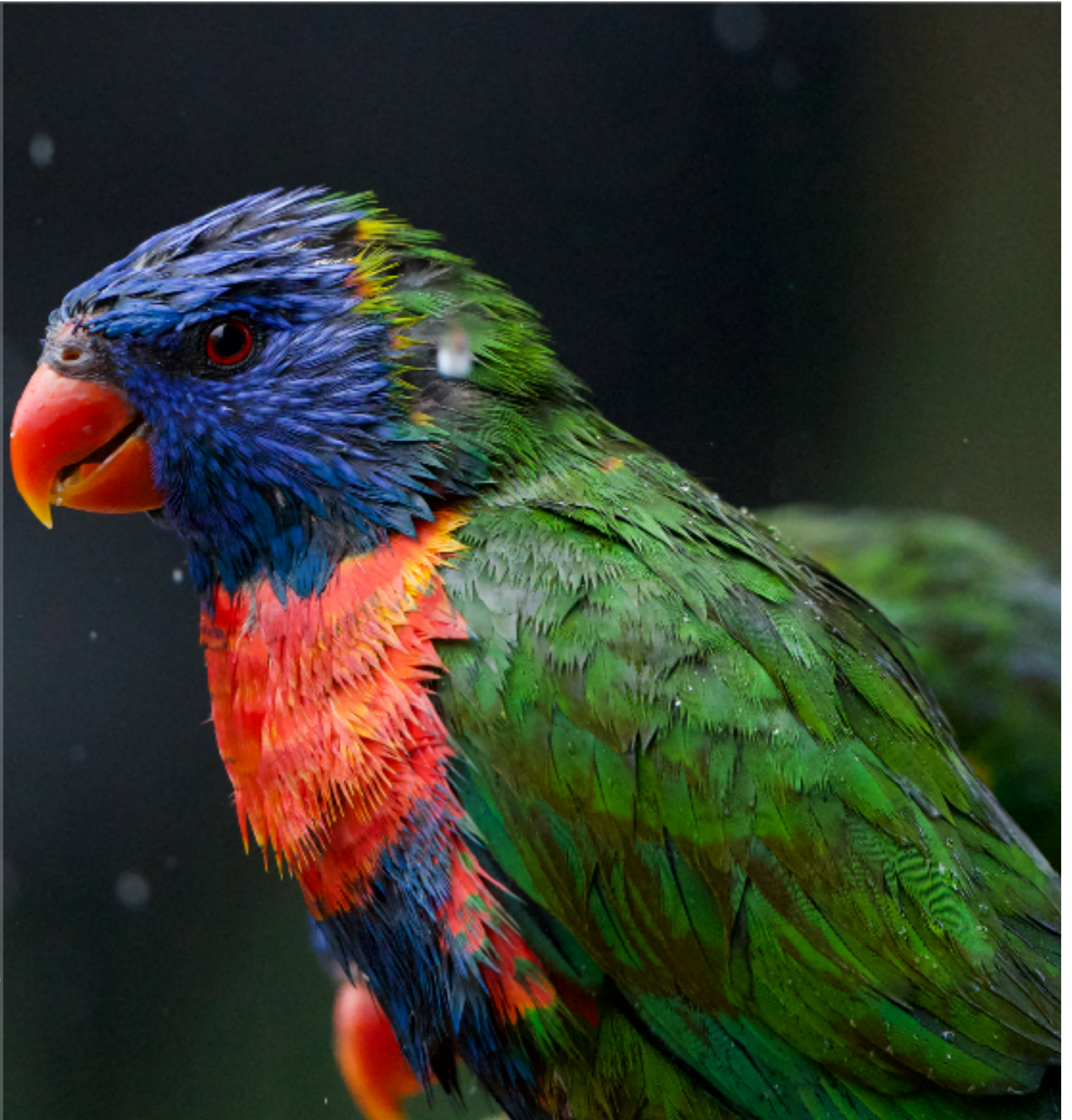


Sony A9 Settings

For Wildlife Photography



Shooting Menu

Shooting 1

Key Settings

IMAGE FORMAT: RAW ONLY (page 1/14)

RAW COMPRESSION: COMPRESSED (page 1/14)

Priority Set in AF-C (page 5/14)

Focus Area (page 5/14)

Focus Area Limit (page 5/14)

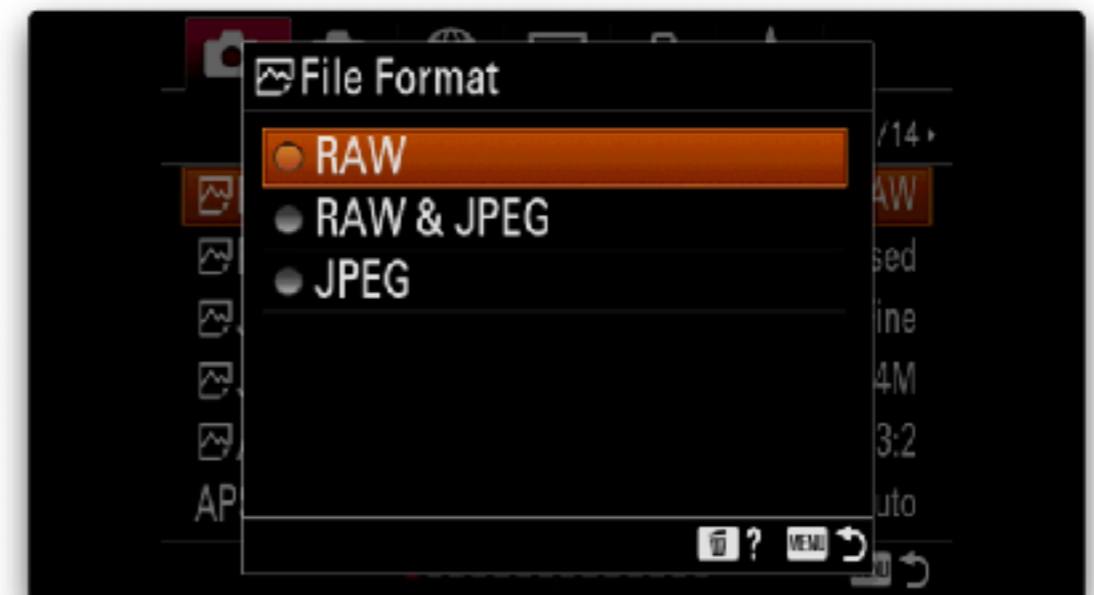
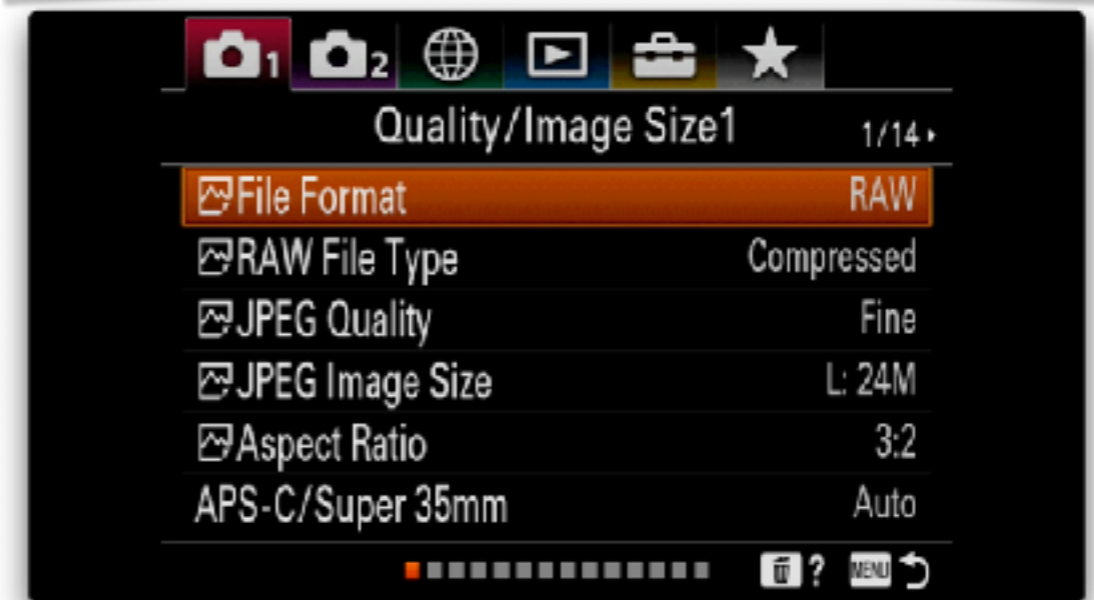
Face/Eye AF Settings

Subject Selection Settings (page 6/14)

ISO Settings (page 9/14)

Metering Mode (page 9/14)

Spot Metering Point (page 9/14)



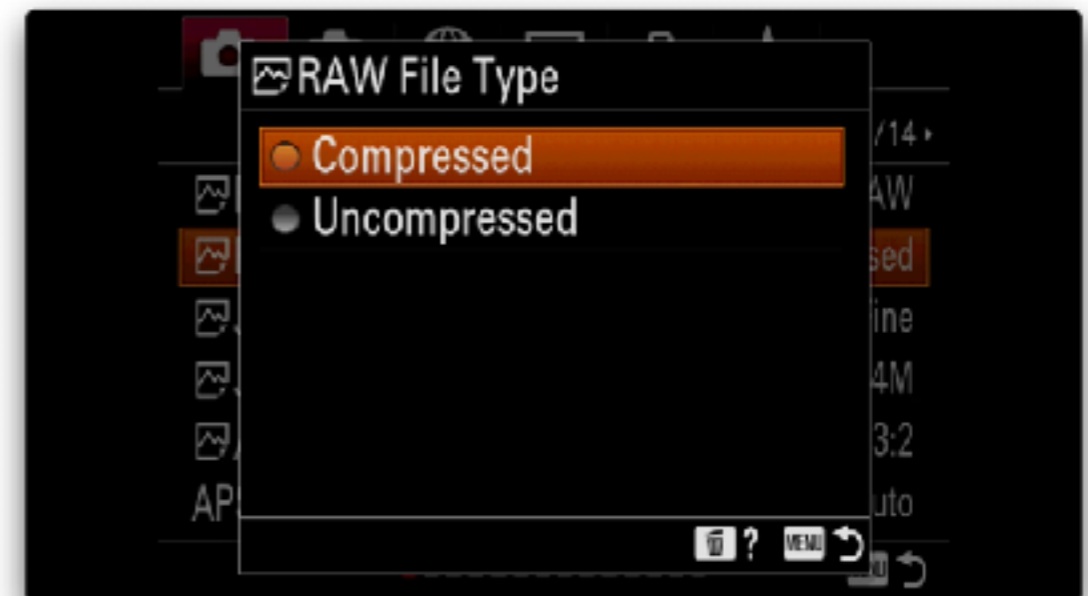
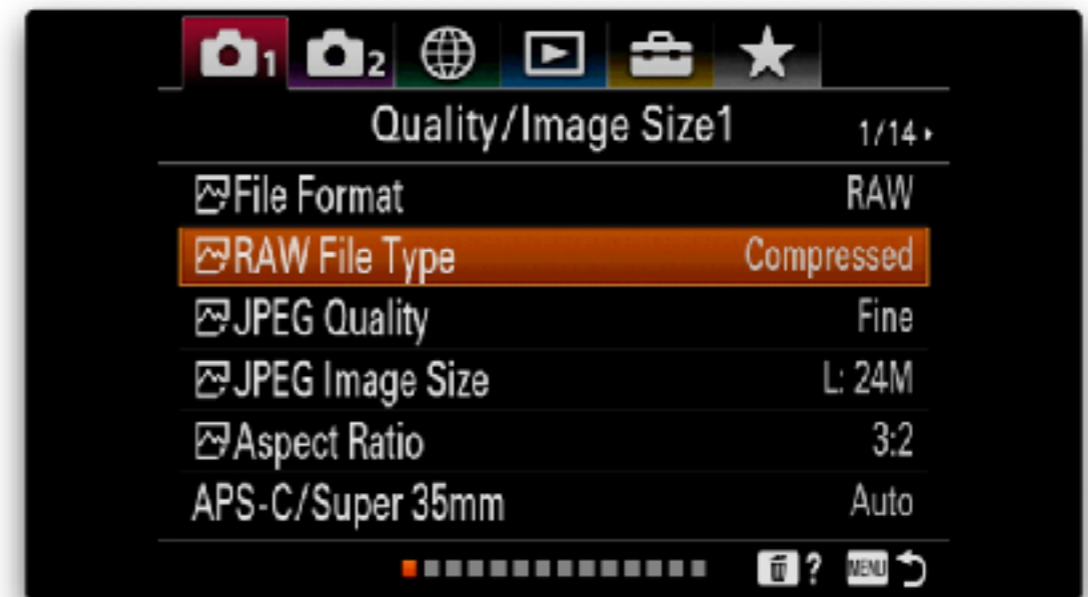
Shooting Menu - Image Quality

