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GET CREATIVE WITH THE IPHONE CAMERA APP

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CMF002

ACCESSING THE CAMERA

QUICK METHODS FOR ACCESSING THE CAMERA

- **iPhone 16 only:** Tap the Camera Control button (see screen, below right) once to open the Camera app. Tap it a second time to capture a photo.


- Some iPhones have a camera icon on the lock screen. Press and hold on the camera icon to quickly access the camera. (see screen shot, above right)

- On the lock screen, drag your finger from outside the right edge of the screen into the middle.

- With both methods above, the phone will remain locked while the camera app is open, so anyone you hand your phone to cannot access the phone's contents.

- You can also quickly access the camera via the camera icon within the control center. Control center is the pop-up screen that contains some of the most frequently-used settings on your phone (screen shot, below right).

TWO WAYS TO ACCESS CONTROL CENTER
**(DEPENDS ON HOW OLD YOUR DEVICE IS)**

- **New devices:** Drag down from upper right corner of the screen. (the "notch" on iPhone X)

- **Older devices:** Drag up from the bottom edge of the screen, starting with your finger outside the usable area of the screen. Note that this can be difficult with some iPhone/iPad cases.
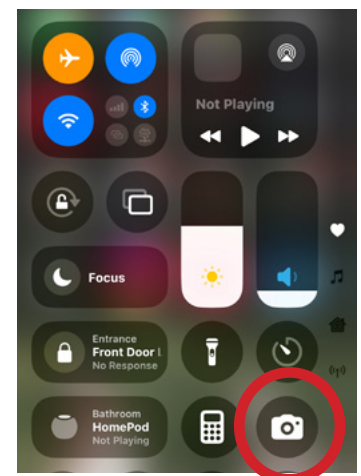
THE CAMERA ICON WITHIN CONTROL CENTER

Accessing the camera via control center is great for when you're in the middle of using an app.

- Press quickly on the icon to get directly to the camera app.

- Press hard on the icon to choose between Take Selfie, Record Video, Take Portrait or Take Portrait Selfie. If the camera icon does not show up in control center, choose Settings>Control Center>Customize Controls.
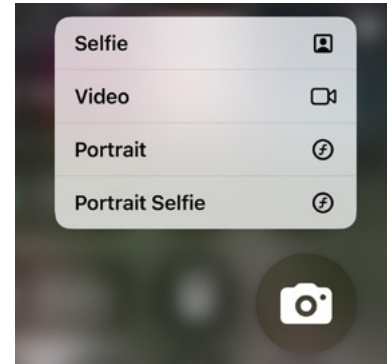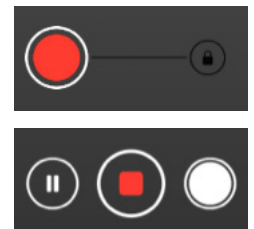

iPHONE 16 CAMERA CONTROLS

Camera Control is a new flush-with-the-edge button that is found on the side of the new iPhone 16 models. It can sense how hard you press it and the motion of swiping your finger across its surface. It can be used to launch the camera app, capture a photo or adjust camera settings.

Click once to launch the Camera app and a second time to take a photo. A light press and then slide with your finger will adjust settings. A light double-press will show the settings icons. Slide your finger to change the adjustment.
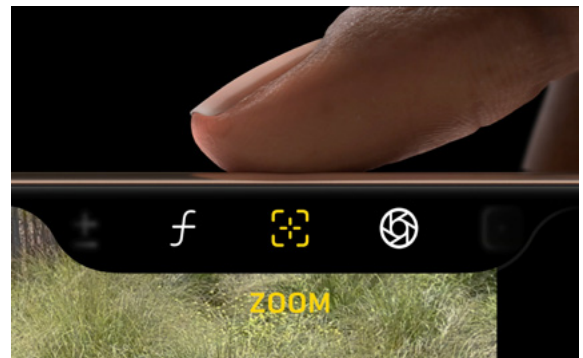
SHUTTER BUTTON SECRETS

- Press once to capture a still photo.

- The volume buttons on the side of the phone can be used to capture photos.

- Use the mute button on the side of the phone to silence the shutter sound.

- Tap and hold on the shutter button to capture video. Drag the shutter button to the right to lock into video recording so you no longer have to hold your finger.When locked into video mode, you should find two extra buttons: Pause, which lets you stop and restart recording (added in iOS 18), and a white shutter button to capture still photos without stopping the video recording.

STANDARD CAMERA CONTROLS

SWITCH FROM REAR TO FRONT-FACING CAMERA

The iPhone has both rear and front-facing (selfie) cameras. Switch between the two by tapping the icon in the bottom right corner of the camera app screen.

