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PENTAX

ME F


PENTAX
ME F
smc PENTAX A.F ZOOM 1:2.8 35-70mm
ASAHI OPT. CO.
776012
AUTO FOCUS
OFF ON

DESCRIPTION OF PARTS

Ⓐ Power switch
Ⓑ Focusing ring
Ⓒ Fousing buttons

1. Neck strap eyelet
2. Self-timer lever
3. Shutter mode index button
4. Film rewind crank
5. Film rewind/back cover release
6. Lens release lever
7. Lens alignment index
8. Auto focus contacts
9. Instant return mirror
10. X-synch terminal
11. Aperture ring
12. Lens aperture index
13. Distance index
14. Distance scale
15. Lens alignment node
16. Focusing ring
17. ASA film speed index
18. Exposure compensation dial
19. Audio focus switch
20. Electro focus selector

21. Hotshoe
22. Electro-manual shutter speed buttons shutter mode indications
23. Shutter cocked indicator
24. Rapid wind lever
25. Shutter button
26. Cable release socket
27. Exposure counter

CONTENTS

Welcome to the World of Electro Focus Photography!

Your ME-F is a truly unique camera which has a host of features to make SLR photography easier than ever before. Its revolutionary built-in through-the-lens Electronic Focus Control (TTL-EFC) System has improved focusing accuracy and convenience for everyone.

When the ME-F is used with the new Pentax AF Zoom 35mm–70mm f/2.8 Auto Focus Lens, this system provides you with complete auto focus simply by pressing a button on the lens barrel. Because the focus control is integrated into the camera body, the Pentax auto focus zoom is more compact than the conventional external auto focusing systems for SLR cameras.

When the ME-F is used with any of over 30 standard K-mount SMC Pentax interchangeable lenses (and also screw-mount lenses with Mount Adaptor K), the same built-in electronic focus system provides focus guidance that enables quick and accurate focus simply by turning the lens in the direction of an arrow. When the large green viewfinder LED glows and an audible signal sounds, it informs you that focus is correct.

Either way you use it—for complete auto focus with the new AF Zoom lens, or for focus guidance with your regular SMC Pentax interchangeable lenses, this new system will help you to focus with more accuracy and speed than conventional focusing systems.

Aside from its revolutionary focusing system, the ME-F has several other improved features such as fully automatic exposure with tri-color exposure guides, pushbutton-controlled manual exposures, a super-fast 1/2000th second top shutter speed, a brilliant Clear-Bright-Matte viewfinder, all in its easy handling, compact body. Also, it operates in conjunction with over 200 Pentax system accessories, including two winders, four dedicated flash units, and offers a wide range of special purpose photo capabilities from close-up, macrophotography and architectural photography with the shift lens to photomicrography and astrophotography. (For details, ask your photo dealer for the booklet entitled, "PENTAX LENSES AND ACCESSORIES.")

HOW TO USE THIS MANUAL

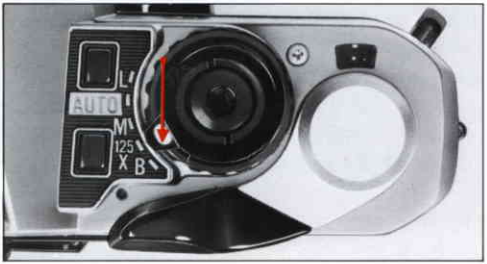
To get you started right away, we've provided a "Quick Course" on pages 4 to 8 which gives you the basics of operating your camera in the auto exposure mode. Use of the camera with the Auto Focus Lens is explained first, followed by the electronic focusing with other Pentax interchangeable lenses. Be sure to first read the section which is pertinent for the type of lens you are using. Also, read the entire manual the first chance you get in order to make the most of all the benefits your camera has to offer.

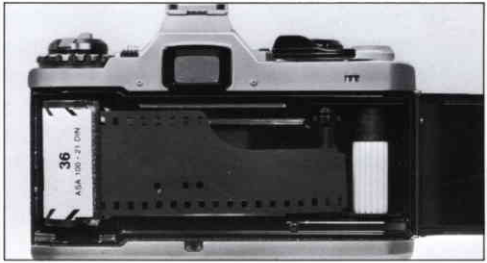
Last but not least, take good care of your ME-F—It's destined to become a classic!