File Format

- RAW only to reduce capacity

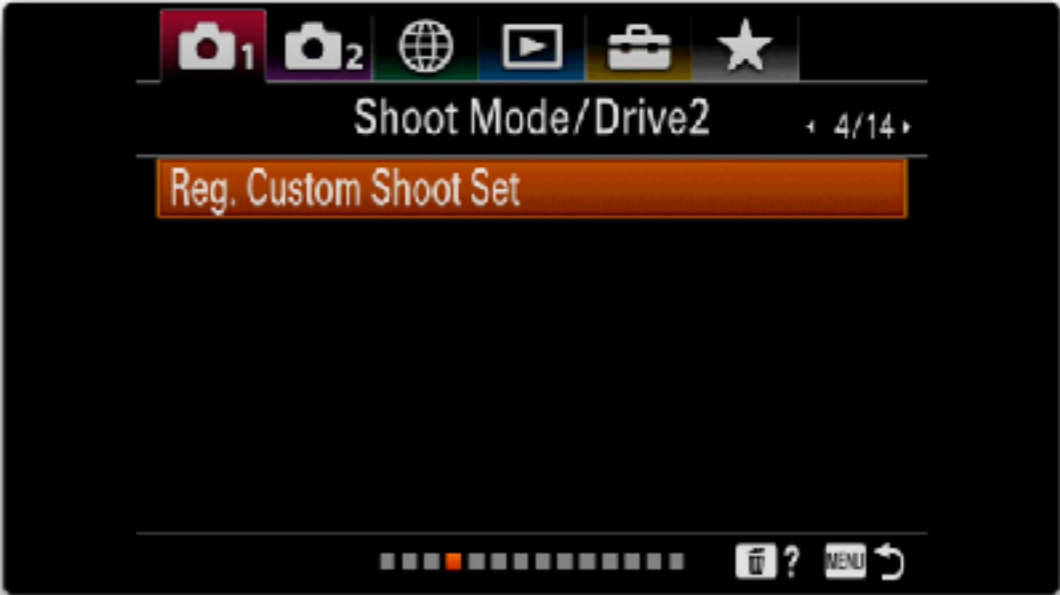
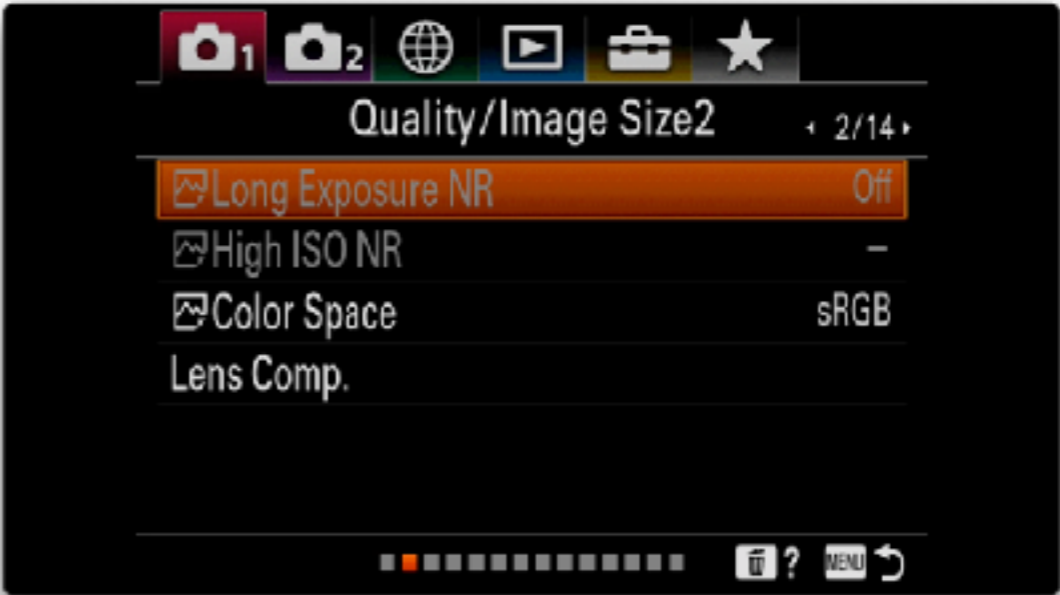
RAW File Type

- Compressed - shooting at 20FPS may not be possible if Uncompressed is used
- Use Uncompressed if possible e.g. stills etc.



Shooting Menu - Image Quality

Nothing to see here



Shooting Menu - Autofocus 1

Priority Set in AF-C

- AF - camera will only fire the shutter if it is in focus. Use this to avoid large numbers of out of focus images if shooting at high FPS e.g. Birds in flight. Some prefer to set this to Release so the camera will fire the shutter regardless of whether it is in focus or now claiming that they get more usable shots.



Shooting Menu - Autofocus 1

Focus Area

This will be set using the Fn button

Focus Area Limit

- Wide, Zone, Spot(small), Tracking Expand Flexible Spot - select the Focus Area modes that will be available to select from via the fn button or other programmed custom button



Shooting Menu - Autofocus 1



Shooting Menu - Autofocus 2

Face/Eye AF Settings

Set as per shown on the right

Subject Selection Settings

Select the options you want to be able to toggle through with the custom button assignment. Select them all.



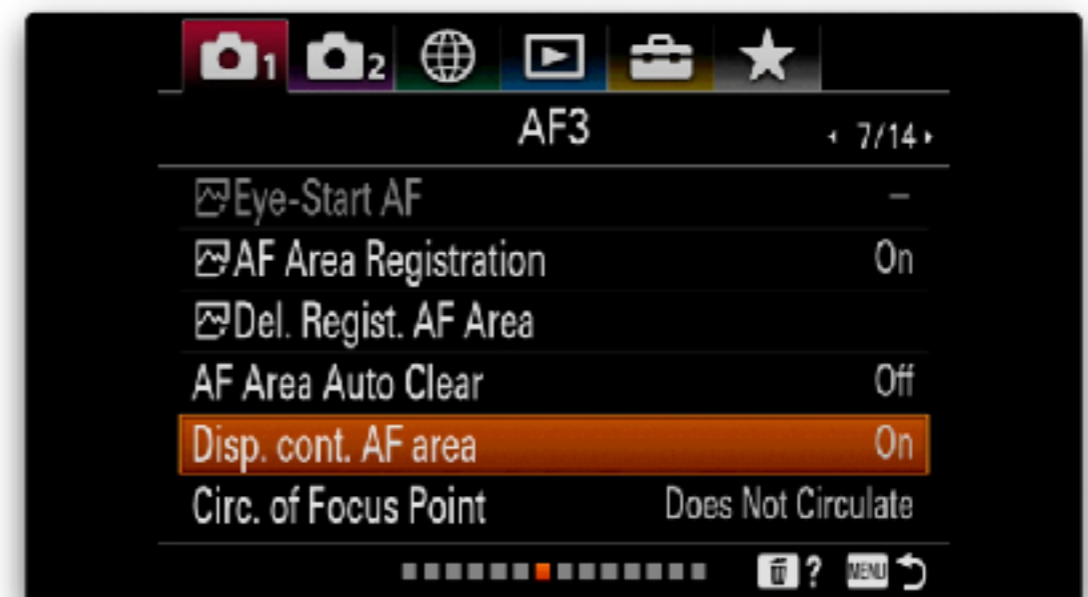
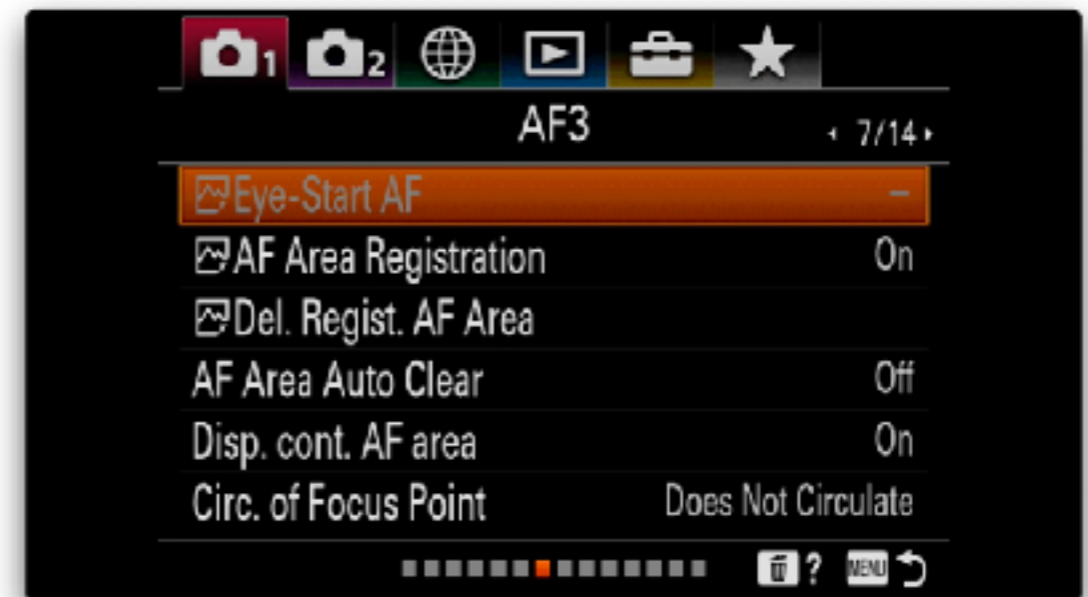
Shooting Menu - Autofocus 3

AF Area Registration

To set the Registered Focus Area mode follow these steps:

- Get out of Menu mode
- Use the Fn button to select the Spot(small) or Tracking: Expand Flexible Spot mode.
- Now press and hold the Fn button until a message pops up indicating that the mode has been registered.
- Now use the Fn button to select Wide mode again.

