Sensor Cleaning

Presented by
Gregg Kerber

DISCOVER THE LIGHT
PHOTOGRAPHY

Topics Covered

- How to check sensor for dust spots

- How to avoid dust in the first place

- Before you begin

- Dry cleaning

- Wet cleaning

How to check sensor

1. Attach lens to camera.

2. Set mode to Aperture Priority.

3. Set ISO to lowest setting.

4. Set aperture to smallest aperture (e.g., f/22).

5. Turn auto focus off.

6. Find a blank wall with light colored paint (white is best).

7. Hold the camera 1 to 2 feet from wall.

8. Start moving camera left and right (or in a circular motion).

9. Keep camera moving and take a photo.

10. Play back the image and magnify it to see the dust spots.

How to avoid dust in the first place

- Change lenses in a dust free environment.

- Minimize the time when changing lenses.

- When changing lenses, positions the camera face down.

- Keep the rear element of lenses clean.

Before you begin

- Have a fully charged battery in the camera.

- **DSLRs**: Know how to set camera to manual cleaning (locks the mirror up).

- **Mirrorless**: Know how to lock the sensor (if camera has in-camera image stabilization).

- Work in a dust free environment.

- Have good lighting available (you need to see the sensor clearly).

- Have everything set up and ready to go (hand blower, cleaning solution, swabs, etc.).

- Use the proper solution for your sensor.

- Watch YouTube videos for tips.

Start with a blower

1. Check sensor for dust (per previous slide).

2. Set the camera up for manual cleaning.

3. Remove the lens with the front facing down.

4. Squeeze the blower shooting air up into the sensor area several times.

5. Check sensor for dust (per previous slide). Compare to before image.

6. If too much dust remains, go to wet or dry methods.

Dry cleaning

- Lighted magnifying sensor cleaning loupe.

- Sensor cleaning pen.

Wet cleaning

- Get the correct cleaning solution for your sensor.

- Use pre-made swabs made for sensor cleaning.

- Don't use a loupe when wet cleaning.

- Use only a couple of drops on each side of the swab (less is better than more).

- Never use a swab twice.

- Never touch the swab with your fingers.

- Get swabs that fit your sensor (MFT, crop, full frame, etc).

- Swipe one direction, flip swab, and swipe the other direction.

- Use a loupe to check your work.

- Repeat as necessary.