

# **Camera Firmware: How to Update It (and Why)**

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# HOW TO UPDATE YOUR CAMERA FIRMWARE

Did you know that your camera can gain more features long after you've purchased it, such as faster autofocus, better AF tracking, and improved menus

It's thanks to something called firmware updates, and if you've never gone through the updating process, then you're in for a treat.

First, I explain what firmware is and why it matters. Then I take you through a simple, step-by-step process for updating the firmware on your camera so you can quickly and easily upgrade your camera features.

# What is camera firmware?

Firmware refers to the software your camera uses to operate. It exists on a microprocessor inside your camera, and it controls the features and functions attached to camera menus and buttons, as well as autofocus algorithms, image processing, noise reduction, and more.

Note that the firmware differs from your camera's hardware (i.e., its physical components) – and it is the interaction of the firmware and the hardware that allows you to set exposures, autofocus on subjects, and even take pictures.

Now, every camera is shipped with firmware on its microprocessor. And that firmware will work, generally quite well, for the camera's lifetime.

However, every so often, manufacturers may release firmware updates, which modify the firmware to add new features and other items.

# Why are firmware updates important?

Firmware updates generally contain one of two things:

- Enhancements that improve camera operation (e.g., upgraded autofocus functionality)
- Fixes for camera problems

So if you want your camera to operate at peak performance, as soon as a manufacturer releases an update, you should install it.

Firmware updates aren't always required.

Some cameras never have updates.

And others only gain minor updates or fixes, potentially offering solutions to problems that don't interest you.

Some updates add languages or add support for optional accessories (such as wireless functions or GPS modules).

It's up to you whether a firmware update is worth adding.

Some firmware updates are in response to problems discovered by users after the launch of the camera, and these may be pretty major (such as battery-draining issues, unexpected camera lockup, and autofocus issues).

If your camera is on the older side, don't expect frequent updates. But do check on an annual basis, because you never know what might be released.

# Does your camera have the latest firmware? How to check

In order to check for firmware updates, you need to know what firmware your camera is currently running.

This information is found somewhere in your camera's menu, though finding it is different on every camera and not always obvious. Feel free to browse through all the menu pages; alternatively, just refer to your camera's instruction manual.

When browsing, look for options such as **Version**, **Firmware**, or **Firmware Version**

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Here's the firmware information on a Canon DSLR:



Once you find the right item, click to open it and note down the version number.



Then find the support page for your camera on the manufacturer's website.

There are links to a handful of support pages:

- [Canon](#)
- [Nikon](#)
- [Olympus](#)
- [Sony](#)
- [Pentax](#)
- [Panasonic](#)
- [Fujifilm](#)

Check the listed firmware version.

Compare it to the firmware version number on your camera.

If the website firmware number is higher than the number on your camera, then it's time for firmware update.

If the website firmware number is identical to the one on your camera, it means your camera requires no updates, but check back in a few months to see if anything has changed.

# How to update your camera's firmware: a step-by-step guide

If you use a Canon, Nikon, or Fujifilm camera, you can update firmware via a [memory card](#). Here's how it works:

First, take your memory card and do an in-camera [format](#). This will clear the card of all images, so make sure you've exported any files that matter.

Next, download the latest firmware from the manufacturer's website.

Insert your empty memory card into your computer card reader, then copy the downloaded firmware over to the memory card.

Make sure your camera is off, then insert the firmware-loaded memory card. Turn on your camera and navigate to the firmware version in the menu (remember, this will be indicated by **Version**, **Firmware**, or **Firmware Version**).

Carefully follow any instructions displayed on your camera's LCD screen. Your camera will indicate when the update is complete, at which point you can switch off the camera and remove the memory card.

# Updating firmware on Sony and Olympus cameras

Doing a firmware update on Sony and Olympus cameras is slightly more involved. I've outlined the basic steps here, but – you need to *read the manufacturer's instructions*

**IMPORTANT:** In order to perform a firmware update on a camera, ensure that the camera's battery is fully charged. If the battery is not fully charged, and the battery dies during firmware updates, the camera may become inoperable.

First, You'll need to download the relevant firmware from the manufacturer's website, then launch the firmware update companion software (provided in the download package).

Next, remove the memory card from your camera and make any necessary changes in your camera's menu (Sony cameras, for instance, have particular settings that should be in place)

Hook up your camera to the computer via a cable.


Finally, use the firmware update software to install the new firmware and carefully follow any additional steps displayed on your camera's LCD.

## **If something goes wrong**

If you follow the manufacturer's instructions and run into an error, check the instructions again. Have you missed a step or misunderstood what is required?

# Notes on Panasonic & Lumix cameras and Lens

Some cameras require different firmware to be installed for the Camera Body and also the Lens.

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### Download

Full-frame System Camera / LensMicro Four Thirds System Camera / LensCompact CameraOthers

**Search firmware by model number :**

Input the model number and click search button. Target firmware will be highlighted. To delete highlight, click the text box to make it blank.