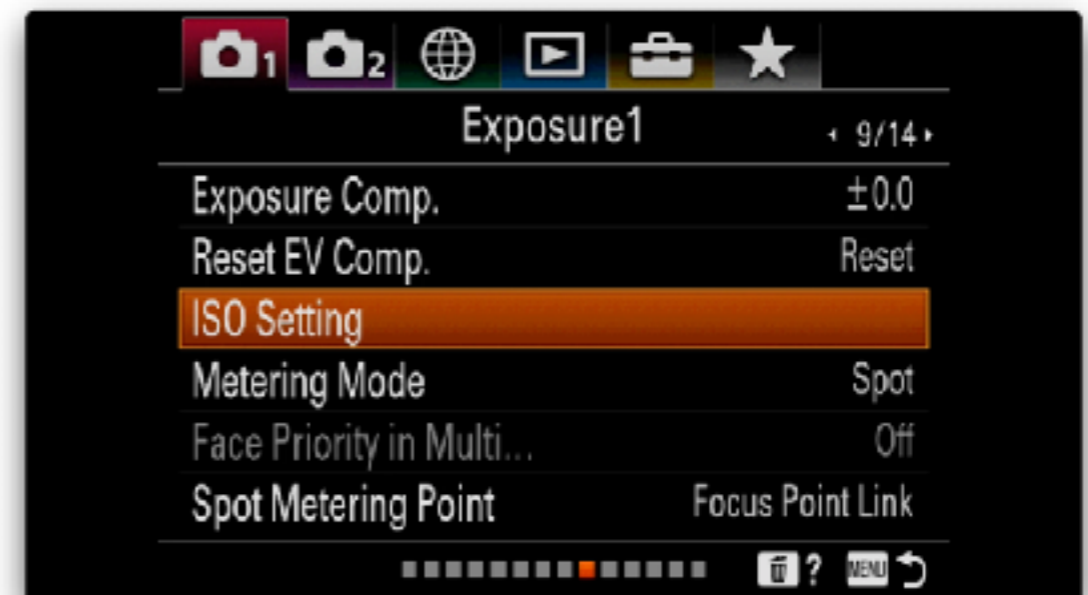
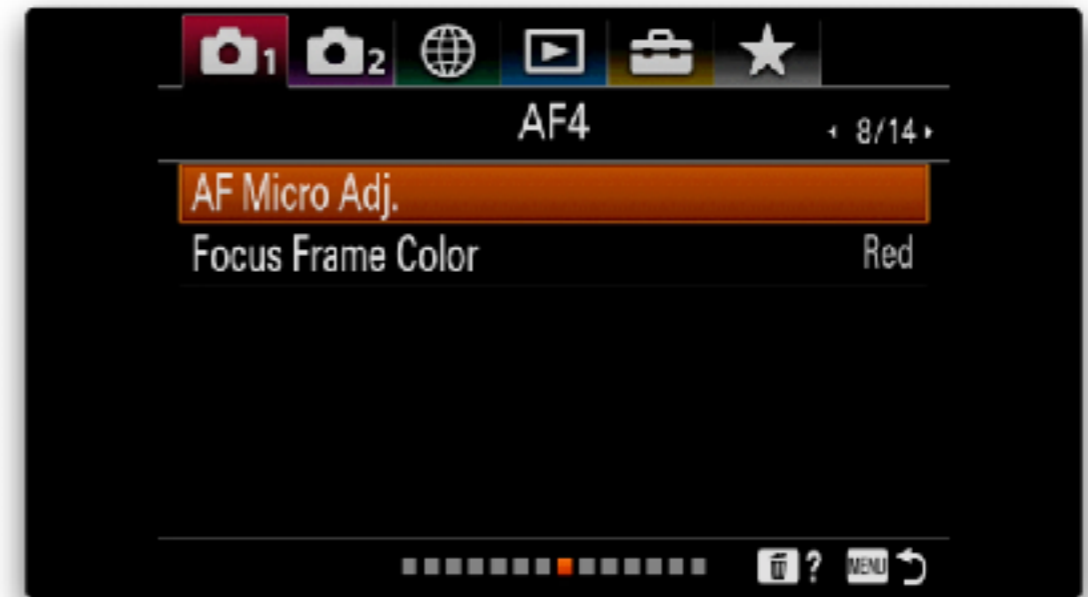
In the next steps we will program the AEL button as a second back focus button using the Registered Focus Area mode. So by simply pressing either AF-ON or AEL button you get the different focus mode instantly.



Shooting Menu - Exposure 1

ISO Settings

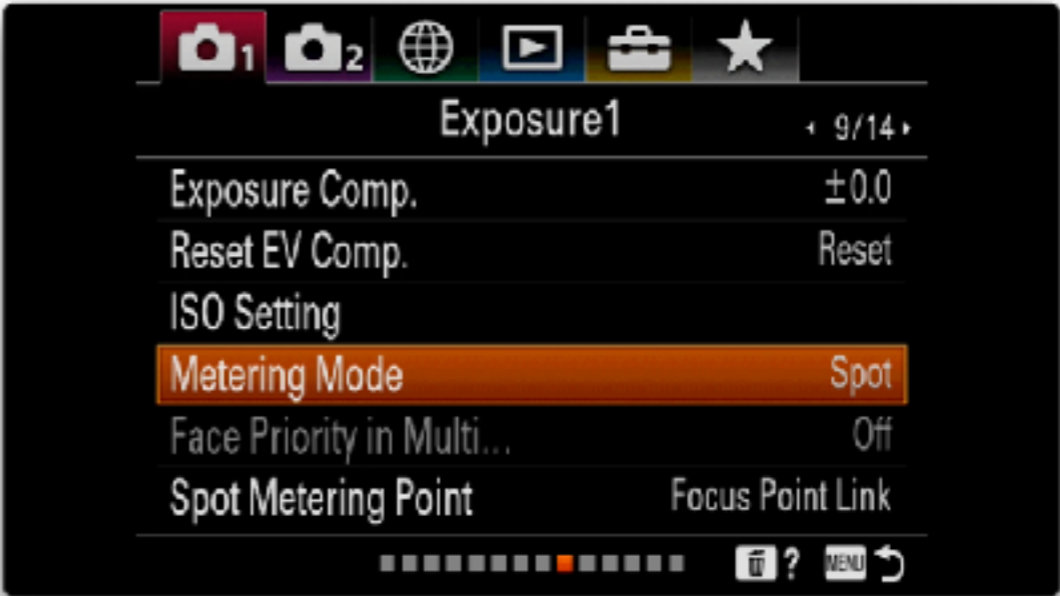
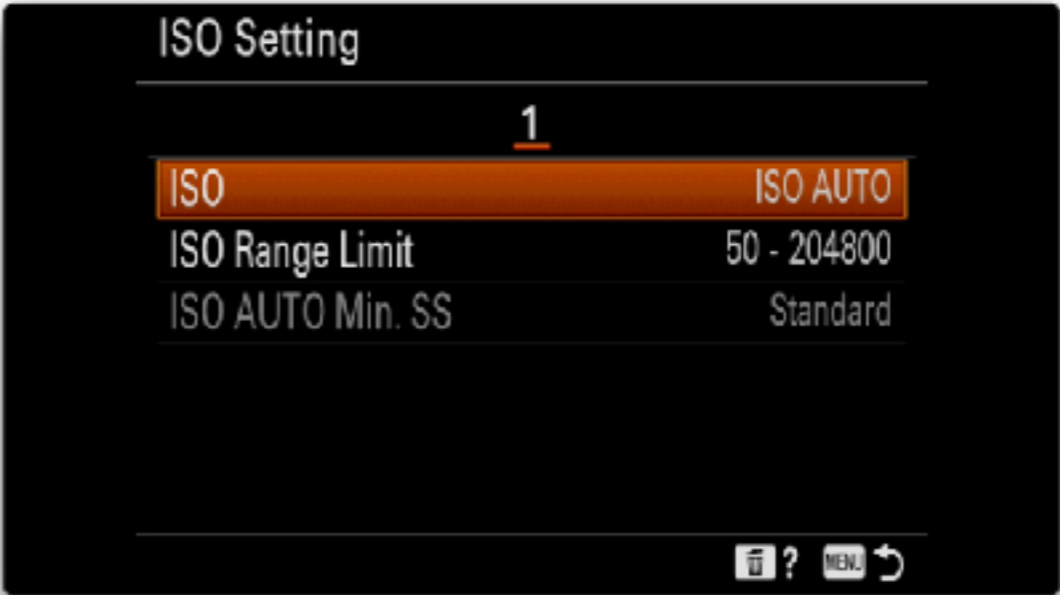
- ISO Auto - control the shutter speed and aperture but let the camera adjust the ISO automatically depending on the available light
- ISO Range Limit - set to 50 - 6400 to prevent high values being used when shooting animals when rapidly changing the composition and affecting auto iso settings.



Shooting Menu - Exposure 1

Metering Mode

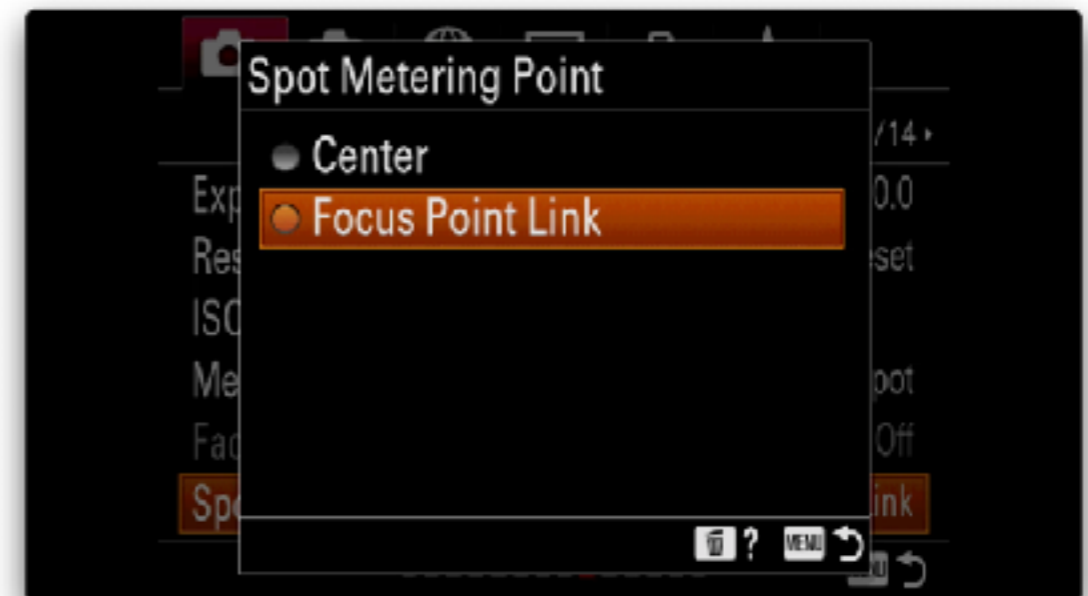
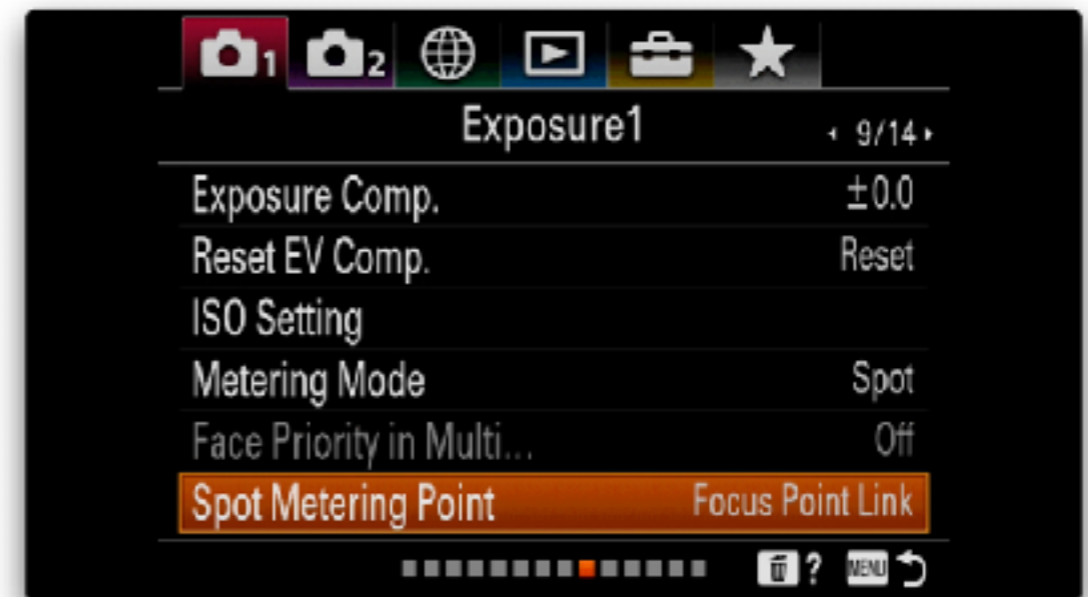
- Spot Metering - adjust the ISO using spot metering measurement. For birds and animals ideally we want the focus point to be correctly exposed and not have the exposure affected by the background that may be darker or lighter than the subject. See Spot Metering Point below.



