

Basic Camera Controls (summary)

1) Focus

The first ring on the lens system. Rotating the focus ring sharpens or softens the focus of the picture. A sharp focus usually optimal. Best focus achieved by zooming in to an object, sharpening focus and then zooming out to required position for recording.

2) Zoom control

Second ring on the lens system. 'Zoom in' changes the angle of the lens to give a closer shot. 'Zoom out' widens the shot. The zoom control is used to make a transition from one shot type to another in the same take, ie start with mid shot - zoom out to 3/4 shot. The zoom control can be operated manually or using the 'W' and 'T' toggle on the lens handle. Make sure you never operate the zoom control manually when it is in 'Auto' mode.

3) Iris control

The iris is the third ring on the lens. It regulates the amount of light coming into the camera. In manual mode this ring can be rotated to set the iris at the desired setting. In 'Auto' mode the electronics inside the camera set the iris position to give optimal exposure for a given condition.

4) Macro ring

This ring enables you to focus inside the focal length of the lens, (typically 900mm). Balancing Macro and zoom control will enable the operator to focus anywhere up to the front surface of the lens.

5) Filter wheel

This wheel rotates various filters into the path of the light coming into the camera. Individual filters are used for specific lighting conditions. Eg

3600°K Filter	-	Indoors
5200°K Filter	-	Outdoors
5200°K + ND	-	Outdoors in glary light
Star Filter	-	Special Effects (usually indoors)

6) Gain control

The gain electronically boosts the signal to compensate for low light level. This function can also be used to alter the depth of field of a shot. eg increasing gain will cause the iris to decrease in aperture hence increasing depth of field.

7) White Balance

The white balance circuitry corrects the colour 'white' for any lighting condition. To execute a white balance point the camera at a white object and press and release the 'White Balance Switch'. Many cameras have 'A' and 'B' white balance memory settings, and one indoor preset setting.