ZOOM IN AND OUT

To zoom in on a subject, use two fingers to touch the screen and expand your fingers away from each other. This is basically the opposite of a pinching motion. To zoom out, place two fingers on the screen and pinch them together.

Many phones have three lenses and you can switch between the 1x, 0.5x, 2x and 5x (or 3x) lenses by tapping the setting at the bottom of the viewfinder window. You can also drag from one number to the next to use digital zoom and access an intermediate zoom level.
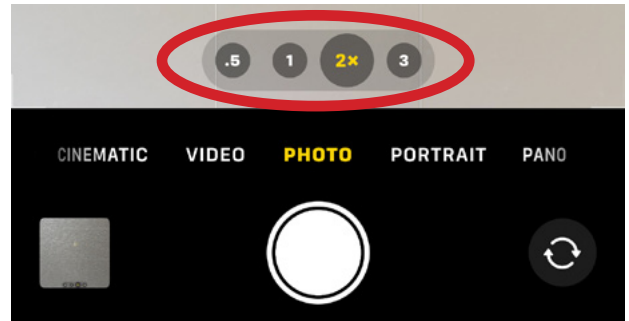
CONTROL THE EXPOSURE

In the camera's viewfinder screen, tap to choose which area should be properly exposed. A yellow box will appear around the object you tapped on. Drag up/down on the yellow box to adjust the exposure.

Tap and hold on the screen to lock both the focus and exposure. The yellow box will quickly pulsate and an AE/AF LOCK icon will appear to indicate that the exposure is locked. This is great for videos where one side of the pan is much brighter than the other and you want consistent brightness.
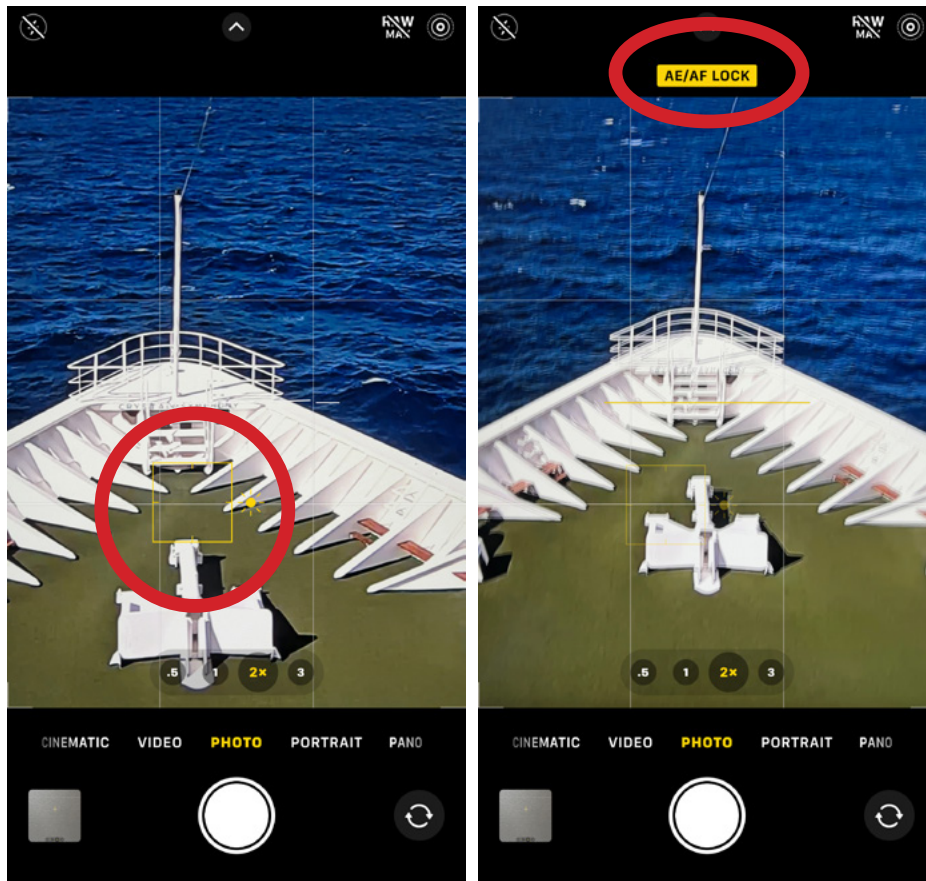
LEFT: The yellow box appears around the object that was tapped to set the exposure. RIGHT: The AE/AF icon appears after you tap and hold on an area to lock the exposure and focus.