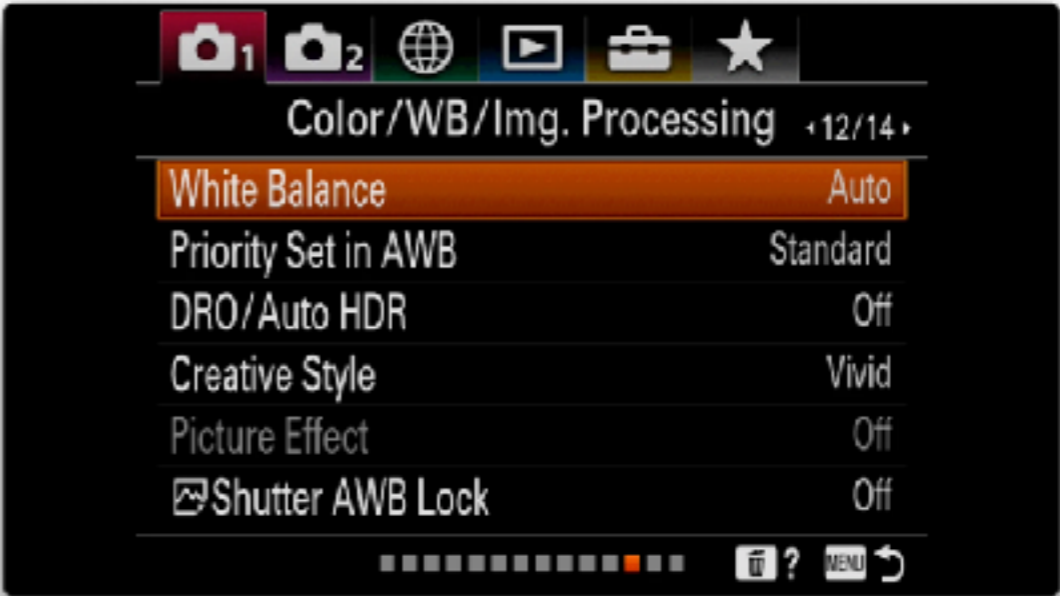
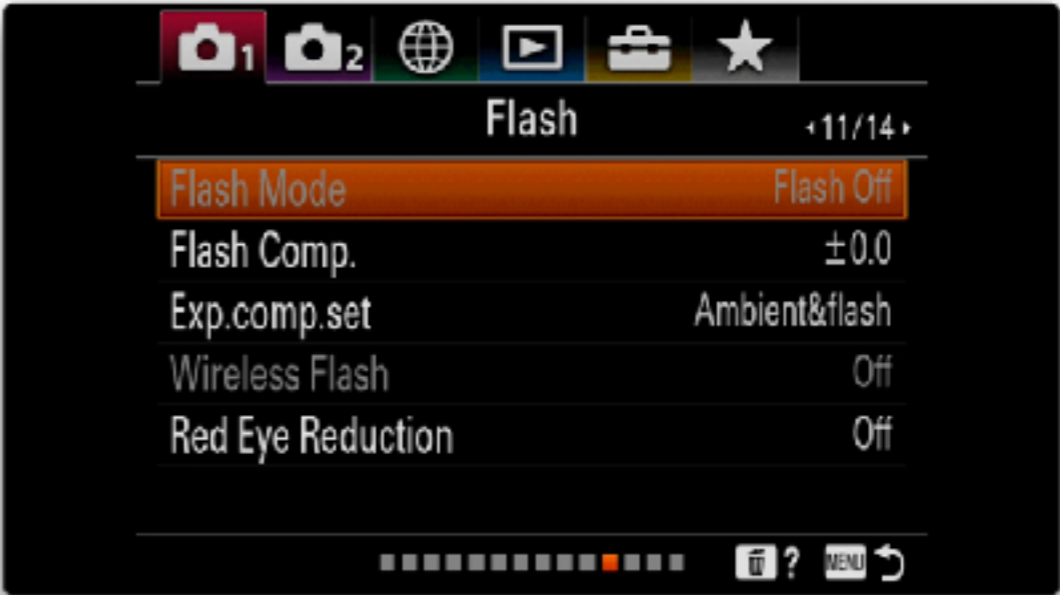
Shooting Menu - Exposure 1

Spot Metering Point

- Focus Point Link - use the focus point as the point for spot metering. Here we link the spot metering point to the focus point. See Metering Mode above.



Shooting Menu - Flash



Focus Magnification Time

No Limit - so it does not time out

Shooting Menu - Focus Assist

Initial Focus Magnification

4.7x - this will zoom in 4.7x when using the AF/MF Hold button on the lens in conjunction with a slight turn to the focus ring.



AF in Focus Magnification

On

Shooting Menu - Focus Assist

MF Assist

On



Shooting Menu - Focus Assist

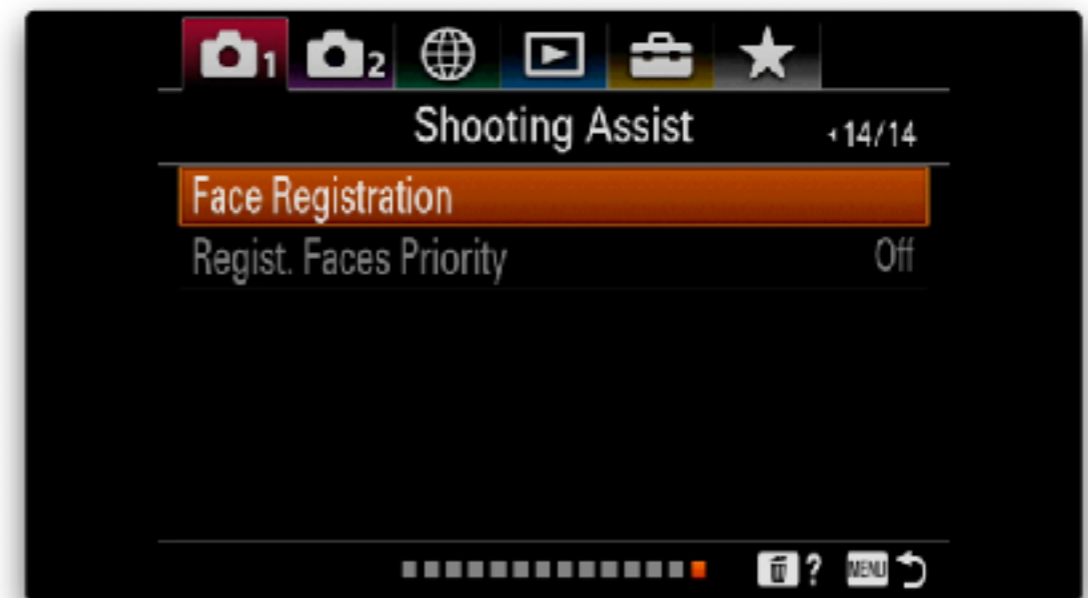
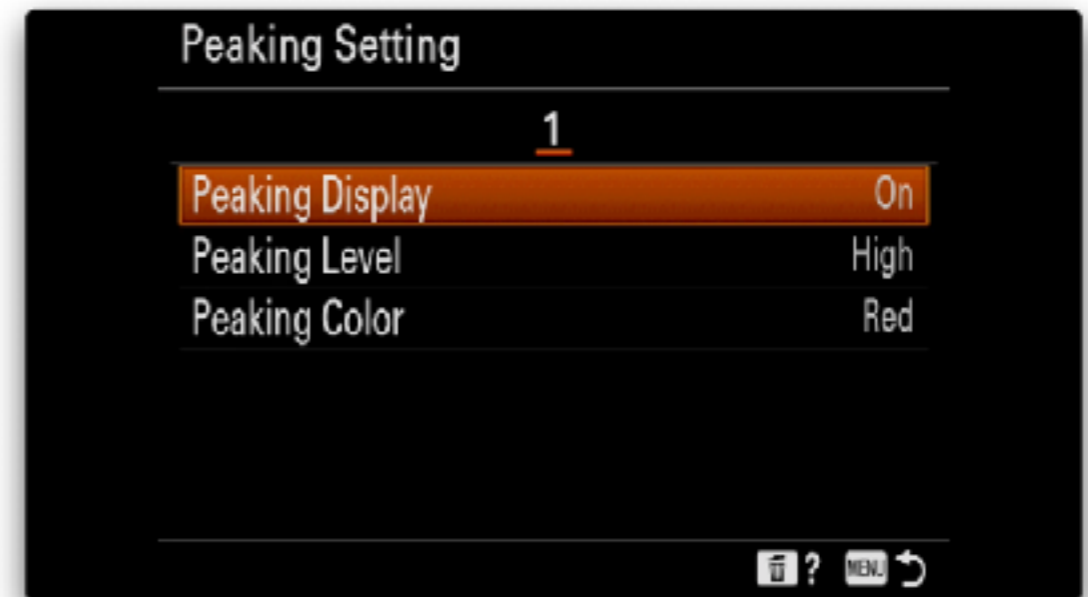
Peaking Setting

Display: On

Level: High

Color: Red

Used in conjunction with the Lens AF/MF Hold button and the focus control ring to zoom in like a spotting scope.



Shooting 2

Key Settings

Shutter - Electronic (page 5/11)

Steady Shot (page 5/11)

Display Setup (page 7/11)

Zebra Settings (page 7/11)

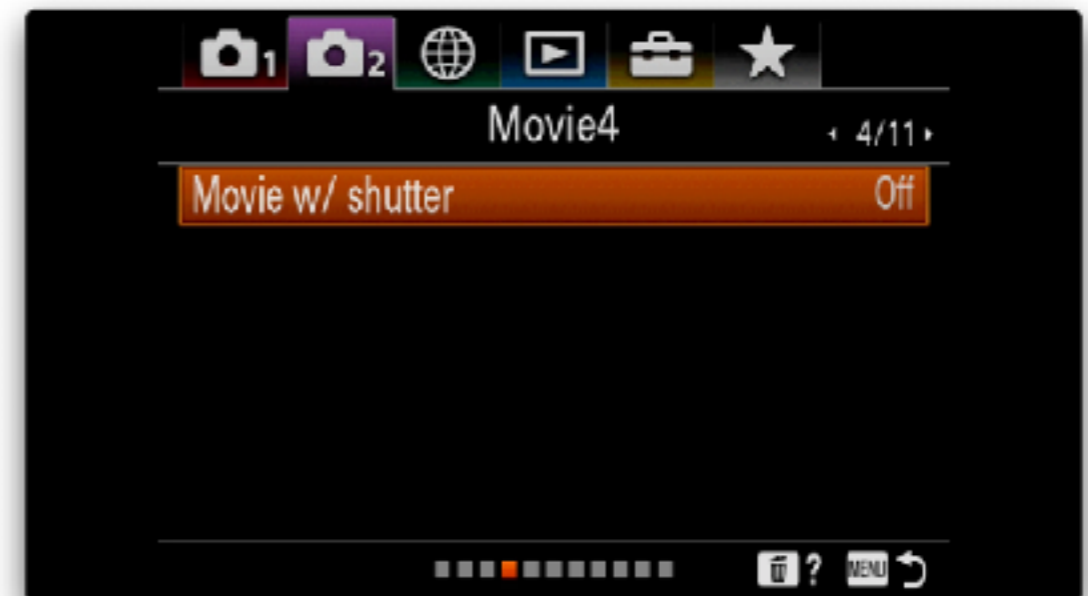
Custom Key Settings (page 9/11)



Shooting Menu 2

Shutter/SteadyShot

- Ignore silent mode settings
- Select Electronic Shutter
- Disable Release without lens/card - just in case you forget to put them in !



