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Olympus OM-D E-M1

(original model)

My default menu settings



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A note on Olympus camera menus.

If you press the MENU button you will see, arranged along the left side of the monitor, from the top down, a camera symbol with the number 1 and then another with the number 2.

This is exactly the same system used by other manufacturers like Canon, Nikon and others and is very easy to work out.

If on a menu option page with a camera symbol, the settings you can access will usually affect things that you need to set before taking a photograph.

Then there is a Playback symbol. This contains things you change after the image has been taken – like how many images are displayed in lightbox view, what information on the shooting parameters are shown over the image and so forth. You can also edit images in-camera using settings on this menu.

Then you will see a symbol of two gears.

This is where you tell the camera how to use all its various settings – just like setting up your Smartphone. You will not usually use these adjustments from shot to shot but they are parameters that affect how the camera responds to things like AF, release button presses, function buttons etc. Like the Canon Custom Function menu and the Nikon Set Up menus, these are often sub-divided into sub-sets of functions you can adjust.

For example, if you want the AEL lock button to activate AF, this is a *Function* you want to change on a *button*. Soooo, go to the “button” menu (B) and find *Button Function*. You then get shown all the options you have for changing Button Functions.

How hard is that – really?

Finally, on the OM-D E-M1 (original) there will usually be a Spanner symbol. Think of this menu as the toolbox (why it is a spanner you spanner!) to set core things like date/time and update firmware.

There is one hidden item (by default) that pertains to settings for the older Olympus accessories that used the power port below the hot shoe. If you still use the Olympus stereo mic or the older PENPAL wireless sharing gadget, you may wish to activate this menu page. It is in the toolbox, under *Menu Display*. (the 6th item down).

Throughout this and my other menu guides I have added notes sharing my thoughts and reasons for the settings I use.

Your needs may differ. Hopefully, however, you can gain a better understanding of what each setting does and how you can make the camera work as you prefer.

Items in bold type show the menu description and setting on my camera.

All that said, lets get to it.

CAMERA MENU 1

Card setup/Format and **Reset/Myset** should be easy enough. I like it here, the first item on page one. As the rest of the camera universe buries formatting in the set up menu, Olympus moved it there on the E-M1 mark ii and the later models. It lived here happily ever since the E-1...sigh!

Picture mode I tend to use **Natural**. If you are shooting kids parties, an Eastern Tamil/Hindi or traditional African wedding then you could try Vivid but that tends to overdo sallow skin tones. Your mileage may vary but using natural allows you the most leeway to either saturate or diminish colours in post production in my view. Of course if you only shoot in RAW file format then this setting can be changed in post and where it is makes no difference if you like first adjusting the colour mode when viewing RAW files..

Image size settings (that triangulated pixel symbol) >

Still picture JPEG setting is **LF (large fine)**

Movie is **MOV FHD F 24p**

Image Aspect is normally **4:3**. This uses the entire image sensor area. I crop to other aspect ratios in post.

Digital Tele-Converter is usually **Off**. This captures an image which has been digitally enlarged by a factor of 2. Effectively, this gives you twice the focal length of any lens attached. Use with caution and only when you have no other option to grab that little Tiger cub on the hillside (or similar). Quality varies from totally acceptable to lousy depending on the light and subject. A great option to remember in the back of the mind when stuck without a longer lens and you must get the shot..

Release mode/self timer/Interval timer. This last option on page 1 of the camera settings menu duplicates the function available on the upper left button of the camera body. This lets you adjust **Release mode/self timer/Interval timer**.

You can also set this via the Super Control Panel - **SCP**.

Press OK and tap the release mode square – twirl the front dial to pick a setting and touch the shutter button to confirm your choice.

CAMERA MENU 2

Bracketing – as needed. Also available on top left button and via **SCP**.

Bracketing choices include flash, exposure, ISO, ART, white balance and focus bracketing. If the *Focus bracketing* option is greyed-out, you may not have a compatible lens fitted. Only native m43 lenses work with focus bracketing. Nope, nothing with an adaptor can focus bracket automatically.

HDR – As needed. Also available via top left button or **SCP**.

