



CHAPTER 1

Getting to Know Your Digital Camera

AS DIGITAL CAMERAS become more affordable and of higher quality, countless people are turning to the thrilling hobby of photography. And, with so many people expressing an interest by investing their hard-earned dollars in a new digital camera, camera manufacturers are coming out with more and more models and an ever-expanding array of features. The sheer number of digital cameras on the market might make you feel so overwhelmed that you forget to learn what your particular digital camera can and cannot do. That's why it's important to get to know your digital camera features inside and out—without further delay. Don't worry if you don't understand what all of these camera features do or how they function. The first step is to understand what you have to work with.

To get some morning shots of Castlerigg, a stone circle in England's beautiful Lake District, I woke up before dawn. My goal was to have both evening and morning photos for comparison and a study of the light. After making several images with a wide-angle lens that encompassed the entire scene, I noticed the mystical, low-lying tulle fog in the distant valley. I focused on just a few of the standing stones so that I could include more of the background, and used a graduated tobacco filter to add some color to the pale early-morning sky. The LCD screen helped me place the filter in exactly the right position.

1/2 SEC. AT f/19, ISO 100, 28–105MM LENS AT 30MM