

Getting started with the CanonXF305



This guide is based upon the one by Anya Browne that I found [here](#).

So let's get started and look at the really important bits, you can always consult the manual for the other stuff. [Here is a pdf](#) of it for your reference.

Please feel free to explore my site at www.motionjuju.com

Menu

- Insert the battery and the CF (media) card(s).
- Slide out the LCD Monitor screen which is behind and underneath the microphone.
- Press the menu button and navigate the **'other functions'** menu using the **'set'** toggle switch located on top of the handle.
- Go to **'reset all settings'** and do so.
- Set the clock and the date.
- Insert your card and then initialise media. This option is in **'other functions'** menu.
- Bit Rate / Resolution - The camera will default to the best bit rate and resolution.
- Frame rate - Set to 25p.

External camera buttons

These are shown on the diagram on the last page.

Gain

Keep this on **L** for low, unless you have no choice, as it can degrade the image.

View Finder

By default the viewfinder will only show when the LCD monitor is in. To enable both go into the LCD/VF settings menu and turn LCD/VF Simul on. The viewfinder has an eyesight correction slider under it.

Peaking

This is a focus aid. You can choose 4 colours, Red, Yellow, White, and Blue. Red and Blue are the best as you can see it better on the outline of people.

Zebra

This checks the exposure and is just a guide, it will not appear on your footage. Generally, zebra showing on someone's nose would indicate correct exposure.

Shutter Speed

The Camera defaults to 1/25 but if you want to you can change this to up to 1/2000.

Image stabiliser

ON when handheld OFF when on tripod. There are three modes that can be chosen.

Full Auto button

Turn OFF - If it is ON it ignores all your manual settings.

AGC - Auto Gain Control

Turn it OFF and set it manually.

White Balance

The most useful way to approach this is manually so make sure that you switch the AWB to off. You can store two presets and this could be useful if you were filming both inside and outside as you could set one for each.

- Select A or B.
- Zoom into a white piece of paper that is where the subject is situated.
- Press the button once and keep the camera steady.
- After about 3 secs your camera will be white balanced.

Focus

- Set the Lens button to AF/MF.
- Select either '**Ring or Rocker**' on the Zoom Switch.

- If you select rocker the big rocker is touch sensitive.
- The mini rocker seed on the handle has speed controls on the side of the handle.

ND Filter - 'The Camera's Sunglasses'

If you have closed the Iris as much as possible but it is still bright outside then flick ND1 up. The brighter it is the more filter you need. ND3 would be used in snow or beach settings.

F stops / Iris

Firstly make sure that the Iris switch is set to manual.

You can adjust the iris with the ring.

The lower number the more open the Iris is and more light / exposure is obtained.

The higher the number the more closed the iris is and less exposure is obtained.

Audio

- The internal microphone will never be as good as using an external mic.
- Always monitor your audio levels with headphones.
- Make sure that you have the appropriate input selected.
- Make sure that you always select **M** for manual on the Audio levels.
- Do not have your levels too high or low aim for them to peak at around -10.

Iris ring. Like an eye.
Opening it lets more light in and closing it reduces the light.
Better to try and use this first rather than use an ND filter if it's too bright or gain if it's too dark.

Push Auto Focus.
These PUSH buttons are very handy for when you want to work in manual mode yet want to be able to have instant automatic settings without resetting the mode switch.

Focus - Manual or Auto
Better to have in Manual for interview type settings but perhaps Auto might work better for example if you were following a presenter through a market.

ND Filter. Like the Camera's Sunglasses.
Used in bright conditions.
Before using this control try closing the iris.

Iris can be flicked to Auto or Manual.
Auto is generally very good but wise to get into the habit of manual.
You can flick across to Auto to check the iris has the correct exposure.
Can only be tested by eye.

Shutter Speed.
Change the frames per second by clicking it across to Select and then using the roller to adjust the shutter speed.
Camera will automatically be at 1/25 but you might want to change to 1/50.

Peaking button.
To check you are in focus.

Zebra button. To check exposure.
You normally need a few lines on your subject's nose and side of face.

Auto Gain Control.
Set it to OFF.

Auto White Balance is generally very good but if you have two cameras on shoot then each camera's AWB will be different so better to change to OFF and set manually.

Two SD card slots.

Audio Levels.
Use these to adjust the level of sound.
Like Volume controls.

Full Auto.
Turn OFF otherwise none of your manual settings will work.

Gain. Through the menu you can set the gain levels.
Low, Medium, and High.
It's generally not recommended to go above 6db.
Push this when you are in the menu on CAMERA SETUP - GAIN.
This adjusts your gain levels and it is recommended to not go more than 6db.
There are 3 levels. Low, Medium, and High.
Set respectively to -6, 0, 6.

White Balance. You can manually input the white balance into A or B (possibly one for outside and one for inside).
Flick the switch to A and hold a piece of white paper up so it fills the frame, then press the button on the right.
That particular white balance is now saved to A.
I think Preset automatically adjusts the white balance for you?
Good if you are outside or in the sunlight; for an exterior mode.