Keystone Comp. My all time favourite for buildings and product shots. See my blog article “The death of the shift lens?” When set to **On** you can swing *or* tilt and then move the sensor to correct perspective lines using the input dials and the arrow pad. No need for a shift lens! The OM-D (mark 1) gives either swing *or* tilt. The E-M1 mark ii gives both. View cameras? What are those...?

Multiple Exposure – as needed. The option has two custom options to set the number of frames and the **Gain**. If **Gain** is **On** it changes each frame to ½ brightness. If Gain is Off the images retain the exposure level you set for them as they are stacked.

Overlay. The overlay option will only be active if you are shooting in RAW and this will stack the number of images selected into a single RAW file.

Anti-Shock/Silent – as needed. The Anti-Shock setting lets you programme a delay between the shutter being pressed and the exposure taking place at speeds below 1/320 sec. This is used when even the smallest movement may affect image sharpness as when shooting attached to a high magnification microscope or a telescope. The *Anti-Shock* mode affects the *mechanical shutter* and the *Silent* one is used if using the *Silent shutter mode*. Kind of logical...

RC Mode – As needed (Off/On). Activated when I am using off-camera Olympus R flash units and I then use the dinky little FLM flash unit – which you most likely tossed back into the box as a useless artefact - to act as the commander.

See? All these **Camera 1** and **Camera 2** menu options you will need to set before you actually take a photograph.

PLAYBACK MENU

Slideshow – As needed. This sets up a slide show of the images on your card and you can adjust the interval between slides as well as pick from built-in BGM (**B**ack**G**round **M**usic). In the options you can select to include only stills or videos or all the files on the card and also how long it takes before looping the show. Your mileage and use of this feature may vary...

Rotate Image on playback – **On**. I shoot a great number of vertically orientated images and hate seeing it scrunched on the screen with huge wads of black either side. With this **On** the image is shown in the orientation it was shot in – and is full screen. OK, you do have to turn the camera to see it but that is a small price to pay in my view for not having to zoom the image all the time.

Edit Lets you apply some common edits to images already on the card. Press **OK** then you will be asked to **Sel Image**. Press **OK** and then **RAW Data Edit** or **JPEG edit** or the **Voice note recorder**. There are options in this to change images to monochrome, set filter effects and more. Similar to the Nikon Retouch menu. You can also start a slide show from here as well as print directly via USB to a Pictbridge compatible printer.

Changes are applied to a copy of the image which is stored in the next available space on the card. So if you edit image 3 of 567, the edited image file will become number 568. The option I use a lot on this menu page is the voice note function.

However, you do not need to dive into the menu to do this. Press playback then OK and the editing options will be made available to you.

From these you can use the Mic symbol to record a voice note (names of subjects in image, location etc.) to aid you when cataloguing the image in post. You get 30 seconds. Be aware, however, that the voice note plays as soon as you view the image so you may wish to first adjust the volume of the camera speaker. If you forget and a voice note starts blaring from the camera, simply rotate the front dial to switch to another image and then change the volume settings. Your use of these functions and mileage may vary...

Print Order. The industry standard DPOF option available on all cameras and supported by most printers post 1998 which I have seldom seen used. Lets you indicate how many prints you want from each image and if you insert the card into a photo kiosk the selected number of prints will automatically be generated. Ho-hum... If you use this at any stage remember to reset the entire Print Order data set otherwise you will get the same number of prints generated the next time you visit a kiosk with your camera card – if you insist on inserting your card into a public slot... Also works on any *PictBridge* compatible printer.

Reset Protect If you have used the protect image option (the key symbol option seen when pressing OK after playback) to stop accidental erasing of vital images in the camera, you can reset all of the protection instructions using this option.

Connection to Smartphone Choosing this option by highlighting and pressing OK starts the Wi-Fi system of the camera. It is faster to tap the **WI-FI** wording on the top left of the camera screen.

SET UP MENU (GEARS MENU)

Option set A for AF/MF (Auto Focus)

AF Mode > **Still Picture** and **Movie** is usually set to **S-AF** (Single Auto Focus). You can rapidly change this in the SCP or by using the button on the top left of the camera.