EXTRA CAMERA CONTROLS

Tap the little arrow at the top of the screen and you'll be presented with some additional controls that appear just below the image window. These controls may differ depending on what you're pointing the camera at, and are as follows:
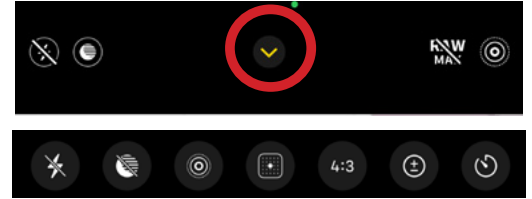

FLASH

The icon that looks like a lightning bolt is the flash setting. Tap it and three choices will appear.

- **Auto:** It's the best setting most of the time.

- **Off:** Use this setting when you want to make a silhouette, when the foreground is unimportant or when it would be inappropriate to use a bright flash.

- **On:** Turn the flash on to get rid of shadows when shooting a menu or receipt. Use the flash as a fill light for back-lit subjects and, of course, the flash will help in indoor or night-time low light situations (if auto doesn't turn on automatically).

- **Double flash:** If the flash goes off twice, the first flash is to get your pupils to close down, which helps prevent red eye. The second flash is when the photo is taken.

- **Selfie mode:** Flash in this mode just fills screen with white.
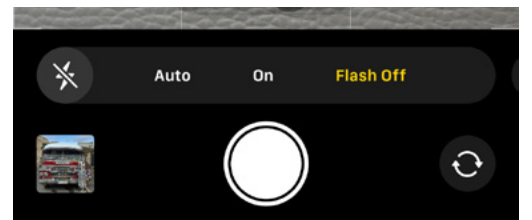
LIVE PHOTO

The second icon at the top of the screen is the Live Photo icon. When Live Photo is turned on, the camera captures three seconds of video with sound that starts BEFORE you pressed the shutter button. When swiping through your photos, you will see partial motion appearing in the images that have been captured with Live Photo. To see the full length of the mini video, press and hold on the photo when viewing the image full screen.
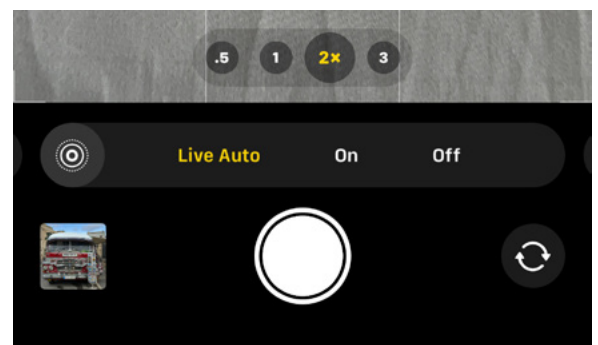
NIGHT MODE

This setting will only appear when the camera detects a low-light environment and it will turn on by default. The capture may be fast, or up to a few seconds long, depending on how dark the scene is. Night mode is ideal for dark situations where the subject is too far for the flash to reach. It is NOT ideal for subjects in motion.