Shooting Menu 2

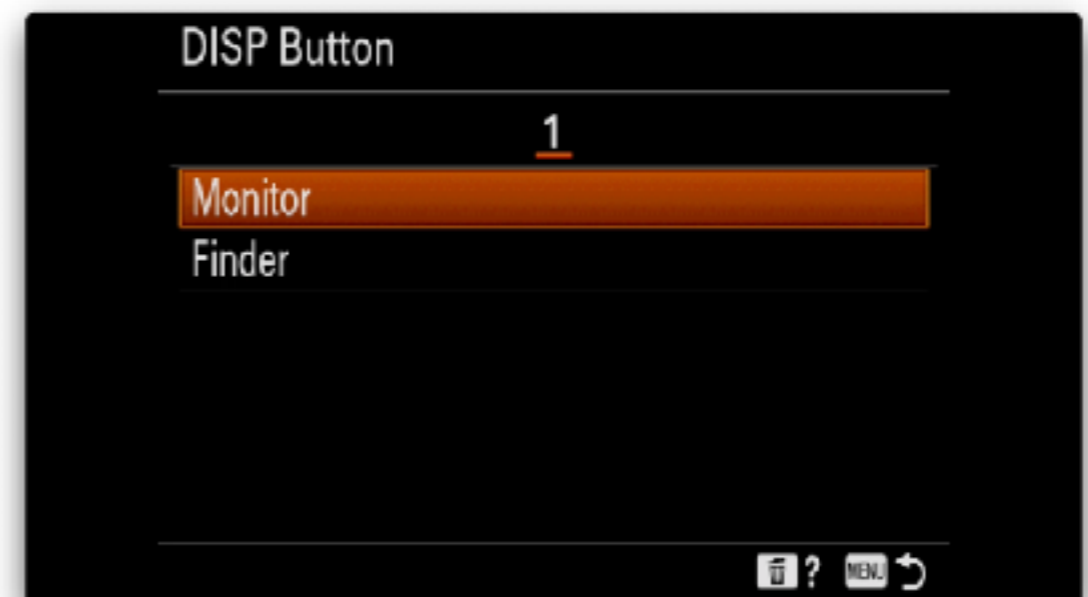
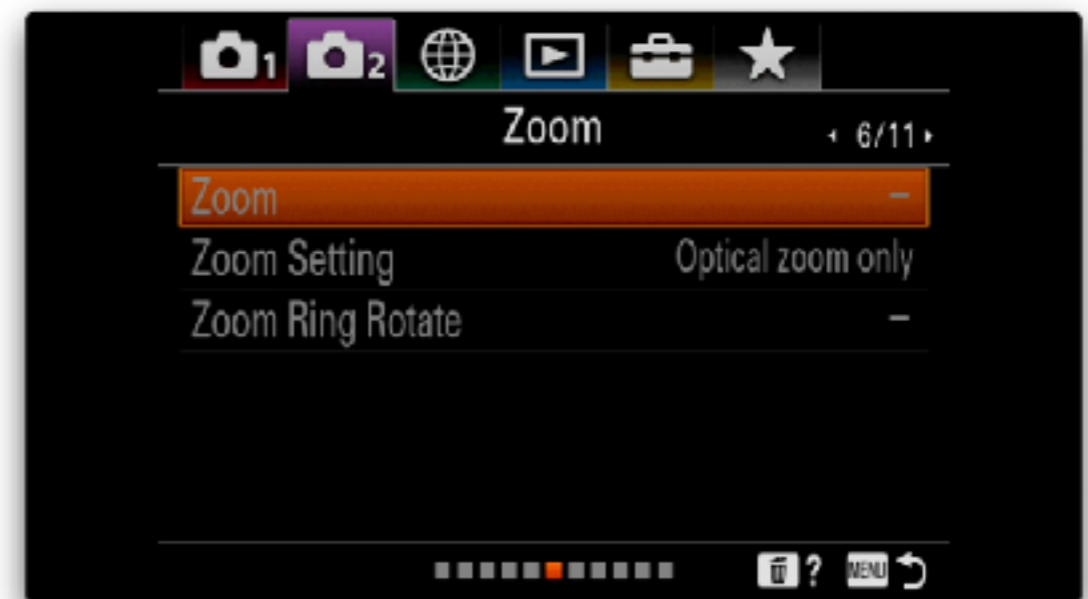
Image Stabilisation Settings

- SteadyShot on

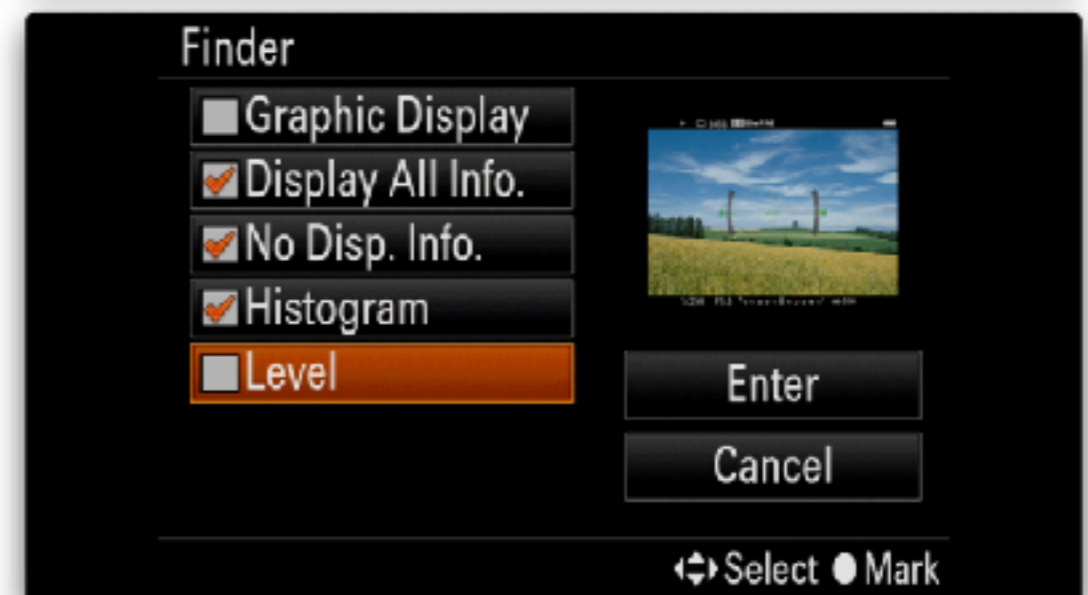
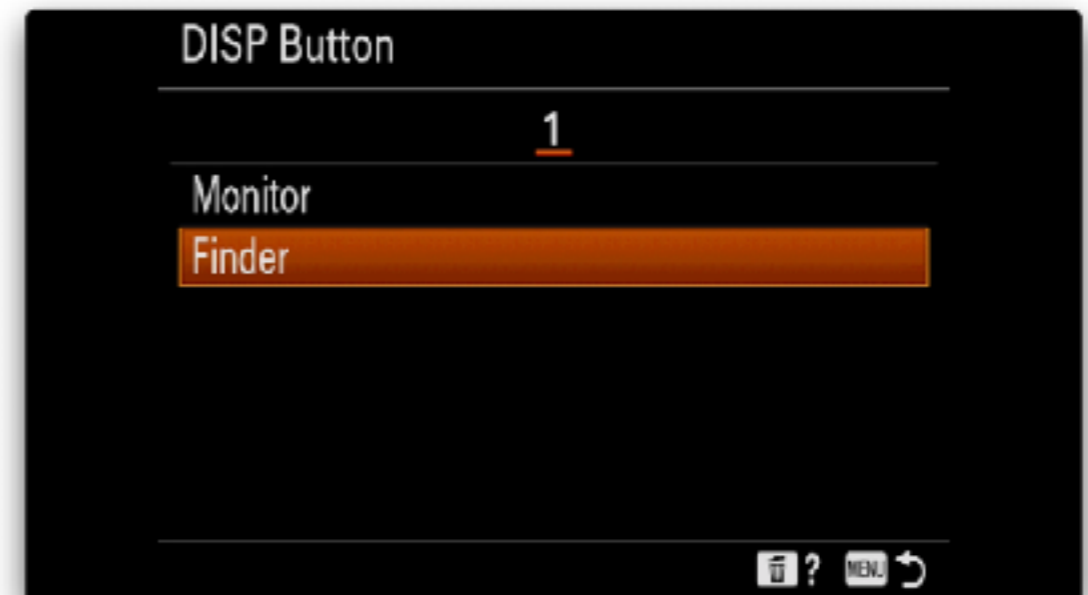