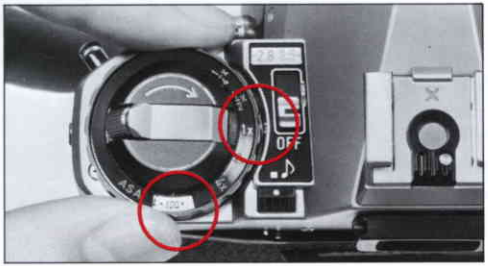
"Your ME-F
Quick Course"

1. Insert the four batteries as shown. (Page 10); Mount the lens (Page 12).

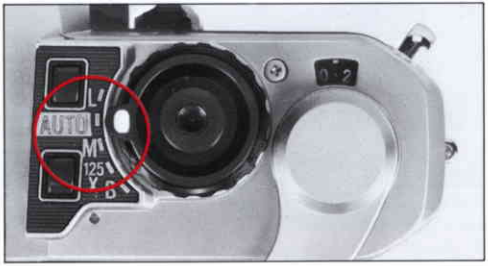
2. Load the film with the shutter mode dial set at "125X" and advance to the first exposure. (Page 13).







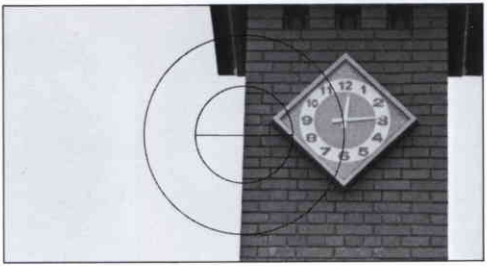
3. Set the ASA film speed (Page 15) Set the exposure compensation dial at 1X (Page 42).



4. Set the shutter mode dial to "AUTO" (Page 16).

5. Set the lens aperture. (Page 18).

6. Look through the viewfinder, focus and compose the picture.



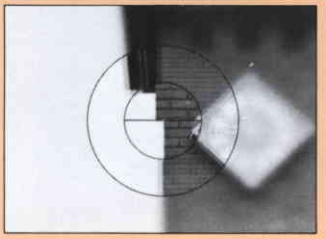
AUTO FOCUS (WITH SMC PENTAX AF 35mm–70mm ZOOM LENS) PAGE 19

- Insert the lens batteries (Page 21); Mount the lens. (Page 12).

- Set the power switch to ON.

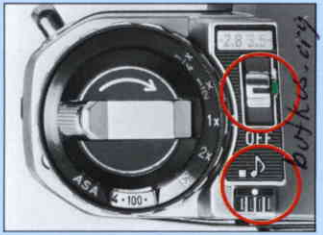
- Set camera electro focus selector to ~2.8

- Center subject in split-image center spot of viewfinder.

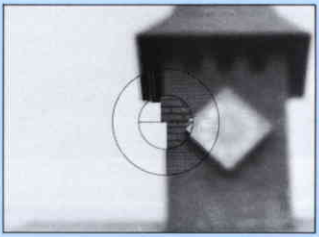


- Press either focus button on lens.

- Take photo when lens stops turning; green LED glows at base of finder.



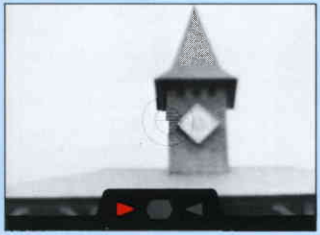
- Set the focus selector to ~2.8 for standard lens (for other lenses see Page 31).



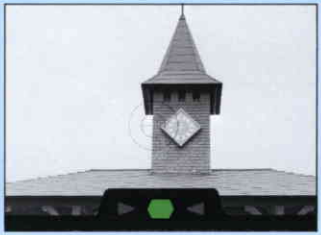
- Center the subject in the split-image center spot of viewfinder.

- Press shutter button partway to activate the finder display.

- Turn the lens in the direction of the arrow.



- Stop when the green LED lights.



7. Activate the meter by pressing the shutter button partway. (Page 39 – 41).

If the green LED lights (between "2000" and "60") take photo.