When taking a pic in Night mode, you'll see a countdown appear above the shutter button. Try to hold as still as you can until it finishes counting down. When using this mode, the phone will only capture a 12MP image, even if you're using a 48MP camera.
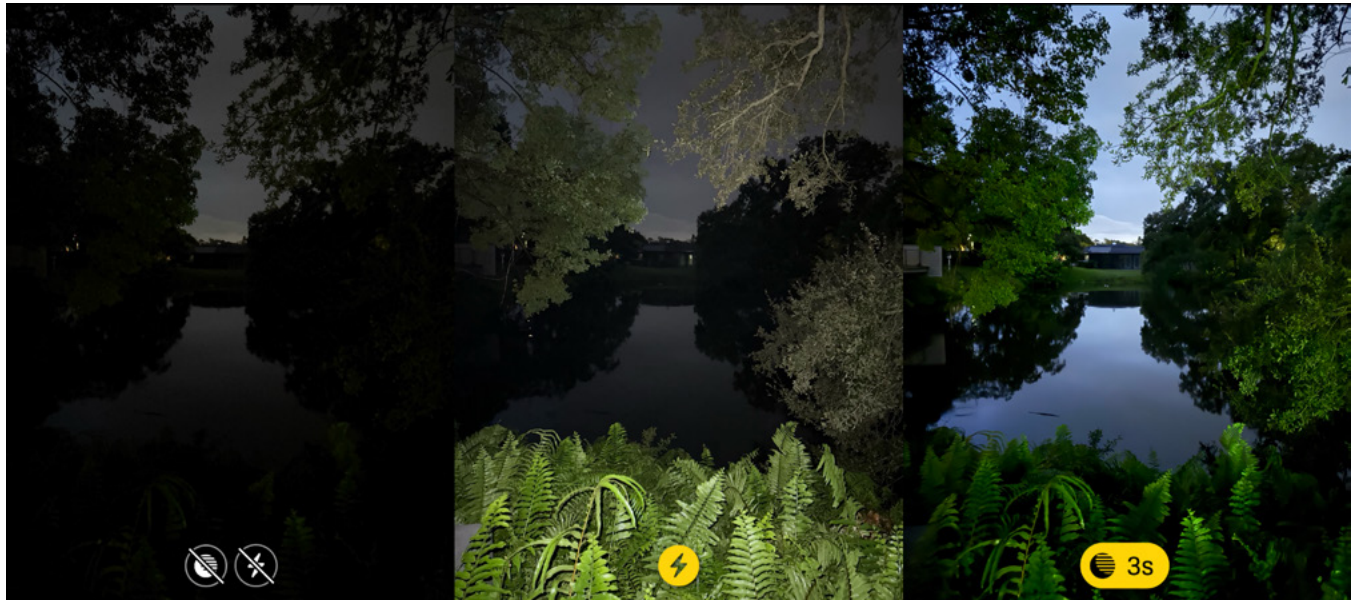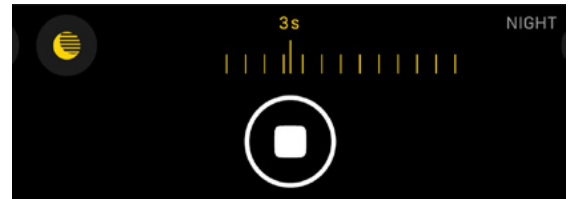
You can also use Night Mode to get some creative effects by purposefully moving the camera OR the subject in order to capture some creative blurring. (see screen shots at right.)
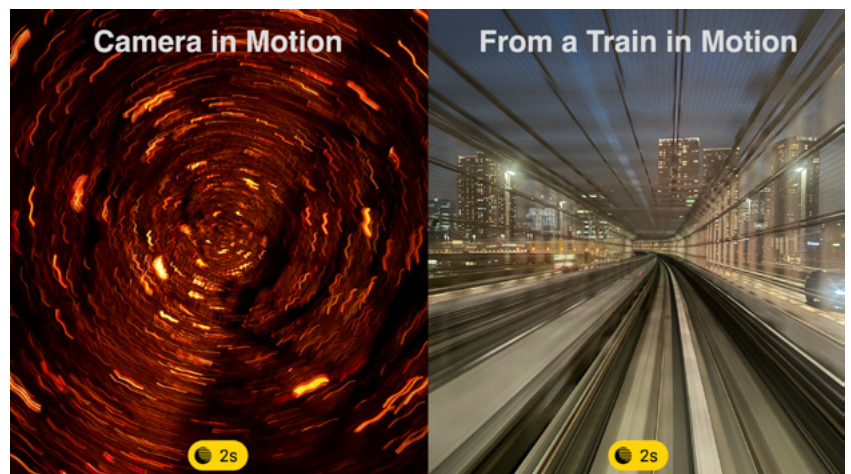
PHOTOGRAPHIC STYLE

This is a feature that was introduced with the iPhone 16, so it is not available in earlier versions. It won't show up when capturing a raw file or if the camera setting within the Settings app is set to"most compatible" instead of "high efficiency." Note that it's not critical that you turn this feature on before taking a photo since it can always be added later when editing the image

Tap the image and swipe sideways to choose between a total of 15 Photographic styles with "Standard" being the default. (The Standard setting doesn't change the look of your image.) The five choices found to the left of Standard cause subtle changes, while the ones to the right or Standard change the whole mood of the image. Let's take a closer look at the styles that are available:

The styles found to the left of "Standard" are labeled "Undertones" which means they only affect the subtle understated warm colors in the image. The Cool Rose and Neutral styles make subtle warm tones less prominent, while the others make them more prominent.

The slider associated with these modes give you a visual clue as to what they'll do. What's on the left of the slider is the color it will target and what's on the right is the result you'll end up with.

The styles found to the right of "Standard" are labeled "Mood" and affect the overall appearance of the image causing more dramatic changes.

To give you an example, I photographed a color chart to show you how what each style does to various colors and shades of gray. (next page)

Once you've chosen a style, you can fine-tune the look by adjusting the controls that appear below the preview image. The Palette slider at the bottom allows you to dial in just how strong the style should be. If it's making a too aggressive change, just dial it back by sliding it to towards the left. You can further fine-tune things by dragging your finger within the the grid above the slider. Drag vertically to brighten or darken the image. Then drag horizontally to change how vivid the colors are within the image.

