the setting does.

Here are the items that can be edited when you press the Information Edit button (i) twice:

- ▶ **Image quality.** This can be set to one of the three JPEG modes, the RAW mode, or the RAW+JPEG mode. When one of the JPEG modes is picked, you can also pick the level of image compression.
- ▶ **Image size.** When using the JPEG file type, this icon indicates the selected file size.



1.10 The information display in the Information Edit screen.

- ▶ **White balance.** The current white balance setting is shown here. When you change the setting, instead of picking from a list of light types, there are thumbnail images of the types of lights you can choose.
- ▶ **ISO.** The current ISO setting is shown here. Selecting this allows you to change the ISO from 100 to 6400, or Hi 1. You cannot set the Auto ISO (ISO-A) here.
- ▶ **Release mode.** The current Release mode is shown here. While there is a dedicated Release mode button (S) on the back of the camera, you can also easily change it from here.
- ▶ **Focus mode.** The current focus mode is shown here and can easily be changed as needed.
- ▶ **Autofocus (AF) area mode.** The current Autofocus area mode is shown here. It can be changed to: Single-point AF (□), Dynamic-area AF (□), 3D Tracking (□), or Auto-area AF (□).
- ▶ **Metering mode.** The current Metering mode choice is shown here. You can change it to: Matrix (□), Center-weighted (□), or Spot metering (□).
- ▶ **Exposure compensation.** This shows the exposure compensation setting. When selected, the exposure compensation can be adjusted by pressing the Exposure Compensation button (□) and rotating the Command dial, or you can press the OK button (OK), and then press the multi-selector up (▲) or down (▼).

- ▶ **Flash Exposure Compensation.** This shows the set amount of Flash Exposure Compensation. You can change it by pressing the Flash Exposure Compensation (⚡) and Exposure Compensation (±) buttons, and rotating the Command dial. You can also change the Flash Exposure Compensation by pressing the OK button (OK), and then pressing the multi-selector up (▲) or down (▼).
- ▶ **Flash mode.** This shows the flash mode setting. You can change the flash mode by pressing the Flash button (⚡) and rotating the Command dial, or by pressing the OK button (OK) and the multi-selector up (▲) or down (▼).

The Guide Mode

The Nikon D3200 has a built-in Guide mode (GUIDE) that walks you through using the camera. When you rotate the Mode dial to Guide (GUIDE), the LCD screen on the back of the camera shows the top level of the Guide mode (GUIDE), which allows you to choose from the Shoot, View/delete, or Set up guides, as shown in Figure 1.11. Each of the guides walks you through the Nikon D3200 and its functions. The Guide mode (GUIDE) is great when you are getting started with a dSLR or with the D3200 because, not only does it show you what needs to be set, but it sets it for you.



1.11 The Guide mode showing the Shoot, View/delete, and Set up guide screen.

The Shoot guide

The Shoot guide has two main options: Easy operation and Advanced operation. Each covers a huge number of specific situations. The Easy operation settings cover the following: Auto, No Flash, Distant Subjects, Close-ups, Sleeping Faces, Moving Subjects, Landscapes, Portraits, and Night Portrait. The Advanced operation settings cover the following: Softer backgrounds, Bring more into focus, Freeze motion (people), Freeze motion



1.12 The Shoot guide showing some of the Advanced operation options.

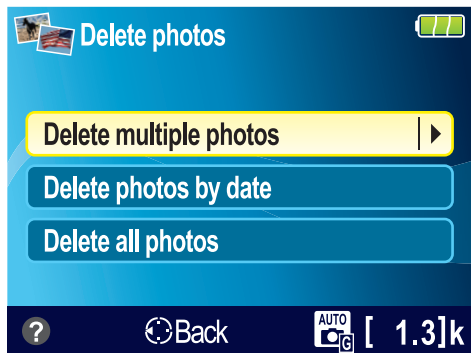
(vehicles), Show water flowing, Capture reds in sunsets, Take bright photos, Take dark (low key) photos, and Reduce blur.

Each subject shows a small thumbnail on the side and an example of the currently selected operation. Once you have the operation that you want to try, press the OK button (OK). A description of the operation appears on the screen explaining what settings give you the desired effect. Press the OK button (OK) again and the camera is set to capture the scene, and you can take the photo as the guide described.

The View/delete guide

The View/delete guide walks you through the following:

- ▶ **View single photos.** Choose this option and the camera immediately displays the last photo taken or viewed.
- ▶ **View multiple photos.** Choose this option and the screen immediately displays the thumbnail view.
- ▶ **Choose a date.** Each photo you take has the time and date embedded into it, which makes it easy to search for your images by date. Choose this option to display the calendar view and search your images by the date they were taken.
- ▶ **View a slide show.** If you choose this option, you can use your camera to play a slide show. You can also select the type of images that are shown: Still images and movies, Still images only, or Movies only. You can also set the length you want each image to be displayed: 2 seconds, 3 seconds, 5 seconds, or 10 seconds.
- ▶ **Delete photos.** This guide walks you through deleting images from your memory card. When you delete photos from here, they are permanently erased from the memory card. Choose one of the following options:
 - **Delete multiple photos.** Select multiple images by scrolling through them using the multi-selector. You tag the images you want to delete by pressing the Playback zoom out button (Z). Once you have select-ed all of the images you want to delete, press the OK button (OK). You are asked if you want to delete



1.13 The Delete photos menu in the Guide mode.

the selected images. Use the multi-selector to highlight Yes, and then press the OK button (**OK**).

- **Delete photos by date.** This option displays a list of dates. You select one to delete all images taken on that date. Once a date is selected, press the OK button (**OK**) to delete the images.
- **Delete all photos.** Choosing this option opens a window asking if it is okay to delete all of the images in the camera. You can then use the multi-selector to highlight Yes, and then press the OK button (**OK**) to delete all images from the camera.

The Set-up guide

The Set-up guide is a great place to start when you first pick up your camera. It allows you to set up the following: Image quality, Image size, Auto off timers, Print Date, Display and sound settings, Movie settings, Output settings, Playback folder, Playback display options, DPOF print order, Clock and language, Format memory card, and Slot empty release lock.