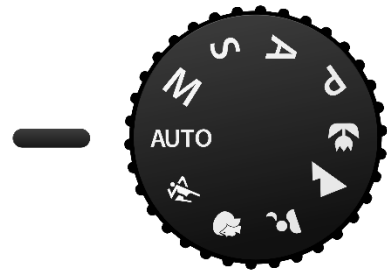


Going Beyond “Auto”

Being a photographer for the past few years I was fortunate to meet many photographers, both professionals and amateurs. I observed them a lot and found one reason which made amateur photographers amateur forever. It was nothing but the fear of leaving the cozy auto mode which did all the hard work for them. Auto mode works fine in many circumstances. But it won't work always. It is the reason why many photos lack creativity. *“Creativity takes Courage”* (Henri Matisse) and in this case it is the courage to leave the auto mode is all what it takes for you to take creative photos.



What is it that makes you stick on that lazy auto mode? Many have told me that I fear the result. They tell that to get that perfect exposure auto mode is enough. But that is not true. What the camera might think the correct exposure will not be what we had in our mind. Many beginners will find their photos underexposed or overexposed. There is nothing to worry and with a little effort you can create that tack sharp photos for yourselves.

I'm sure that you already know the basic elements in a photograph mainly **Aperture, Shutter Speed and ISO**. And for those guys who don't know it yet I will explain them briefly. The aperture is a small set of blades in the lens that controls how much light will enter the camera. The shutter is a small “curtain” in the camera that quickly rolls over the image sensor (the digital version of film) and allows light to shine onto the imaging sensor for a fraction of a second. The longer the shutter allows light to shine onto the image sensor, the brighter the picture since more light is gathered. ISO is the level of sensitivity of your camera to available light. The lower the ISO number, the less sensitive it is to the light, while a higher ISO number increases the sensitivity of your camera.



Playing with these three elements alone you can compose many creative shots rather than the dull shots you shot previously. I'm not telling to jump to the Manual (M) mode right now. At first try using modes like Aperture Priority, Shutter Priority, and Program modes (Av, Tv, and P in Canon Cameras and A, S, and P in Nikon Cameras) where you get to control certain elements in the camera. Master them by practicing. Just click, click, and keep on clicking. Slowly you will master it. Now go for the Manual Mode and there you are, clicking professional looking stunning photographs.

Another important thing is that always shoot in RAW. It will help a lot in post processing.

So are we ready? Take your camera and come out. Quoting Henri Cartier-Bresson *“Your first 10,000 photographs are your worst.”* So worry not, let's start on experimenting the manual mode. Leave us your valuable comments and suggestions. Happy Clicking 😊