If red OVER or UNDER LEDs light:

Change the f/stop until green appears.

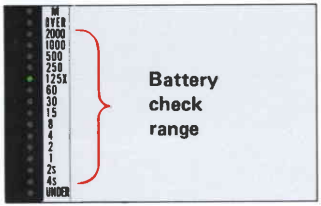
If YELLOW LEDs light (between "30" and "4S"):

(1) use a wider aperture. (Page 18)
(2) use a tripod, etc. (Page 51)
(3) use a flash unit. (Page 42)

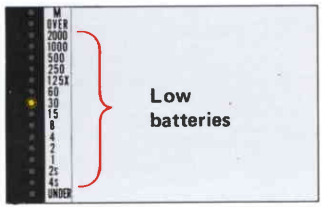
OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

INSERTING BATTERIES

The electronic systems of your Pentax ME-F operate on four 1.5-volt mini batteries (S76, etc.) which are packed separately with your camera.
To insert the batteries: Open the battery compartment cover by sliding it in the direction of the arrow, while depressing the battery compartment lock release button (A). Place the four batteries in the chamber, with polarity markings as shown.
Close the compartment cover and slide it so that it locks in place.



Battery Check: After inserting the batteries, make a quick check to see that the batteries are inserted properly and that the camera's electrical systems are functioning. **To check batteries:** Press the shutter button partway and observe the viewfinder LED shutter speed display. One of the shutter speed LEDs (i.e. those between "2000" and "4S") will glow continuously if the voltage supply for the camera's exposure system is adequate.

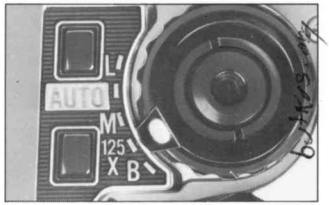


Low Battery Warning: When batteries become too weak for the exposure system to operate, the viewfinder shutter LEDs will begin to flicker.* Although the camera will continue to make accurate exposures for both the AUTO and M electronic exposure modes until the display goes out completely, **all four** batteries should be replaced promptly at this point to ensure uninterrupted operation.

***NOTE:** LEDs other than the shutter speed LEDs (i.e. "OVER – "UNDER" – "EF" – and "M") normally flicker depending on the operating modes; this should be disregarded as low battery indication.

Mechanical Shutter Speeds: If batteries fail and you're caught without spares, manual exposures without the meter can be made at the "125X" (1/125 sec.) and "B" mechanical shutter speeds. See page 17.

Battery Check for TTL Electronic Focusing System: See page 37.

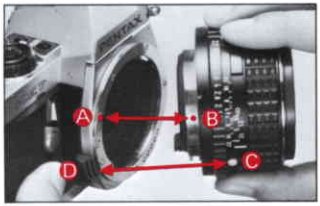


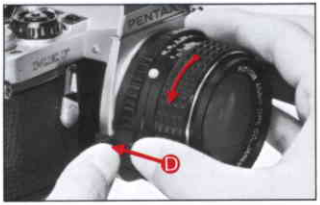
Battery Care:

- Battery life will vary from a short time to several months depending on the frequency of operation of the electronic exposure and focusing systems. Should batteries require replacement, replace all four with equivalent 1.5 volt silver oxide batteries (Eveready S76, MALLORY S76E, etc.)
- Do not mix battery brands and types, nor old batteries with new batteries. (This is dangerous and could actually shorten battery life).
- Wipe the battery with a dry cloth before insertion and always handle by the edges to ensure proper contact.
- Keep spare batteries on hand to help avoid the inconvenience of battery failure during busy picture-taking sessions. When shooting in cold climates where temporarily failure due to extreme temperatures is not uncommon, keep spares in a warm pocket.
- When not using the camera for long periods of time, remove batteries to protect against leakage.

IMPORTANT!
Never throw used batteries into fire or expose to excessive heat as a precaution against explosion. Always keep batteries out of the reach of children.

LENS MOUNTING





NOTE: Mounting instructions are the same for both regular SMC Pentax Lenses and the AF zoom lenses. (for screw-mount lenses, see page 58). **With the auto focus zoom lens, be sure to insert batteries first.**

- Remove the rear lens and body mount covers. Hold the camera firmly in your left hand and match the red dot Ⓐ on the camera body with the red dot Ⓑ on the lens.