### Compact Camera

Model Number	Version	Date	Download
DMC-CM1	Ver.12.0300	Feb 15, 2016	<a href="#">▶ Software update service</a>
DMC-FH10/FS50	Ver.1.1	Jul. 22, 2013	<a href="#">▶ Firmware update service</a>
DMC-FH22/FS33	Ver.1.2	Jun. 13, 2011	<a href="#">▶ Firmware update service</a>
DMC-FP1/FP2	Ver.1.1	Sep. 21, 2010	<a href="#">▶ Firmware update service</a>
DMC-FP3	Ver.1.3	Jun. 13, 2011	<a href="#">▶ Firmware update service</a>
DMC-FS15	Ver.1.3	Jun. 15, 2009	<a href="#">▶ Firmware update service</a>
DMC-FS25	Ver.1.1	Jun. 15, 2009	<a href="#">▶ Firmware update service</a>
DMC-FS4	Ver.1.1	Jun. 15, 2009	<a href="#">▶ Firmware update service</a>
DMC-FS42	Ver.1.1	Jun. 15, 2009	<a href="#">▶ Firmware update service</a>
DMC-FS6	Ver.1.1	Jun. 15, 2009	<a href="#">▶ Firmware update service</a>
DMC-FS62	Ver.1.1	Jun. 15, 2009	<a href="#">▶ Firmware update service</a>
DMC-FS7	Ver.1.1	Jun. 15, 2009	<a href="#">▶ Firmware update service</a>
DMC-FS8	Ver.1.1	Jun. 15, 2009	<a href="#">▶ Firmware update service</a>
DMC-FT1/TS1	Ver.1.2	Jun. 15, 2009	<a href="#">▶ Firmware update service</a>

## Download

[Full-frame System Camera / Lens](#)[Micro Four Thirds System Camera / Lens](#)[Compact Camera](#)[Others](#)


Search firmware by model number :

Input the model number and click search button. Target firmware will be highlighted. To delete highlight, click the text box to make it blank.

\* When you click below "Click to the download page" then a pop-up window should be shown. If your OS is Mac and using Safari, [please refer here](#) to show the pop-up window.

## Camera body

Product	Series	Model	Version	Date	Download / Description
Camera body	GH	DC-GH6	Ver.2.2	 Sep. 27, 2022	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
		DC-GH5S	Ver.2.5	Jul. 25, 2022	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
		DC-GH5M2	Ver.1.2	Apr. 25, 2022	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
		DC-GH5	Ver.2.8	Apr. 25, 2022	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
		DMC-GH4	Ver.2.7	Sep. 27, 2017	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
		DMC-GH3	Ver.1.2	Jul. 9, 2013	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
		DMC-GH2	Ver.1.2	Jul. 25, 2018	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
		DMC-GH1	Ver.1.3	May 10, 2010	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
	BGH	DC-BGH1	Ver.2.4	Jul. 25, 2022	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
	G	DC-G100/G110	Ver.1.3	Jul. 13, 2021	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
		DC-G9	Ver.2.7	Apr. 25, 2022	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
		DC-G90/G91/G95	Ver.1.2	Jul. 21, 2020	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>

For Panasonic products listed below, firmware update program is available from each download page.

Micro Four Thirds lenses					
Product	Series	Model	Version	Date	Download / Description
LEICA DG Lens	Wide-Angle	H-E08018	Ver.1.2	Mar. 1, 2022	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
		Standard	H-X1025	Ver.1.2	Mar. 1, 2022
	H-ES12060		Ver.1.3	Mar. 1, 2022	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
	Telephoto	H-X2550	Ver.1.1	Mar. 1, 2022	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
		H-ES50200	Ver.1.2	Mar. 1, 2022	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
		H-RS100400	Ver.1.4	Mar. 1, 2022	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
	Fixed Focal	H-X012	Ver.1.1	Mar. 1, 2022	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
		H-X015	Ver.1.1	Mar. 1, 2022	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
		H-XA025	Ver.1.2	Mar. 1, 2022	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
		H-NS043	Ver.1.4	Mar. 1, 2022	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
		H-ES200	Ver.1.3	Mar. 1, 2022	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
	Macro	H-ES045	Ver.1.1	Dec. 8, 2015	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
LUMIX G Lens	Wide-Angle	H-F007014	Ver.1.1	Nov. 25, 2009	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
	Standard	H-FS12032	Ver.1.2	Jul. 21, 2020	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
		H-HS12035	Ver.1.3	Aug. 5, 2015	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
		H-HSA12035	Ver.1.2	Mar. 1, 2022	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
		H-FS12060	Ver.1.4	Mar. 1, 2022	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
		H-FS014042	Ver.1.1	Sep. 13, 2011	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
		H-FS014045	Ver.1.2	Nov. 25, 2009	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
		H-FS1442A	Ver.1.1	Aug. 5, 2015	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
		H-PS14042	Ver.1.2	Mar. 28, 2013	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
		H-FS14140	Ver.1.2	Oct. 6, 2016	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
		H-VS014140	Ver.1.4	Dec. 7, 2010	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
	Telephoto	H-FS35100	Ver.1.3	Jul. 21, 2020	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
		H-HS35100	Ver.1.3	Aug. 5, 2015	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
		H-HSA35100	Ver.1.2	Mar. 1, 2022	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
		H-FS45150	Ver.1.2	Dec. 8, 2015	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
		H-PS45175	Ver.1.3	Apr. 24, 2017	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
		H-FS045200	Ver.1.3	Feb. 29, 2012	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
		H-FSA45200	Ver.1.2	Mar. 1, 2022	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>
H-FS100300		Ver.1.2	Jan. 25, 2012	<a href="#">Click to the download page</a>	



# Camera firmware: final words

Updating your camera firmware offers great benefits – so I recommend you start today!

If you haven't checked for firmware updates, do it now – and if you have, make a plan to check again in a few months.

In the meantime, enjoy your camera's *current* firmware!