Shooting Menu 2

Set up the Monitor and View
Finder Displays



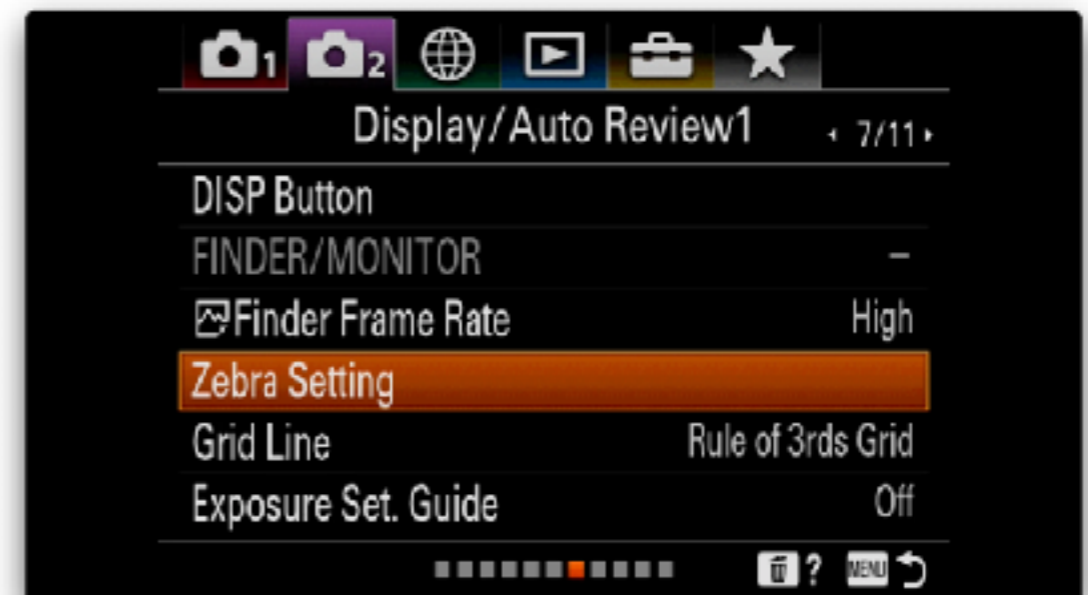
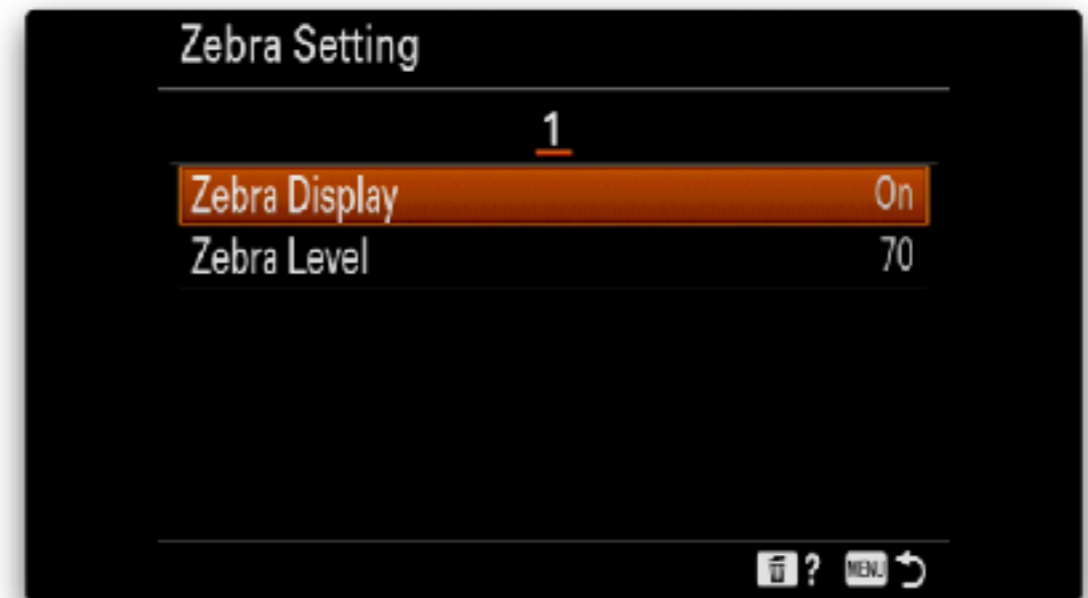
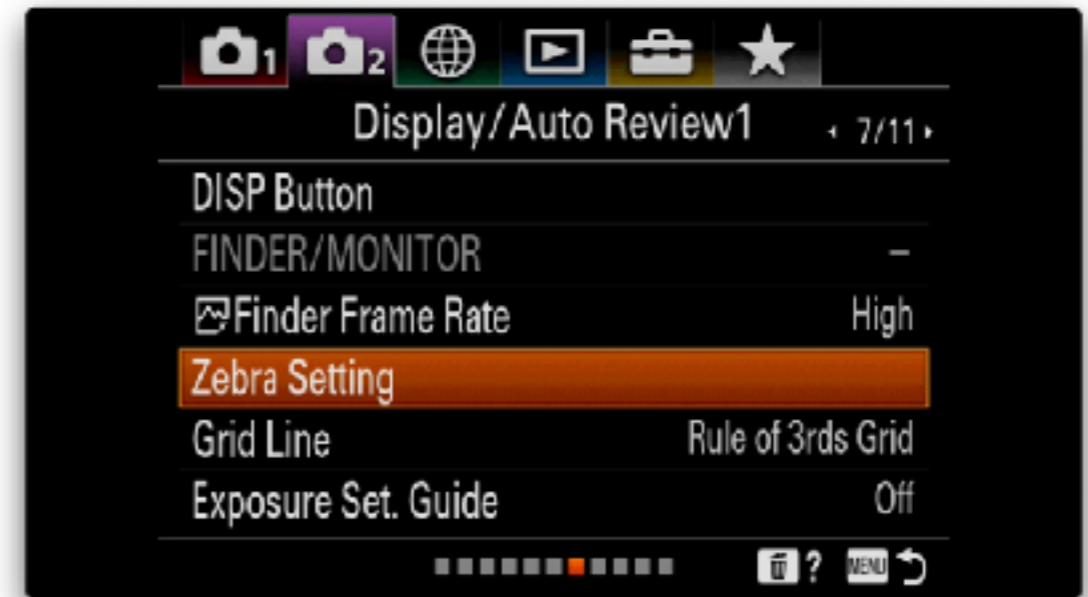
Shooting Menu 2



Shooting Menu 2

Zebra Display

- Turn this on to get zebra striped in the view finder for over exposed areas of the image
- This can be quite distracting and may make it harder to see the subject in the view finder.



Shooting Menu 2

Custom Key Settings

Assign functions to the cameras buttons as shown on the screens on the right.

These buttons and dials allow you to quickly switch models without needing to lift your eyes from the view finder.

Rear1

- 1 - ISO dial
- 2 - Registers AF Area + AF On
- 3 - AF On
- 4 - Movie Shooting
- 5 - Display My Menu
- 6 - Face/Eye Subject Selection



Shooting Menu 2

Custom Key

Rear11/4

AEL Button



1ISO

2Reg. AF Area+AF On

3AF On

4Display My Menu

5Regist AF Area toggle

?

MENU

Custom Key

Rear11/4

AF-ON Button



1ISO

2Reg. AF Area+AF On

3AF On

4Display My Menu

5Regist AF Area toggle

?

MENU

Custom Key

Rear11/4

Custom Button 3



1ISO

2Reg. AF Area+AF On

3AF On

4Display My Menu

5Regist AF Area toggle

?

MENU

Shooting Menu 2

Rear2

The images on the right show assignments but I no longer use these assignments

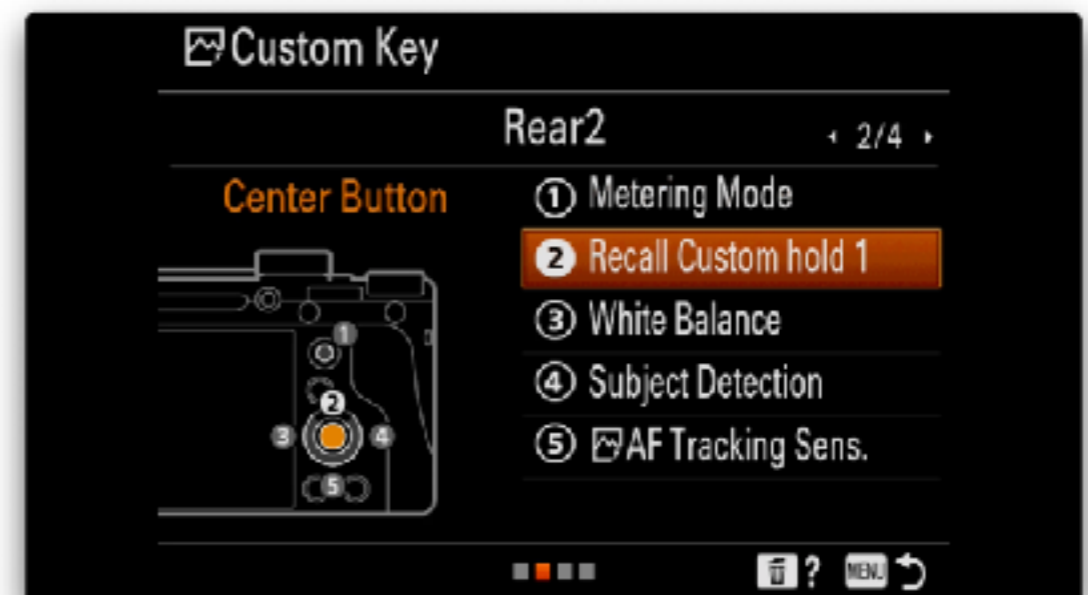
1 - Not Set

2 - Not Set

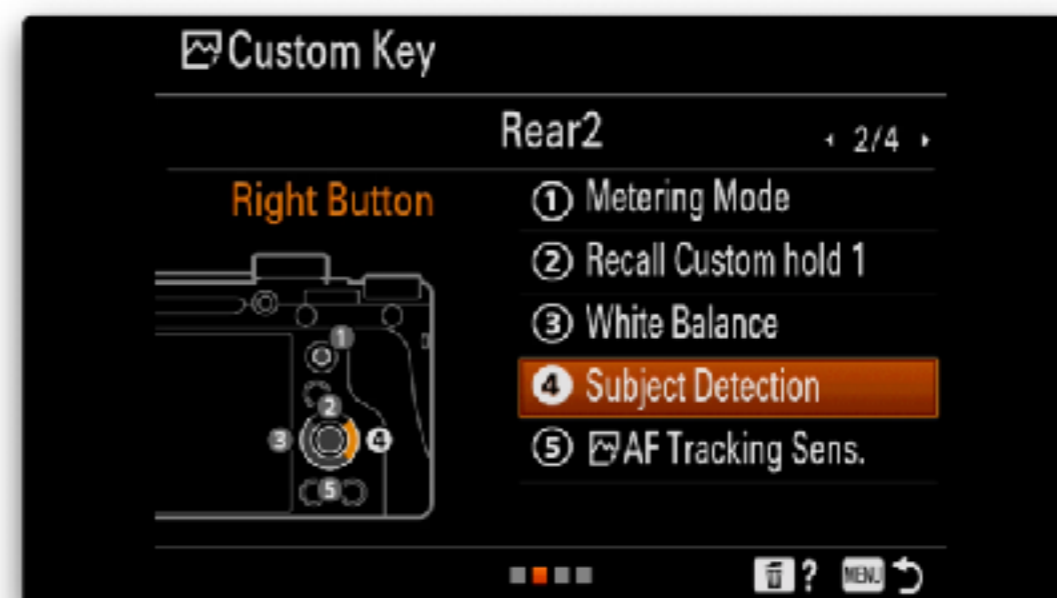
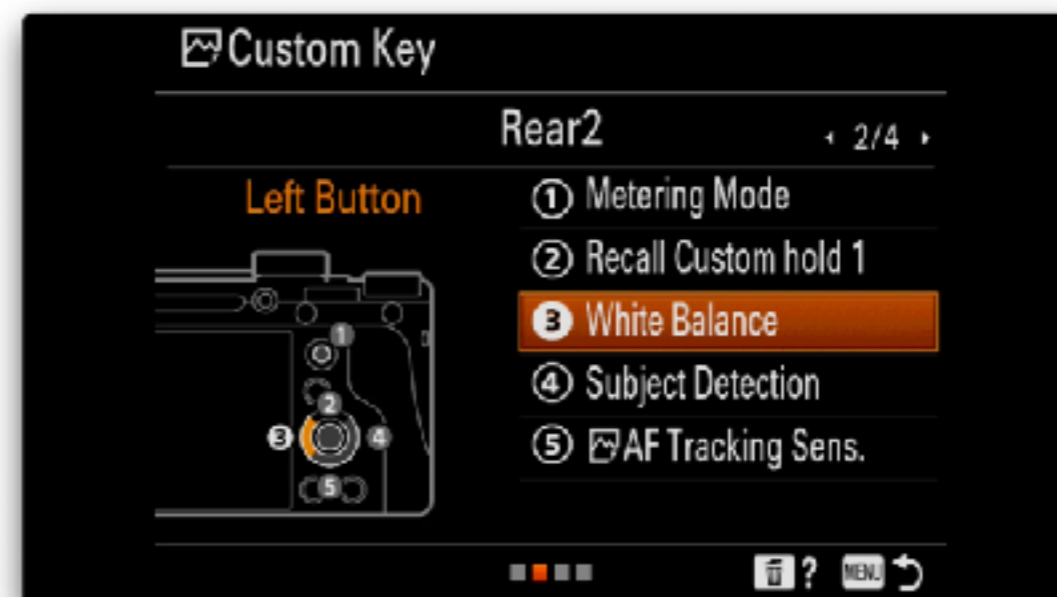
3 - Not Set

4 - Not Set

5 - Not Set



Shooting Menu 2



Shooting Menu 2

Top

1 - APS-C / Full Frame Toggle

2 - Switch Focus Area (Wide/Zone/Spot)

Since getting the A1 I use the following to remain consistent across camera bodies

1 - Display/View Finder Toggle (A1 has issues !!)

