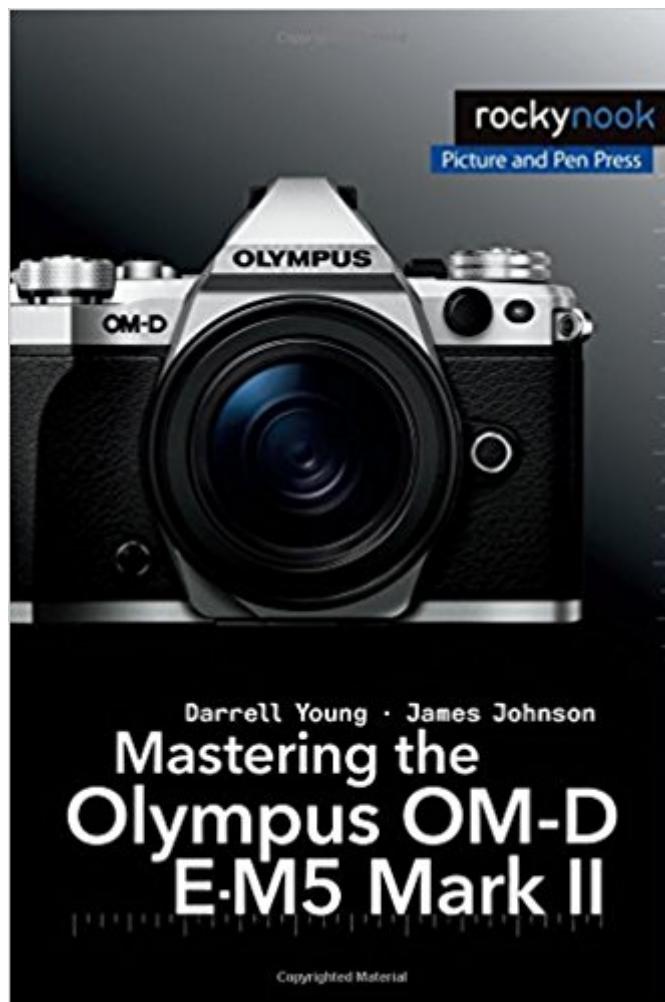


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# Mastering The Olympus OM-D E-M5 Mark II



## Synopsis

Olympus launched the OM-D E-M5 Mark II camera with a specific purpose in mind: to create a Micro Four Thirds camera for advanced enthusiast and professional photographers who prefer a smaller, yet very powerful mirrorless camera. The E-M5 Mark II is a true system camera for those who demand the best in cameras, lenses, and image quality. *Mastering the Olympus OM-D E-M5 Mark II* explores the features and capabilities of the camera in a way that far surpasses the user's manual. It is designed to guide readers through the camera's features with step-by-step setting adjustments; color illustrations; and detailed how, when, and why explanations for each option. Every button, dial, switch, lever, and menu configuration setting is explored in a user-friendly manner, with suggestions for setup according to various shooting styles. The authors' friendly and informative writing style allows readers to easily follow directions while feeling as if a friend dropped in to share his knowledge. The learning experience for new E-M5II users goes beyond just the camera itself and covers basic photography technique.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Darrell Young (aka Digital Darrell) is a full-time author and professional photographer in the East Tennessee, USA area. He is a member of Professional Photographers of America, the North American Nature Photography Association, and Nikon Professional Services--and adheres to the ethical guidelines of those fine organizations. Darrell has been photographing people, events, and

places professionally for over 30 years, with a special interest in natural history. His mother gave him a Brownie Hawkeye camera in 1968 at the young age of 10 years and awakened a lifelong interest in capturing slices of time. Living in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains--near Great Smoky Mountains and the Blue Ridge Parkway--has given him a real concern for the natural environment and a deep interest in nature photography. You'll often find Darrell standing behind a tripod in the beautiful mountains of Tennessee and North Carolina. Since about 2000 Darrell has been an active blogger and article writer on photographic subjects. In 2008 his first photography book was published and, since then, he has authored over a dozen books on the technical side of photography, with a special interest in helping new photographers fully understand their complex cameras so they can use them for more effective and enjoyable photography. When James (Jim) Johnson retired from a 25-year career as a software developer for IBM, he had already been working as a contract technical editor for Microsoft. After his retirement, technical editing and writing became his primary source of income to cover the cost of his "toys" most of which were computer and photographic equipment. Jim's involvement with cameras began in the mid 1950s when he needed to record the interior of caves in Kentucky. At the time, the greatest challenge was to provide adequate illumination, so he purchased a Leica 3F camera (which was the norm at that time) and experimented with numerous lighting sources. He was later able to add a nice piece of brass-and-glass that had been manufactured by Canon during the post-war occupation. That 100mm telephoto was every bit as sharp and capable as the Leica lenses. Such began Jim's appreciation for Japanese camera equipment. The ensuing years have seen numerous Nikon SLRs and DSLRs, Canon DSLRs, and now Olympus MILCs go through his hands, satisfying his on-going interest in the evolution of the technology and providing source material for several books, including this one. Jim and his wife Heather live on the California coast in a home that overlooks the Morro Bay estuary. The coast, bays, and mountains combine to host a vast array of botanical subjects, which are the focus of Jim's current photographic interest.