Full time AF > **Off**. If switched on any OM-D camera chews batteries and tries to focus all the time, even with a body cap or lens cap on the lens, When Off the AF only activates when you lightly press the shutter button.

AEL/AFL>SAF>Mode 1. Starts AF on light press and locks exposure, takes photo on full depression of shutter button.

AEL/AFL>CAF>Mode 2. Starts AF when lightly pressed but only grabs exposure and shoots when fully pressed. I find this leaves the back buttons free for other important stuff when shooting sports.

AEL/AFL>MF>Mode 1. Locks metering on a light press of shutter and takes shot when fully depressed.

Reset Lens>Off. This re-sets the focus of the attached lens on the camera body when the power is switched off. If shooting videos and you need to power down to save battery, this will take your focus off the speaker's podium or the nesting site of a bird as but two examples. If this is off then the focus will stay set where it was. Also cuts power consumption overall. Your choice may vary here.

Bulb/Time focusing>On. Lets you manually adjust focus during bulb and live time shooting on the lens ring.

Focus ring>Anti Clockwise (Default). Same direction as the OM series lenses from infinity to close up. Four decades of focusing muscle memory is hard to break.

MF Assist> Magnify>On When focusing manually the central portion of the image is automatically enlarged when the focus ring is rotated.

MF Assist> Peaking>On Uses highlights around in-focus items to make it easy for you to nail the focus point you want.

[---] Set Home>All groups set to middle of array With this set, no matter where your AF target is, a short press of the OK button will get it right back to where you set it to go with this setting.

AF Illuminator>Varies (Options are On/Off) This can shine a red light (or not) from the camera body to assist AF in low light. Useful in some cases, irritating in others. Use as required.

Face Priority>Varies Normally for weddings and social occasions it is on with (I) to focus on eyes as well. For general scenes in news and sports it is off.

AF Area pointer>On Shows you where the camera is focusing with a bright green box if on. Nice to know where it is looking...

C-AF Lock>Varies Usually **Normal**. With sport with players/objects often moving/running in front of the target I set it to **Low**. For high speed mechanical action (race cars, aircraft on their own in the frame) I set it to **High**. For children running to the camera without obstructions I would use **High**.

MF Clutch>Operative If you have an OM-D line lens with a manual focus clutch this ensures it does what it is designed to do. If you often bump the clutch into MF and get irritated by this, switch the function to **Inoperative** (off) here. I personally love using it to pull focus in video.

Option set B (For Button/Dial/Lever)

Button Function>Fn1>AF Area Select Quickly calls up option to move AF point

Fn2>Multi Function Lets you quickly select curves or colour creator and other functions.

Rec Function>Record Why disguise your video record start/stop button?

AEL/AFL Function>AEL/AFL Seems daft to set this when I have AEL on the shutter button but, if you use this with the metering AEL zone option set elsewhere you can get an instant spot meter (or Centre Weighted or SpotHi or SpotLow) on the AEL button. That's why I have it set this way here...

Top body button>One Touch White Balance Aim camera at a white surface and press then press shutter – instant white balance correction for mixed Kelvin lighting conditions.

Lower body button>Depth of field preview Stops down lens to pre-set aperture for depth of focus preview in the viewfinder.

<^> Four way controller> [---] Allows you to move focus points with arrow pad keys.

Bfn1>AEL/AFL Sets HLD7 battery grip buttons to mirror the setting on the camera with the camera turned vertically.

Bfn2>[---] Sets HLD7 battery grip buttons to mirror the setting on the camera with the camera turned vertically.

Lfn>AF Stop Lets me lock AF when covering fast action if needed by pressing the lens function button on a Zuiko PRO lens.

Dial Function>P>Front Dial +/-, Rear dial Ps

>**A>Front Dial +/-, Rear Dial Aperture value**

>**S>Front Dial +/-, Rear Dial Shutter speed value**

>**M> Front Dial Aperture Value, Rear Dial Shutter speed value**

>**Menu> Front Dial horizontal movement, Rear Dial vertical movement**

>**Playback(>) Front Dial Prev/Next image, Rear Dial Zoom/Thumbnail view**

Dial Direction>Dial 1>Exposure>Dial1 Increases the value as dial is turned to the right.