- Seat the lens in the body mount and turn it clockwise until it locks into place with a "click." In the dark when the red dots are difficult to see, align the raised white node Ⓒ on the lens barrel with the lens release lever Ⓓ by touch and mount the lens as described.

Removing the lens: To remove the lens, hold the camera in the left hand and press the lens release button Ⓓ while turning the lens counter-clockwise with the right hand.

IMPORTANT

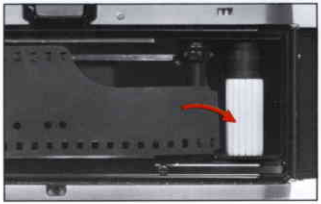
* If it becomes necessary to put the lens down without the rear lens cap, make sure to rest the lens **with the front element down;** never put the lens down with the front element up. (Long telephoto lenses should be laid on their side to avoid tumbling; the auto focus lens may conveniently be rested on the battery compartment).

FILM LOADING AND WINDING

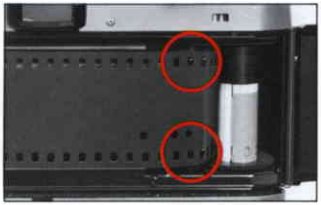
- To avoid unnecessary delays when loading the film, before starting it's best to set the shutter mode dial to "125X." If you must load the film with the dial set to "AUTO," remove the lens cap and aim the camera toward a bright light source to avoid excessively long shutter speeds during film advance. If you advance the film with the dial set to "M," make sure to use one of the faster manual shutter speeds.

- Open the camera back by lifting up sharply on the film rewind knob. Insert the film cartridge in the film chamber and lock the cartridge in place by returning the film rewind knob to its original position.

- Draw the film leader across the back and insert it into any of the white needles in the film take-up spool. Make sure the film is engaged properly on the spool by inserting the leader at least the width of one perforation.



■ Wind the film by alternately advancing the rapid wind lever and firing the shutter release button until **both** top and bottom sprockets engage the film perforations.

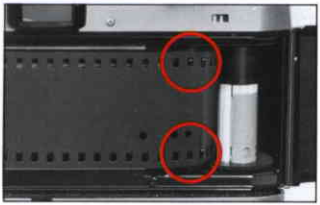


■ When you are sure the film has engaged properly, close the back cover and wind the film rewind crank in the direction of the arrow to take up any slack.

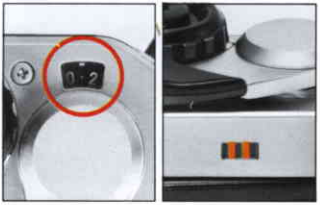
■ Continue advancing the film until the exposure counter registers "1." You can be sure the film is moving properly through the camera by checking to see that the film advance indicator on back of the camera flickers.

Reset the shutter dial to "Auto."

■ Wind the film by alternately advancing the rapid wind lever and firing the shutter release button until **both** top and bottom sprockets engage the film perforations.



■ When you are sure the film has engaged properly, close the back cover and wind the film rewind crank in the direction of the arrow to take up any slack.

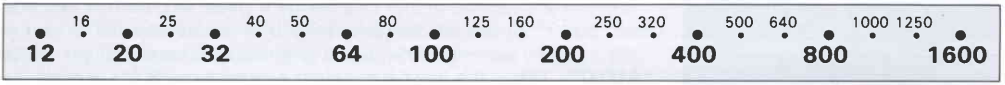


■ Continue advancing the film until the exposure counter registers "1." You can be sure the film is moving properly through the camera by checking to see that the film advance indicator on back of the camera flickers.

Reset the shutter dial to "Auto."

SETTING THE ASA FILM SPEED/MEMO HOLDER

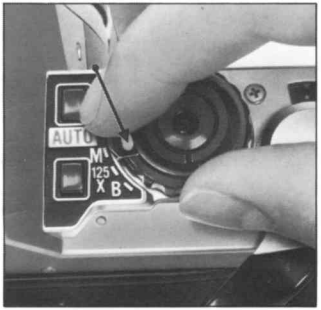
The ASA film speed rating of all 35mm films is given in the data sheet packed with each roll of film. The higher the ASA number, the more sensitive the film is to light. To set the index, lift up the ASA dial Ⓐ and turn it until the ASA number of your film is opposite the orange index mark.



