

# OM System Photography Mentorship Program

## OM System Camera Controls: OM-1 & Mark II



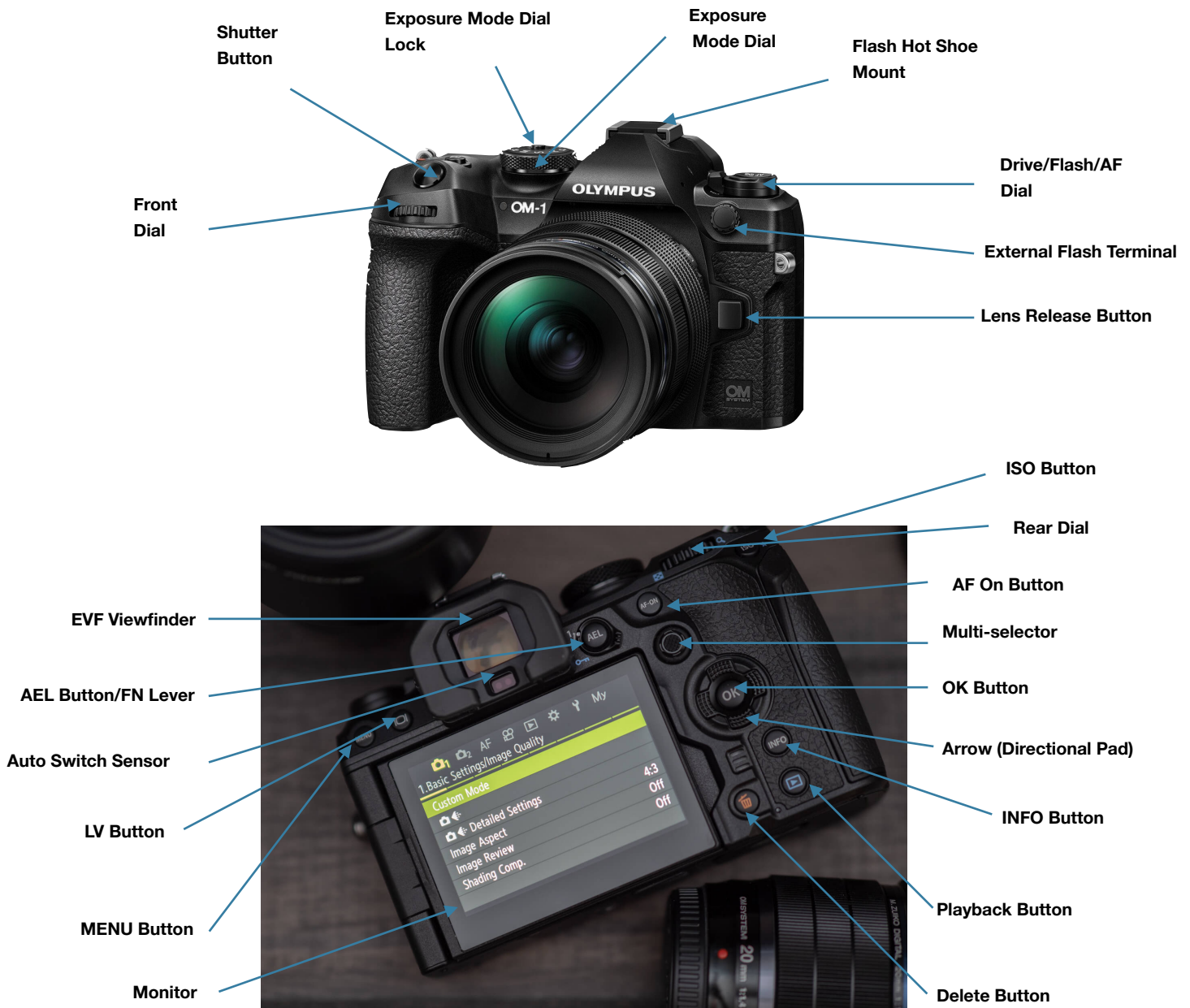
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## UNDERSTANDING THE CAMERA CONTROLS [OM-1]:

**NOTE:** All descriptions of the camera are given from the viewpoint of how one would naturally hold a camera to take an image. It is critical to learn the location of each and every dial, button, FN lever, multi-selector (joystick) and arrow (directional) pad as you will want to be able to control your camera while looking through the EVF (electronic viewfinder)! I am only going to cover those features that are useful for nature photography!