The numbers that appear above the image tell you just how far you've changed each of those three settings and offers a U-turn icon that allows you to reset the style to its default setting
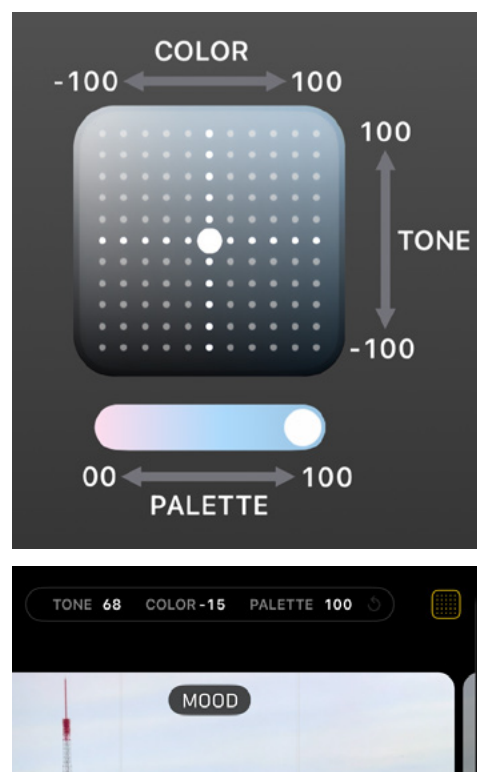
When the dot is in the middle of the grid, it's effectively zeroed out and not causing the image to change. The farther the dot moves from the middle of the grid, the more extreme the change will be. In the image directly at right, the dot is in the center, which means the image hasn't changed. The other images were all adjusted and you can see the dot placement.

ASPECT RATIO

The aspect ratio icon allows you to choose between capturing a square photo, a 4:3 photo or a 16:9 photo. It will be set to 4:3 by default.
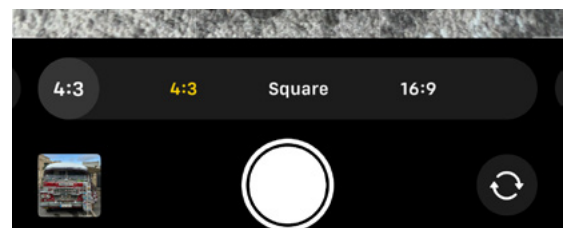
EXPOSURE

We already talked about how you can control exposure by tapping and dragging up and down directly on the screen. This control simply provides another way of doing that. When the icon is active, you can drag left or right on the horizontal scrubby bar in order to make the image brighter or darker.
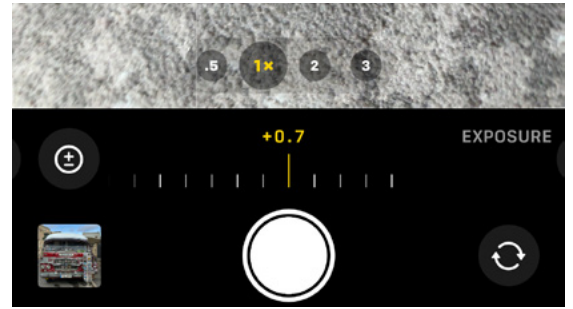
SELF TIMER

The self timer setting looks like a clock icon. Tap it and three options will appear. By default, the self timer is set to OFF. You can also choose from 3 seconds (for hand held) or 10 seconds (if you need to get in position in a group shot or position yourself in a scene for a distant selfie).
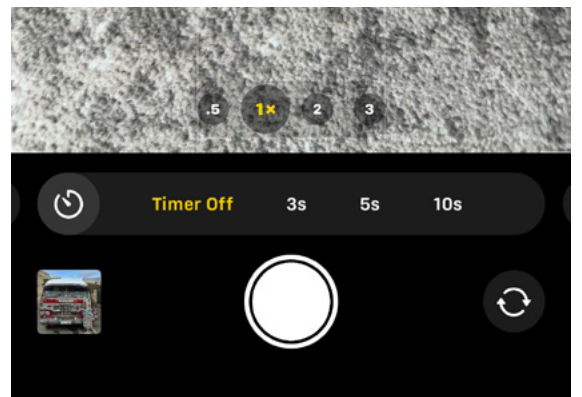
The 3-second timer flashes the flash six times before capturing a shot. The 10-second timer flashes the flash once a second and then speeds up right before capture. If flash and live photo are turned off, then it will take a burst of 10 shots so you can choose the one where everyone is smiling or has their eyes open.