MEMO HOLDER

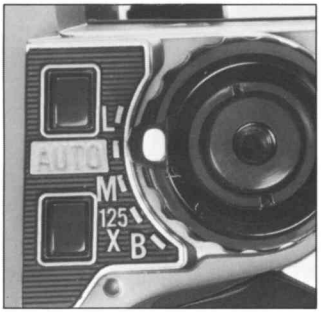
As a reminder of the type of film in your camera, tear off the top of film box and insert it into the Memo Holder on the back cover of the camera.

THE SHUTTER MODE DIAL



Because the camera selects the shutter speed in the "AUTO" exposure mode and pushbuttons are used to set the shutter speed in the "M" electro-touch manual mode, the shutter speed dial has been eliminated on your ME-F. In its place is the shutter mode dial, whereby you simply select the desired mode of exposure before photographing. In addition to the four mode settings, the dial also features a shutter button lock.

To set the dial: Press down on the small white button on top of the dail and rotate the dial until the button aligns with the desired mode setting.



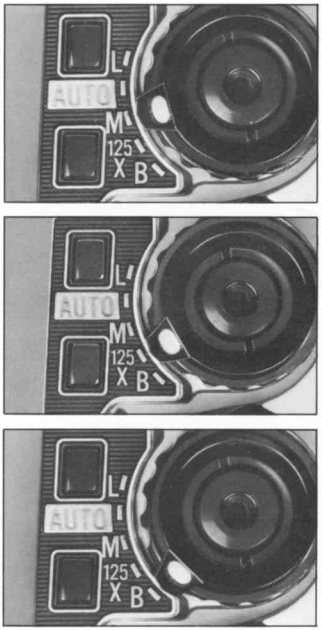
"AUTO": This is the most convenient exposure mode for general shooting. Set the dial set to "AUTO" and the camera chooses the correct shutter speed for you automatically in relation to the preset lens aperture, saving you the time required for setting the exposure entirely yourself, and allowing you to concentrate on framing and composition. For normal daylight shooting, you can preset the lens aperture at f/5.6 or f/8 and obtained well-exposed photos simply by focusing and pressing the shutter button (See EXPOSURES ON AUTO—page 39).

"M" (Manual): This is the ME·F's extremely convenient electro-touch manual exposure whereby you choose your desired shutter speed simply by pressing either of two push buttons. Whereas shutter speeds vary continuously in the "AUTO" mode, with the shutter dial set to "M," you may freeze the shutter speed at any one of fourteen viewfinder shutter speed settings. (See "MANUAL EXPOSURE AT M" — page 44).

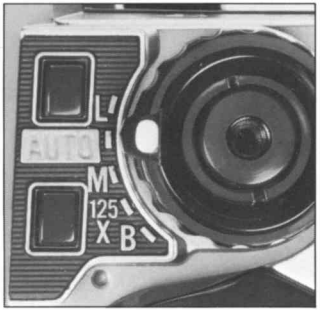
"125X": This 1/125th—second mechanical shutter speeds setting is provided primarily for flash synchronization with electronic flash units other than Pentax dedicated flash units (See page 53). As the shutter operates without batteries, it allows you to still operate the camera in case of battery failure. In this instance, set the dial to "125X" and adjust the lens aperture according to subject brightness (refer to the exposure guide lines accompanying your film).

"B" (Bulb): This setting is for long exposures exceeding the 4-second maximum shutter speed range of the camera's electronic exposure system. Time exposures lasting several minutes or hours can be made at this setting (See "TIME EXPOSURES AT "B," page 51).

"L" (Lock): Set the shutter dial to "L" and the shutter button may be locked while the shutter dial is cocked to prevent accidental shutter release. **To disengage the lock:** reset the dial to the exposure mode desired and release the shutter.