>**Ps>Dial1** Increases shutter value/opens aperture as you turn it to the right.

Mode Dial Function> Change what each position on the mode dial does. Mine is standard.

Lever Function>Mode 1 Setting to this leaves the functions on the control dials as I set them for normal use. Switch the lever to position 2 and the front dial instantly changes ISO (and so many moan that OM-D cameras do not have an ISO button...!) and the rear dial changes White Balance.

There are 5 modes to play with. Find the one that works for you.

Mode Dial Function. Only available if the Lever Mode position 2 is off.

Lever Mode position 2>On This lets you change the function of buttons on the top left of the camera when you flick the lever to mode 2. The buttons then change flash compensation and flash mode as well as Bracketing mode and number of bracketed frames and their EV steps. Cool.

Option set C (Release/Continuous mode selections)

Release Priority S>Off This ensures that the shutter will not fire unless something is in focus. As you usually use the S AF mode for portraits, weddings, products and other stuff that must be tack sharp, this is a good idea to me.

Release Priority C>On/Off I change this if I am doing specific action where I need sharp shots all the time – like sponsored race cars, athletes or football players for their agents. If On when shooting those, the camera will track focus and only release if it deems the subject is sharp. With it off, you can pick the moment to fire and it obeys. Your mileage may vary depending on your needs. For Birds in flight or other action set this to On and you will not get many (if any) out of focus shots as it tracks the bird.

L fps>5fps No logical reason for this setting other than it is what my Nikon F5 and E-3/5 could give and plenty fast enough for most use when doing human based sports (except Touch). Set what you like.

H fps>10 fps The fastest you can get on the mechanical shutter of this camera. So if you want H rates, then, as the saying goes, *go huge or go home*.

Silent Shutter Low fps>5 fps I keep this at the same as the mechanical shutter rate. Why add things to remember?

Silent Shutter H fps>11 fps See comment about the 10fps setting above.

Image stabiliser>

Still Picture>IS AUTO At this setting the camera automatically compensates for panning and tilting and de-activates either if needed. If set to IS1 or IS 2 you need to remember which is which and set the appropriate option if you suddenly decide to pan. I let the electronic geniuses sort those decisions. After all, I did pay for their abilities...

Movie>M IS 1 With this setting the camera uses the sensor shift plus digital stabilization when you are capturing movie footage. It clips the scene by a few pixels and you lose that last word in crispness of detail (go on, tell me you can really see the difference...) but then you do not get the slight wobble of the image when changing direction of pan or movement.

Image stabilization>On Only reason to put it off is if you on a tripod or think you can hold the camera steadier than it can.

Halfway Release with IS>On This activates the stabiliser when you half-press the shutter. Lets you see the subject without it jiggling about. You can save a miniscule amount of power by setting it to Off. I don't bother.

Lens IS priority> Off/On If you have a lens with an optical stabiliser built-in, set to on. If not, set it off.

Release Lag Time>Short If set to normal the camera takes a fraction of a second to respond to the shutter. Set to *Short* it is far more responsive – instantaneous in fact. However, the *Short* setting uses more battery power than *Normal*. If doing landscapes and still subjects all the time, you may prefer to save on batteries. I need instant responses from the camera and use an HLD7 and two batteries almost all the time. Your call...

Option set D (Display/Sound/PC)

HDMI>HDMI Out>1080i If connecting to a large screen via an HDMI cable, why not give the best signal possible?

HDMI Control>On With this on you can power the camera on and off and flip through images with the screen/HDMI device remote control.

Video Out> PAL My country uses PAL TV signals. Set according to your locality.

Control Settings>

iAUTO>Live Guide – Live SCP

P/A/S/M>Live SCP

ART>Art Menu -Live SCP

SCN>Scene Menu-Live SCP

Each press of the INFO button while using each mode above will display the settings selected. OK. OK! Yes, I do love the live Super Control Panel (SCP). You may not.

Info Settings

Playback Info>Image Only-Overall-Histogramme-Highlight/Shadow-Light Box

Each time you press INFO after displaying an image you have taken the display will cycle through the settings you choose here.