FILTER (OLDER PHONES)

If you have an older phone (pre-iPhone 16), you will have a Filter icon instead of the Photographic Style icon. The filter icon is on the far right and looks like three overlapping circles. Tap it and a series of visual effects will appear below the image window. When you choose a visual effect, it will preview live as you capture a photo.
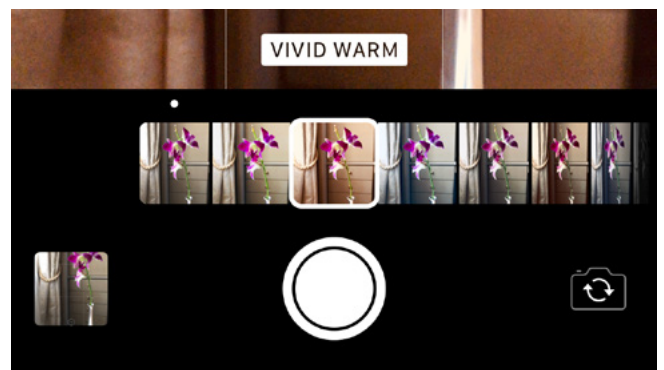
CAMERA MODES

When you open the camera app, a horizontal menu of shooting options will appear right below the viewfinder window. Scroll your finger left and right on this menu in order to choose a different option. The active option will be highlighted in yellow, just above the shutter button. The shooting options are as follows:
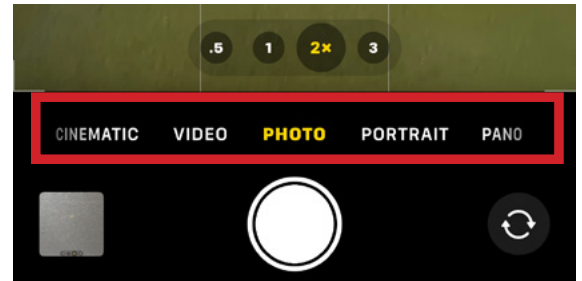
PHOTO

This is the option that is active by default and it will capture a standard photo using a 4:3 aspect ratio (unless you have changed the ratio in the shooting settings). If your phone has more than one lens, you will see the zoom options in the bottom of the viewfinder window.
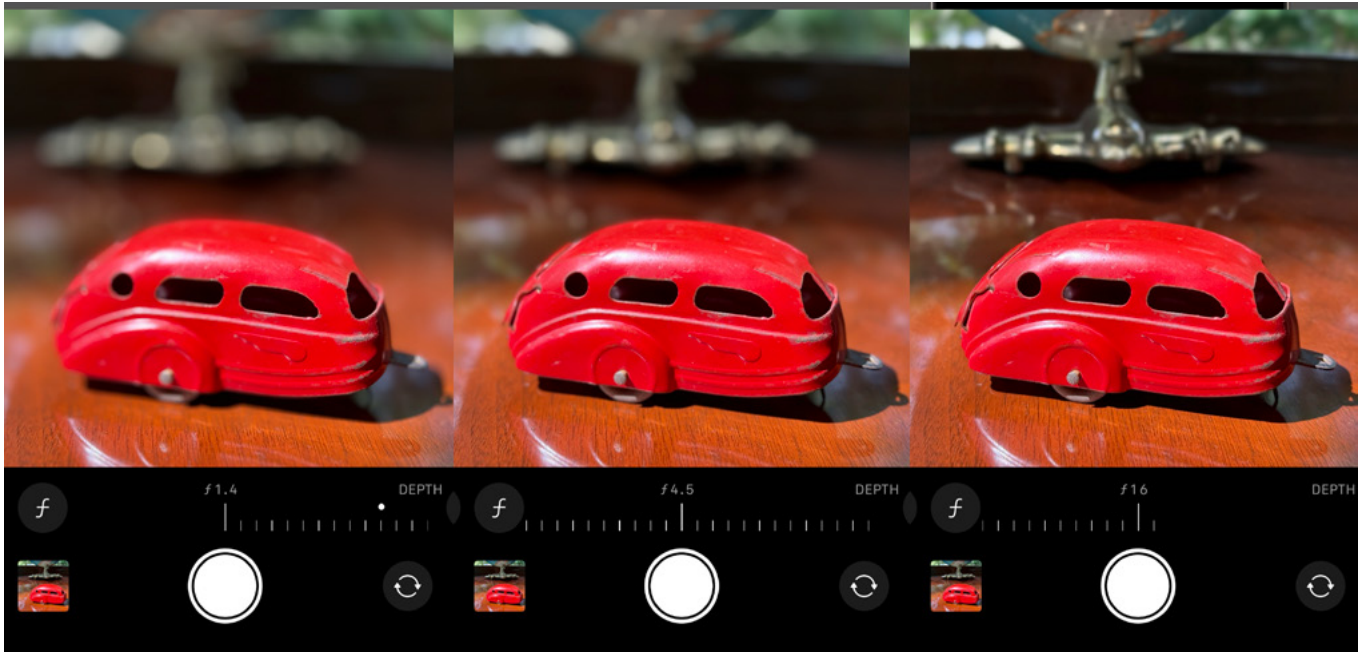
PORTRAIT MODE