APERTURE SETTING



Preselection of the lens aperture is optional when shooting in the "M" (Manual) mode. However, when shooting on "AUTO", it is recommended that you preset the aperture. This is because the shutter speed selected by the automatic exposure system is determined in relation to the lens aperture used. By presetting the aperture control ring to an f-number that is appropriate for lighting conditions in the picture, problems of over and underexposure can be largely eliminated. When shooting on "AUTO" (or Manual when applicable), preset the lens aperture as suggested in the following table.

Fine weather	f/8 – f/11
Cloudy weather	f/4 – f/5.6
Indoors	f/1.4 – f/2.8

To set aperture: The calibrations on the aperture control ring of the lens are referred to as f-numbers or f-stops and denote the size of the lens aperture. To set the aperture, align the figure equivalent to the recommended f-number with the diamond index mark.

Note on f-numbers: Lower f/numbers (such as f/1.4) denote wider lens apertures, while higher-f-numbers (such as f/22) denote smaller apertures. With the 50mm f/1.4 lens, for example, f/1.4 is the widest, aperture or "open-aperture," while f/22 is the smallest aperture or "minimum aperture." As the size of the aperture also affects the overall sharpness of the photo, you may occasionally wish to vary the aperture setting from the norm for different effects (See page 54).

AUTO FOCUS

(WITH SMC PENTAX AF 35mm – 70mm ZOOM LENS)

The SMC Pentax AF 35mm–70mm Auto Focus Zoom Lens allows you to fully realize the potential of your ME-F camera. With this new system, you can automatically focus by simply pressing a button on the lens. Moreover, because the auto focus control is inside the camera, your lens is more compact than with non through-the-lens auto focus systems, (the only size additions being a micro motor and a battery compartment).

If you are focusing with the auto focus lens, please read this section carefully to fully understand all the benefits it has to offer. If you are focusing with regular SMC Pentax interchangeable lenses, skip to the electronic focusing section (See page 30). Also, be sure to read the manual focusing section.

- Ⓐ Focusing ring
- Ⓑ Focusing buttons
- Ⓒ Power switch
- Ⓓ (Push/Pull) zoom collar
- Ⓔ Battery compartment
- Ⓕ Battery compartment lock release
- Ⓖ Auto focus contacts

INSERTING BATTERIES

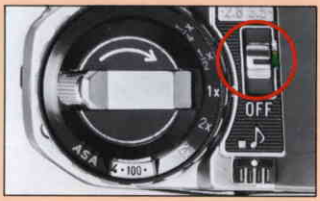



- The battery compartment for the auto focus lens is located at the back of the lens beneath the lens mount. To open the compartment, press the dial **down** and turn to the OPEN position. The cap will release.
- Insert four 1.5-volt AAA-size batteries according to the direction inside the compartment. Be sure to insert the batteries exactly as indicated for the motor to work.
- To close the compartment, replace the cover. Push the dial down and turn to "CLOSE." Your lens is now ready for use.
- Mount the lens on the camera (in the normal manner) as described on page 12. Make sure to turn the lens until it clicks in place.

NOTE: Use either alkaline or manganese batteries, do not use rechargeable NiCad batteries.

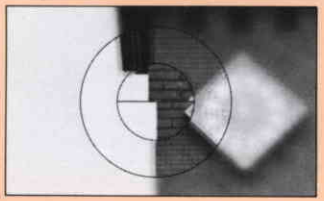
- Set the power switch on the front of the lens to ON.

- Set the shutter mode dial of the camera to "Auto" (other settings except "B" may also be used)



- Set the electro-focus button on top of the camera to ~2.8.

- Look through the viewfinder and center your subject in the split-image center spot.
Make sure that the points of highest contrast bisect the split-image line.



- Press either of the focusing buttons on the lens barrel. When it reaches the point of correct focus, the lens will stop turning; the large green LED display in the viewfinder will light, indicating focus is correct.

As the motor turns, the following indications are possible.

	ONE ARROW:	Direction in which the lens is focusing.
	**TWO ARROWS:**	Lighting/contrast is too flat for auto focus — focus manually.
	GREEN LIGHT (LED):	Subject is in focus; make the exposure reading and take the picture.
	TO FOCUS, PRESS THE BUTTON ON THE LENS BARREL, CENTER THE SUBJECT IN VIEWFINDER: TAKE PHOTO WHEN LENS STOPS TURNING.	

