Through The Lens

A guide to digital photography for computer enthusiasts.
After the click of your camera, you're only half done!

Setting up a new camera
by Lynda Buske & Chris Taylor

When you buy a new camera, be it factory new or just new to you, it can be a bit overwhelming. we recommend that you eventually read the entire manual but just to get started, there are some things we advise you **do right away**.

1. Download the full manual from the company website and keep it handy
2. If a used camera, reset all settings to factory defaults
3. Set language, date/time & time zone
4. Set autofocus mode – the default may be multiple point (matrix) focus and you may prefer single point focus (I know we do!). Check to see if it is set to continuous focus or subject tracking. You may wish to have neither.

You may not need to do the following items before your first shoot but we suggest you do them **not too long after** you purchase your camera.

1. Check the manufacturer's site for firmware update, especially if it is a used camera
2. Format the memory card in-camera
3. Set file format to your preferred setting: JPG, RAW or both
4. Set image size and quality. The maximum on both takes more storage space but gives the most flexibility for cropping, printing, etc.
5. Adjust the viewfinder diopter so that everything in the viewfinder looks sharp.
6. Turn off beeps. They can disturb wildlife or annoy other people.
7. Adjust screen and viewfinder for brightness
8. Disable the ability to take photos without a memory card. Why is this not always a default??

You may want to replace the strap to suit your needs and body. You may wish to customize the naming of the files from say IMG to your initials (e.g. LMB). There may be the ability to embed copyright info which could help someone locate you if you lost your device.

We highly recommend purchasing extra batteries and memory cards. We often get our best pics at the end of a shoot after we've become familiar with the subject, the light, the best angles, etc. We never want to miss those shots because we have no more battery power or space!