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# How to Perform AF Microadjustment on a Canon 50D

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updated: September 29, 2010

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Digital camera body and lens

Canon's professional and advanced amateur lines of [digital SLR cameras](#) can be fine-tuned for each lens that you own. While most camera bodies and lenses will provide adequate focus right out of the box, serious photographers will benefit from the ability to perfect the focus and thus account for manufacturing variations in each lens. The Canon 50D digital SLR is among those cameras offering the microadjustment feature.

## Instructions

Difficulty: Moderately Easy

### Prepare for Microadjustment

- 1 Mount the selected Canon lens onto the [camera](#) body.
- 2 From the camera's menu selector, choose custom function 3, menu item 7 (C. Fn III - 7), which controls the autofocus microadjustment (AF Microadjustment). You will find three choices: 0-Disable, 1-Adjust All By Same Amount, and 2-Adjust By Lens. Select 2-Adjust By Lens by using either the thumb-wheel selector or the joystick controller, both of which are found on the right side of the back of the camera.
- 3 Select an object to photograph as you test each of your lenses for microadjustment. The object should be flat or shallow, have high contrast and contain fine lines or edges. A framed diploma, cereal box or book cover will work fine. Position the object in a well-lit place.

#### Things You'll Need:

- Canon 50D Digital SLR Camera
- Individual Canon SLR lenses

### Perform Your Microadjustment

- 1 With your camera mounted on a tripod and set for mirror lock-up, [take a picture](#) of your object. Mirror lock-up can be enabled from the menu setting C. Fn 3 - 6: Mirror Lock-Up; select option 1: Enable. Now, when you use the self-timer to take a photograph, mirror lock-up will occur and help to eliminate vibration.
- 2 Download the picture to a [computer](#) and view at 100% or 200% magnification. If the object appears to be in sharp focus, your lens does not need any microadjustment. If the object is not in sharp focus, go to the C. Fn III - 7 menu, select 2-Adjust By Lens, and adjust the microfocus by +2 units. Retake the picture, download it and view it at 100% or 200%. If it seems somewhat sharper in focus, try repeating the microadjustment by +4 units. You may need to try +6 for an even sharper focus. If not, then +2 would be your best microfocus for this lens. If microadjustment on the + side only makes the image worse, then try microadjusting by -2. Set it to -4 and -6 if necessary to achieve the sharpest focus.

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- 3 Once the proper microadjustment has been determined, you must "register" it for each lens in the camera's memory. To register the microadjustment, press the "Info" button on the back of the camera. The Canon 50D can register up to 20 lenses.

## References

"Canon EOS 50D Instruction Manual"; Canon Camera Corporation

"Autofocus Microadjustment Procedure"; Ken Newcombe Photography

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