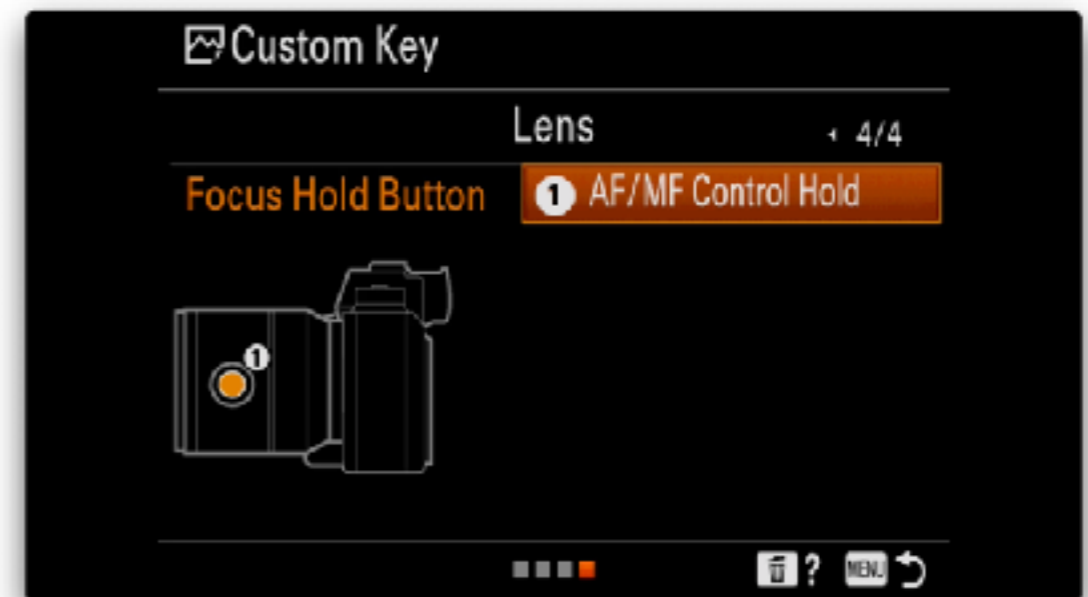
2 - Switch Focus Area (Wide/Zone/Spot)

Lens

1 - APS-C/Full Frame mode toggle

OR

1 - AF/MF Hold and use this in conjunction with the Focus Peaking Display setting to see the plane of focus. Focus with the camera and then press the AF/MF Hold button and slightly turn the focus ring - the view should magnify by the Peaking Display setting and become a spotting scope



Shooting Menu 2



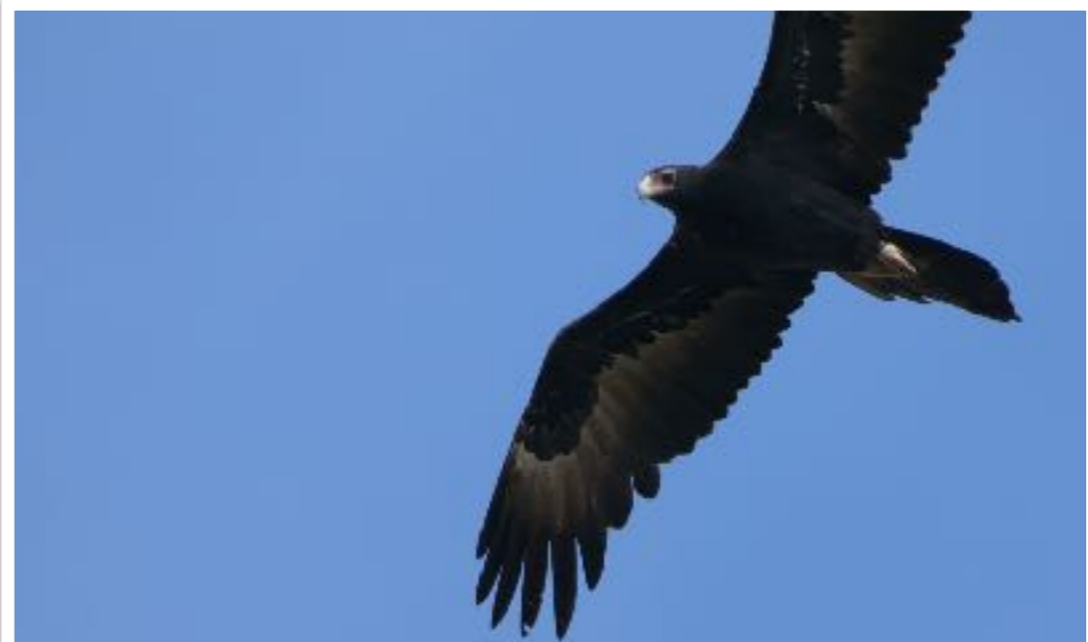
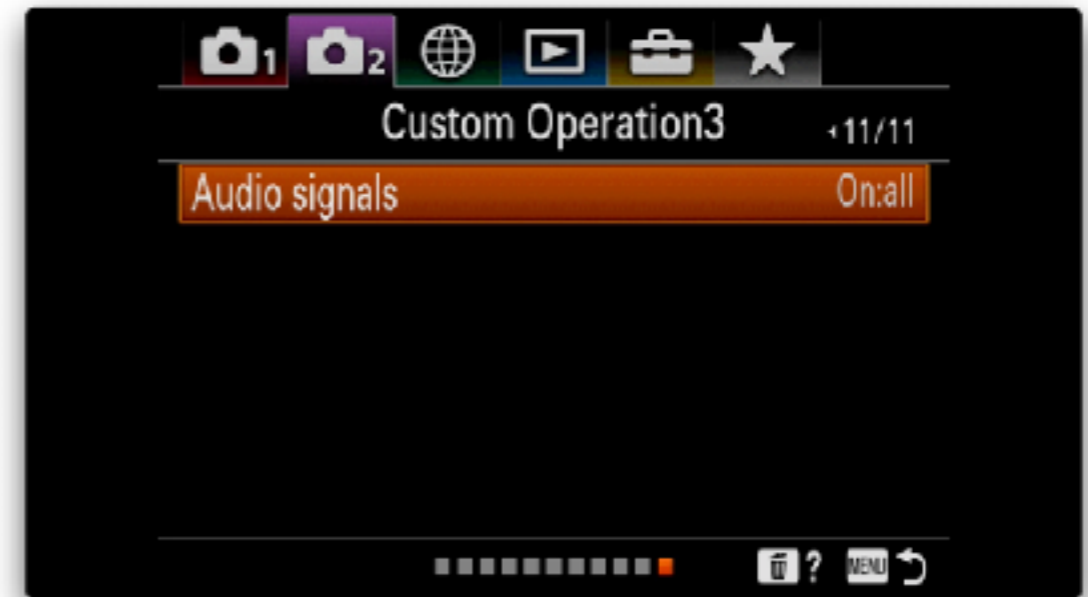
Shooting Menu 2

Audio signals

- On: all - create a quite electronic sound for the electronic shutter which is useful to confirm the camera is capturing images

Focus Frame Display

Turn this on so that the focus frame gets shown during playback to allow you to confirm the point of focus.



Network Menu

Network

Key Settings

Display as Group (page 3/4)



Playback Menu

Playback

Key Settings

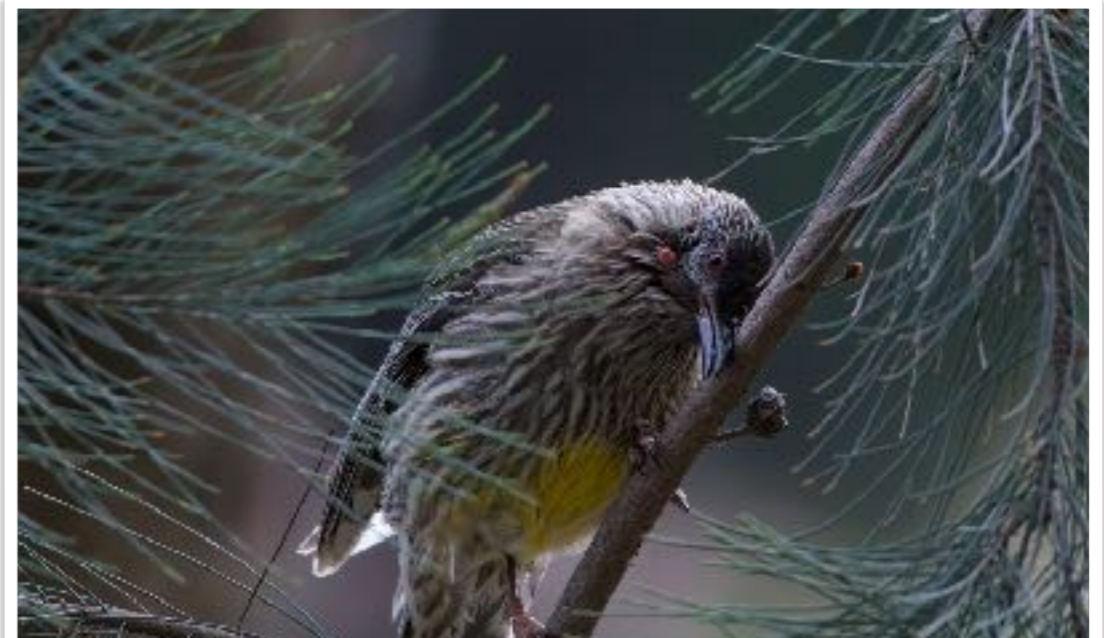
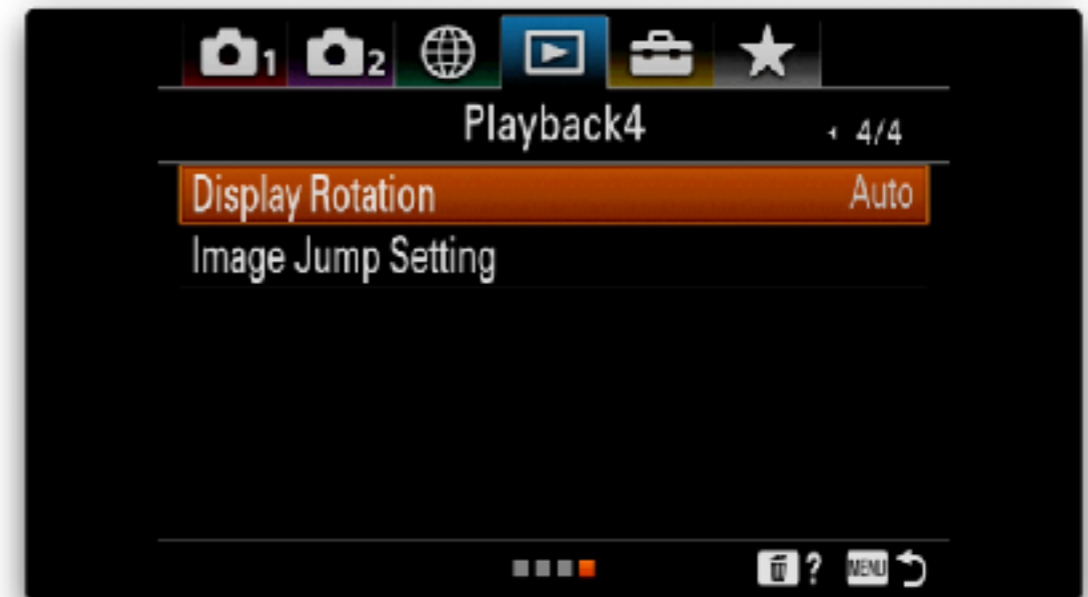
Display as Group (page 3/4)