Live View>Image only-Custom 1 – Custom2

If you set Custom1 you get a red overlay on blown highlights and a blue overlay on blocked-out shadows in real time while previewing an image on the screen or in the viewfinder if you cycle the INFO button

Custom2 displays the level gauge on the next press of the INFO button.

Thumbnail settings> 4 – 25 – Calendar

After displaying an image for review, turning the rear dial to the left will display a 4 thumbnails and then 25 before showing a calendar display. Choose the options you like.

Displayed Grid>Off After 4 decades in this business I reckon I should know where the intersections of the thirds are...I fancy that not using this balances-out the power used by the use of *Short* in the release lag setting. ;-)

Picture Mode Settings> All Why switch off an option you paid for? However, if you only use one or two and never the others, you can limit which ones are available on the SCP and Picture Mode menu option here. Will save you seeing picture modes you do not wish to see or use.

Histogram Settings> Highlight 250 Shadow 5 Aha! Why this? Well, if you couple this setting to a change of the Live View INFO setting to Custom 1 as described above, you will get the option to show the blown out areas of your shot in the viewfinder (or rear screen) in red as you preview the image. With the highlight warning set to display at 250 (and not 255) you will have a bit of “headroom” built in to your exposure if you avoid having any highlights in red in the preview. Blacked out shadows will show as blue but with a similar amount of leeway for working in post production. Also affects the histogramme (the English spelling) display on review. Works for JPEG and RAW shooting. Has been a feature of the display of Olympus mirrorless cameras for many years - with due respect to some Olympus *Visionaries* who claim their friend “discovered” this.

Mode Guide>Off

If set to on each time you select a new menu option or turn the mode dial a little box detailing the purpose of the menu option or setting will appear. I kind of know most of them so I have it off. But turn it on and never claim the Olympus menu system is hard to understand again?

Live View Boost>

Manual shooting>On1 With this setting the viewfinder works like an optical one but with a high refresh rate when using manual mode. I usually use manual only in a dark studio so I know my exposure will be fine and I need to see my subject. Some Olympus *Visionaries* argue that you should map Simulated Optical Viewfinder (SOVF) to a function button for use in dark areas like a studio. Seems like a waste of a button allocation that can do other things to me given that there is this choice. If set to **On2** it will try to brighten everything but the refresh rate gets very low and the image deteriorates in low light.

Bulb/Time>On2 When framing shots in the dark for bulb exposures it helps to see what is in the frame. Who cares about the refresh rate then?

Live Composite>Off I want to see the actual exposure as it builds up. No need for boosting the image here.

Others>Off In normal photography I want to see the effects of exposure adjustments as I make them.

Frame rate>Normal/High Changes...you can only use this adjustment if you do not have the boost and SOVF modes activated elsewhere. Normal and auto adjustment is usually great but when shooting sports/fast action I put boost and SOVF off so I can get the fastest EVF refresh rate.

Art LV Mode>Mode1 On mode1 you see the exact effect in the EVF of the ART filter you are using but sometimes the refresh rate drops to show it. If you use Mode2 it is the fastest EVF refresh rate but the effects are not as pronounced and not always what you eventually get.

Flicker reduction>Auto You set different Hz values to compensate exactly for the flicker of neon tubes and display screens but I have found that Auto does a fine job.

LV Close Up Mode>Mode2 When you enlarge an area in Live View this Mode2 setting will leave the view enlarged and perform AF when you press the shutter button without changing the enlarged view. In Mode1 it flips back to the reduced size view when you press the shutter button.

Depth of field preview lock>Off Pretty obvious this one. I like to press the preview, check what the depth of field effect is and have the aperture go back to wide-open for a nice bright view when I let go. Less to remember. Your choice may be different.

Peaking Settings

Peaking Color>Yellow You can choose from Red, Black, White and Yellow. I find yellow to be the most consistently visible colour with most subjects.

Highlight Intensity>Normal Different intensities of peaking marking. Normal works for me.

Image Brightness Adjust>Off If **On** the image intensity varies as peaking is displayed.

Backlit LCD>30 sec Saves battery power. **Hold** keeps rear display on as long as the camera is on.