## Dials [OM-1 & OM-1 Mark II]

**Mode Dial** - Top right of Camera Body, used to change exposure modes, select video mode, or select custom modes. The button in the top of the Mode Dial is the Mode Dial Lock button to prevent you from changing the dial accidentally and I use this every time.

**Front Dial** - Front, upper right of the camera body just under the shutter button and it is operated from side to side to change values, images, or more. When we are in the menu, we use it to move from one major menu tab to another. In Playback (viewing images) mode, we can use the front dial to move from one image to the next in either direction. We can assign different roles to this dial based on different exposure modes. *Important tip:* you can also change the direction in which this dial is rotated to set exposure settings!

**Rear Dial** - Rear, upper right of the camera body and it is operated from side to side to change values, images, or more. While in the menu, we can use the rear dial to move from page to page within the menu. In Playback (viewing images) mode, we can use to Zoom into an image, or zoom out of images and indexes of images (multiple image views). We can assign different roles to this dial based on different exposure modes. *Important tip:* you can also change the direction in which this dial is rotated to set exposure settings!


**Diopter Adjustment Dial** - Located on the left hand side of the EVF, this is used to adjust the EVF for your vision. If you are focusing and you know focusing is locked on something but it is still blurry, you may have inadvertently moved this dial.

## Buttons [OM-1 & OM-1 Mark II]

**BUTTONS ON THE BACK** - We will explore the buttons while moving from left to right and top to bottom:

**Menu Button** - This is used to turn on the menu in either the EVF or Monitor.

**LV Button** - This is used to switch the view from the EVF to the monitor and back.


**AEL Button &  (Protect Button)** - AEL stands for Auto Exposure Lock and it is used when shooting in P, A, or S exposure modes to “lock” your exposure settings so that when you are recomposing the images, the camera will NOT change any of your settings. Since I shoot in manual 100% of the time, I reprogram this button for other uses. If you shoot in any other modes, you may wish to leave AEL to the default setting. The other feature of this button is to “lock” or “protect” an image on the memory card, but as we will learn down below, we should NEVER delete an image off a memory card in camera so the lock feature is not necessary.


**AF-On** - This is the Auto-Focus ON button and is used for focusing, the way God intended for us to focus! 😊 I can find ZERO advantages to having the focus button be the same button as the shutter button, but I can find a TON of benefits to using back button focus. We will discuss this more in the autofocus lesson. If you choose to stay in the late 1880's with front button focus, I would program this button to some other archaic use! ;) Seriously, find a good use for it if not for focus!

**ISO** - This button is the fastest way to change your ISO as you press the button and then spin the front or rear dial to change the ISO. Easy peasy! You can use this button to assign “ratings” to your images in camera, but why waste time doing this when it should be done in post-processing.

**OK Button** - See below.

**INFO** - This button is your friend! When you think you have lost something, like you suddenly don't see your live histogram in the EVF or you want to see the entire image and not the scene with the live histogram, don't panic, let INFO help you find it! You can cycle through the different settings in the EVF, Monitor, and Image Playback using the INFO button. Never panic, you didn't "lose" something (unless of course you went and jacked around with something in the menu you haven't learned yet or forgot!), it is just that you may have intentionally or unintentionally hit the INFO button and are cycling through different views.

 **(ERASE)** - The Erase (Garbage Can) button should NEVER be used, deleting images off a card in camera is the leading cause of memory card errors! Just let that button live a long, lonely, untouched life!

 - The (image) Playback button is what we push when we want to view our images either in the EVF or on the Monitor.

**BUTTONS ON THE TOP** - We will explore the buttons while moving from left to right and front to back.

**Sequential Shooting/Self-Timer/Flash Button** - We will describe this button in two sections as it has basically two separate functions on the same button. When pressed, you will see the same options in the EVF or on the monitor and at the top will be the Flash Mode options and at the bottom the drive mode (sequential shooting/self-timer) options.

