

Information Display

Supplement to Mastering the Nikon D7000

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Several of Nikon's lower-cost DSLR cameras depend less on the standard text-based menus and more on a graphical **Information display** with editable camera settings. The thought seems to be that users will have less trouble finding key settings if there are specific screens in the camera that show these settings in one place.

Unfortunately, unlike the lower-cost cameras, the D7000 is much more complex. It has so many settings that it would be almost impossible to design one or two screens to contain even the critical camera functions.

Future Nikon DSLR cameras may depend more heavily on graphical screens and less on text-based menus. These cameras are getting awfully complex, and as more features are added, they will only become more so. How can all these settings be offered to the camera user in a less complex package?

The D7000 adds some utility that may portend future camera functionality. There are two graphical screens in the series, the **Information display**, and one I call the **Information display edit screen**. The first is basically just a graphical readout of settings, and the second provides links to ten specific settings in the standard text-based menus of the D7000. The **Information display edit screen** is somewhat like a shortcut screen to those ten settings.

This supplementary chapter is composed of three sections. Most of it will concern the main **Information display** screens. However, I wanted to provide you with some information on camera's built in **Help** system and **Help button**. Here are the three sections and brief descriptions of them:

- **Information Display** – Provides camera shooting configuration information on about 40 different settings.
- **Information Display Edit Screen** – Allows you to configure 10 specific settings normally found in the camera's menus only.
- **Help System** – Last, we'll look at how to use the **Help button** to save some confusion. Most don't realize it, but the D7000 has a full-blown help system built in. It is context sensitive, which means it will give you a help screen for nearly any currently selected function. Look for the question mark above the multi-function **Protect button** (looks like a key) on the camera's back. This is the **Help button** you'll use to get help for virtually any function in the camera.

Information Display

In FIG 1 we see the two new **Information display** screens. On the left is the main **Information display**, and on the right is the **Information display edit screen** (with **Screen tips** enabled).

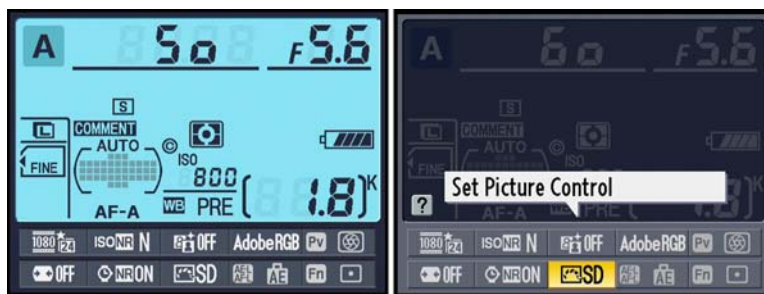


FIG 1 – Information display and Information display edit screen

In the D7000 the **Shooting information display** does little else but show critical camera shooting information like shutter speed, aperture, battery level, white balance, exposure mode, ISO, image quality, etc. In a sense, it's an informational screen designed to give you a condensed overview of the current camera settings.

You get to it by pressing the camera's **Info button** once. The **Info button** is next to the bottom right corner of the **LCD screen** on the D7000. If you look carefully at the **Information display** in FIG 1, image 1, you'll see that it provides details on a large number of settings. The **Information display** on the D7000 provides information on 40 specific camera settings. You won't see all of them on-screen at the same time, since some only show up when certain functions are in use (like **Bracketing** or **Flash/Exposure compensation**). FIG 1, image 2 shows the **Information display edit screen**. Now, let's look into the **Information display edit screen**.

Information Display Edit Screen

The **Information display edit screen** has a total of ten specific functions linked in a single shortcut screen. The links take you to the various text-based menus for each particular item.



