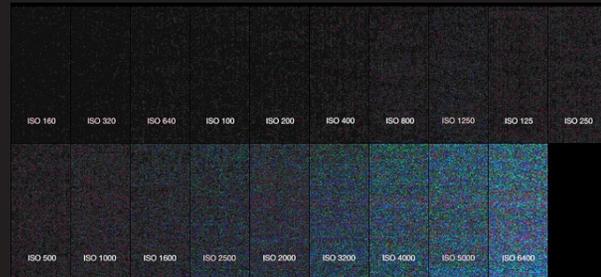


display shows your desired shutter speed.

ISO

In English, ISO stands for 'International Standards Organization,' and the ISO in photography has to do with the brightness of a picture, similar to exposure compensation. One basic rule of thumb is that you don't want your ISO to go above 1600. First, let's go to the menu, which would be the "ISO" button near the shutter wheel.

In the "AUTO" setting, the ISO will adjust itself in accordance to the amount of light entering the lens; the darker the lighting, the higher the ISO, and the higher the ISO, the more grainy the picture. This usually happens when your ISO is above 1600. In the most basic room lighting, 400 or 800 are ideal, while outdoor day scenes call for an ISO as low as 100 or 200.



Unlike shutter speed, this setting is often dependent upon the last and most intricate tenet: **aperture**.

APERTURE

The aperture of the lens is similar to the size of a window or the pupil of the eye--it controls

the amount of light entering the lens. These settings are called "F-stop," meaning 'focal length,' and the lower the f-stop, the more shallow the depth of field (DoF). The more shallow your DoF, the more contrast there is between your subject and their background, and assuming your subject is far enough from the background, the end result is a lovely blurry image. This is fine-tuned by adjusting the focus ring at the tip of your lens.



To adjust your F-stop, click and hold the "Av" key next to the LCD screen while rolling your shutter wheel until you land on the desired setting. Keep watch of the exposure meter on-screen as to keep the notch between -1 and 0. Depending on your lighting and surroundings, you may need to adjust your ISO until the so-called 'exposure triangle' (shutter speed, ISO and aperture) is well-aligned and nearly even.

There you have it--your quickest, fastest and cheapest explanation of DSLR video settings. This'll get you some pretty good footage to bring your productions to a whole new level. Be sure to catch the next installment, *The Quickest, Fastest and Cheapest Guide to Color Grading*, featuring Adobe Premier Pro CS5.



The Quickest, Fastest
and Cheapest Guide to
DSLR VIDEOGRAPHY

featuring the
Canon
EOS
REBEL T3i



Have you ever seen those crisp videos in TV and film with the rich color and the shallowest depth of field imaginable? You know, where the entire background is a total blur? In today's age of videography, most likely you have. Even further, that very video was most likely shot using a DSLR camera.

Digital Single-Lens Reflex cameras, DSLRs, have taken the TV, news and film industry by storm for their compact size and versatility. With body and lens packages starting at around \$500, they are high-ended digital cameras capable of producing film-quality footage across a multitude of frame rates and resolutions.

With anything in production, there is a steep learning curve. That's why I'm giving you this quick, fast and cheap to tutorial to make your videos rival those of the industry.

In this brochure, we will go over the four basic tenets of DSLR video. Three of them are, shutter speed, lens aperture and ISO. But we will start with the most important one: the camera settings. Our muse will be the Canon Rebel T3i, also known as the 600D.

CAMERA SETTINGS

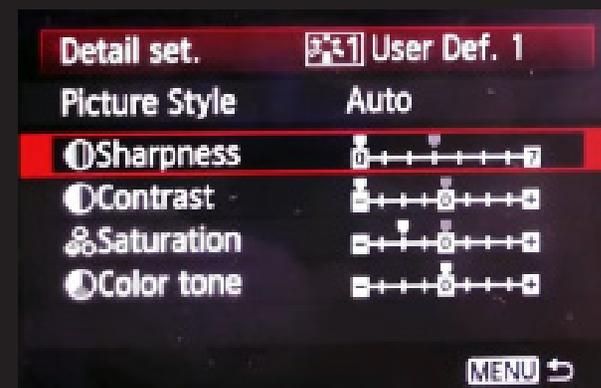
On back of your T3i, look for the "MENU" button to the far left. Click that, and you should be on your first menu. Using your "OK" button in the keypad, click "Movie Exposure" and set it to "Manual." Next, scroll down to "Highlight Tone Priority" and disable it.



On the second menu, you will hit "Movie Rec. Size" to select your resolution and frame rate, ranging from standard definition, to full 1080p HD. The frame rates help set the mood of your video, as 60 frames-per-second (fps) is best suited for fast movements with little motion blur, 30fps is TV standard and 24fps is film standard. If you want, you can also scroll down to "Grid Display," which will place the Rule of Thirds on-screen to help you frame your shots. Now the juice is in the third menu under "Picture Style."

The vast majority of video you see in the media is color-graded. That's the process of coloring of your footage in post-production. Because of this, we want our footage to be shot in the most basic settings, as to avoid any adverse effects with the final output. Here's how it's done:

Under "Picture Style," you'll see many different presets, and three empty slots labeled "User Def." at the very bottom of the menu. These options allow the user to define their own settings. Click on the first slot, and use the following combination:



In essence, your sharpness and contrast should be turned all the way down, your saturation a quarter of the way down and your color tone left alone. Now, we can go onto the next tenet: **shutter speed**.

SHUTTER SPEED

The shutter speed controls the smoothness of your video. Basically, your shutter speed should be twice your frame rate.

For example, a video at 24fps should have a shutter speed of 1/50. To do this, simply roll the shutter wheel atop the camera until the on-screen