The Portrait setting creates a blurry background effect by using computational photography instead of the traditional optical version. It can have issues with glass/transparent objects where a traditional camera would not have a problem. This setting works best when shooting portraits (hence the name).

When taking a picture in Portrait mode, the subject must be over two feet away, but no farther than eight feet away. Tap on the screen to control what should be in focus (near or far scene). Choose a simulated f-stop via the circular "f" icon in the upper right. Use lower numbers for a blurrier background effect.
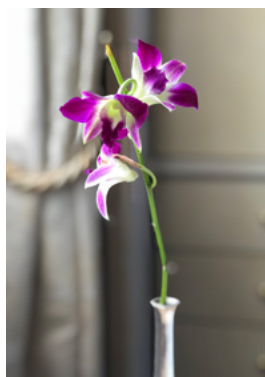
The dot above the scale represents the default and is the only setting that will change the "f" icon back to normal. Otherwise, it shows the chosen setting.
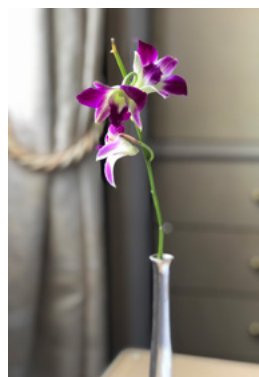

There are various styles associated with Portrait mode and you can choose between the different styles via the picker at bottom of the viewfinder window.
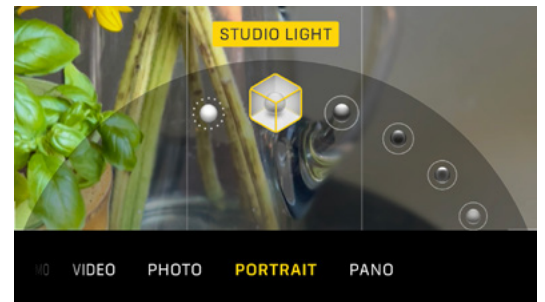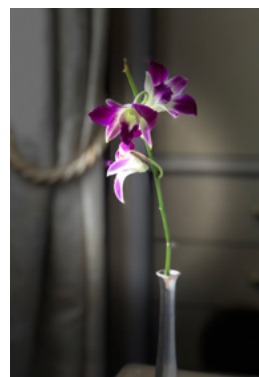

Natural Light   **Studio Light**   **Contour Light**   **Stage Light**   **Stage**
**Light Mono**

SPACIAL

This is a new mode that you'll only find on newer devices that have two lenses that are aligned with each other, such as the iPhone 16. It produces a 3D image by capturing images using two of the lenses on the back of the phone. The resulting image can only be viewed on the very expensive Apple Vision Pro Headset

You can't capture vertical video since the lenses have to reflect your eyes... which are side by side horizontally. You'll also find a switch, which allows you to capture video in this mode.
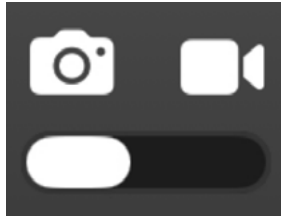
PANO