FIG 2 – Information display edit screen's 10 functions

Here is a list of the ten settings connected to the **Information display edit screen** (see FIG 2). Use the matching numbers to identify each setting:

1. Movie quality
2. High ISO noise reduction
3. Active D-Lighting
4. Color space
5. Assign preview button
6. Auto distortion control
7. Long exposure noise reduction
8. Set Picture Control
9. Assign AE-L/AF-L button
10. Assign Fn button

Now, let's look at each of the 10 functions and how to use the interface. Remember that these are the same settings we covered in previous chapters. The **Information display edit screen** is simply another user interface that provides access to some of the same functions found on the text-based menus. Since that's the case, we won't go into detail on how each function works. That's already been well covered in previous chapters. Instead, we'll only discuss how to use the individual function.

In the 10 sections below, I have enabled **Custom Setting d4 > Screen tips** in my D7000. **Screen tips** turns on a little explanation box that points to each of the ten settings individually as a way to help you understand what each does. All the graphics from this point forward will have **Screen tips** enabled. I'll briefly describe each setting and give you a graphical look at the screens connected to it. Most of the screens should be familiar since the **Information display edit screen** is merely a secondary interface into these 10 specific functions. It's a shortcut to the settings so that you don't have to wade through lots of menus to find them.

Movie Quality

(See *Mastering the Nikon D7000*, pages 427–430)

Movie quality is a shortcut to the normal **Shooting Menu > Movie settings > Movie quality** function, and provides the exact same functionality. You can choose your favorite **Movie quality** from the various quality levels. Rapid access is the whole point of the **Information display edit screen**. See FIG 3 for the sample screens.



FIG 3 – Information display edit screen – Shooting menu bank

High ISO Noise Reduction

(See *Mastering the Nikon D7000*, pages 102–104)

High ISO noise reduction allows you to turn noise reduction (NR) on and off very quickly. NR blurs the image slightly to remove digital noise when shooting at ISO 800 and above. It does not provide NR for ISO sensitivity below ISO 800. You can select from the three levels of NR—**Low**, **Normal**, or **High**—or simply select **Off**.

This is a shortcut to the **Shooting Menu > High ISO NR** setting. The sample screens are found in FIG 4.



FIG 4 – Information display edit screen – High ISO noise reduction

Active D-Lighting

(See *Mastering the Nikon D7000*, pages 96-99)

Active D-Lighting lets you open up detail in the shadows of an image, and reign in the highlights so that they don't blow-out to pure white. They'll still blow out with excessive exposure, but this function tries to prevent it as long as possible.

A side effect of using **Active D-Lighting** is introducing noise into the darker areas of the image. There are five levels of **Active D-Lighting** available, along with **Off**.

This is a shortcut to the **Shooting Menu > Active D-Lighting** function. FIG 5 shows the screens and choices.



FIG 5 – Information display edit screen – Active D-Lighting

Color Space

(See *Mastering the Nikon D7000*, pages 94-96 and 436-437)

Color space lets you choose between **sRGB** and **Adobe RGB** as the **Color space** your camera will use to take pictures. **Adobe RGB** encompasses about 50 percent of the colors your eye can see, while **sRGB** covers about 35 percent (based on the LAB-CIE color space).

Adobe RGB has a 15 percent wider color gamut, so is often better for **NEF (RAW)** shooters who demand maximum quality from their images. It also offers the best compatibility with the CMYK offset printers used to make books and magazines. Many **JPEG** shooters use **sRGB**, since it is so compatible with inkjet printers and local color labs.

This setting is a shortcut to the **Shooting Menu > Color space** function. The sample screens are found in FIG 6.



FIG 6 – Information display edit screen – Color space

Assign Preview Button

(See *Mastering the Nikon D7000*, pages 207–212)

Assign preview button allows you to assign various functionalities to the camera's **Depth-of-field preview button**. This is a shortcut to **Custom Setting Menu > f Controls > f4 Assign preview button**. **Assign preview button** has several assignable functions, as shown in FIG 7.



FIG 7 – Information display edit screen – DOF preview button assignment

Auto Distortion Control

(See *Mastering the Nikon D7000*, pages 305–306)

Enabling **Auto distortion control** allows the camera to attempt automatic removal of barrel and pin-cushion distortion from your images. You'll find the main menu setting under the **Retouch Menu > Distortion control > Auto** selection. FIG 8 shows the sample screens.