**Flash Mode** - You can use this button combined with the front dial to select the various flash modes. The flash modes displayed will vary depending upon the configuration of your flash mode settings which are set in the menu -> Camera1 -> 6. Flash -> Flash Mode Settings. The four possible flash modes are Fill In, Flash Off, Slow, and Manual. We will discuss these various modes further during our session on flash photography. Please note, the options available *may* change depending upon your sequential shooting/self-time (drive) mode.

**Sequential Shooting/Self-Timer (I prefer to call it Drive Mode)** - You can use this button combined with the rear dial or arrow pad to change the drive mode which generally determines how many frames per second (fps) you can shoot and whether or not the camera will focus and meter between each image. This is a very important setting and we will cover in detail in session #8.

**Mode Dial** - Using this dial, we select the various exposure modes and these will be covered extensively in session #7. The options include Program AE (P) mode (you should NEVER be using this mode), Aperture-priority (A) mode, Shutter-priority (S) mode (almost as bad as Program mode), Manual exposure (M) mode, Bulb/Time/Live Composite (B) mode, Custom (C1/C2/C3/C4) modes, and Video mode.

**Mode Dial Lock** - This little button in the middle of the mode dial should become a regular habit for you. This prevents you from inadvertently moving the mode dial and causing major issues while shooting. You simply press once and the button pops up allowing you to freely move the mode dial. Press it again and the button stays down securing the mode dial in place.

**Shutter Button** - This button does exactly what it says, when we fully press the button, we activate the shutter and it captures images according to the sequential shooting/self-timer (drive) mode we have chosen. If we 1/2 press this button and we are still using front button focus, then we will activate focusing and metering our scene. We also begin Pro-Capture Mode by 1/2 pressing and holding this button.

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# PROJECT - PART ONE (MUSCLE MEMORY)

## Objective

To be able to adjust the three key settings of exposure while looking through the viewfinder of your camera body as quickly as possible by creating muscle memory.

## Goals

The goal of this project is to familiarize yourself with some of the controls of your OM-1. You will develop an understanding of the dials and buttons as they relate to adjusting the three elements of exposure: shutter speed, aperture, and ISO.

## Project

This project is designed to help the mentee develop muscle memory and a rapidity to changing settings to maximize the photographic opportunities by adjusting settings while continuing to be able to monitor what is happening through the viewfinder, or during low light shooting conditions, or when holding the camera at awkward angles.

## Project Description

1. The mentee should place the camera on a tripod to make it easier to focus on the scene and on the buttons, dials, and arrow pad (directional pad). Make sure a lens is attached to the camera.
2. Place the camera on a tripod outside or inside your house, this exercise doesn't work well during handholding as the meter can constantly be changing as you move around.
3. Make sure the camera is in M (Manual) exposure mode.
4. While looking through the viewfinder, adjust the Shutter Speed (either the rear or front dial), aperture (either the rear or front dial) and ISO (ISO button and the front dial) until the camera's meter indicates a properly exposed image (this is when the meter is directly under the center tick mark). For the next iteration of the exercise, leave the aperture and ISO where they are and we will focus on adjusting the shutter speed only.
5. While still looking through the viewfinder, adjust the camera to an entirely new scene and as quickly as possible, using the front or rear dial (depends upon which one you have assigned to the function) adjust the shutter speed while looking through the viewfinder, until the camera's meter shows a properly exposed scene. Repeat this process at least 10 to 20 times with the focus being on changing the shutter speed as fast as possible to center the meter reading as quickly as possible.
6. Now, we will repeat steps 4 and 5 but changing the aperture to center our meter.
7. Finally, we will repeat steps 4 and 5 but changing the ISO (ISO button and front dial) to center our meter.

*Note:* It isn't important if we center the meter and our histogram is still not as far right as possible. This will most likely occur but our focus is on beginning to develop muscle memory with our camera so that we don't even have to think about which dial and/or button to push to make a change to any of the three elements of exposure.

## REMAINING PROJECTS HAVE BEEN REMOVED