Playback Menu

Display as Group

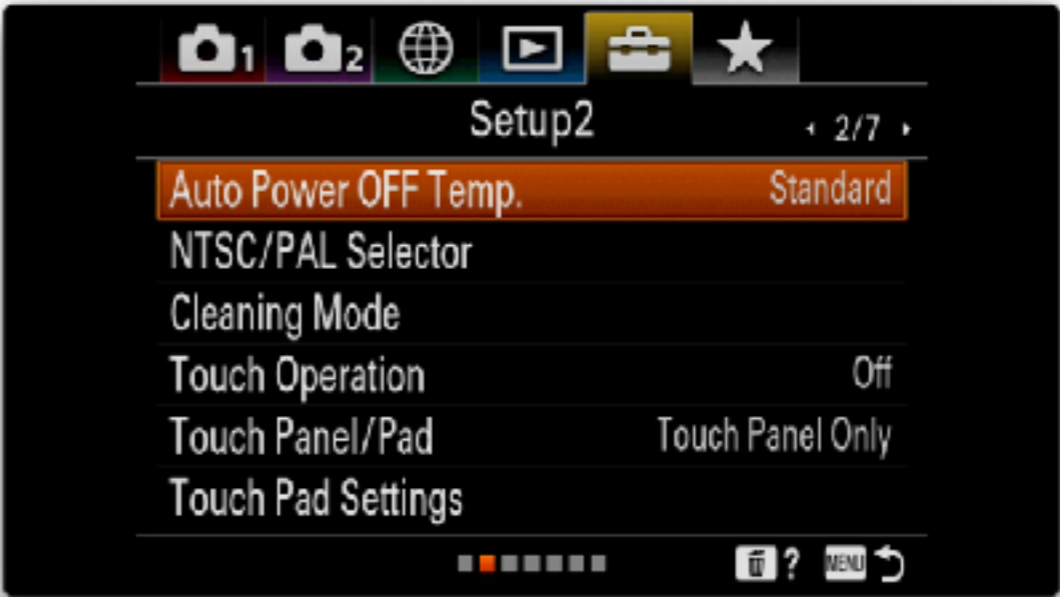
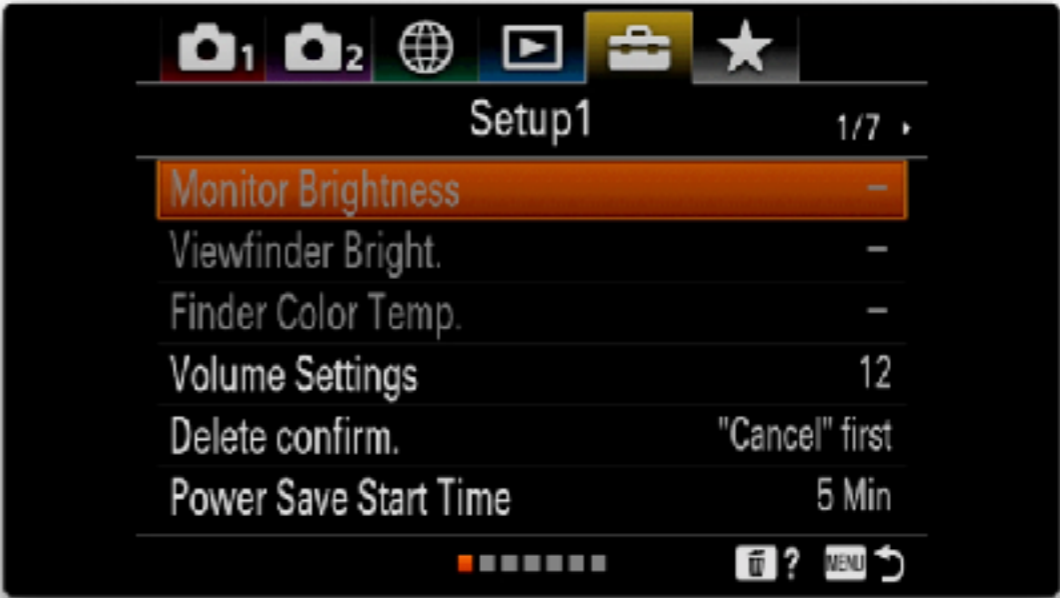
Turn this on so that all shots in a sequence as shown as a Group. With high shutter speeds this helps make browsing the images on the camera much easier.



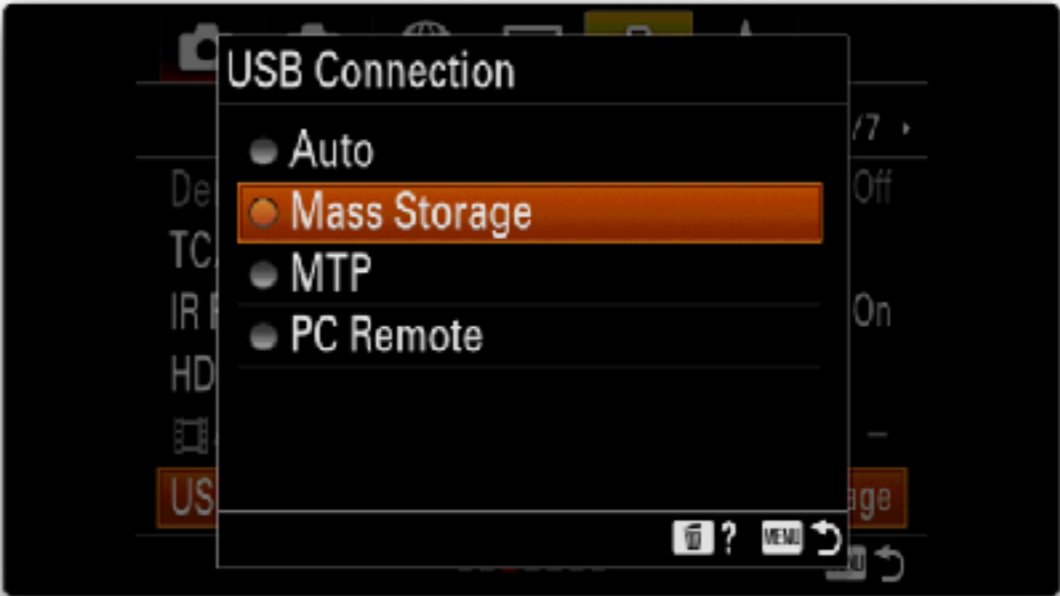
Setup

Key Settings

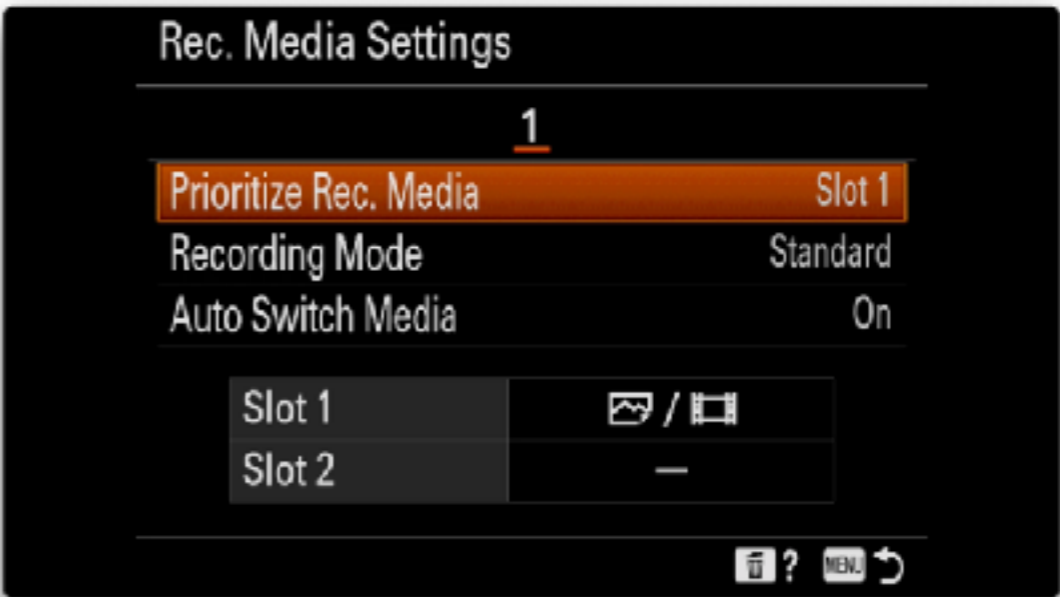
USB Connection - Mass Storage (page 3/7)



Setup Menu



Setup Menu



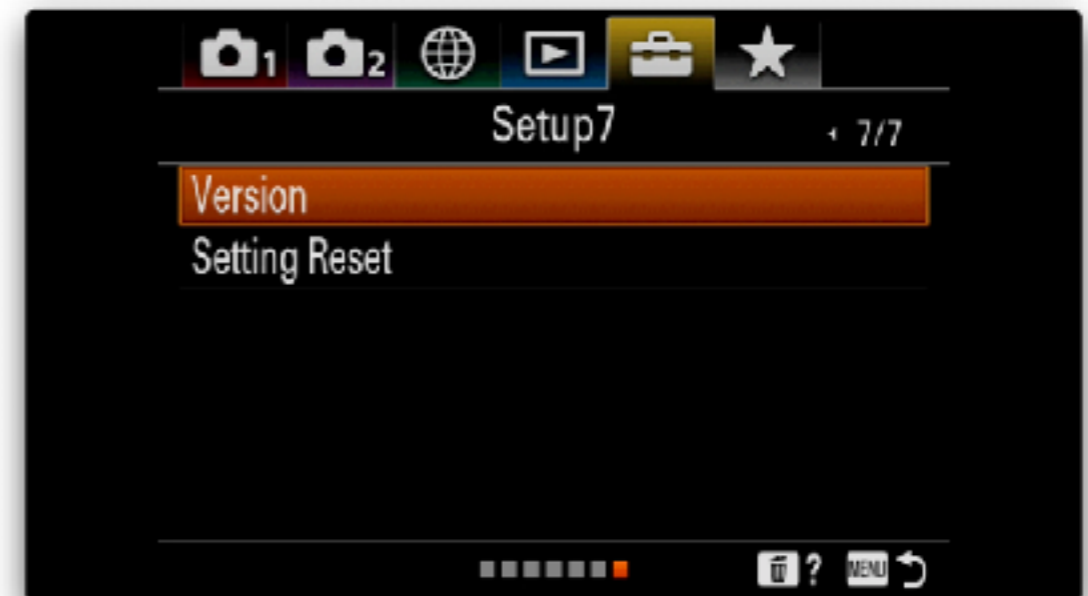
Setup Menu

Recording Media Settings

- Record Images to Slot1
- Record Video to Slot2 - to avoid using up space for images on Slot1
- Set Auto Switch to On so if Slot1 becomes full the camera will automatically start using Slot2

Shooting Mode Settings

- Nothing to see here





Sony Alpha 9 200-600 TC1.4 @840mm 1/1600s f9 iso6400 is:standard handheld at 40m



Sony Alpha 9 200-600 TC1.4 @840mm 1/1600s f9 iso6400 is:standard handheld at 30m



Nikon D850 200-500@500mm 1/4000s f7.1 iso640 is:standard handheld at 30m



Sony Alpha 9 200-600 @600mm 1/2500s f6.3 iso6400 is:standard handheld at 6m



Sony Alpha 9 200-600 TC1.4 @650mm 1/2500s f9 iso1250 is:standard handheld at 40m