FIG 8 – Information display edit screen – Auto distortion control

Long Exposure Noise Reduction

(See *Mastering the Nikon D7000*, pages 99–101)

Long exposure noise reduction lets your camera use a special black-frame-subtraction method to remove noise from exposures longer than 8 seconds. **Job nr** will blink in the **Viewfinder** and on the **Control panel** while the noise reduction is taking place. Each long exposure will be doubled in time, since **Long exposure noise reduction** creates a second blank, black frame for noise subtraction purposes. This is a shortcut to the **Shooting Menu > Long exp. NR** function. The sample screens are found in FIG 9.



FIG 9 – Information display edit screen – Long exposure noise reduction

Set Picture Control

(See *Mastering the Nikon D7000*, pages 77–85)

Set Picture Control lets you choose one of the camera's Picture Controls without using the other camera menus. Picture Controls change the overall look of the image, with major differences in **Sharpening**, **Contrast**, **Brightness**, **Saturation**, and **Hue** between each control. This is a shortcut to the **Shooting Menu > Set Picture Control** function. The sample screens and choices are shown in FIG 10.



FIG 10 – Information display edit screen – Set Picture Control

Assign AE-L/AF-L Button

(See *Mastering the Nikon D7000*, pages 207–212)

Assign AE-L/AF-L button allows you to assign various functionalities to the camera's **AE-L/AF-L button**. This is a shortcut to **Custom Setting Menu > f Controls > f5 Assign AE-L/AF-L button**. FIG 11 covers the **Assign AE-L/AF-L button** choices.



FIG 11 – Information display edit screen – Assign AE-L/AF-L button

Assign Fn Button

(See *Mastering the Nikon D7000*, pages 207–212)

Assign Fn button allows you to assign different functions to the camera's **Fn button**. This is a shortcut to **Custom Setting Menu > f Controls > f3 Assign Fn button**. FIG 12 covers the **Assign Fn button** assignment choices.



FIG 12 – Information display edit screen – Assign Fn button

Help Button

The **Help** function connected to the **Help button** is a very cool feature in the rather complex D7000. The camera has a nice help screen for nearly any menu item you can display on the camera's **LCD screen**.

Press the **Menu button** on your camera and select one of the menu items. You'll see a small question mark surrounded by a gray box in the lower-left corner of the screen. You can see this in FIG 13, in the lower left corner of image 1.

This little question mark tells you that there is a handy help screen for whatever setting you have selected. If you are out in the field shooting and don't have any manuals with you, help is still available for easy or obscure functions.

In FIG 13, I have randomly selected a function called **Focus point wrap-around**. What does it mean? Here are the steps to use the help system so that you can find out:



FIG 13 – Help button for Custom Setting a5 > AF activation

Press the **Menu button** to open up a menu and scroll to virtually any setting on it (see FIG 13, image 1).

Check to see if there is a small question mark (?) in the lower left corner.

If the question mark is there, a help screen is available. Use the reference images in FIG 13, image 2, red arrow, to select the **Help button**. It is right below the **Menu button** and shares a role with the image **Protect** function, so there is a key icon on the **Help button**, as shown. Press the **Help button** for your camera.

A screen like you see in FIG 13, image 3, will appear on the **LCD screen**. Sometimes the text is several screens long, in which case you can scroll up or down with the **Multi Selector**. The help text is useful most of the time, and will give you a quick answer to “What does this menu item do?”

The **Help button** will not work when you are looking at the **a-f** sections in the root of the **Custom Setting Menu**. However, if you drill down one level into the actual **Custom Settings a-f**, the **Help button** works fine.

My Recommendation: I like to use this **Help** functionality often. With so many functions available in this complex camera, it's even hard for a camera book author to keep up with all of them. If someone asks me what a certain function does—and I go blank—I'll immediately hit the **Help button** with that function selected and give them a wise answer. It makes me look smart, and helps me remember how some of the less-used functions work, too.