Sleep>3 min Camera goes into low power consumption mode after the time you set here. Touch shutter or OK to wake it up.

Auto Power Off>4 h The camera switches off after the period of inactivity set here. You need to cycle the power switch to get it going again if it goes into power off mode.

Beep>Off Focus confirmation and self-timer beeps. If you like drawing attention to yourself leave it on.

USB Mode>Auto When you plug the camera into a USB device this setting calls up a menu on the rear display for you to decide which USB mode to use. If you never connect to flat screens, data projectors or use tethering and only plug into your computer to download images, set it to

Menu Recall>Recall If you de-activate the Recall option then you will always have to start navigating the menu system from the first tab and first option. However, if you set this to **Recall** you then have a further “soft programmable” button on the camera.

If you need to call up a particular menu option to chop and change it while on a specific shoot, press Menu and navigate to the setting. Now touch the shutter button. Each time you press the Menu button – even after you switch off the camera and power it on again – the last menu option you used (in this example that special option you need to access rapidly for your shoot) will always be recalled for quick access. Neat.

Option set E (For Exposure/Metering/ISO)

EV Step>1/3 Sets how it increments values with each click of a control dial. On this setting count three clicks for each full stop of compensation.

Noise Reduction>Auto Choices are Off, On or Auto. If you shoot mainly JPEG then Auto is good. It kicks in when you use slow shutter speeds or the camera and sensor temperature rises.

Noise Filter>Standard Sets the amount of filtering undertaken at high ISO values.

ISO>200 This setting can be accessed on the SCP. See notes below on ISO Auto.

ISO Step>1/3 Same as EV step on my camera.

ISO Auto Set

High Limit>5000

Default>200 ISO

Auto>P/A/S

The auto ISO setting is a great tool if you cannot be bothered to set ISO for each particular subject and condition you encounter. You can decide which modes use auto ISO and you can define the parameters of the Auto algorithm's range of options to use. The Default ISO you set should be 200. The camera will always use that and only increase the ISO if the lower shutter speed limit set in flash sync settings is reached. And it will only increase as far as it needs to to maintain the lower limit you set.

While I use this on P/A/S settings, you could turn manual into an automatic mode. If, for example you want to use 1/1000 sec at F=1:8.0, you can set that on manual mode. Now, if you set the ISO settings shown here the camera will change the ISO to ensure that you get good exposures with your settings but it will not exceed the maximum ISO you have set. I use ISO 5000 as I have consistently found that to deliver good, sharp images with good colour and not too much break-up on well-exposed images on the original E-M1.

Metering>ESP Available on the SCP. Set to taste. .

AEL Metering>Spot Sometimes this will change to SpotHi or SpotSh. What this does is it instantly changes the metering area to a spot, SpotHi or SpotShadow mode when you press the AEL button. See the options for AEL earlier.

BULB/TIME Timer>Variable This sets the maximum time available for Bulb photography.

BULB/TIME Monitor>-7 Sets how bright the monitor will be when you are shooting with BULB or Live Time settings. It is usually dark so I turn it down by default. If you need it brighter you can do this on location as required.

Live BULB>Off (usually) If off the camera builds up the image and you see it only after completion. This saves battery power. If **On**, you can monitor the image as it builds-up.

Live TIME>Composite settings

Anti-Shock>

Composite settings>

The time you set is the time interval at which updates will be made to the display. Total exposure time is the time between your first shutter press and the next one which ends the composite image exposure.

Option set F (Flash Custom settings)

Flash X-Sync>1/320 Its the fastest you can use with electronic flash units unless they are Olympus FP mode compatible.

Flash Slow Limit>1/15 This changes sometimes but this is a good floor limit in my experience.

Flash/Exposure compensation>Off If this is on, any adjustments you make to the flash exposure compensation are *added to* the EV value you may have adjusted for exposure. This often gives you over-exposed images as it racks up the ambient *and* the flash exposure at the same time but you will only get a preview of the ambient exposure in the EVF. As you can quickly set flash compensation with the multi-function lever to position 2 and top left buttons or using the SCP, I leave this off.