NOTE: ***The subject doesn't have to be aligned precisely in the split-image center spot for correct focus with the auto focus lens.***

Audio Focus Indication: The ME-F provides you with an audible signal which accompanies the LED correct focus indicator. This signal tells you when to take the picture. To operate the audio focus indicator, set the audio focus switch to the musical note. When not needed, turn the audio focus indicator off simply by sliding the switch from the musical note back to the black square.

Hints for good results: Your ME-F's through-the-lens auto focusing system will give you perfectly focused photos when used properly. For best results, be sure to place the highest contrast portion of the subject in the split-image center spot. For example, if photographing a person, focus on his or her sillouette as it stands out from the background. For close-up portraits, focus on facial details.

Foreground Information: The TTL auto focusing system focuses for the object in the center of the viewfinder that is closest to the camera. For this reason, make sure that objects in front of your key subject do not cross the split-image center line. Correct focus will be obtained even with foreground objects as long as they do not cross the split-image center line.

Picture Composition: When composing a picture, first focus on the key subject. Remember, the auto focusing system reads only the subject which bisects the split-image line of the viewfinder, so keep the subject in the center until the focus locks on the subject, then frame your subject as you like.

ZOOMING: To zoom, pull the lens barrel out for wide angle settings, and pull back for telephoto. Best results are obtained if you focus at the telephoto setting first, then adjust to the desired focal length. This way you obtain a larger image for focusing, and foreground matter which might distract the focusing sensor is easily eliminated.

IMPORTANT: When contrast and lighting are insufficient for focusing, the motor will turn back and forth slowly. If this occurs, stop focusing immediately to avoid wasting batteries.

On some occasions you will have to focus manually
While your auto focus system is extremely accurate, there will be occasions when you will have to focus manually.

When manual focus is required both LEDs inside the viewfinder light simultaneously (or flash depending on lighting conditions), informing you to focus manually.

For manual focus, turn the front of the lens barrel and focus in the conventional manner with the split-image, microprism or entire focusing screen as indicated on page 38).

These situations arise mainly when lighting is insufficient or contrast is too flat for the sensor to read the subject. Examples include photographing indoors in dimly lit room, outdoors at dawn, twilight or in heavy shade or overcast. (EV 5.5, at ASA 100, 1 sec. at f/6.7).

Subjects without contrast, such as a white wall also present a problem, as do excessively bright subjects, strong backlighting, fast moving subjects, very fine patterns or lines, and subjects with extreme contrast (over EV 17.5; 1/500 sec. at f/19).

Note: Even with subjects lacking contrast, the system can sometimes be made to work if some mark or distinguishing feature of the subject is placed in the center spot of the viewfinder, such as the bicycle tire in the top photo.

Use with other cameras: The 35mm–75mm Auto Focus Lens may also be used as a standard non auto-focus zoom lens with all other 35mm Pentax cameras featuring the standard Pentax Bayonet Mount. In this instance, set the power switch to OFF and focus in the conventional manner.

BATTERIES: Sufficient voltage is needed for complete auto focus. When the lens no longer rotates on pressing the focusing button, the batteries are depleted. The lens can still be focused with the TTL Electronic Focusing System or manually, but for complete auto focus replace all four batteries immediately. (For TTL Electronic Focus, see page 30, for manual focus – page 38).

Lens Batteries: Battery life will vary from a short time to several months depending upon frequency of operation of the lens. Should batteries require replacement, replace all four with equivalent AAA-size alkaline or manganese batteries. Do not mix brands and types, or old and new batteries (this is dangerous and could actually shorten battery life).

Camera Batteries: Auto Focus is also no longer possible when camera battery voltage is insufficient for the focusing LEDs to light. For continued auto focus in this instance replace **all four** batteries together with equivalent silver-oxide batteries; do not use alkaline batteries or mix battery brands and types (See "Battery care," page 11).

Power Switch: The power switch can be left on while using the lens. When inserting the lens in its case or storing, however, set the switch to OFF. Also set the switch to off and remove battereis when not using the lens for an extended period of time.

