

# Classes By Gainer

## Some Common Camera Symbols and Icons

and what they mean

From the website [www.inspiredart.biz](http://www.inspiredart.biz) by Sandy Arroyo

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Symbol	Name	Description
	Monitor	Turns on and off camera's monitor
PC or 	PC Mode	Set up the camera to view pictures.
	Still Photo	Sets the camera ready to start taking pictures.
	Exposure Value Adjustment	Adjusts the exposure brightness and darkness. Usually shows a scale that starts at 0 and goes to plus or minus tick marks on the scale.
	Tungsten or Halogen Light Control	Reduces the effects of standard light bulbs (Orange Color)
	Sunny Day	When setting White Balance for outdoor sunshine
	Custom Control	By using a grey or white card you set the camera's light settings for optimal white balance.
	Florescent Control	Reduces the green effect from florescent lights
	Cloudy Control	For recording under overcast, twilight or shady conditions
	Close-Up Macro	Automatically sets the camera for objects near the lens.
	Timer	Sets timed shutter release so you can be in the picture. Time varies from camera to camera. This setting also reduces the effects of pushing on the shutter release in extreme low light settings to minimize blurring of the image from shaking.
	Playback	Shows the pictures stored in the camera
Menu	Menu	Enables the menu to change the settings on your camera.
	Continuous Mode Sometimes called Burst Mode	Allows you to shoot successive images while the shutter button is pressed fully.

	<b>Battery</b>	Tells you how much power is left in your battery
	<b>Delete</b>	Removes unwanted images
	<b>Wide Angle</b>	Changes the built-lens to take scenic pictures.
	<b>Telephoto</b>	Changes the built-in lens to take pictures of far off objects.
	<b>USB Port</b>	Connecting site for your camera to the computer.
	<b>Camera On/Off</b>	Switch to turn the camera off and on.
	<b>Movie Mode</b>	Allows you to use your camera as a digital movie maker
	<b>Pattern Meter</b>	In this multi-zone mode, matrix metering or average metering, the camera analyzes the total scene and sets the exposure settings.
	<b>Spot Meter</b>	In this mode the camera sets its exposure on only the center of the frame
	<b>Center Weight Metering</b>	In this mode the camera judges the entire frame but gives priority to the center of the frame.
	<b>Infinity</b>	Focus locks on the far end of the auto focus range so that the subject at a distance appears in sharp focus.
	<b>Portrait Mode</b>	In this mode you can take pictures of individual or small groups.
	<b>Landscape Mode</b>	In this mode you can take pictures of mountains, prairies or any large scene.
	<b>Action Mode</b>	In this mode you can take pictures of any moving object.

	<b>Night Mode</b>	In this mode you can shoot pictures with very little light.
	<b>Color Effect</b>	You can change the color mode the camera will take such as black and white, sepia, vivid or neutral.
	<b>Video Mode</b>	Sets the camera to take very short videos. Some even can record the sound. Uses a great deal of memory in your Flash Card.
	<b>Auto Flash</b>	This mode allows the camera to decide whether a flash is needed
	<b>Fill (force) Flash</b>	The flash will fire regardless of whether the camera feels it is necessary.
	<b>No Flash</b>	Turns off the flash.
	<b>Red Eye Reduction</b>	This is supposed to help reduce the problem of red-eye by initiating a series of small flashes just before the main flash ignites.
	<b>White Balance</b>	presets for various lighting conditions such as daylight, cloudy, flash, fluorescent lighting
	<b>Sensitivity to light</b>	The higher the number the less light is required.
	<b>Audio Record</b>	Some Cameras will record sound while in movie mode
	<b>Stabilizer</b>	You will see this icon when the camera thinks you don't have enough light to take a picture without a tripod



You might have a dial on the outside of your camera that looks like this. Each icon selects a different type of setting. Menu settings will also show icons such as these, and it is a good idea to go to your Menu and cruise around to see what is there. You will become more familiar with what the settings mean as you use your camera. Experiment! It's the best teacher.

This list of icons is not complete or comprehensive. Different manufacturers have different icons on their cameras. Some icons are universal, like the symbol for flash looking like a lightning bolt. But many cameras use different symbols for their presets. Use the instruction manual that came with your camera to figure out what each of the symbols on your camera means. It will take a bit of time to figure out all of them. My advice to you is to pick the most common, or elementary symbols and learn them first, then add as you go along. It is overwhelming to try to memorize all of them, and not necessary to take really good pictures!