Option set G (Picture quality/Colour/White Balance)

Image size settings (That pixel graphic)

1>LF

2>LN

3>MN

4>SN

Pixel Count

M/Middle>3200x2400

S/Small>1280x960

These give me great fast JPEG output options for use when shooting things only for web or Facebook use. Seldom used but save a lot of fiddling when they are needed.

Shading Compensation>On Keeps older lenses and non 43 glass images from showing vignetting.

WB>As needed. Change via SCP or multi-mode lever position 2 and a dial. It's faster.

ALL WB Compensation>

All set

All reset

This applies the same WB shift adjustment to all WB modes or resets them to factory default.

WB Auto Keep Warm Colours>On

In Africa we like warmer tones. Your mileage may vary. Use if a JPEG shooter, immaterial if you only shoot RAW.

Flash White Balance>WB Auto You can change the WB of the image to any setting if using flash. Or you can leave it alone as I do as its easier to play with these things via the SCP.

Colour Space>Adobe RGB

If you only shoot JPEG and view image son a phone or PC screen out the camera, then sRGB is a good setting to use. If you shoot RAW or work commercially, use Adobe RGB as it has a wider colour gamut than sRGB. However, images tend to look “flat” compared to sRGB on the same system until post processed.

Option Set H (Record and Erase settings)

Quick erase>Off

Asks you to confirm deletion of an image with a default answer of No. One day you will be glad this is off.

RAW+JPEG Erase>JPEG

When shooting news events I shoot RAW and JPEG. JPEG for the news service and RAW for my library. If I get accosted by an overly self-important policeman or security official demanding that I erase a photo I may have taken, then this deletes the JPEG but not the RAW file and keeps them happy.

File Name>Auto

This setting remembers the last file name and number on any previous card and increments it on a new card. Prevents you landing up with hundreds of images with the same file-name which is what happens if you choose **Reset**.

Edit Filename>

sRGB> (First position) M

AdobeRGB>(First position) M

This puts the letter or number you choose in the file-name at the position chosen. When shooting several folk from my studio using the same cameras this is a handy way to differentiate who shot what.

Priority Set>No If set to No this will put the cursor on the position you move to or a default negative when you choose to change something. If ON the camera will automatically move the cursor to a point that will complete the chosen action if you press OK. I need the added time to move cursors to make sure it is a good idea before I press OK. You may feel differently.

dpi Settings>350dpi Saves you having to scale everything from a huge 72dpi file to get print ready files.

Copyright Settings>

Copyright Info>On Adds the copyright detail you supply in the next two fields to the EXIF data of the file. If you make money off your photos (and even if you do not) it is worth using this.

Artist Name (Your name)

Copyright Name (Your website or copyright file/link/warning or whatever...)

Option set L (Movie settings)

Movie Mode>A I like controlling depth of field in movies/video hence this choice.

Movie mic recording>On Leave this on as it automatically cancels use of the built-in mic when using an external one anyway. But if you forget to take one along the built in mic is not that bad out of wind.

Movie Effect>On The camera can add ART filters to footage. Leave this on and you can use that facility. If you do not choose them its no problem but one less thing to try and work out in the field if you ever decide to get arty.

Wind noise reduction>Off I use an external mic with windsock most of the time hence this choice.

Recording volume>

Built-in>Adjusted as needed

External>Adjusted as needed

Line-in>Adjusted as needed

Volume Limiter>On There is a very effective distortion limiter on this system and you have a live levels monitor on the screen. A good combination.

PCM Recorder/Link>

Camera Rec Volume>Operative Controls the levels on the PCM recorder using the camera level inputs/volume control.

Slate Tone>On

Synchronised Rec>On

Movie Shutter Function>Mode1 Takes a photo when you press the shutter button during video recording. This pauses the recording and takes a full res JPEG in 16:9 format then carries on recording.

Time Code Settings>

Count up>Rec Run Counts only when camera is recording. Free run will have a time code whizzing away on the monitor even if you are not recording.

Starting time>

Reset

Manual Input

Current time

Lets you set an arbitrary time for the time code, carry on from the previous clip or use a zeroed one.

