

The next available menu setting is called iHandheld Nite Shot, shown in Figure 3-8.



Fig. 3-8: iHandheld Nite Shot Option in Snapshot Mode

This special setting is designed to minimize the motion blur that can result from using a handheld camera at the slow shutter speed that is likely to be needed to get a sufficient exposure at night. If the camera detects darkness and senses that it is handheld, the camera will raise its ISO setting in order to permit the use of a faster than normal shutter speed. Also, because using a higher ISO can increase the visual “noise” or grainy look in an image, the camera will take a burst of several shots and combine them internally into a final image. By blending the contents of several images together, the camera can reduce the noise in the final, composite result. This setting is a very useful one to activate when shooting in low-light conditions without flash or a tripod.

The final option on the first screen of the Recording menu in Snapshot mode is iHDR, shown in Figure 3-9. With this setting, as with iHandheld Nite Shot, the D-Lux 6 will take a burst of shots and combine them internally to create a final result, if conditions call for that procedure. In this case, the conditions that will cause the camera to use the special processing are when there is strong contrast between the lightest and darkest parts of the scene, such as when one area is in deep shadow

while another is in bright sunlight.

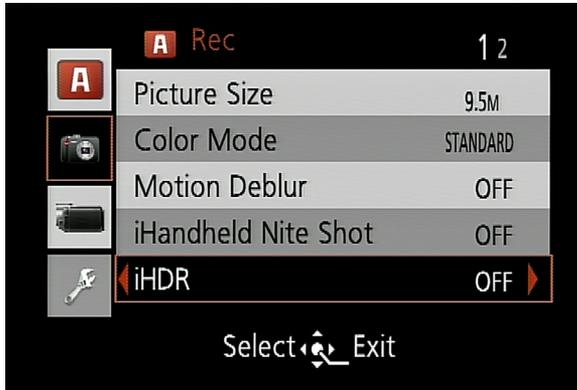


Fig. 3-9: iHDR Option in Snapshot Mode

I will discuss High Dynamic Range, or HDR photography, further in Chapter 9. Essentially, with HDR, the camera combines the most normally exposed parts of the multiple images in order to achieve a final result that appears to be properly exposed throughout most or all of its various areas. This setting can be very useful whenever you are taking photographs in highly contrasty conditions.

The first of the two menu options on the second and final screen of the Recording menu in this mode is Face Recognition, shown in Figure 3-10.

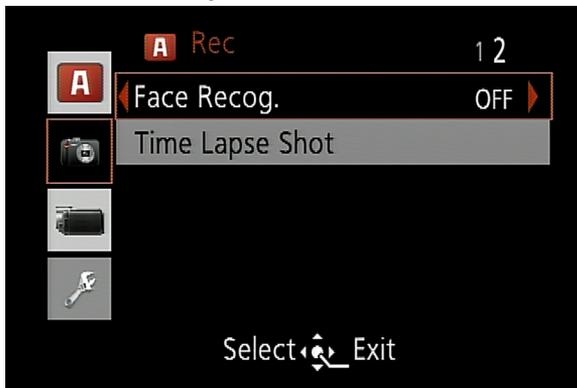


Fig. 3-10: Face Recognition Menu Option in Snapshot Mode

When this option is turned on, the camera will attempt to detect faces that you have registered using the procedure for storing names and faces. I will discuss the details of this menu option in Chapter 4.

The final option on the Recording menu in Snapshot mode, Time Lapse Shot, shown in Figure 3-11, lets you set the camera to take an evenly spaced series of shots of slowly unfolding actions, such as the opening of a flower. I will discuss this option in Chapter 4.



Fig. 3-11: Time Lapse Shot Menu Option in Snapshot Mode

Besides the settings mentioned above on the Recording menu and a few on the Setup and Motion Picture menus, as discussed in Chapter 2, there is one other item that you can adjust in Snapshot mode: AF Tracking. When the camera is set to Snapshot, you will see a message on the LCD, as shown in Figure 3-12, that you can press the up cursor button to activate AF Tracking.

Here is how this works. If you press the up button, a small set of white focus-tracking brackets will appear in the center of the screen, as shown in Figure 3-13, along with a message saying to press the AF/AE Lock button to lock in the tracking. Center those brackets over any subject you want to track, such as a child, pet, or other moving object. Then press the AF/AE

Lock button to lock the focus (and exposure) on that subject.



Fig. 3-12: AF Tracking Prompt on Screen



Fig. 3-13: AF Tracking Focus Frame on Screen



Fig. 3-14: AF Tracking Focus Frame Activated

The brackets will turn yellow, as shown in Figure 3-14, and the camera will try to keep that subject centered in the brackets, and will try to adjust the focus and exposure for that subject. To cancel this focus mode, press the up cursor button again.

Another option that is available in Snapshot mode is a special technique for taking an image with a blurred background, sometimes called the “bokeh” effect. Later in this chapter, in the discussion of Aperture Priority mode, I will discuss this process in more detail. Essentially, the wider open the aperture (the camera’s opening to let in light), the more the background will be blurred, if other conditions are equal. In Snapshot mode, the camera provides you with a special control to blur the background.