This camera option allows you to create horizontal or vertical panorama images. To shoot a pano, frame up the start, press the shutter button, pan and then press the button again when you're done. Your goal is to keep the arrow on the line (watch the arrow more than the scene you are attempting to photograph). If the arrow doesn't stay on the line, then you will have an oddly shaped panorama with edges that aren't straight. Imagine that the arrow is a car you are driving that is being viewed by a helicopter above... the line is the road you are supposed to be driving along. If the arrow goes above the line, then pan downward until you're back on the line.
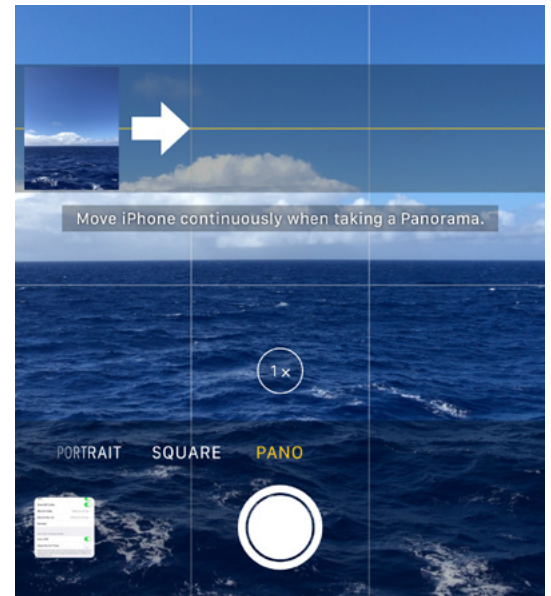
While panning across a panorama, watch for the Slow Down warning. This will appear when you are panning too quickly for the camera to capture the scene.

Before starting a panorama, you can decide which direction you would like to pan. Tap arrow to switch the panning direction. To shoot a vertical panorama, rotate the phone horizontally and pan down to up, or vise versa.

When making a panorama, you can control the exposure spot and lock the exposure, but you can NOT adjust the brightness by dragging up or down.

VIDEO

When shooting video, you can use the same techniques for setting the exposure (tap on the screen) and locking the exposure/focus (tap and hold on the screen). The ability to lock the exposure can be rather useful with videos, especially when panning up and the sky ends up filling a good part of the frame at the end.

Before capturing video, you can use the settings in the top right corner of the screen to specify video quality. You can choose between HD and 4K video. It is set to HD by

default. You can also choose between 30 fps (frames per second) and 60 fps. It is set to 30 by default. The Flash setting turns on the device's flashlight, which is only really useful for very close subjects.
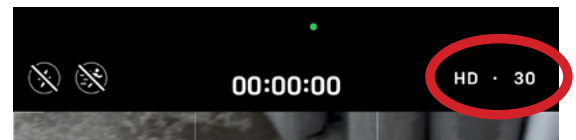
Action Mode will stabilize your video if there is any movement.

The shutter button indicates the current mode. If the button is a white circle, the camera is set to capture a still photo. If the button is a red circle, the camera is ready to shoot video. If the button is a red square, inside of a circle, it means that the camera is actively recording video.
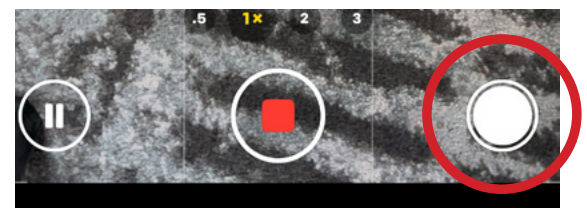

Camera is ready to record a video.

Camera is actively recording video.

Note that you can also capture a still photo via a separate button while actively recording video.

CINEMATIC

Cinematic mode is like Portrait mode (which produces a blurry back-ground) but for video. Just tap your finger on what should be in focus... it produces a smooth focus transition between different areas. .

Tip: It will automatically focus on faces if they appear in the frame.

SLO-MO

This setting shoots video but slows down time. It starts and ends at full speed, with the slow motion part in the middle. You can control how much of the video is slow after the fact. Slow-Mo is great for shooting things like flapping flags, action shots, etc. When this mode is active, you can use the setting in the upper right corner to choose between 240 fps and 120 fps.
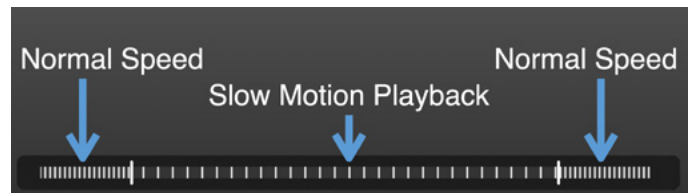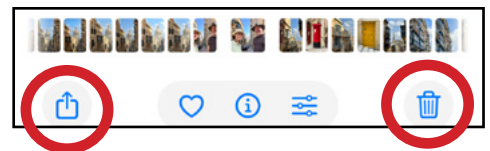
TIME-LAPSE

This setting also creates a type of video that speeds up time.

REVIEWING IMAGES & VIDEOS

While in the Camera app, you can review the last shot taken by tapping on the tiny image thumbnail to the left of the shutter button. When you're done reviewing the image, tap the arrow in the upper left to get back to the camera.

While reviewing an image, you can choose to delete it by tapping the trash icon in the lower right. Tap the share icon in the lower left to text or email the image.