Think book is very extensive and a lot of work was put into it. Its a must if you want to get the full potential of your Mark II - I do like it. I would of given it 5 star but whoever made the decisions on the material for this book and the design really need to go back to the drawing board. First of all I have been involved in the design and production of book publishing for over 40 years. What I do not like about the physical aspect and design of this book1. It weighs over 2 lbs almost a Kilo - Its a killer on the arms + its probably going to fall apart because of the cheap glued binding with all that weight on

the spine.2. The paper has a sheen or glare you have to keep angling it when reading at night with a light or in bright sunshine. Now you say it needs a coated paper to get good quality photos - that's true but there are papers that are not coated but are highly calendered (made smooth) which looks the same as far as photo quality. And it can be a matte finish so there is no sheen and very lightweight.3. The LCD screen captions are so small you need a magnifying glass to read the type.4. Sometimes the topic you are looking for can be in 3 different places spread over the 500+ pages.. But the index makes it easy to find what you are looking for.

As a relatively new owner of the OM-D E-M5 Mark II, but a long time Olympus user, I found the incredibly comprehensive and very valuable menu system difficult to navigate. I took a chance on this book, based on reviews of previous books by this author. I am so glad I did! It will take many hours to thoroughly digest everything in it, but I have gone through enough of the menu information to be thoroughly impressed. They answer the What, How and equally important the Why you should chose one setting over another when working with the myriad of choices. Each entry is clearly written, very thorough, and easy to understand.. I highly recommend this book to all E-M5 MK II users!

This book is all you need to fully learn how this remarkable camera actually works. Forget the online user's manual - it is essentially worthless. You will not learn how this camera really works, though you should be able to take decent pictures with it right out of the box. The online manual, which you can download, gives just rudimentary information. The camera's menu system is so comprehensive that it would take a lot of trial-and-error to figure it out on your own, as the author must have done. A very time-consuming process to say the least. I went through this book page by page with the camera in hand. After some time I realized that I don't have to read all of it since much of the information is repeated in other sections. This is good. The book was not meant to be read for entertainment - it is a reference manual. Therefore, it is logical to expect repetition of certain steps, since so many menu items are dependent on settings in other menu items. I agree with another reviewer that some of the print and captions are very small - but needing a magnifying glass is a bit overstated. Reading glasses do help. If everything were to be legible without any visual aids, this book would have to be massive. I did not get any sore muscles holding the book and I don't think it will fall apart due to a cheap glued binding as someone stated. It is as well constructed as any paperback book I have ever bought. I believe this book does exactly what I was hoping for and I was not expecting anything more. In fact, I got more out of it than I expected. I highly recommend

this to anyone who owns this camera, even if they are already familiar with the basic concept of the Olympus menu system, which I am since I have already owned an E-520 and an E-5 DSLR for several years.

UPDATE, 20 March 2016: This is a good, nearly outstanding one, but as I worked through it, I realized it was lacking something. To day I realized just what. It lacks a needed "projected oriented" section. Fundamentally it is really just an extended explication of the very complex, and sometimes confusing menu system. But photogs need more than that. They need some detailed explanations of how to best perform certain tasks which are far better done with the E-M5 II than with most others. An example of what I was seeking: how should I set up the camera to do astrophotography? With its wonderful ability to update the monitor during a long exposure so you need not bracket but can watch the screen until the sky looks right. You can find most of the information by poking through all the functions, but wouldn't it have been nice to have a chapter on astrophotography where the info is compiled? Wouldn't it be nice to have Young's thoughts on useful ways to set the "My Set" setup combinations for specific tasks? Sure would! I miss such info and would gladly have paid more for the book to get it. Maybe the author will write us a short Kindle

booklet,=====The OM-D E-M5 Mk II is one of the most versatile cameras ever built, no matter the format. It is also the most complex to operate I've ever used in 55 years of serious photography. It comes with a simple (printed) getting started instruction book plus a complete set of instructions on a CD. Problem is, that book is nearly unreadable because it's too small, the type font too small, and the illustrations merely line drawings hard to understand. I certainly can't decipher it despite the years of experience. So the road for a good independent manual is wide open. Darrell Young comes very close to being the author of a nearly perfect manual. The book is filled with color screen shots of both the complicated menus and the effects many of those choices produce. For the most part the written are clear and easy to understand. I think I might have returned the camera to Olympus had the Young book not been available. But, ok, I said it was almost perfect. Let's look at some problems. Too many of the pictures are too small and too muddy. Many more quarter page shots would have helped. Being able to update the firmware is an important part of the camera's capabilities but Young fairly brushes by the point without details. The index isn't really adequate. I know that if I had all the pictures I wanted, the book would have been thicker and more expensive. For depth and clarity of the explanations I would like to give Darrell Young a fifth star. For the deficiencies (many more than those listed here), I feel justified in withholding a star. Comparison to other books:=====Young is far

better than another existing book devoted to the menu system alone. It is enormously better than Burch's manual for the EM-5 Mk I, which is deficient on many points and led me to ditch my EM-5 Mk I for the newer camera because I simply could not learn from any book how to use the camera effectively. About Young===== You will have questions. Young is enormously accessible on the Internet; BRAVO! And most unusual. Note: his book on the EM-1 Mk I is also awfully good, but this is not the place for a review of that volume.

The camera is so new that I don't think there are many other books out for it right now, maybe one. The menu system can be complex but the author does a good job of detailing the process of changing options throughout the menu system. Good info on learning the available functions on this wonderful and exciting camera system!

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