To use the background defocus feature, press in on the rear dial, using it as a button. You will then see a display like that shown in Figure 3-15, with an icon representing the feature at the far right of the screen, and, at the bottom of the screen, a scale that has an icon with a blurred background at the far left and an icon with a sharp background at the far right.



Fig. 3-15: Controls for Background Defocus Option

Turn the rear dial to the left to blur the background more or to the right to make it increasingly sharper. When you are done, press in on the rear dial or the Menu/Set button to lock in the setting; the camera will then display the chosen aperture setting in the lower left corner, as shown in Figure 3-16.



Fig. 3-16: Display of $f/8.0$ Aperture with Background Defocus Option

Snapshot Plus

There is one more menu setting you can make in Snapshot mode that is not available in other recording modes. This setting, called Snapshot Plus, is not really a different recording mode; it just adds two additional settings to those available in the standard Snapshot mode.

To activate Snapshot Plus mode, you use the menu system, but, instead of using the Recording menu, you move on the main menu screen to the icon above the camera icon that represents the recording menu, and select the A icon that represents Snapshot mode, as shown in Figure 3-17.

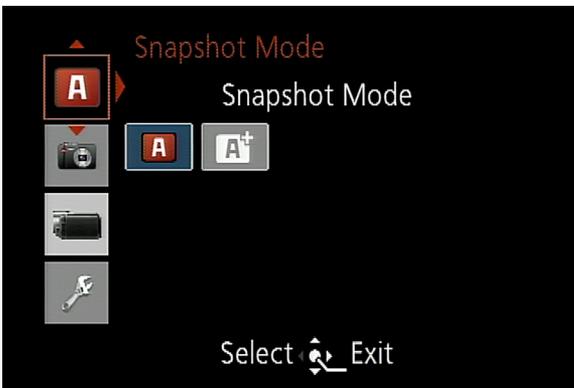


Fig. 3-17: Snapshot Mode Menu Screen

Then press the right cursor button to move the highlight into the right side of the menu screen, press it to the right one more time to highlight the A+ icon, as shown in Figure 3-18, and press the Menu/Set button to select that mode and return to the main recording screen.

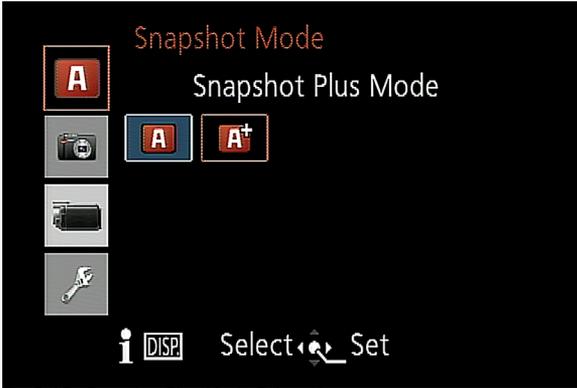


Fig. 3-18: Snapshot Plus Mode Selected

When you exit the menu and are back at the live view, you select the options for Snapshot Plus mode in the same way as you used the background defocusing option, discussed above. That is, you press in on the rear dial, using it as a button rather than as a dial. The difference in this mode is that you will see three new icons on the screen, as shown in Figure 3-19, rather than the single icon for background defocusing.



Fig. 3-19: Controls for Special Options in Snapshot Plus Mode

The defocusing icon will be in the center, and there will be two

others: on top will be the icon for brightness, and on the bottom will be the icon for color adjustments.

To select one of the three icons, use the up and down cursor buttons to move from one to the other. When the icon for the feature you want to use is highlighted by a red frame, just turn the rear dial to the left or right or press the left and right cursor buttons to make adjustments. With the brightness option, turn the dial to the left to make the image darker, or right to make it brighter. With the color option, turning the dial to the left adjusts the camera's white balance to make the colors appear more reddish, or "warmer"; turning to the right makes the colors look more bluish, or "cooler."

When you have finished adjusting brightness, background defocusing, and color as you want them, press in on the rear dial again to exit from the adjustment screen. Note: Here is another way to activate the three icons for these settings. Instead of pressing in on the rear dial, just press the right button, which is labeled WB, for white balance, and the three icons will appear on the screen, ready for your adjustments.

Besides the options I have just discussed, there is another very useful item that you can control in Snapshot mode by pressing a button. If you press the down cursor button, which is marked with icons of a timer and a stack of frames, you get access to the D-Lux 6's burst-shooting and self-timer options. I will discuss these options in more detail in Chapter 5. For now, I will discuss basic information about these functions.

When you first press the down button, you will see three icons on the screen, as shown in Figure 3-20. The single rectangle at the left represents single-shot mode. Selecting this icon essentially turns off burst shooting and the self-timer. The middle icon represents burst shooting. When you highlight that icon, a set of six more icons appears below it. You can press the down button to reach that line of icons and navigate through them using the left and right buttons. As you progress to the right through this line, the choices represent faster shooting but