Movie Info Settings>

All selected

Items you tick here display on the movie recording monitor. You may like less information. Un-tick as you please.

Option set J (Built in EVF)

Built in EVF Style> Style 3 Gives maximum real estate to the image and overlays data selected. You also have choices to make it look like an old fashioned SLR finder.

Info Settings>

Basic Information

Custom 1

Custom 2

You need this on the custom settings if you want to see the red and blue highlight/shadow overlay when you toggle the INFO button described earlier.

Displayed Grid>Off As I said before, if I do not know where the thirds are by now...

EVF Auto Switch>On Very kindly activates the EVF for you when your eye is nearby and powers it down again when you take the camera from your eye. Saves power and you having to press the EVF/Live View button next to the viewfinder..

EVF Adjust>

EVF Auto Luminance>On

Automatically adapts the EVF to prevailing lighting conditions. Otherwise if off it is a constant brightness level which can be dazzling in dark wedding venues, theatres or when shooting floodlit sport.

EVF Adjust> Zeroed

I have found the EVF to be pretty accurate in colour and White Balance. You may wish to fiddle though...

Halfway Level>On

S-OVF>Off

If you want things to look like they do through a flappy mirror camera viewfinder and lose exposure preview and all the other great mirrorless advantages, set this on. There are other ways to get SOVF quickly. One is via the Fn2 button and a dial twirl. Far faster.

Option set K (Utility)

Pixel mapping

This takes a look at all the pixels and checks their response. Dead or stuck pixels are then mapped out of the photographs. I do this before all important assignments.

Exposure shift>

ESP>0

CWA>0

Spot>0

If you reckon the built in meter is off, you can adjust the response of the meter here. My view is that with the histogramme adjustments we made earlier this is not all that vital.

AF Focus Adjust>On One of my top-pro 4/3 lenses was back-focusing a tad so I adjusted it. If this is off that adjustment is useless. If you are happy with your lenses AF performance, leave this alone.

Battery warning level>+1 Makes the battery warning pop up earlier than if at 0. My own preference. Your mileage can vary as can your setting of this.

Battery Priority> PBH Battery If you use the HLD7 on the camera, this setting makes the camera drain the battery in the grip first then switch to the camera in the body. You can make it use the camera battery first but the logic of that escapes me.

Level Adjust This allows you to re-set the level indicator. Never had to do it yet.

Touch screen settings>On You may not want this on. I love the speed of settings with the SCP and touch screen.

Electronic Zoom Speed>

Still picture>High When doing stills with a powered zoom, I like changing focal length quickly.

Movie>Low On movies, you usually use a slower zoom tempo than with stills. You have options though.

Setup menu

Date and time> As you require. Local is sensible.

Language>English

Monitor Adjustments>**Zeroed** I find the monitor and EVF pretty good right out the factory. If you wish, you can change the settings here but personally I never do fine review on the camera anyway. Its far more important to have your computer monitor and other downstream items colour matched.

Rec View>**OFF!!!!** If this is on, each time you take a photo the EVF will display it for a fraction of a second. No hope of following subjects then. This is on by default on the original E-M1. Do not know why.

WiFiSettings

WiFi Connect settings>

Private / One time / Select / Off

Private will keep the details of your camera on your OI share equipped phone for a fast set up next time it is used. One time lets you set up a fast, one time connection to any other wifi device. Select is tedious as it asks you each time WiFi is activated if you want a Private or One Time connection. Off is...well...off. No WiFi.

Private Password You can set your own password here. Each body has its own one so cannot see whay you would need to but anyway...do it here.

Reset Share order This resets the way images are sent out of the camera. Frame last frame onwards to all on card.

Reset WiFi settings All WiFi gadgets need this occasionally. However, in 5 years my cameras have not needed it...yet.

Advanced settings (Gears) and Olympus PenPal menu display>

Gears menu>**On** You will want to be able to set all those amazing options on your camera. If you cannot see the Advanced setup menu (Gears menu) activate it here.

PENPAL display>**Off** Unless of course you use the PENPAL gadgets and the power port.

Firmware>**4.5** The latest update at time of writing. Anything less and you should connect your camera to your PC and run the updater.