Auto Focus Contacts: Be sure to keep the auto focus contacts of both the camera body mount and lens mount clean; wipe occasionally with a dry cloth to keep them from becoming oily.

Tripod: Depending upon the size of the tripod seat, the lens cannot be used with some tripods at the 70mm focal length setting because the battery compartment will hit against the tripod.

Winder: When using a winder with the auto focus lens, use only the single-frame mode; in the continuous mode with moving subjects, focus will be correct only for the first frame.

AF ZOOM LENS FRONT CASE Ⓐ
A specially designed case for carrying the 35mm–75mm Zoom Lens together with the ME-F (Optional).

AF ZOOM LENS CASE Ⓑ
Case for carrying the AF 35mm–70mm zoom lens separately (optional).

LENS HOOD Ⓒ
An exclusive lens hood which screw to the threads on the front of the lens. (Optional)

FILTERS Ⓓ
Standard 58mm screw-in and 58mm SMC Pentax screw-in type filters are used in conjunction with your lens; with certain dark black and white filters, manual focus is required.

TTL ELECTRONIC FOCUS

If you are using the ME-F with regular SMC Pentax lenses (both bayonet K-mount lenses and screw-mount lenses with mount adapter K), you can enjoy the benefit of the cameras built-in electronic focusing system. When used with any of over 30 regular SMC Pentax lenses, this system provides you with electronic focus guidance whereby you can obtain correct focus by simply turning the barrel in the direction of the arrow inside the viewfinder until the large LED correct focus indicator informs you that focus is correct. Moreover, the system is extremely accurate and can be used outdoors in almost all daylight shooting situations, or indoors in well lit rooms. Be sure to read the instructions carefully so that focusing will become as easy and simple as possible.

To engage the electronic focusing system: Switch the electro-focus selector on top of the camera to the maximum aperture setting of your lens as indicated below.

- **~2.8:** Use this setting for all lenses with a maximum aperture of f/2.8 or larger (f/2, 1.7, 1.2 etc.). This includes standard lenses, wide angles, zooms and short telephoto lenses.

- **3.5~:** Use this setting for lenses having a maximum aperture of f/3.5 to f/5.6. This includes, wide angle, zooms, telephotos, macro and bellows lenses.

THE OFF POSITION: The electronic focusing system doesn't apply to lenses having a maximum aperture of f/5.6 or smaller. When using these lenses, set the focus switch to OFF and focus in the conventional manner with the viewfinder focusing screen (See page 38).

To focus:

1. Set the shutter mode dial to "Auto." (other settings except B also can be used).

2. Look through the viewfinder and center your subject the split-image center spot. Make sure the points of highest contrast bisect the split-image line.

3. Press the shutter button down partway. The bottom center viewfinder display will light, and the audio focus indicator will give a short "bleep" when on. This means the electronic focusing system is ready.

The viewfinder display will show you one of three possible signals.

▶	ONE ARROW: Focus the lens in the direction of the arrow.
▶ ◀	TWO ARROWS: Lighting is insufficient or contrast is too flat or extreme for auto focus—focus manually.
⬢	GREEN LIGHT (LED): Subject is in focus; make exposure reading and take picture.
TO FOCUS, SIMPLY TURN THE LENS IN THE DIRECTION OF THE ARROW; WHEN THE GREEN LIGHT SHOWS, TAKE THE PHOTO.	

NOTE: *The subject doesn't have to be aligned precisely in the split-image for correct focus with the electronic focus system.*

Audio Focus Indication: The ME-F provides you with an audible signal which accompanies the LED correct focus indicator. This signal tells you when to take the picture. To operate the audio focus indicator, set the audio focus switch to the musical note. When not needed,turn the audio focus indicator off simply by sliding the switch from the musical note back to the black square.

Hints for good results: Your ME-F's TTL electronic focusing system will give you perfectly focused photos when used properly. For best results, be sure to place the highest contrast portion of the subject in the split-image center spot. For example, if photographing a person, focus on his or her sillouette as it stands out from the background. For close-up portraits, focus on facial details.

Foreground Information: The TTL electronic focusing system focuses for the object in the center of the viewfinder that is closest to the camera. For this reason, make sure that objects in front of your key subject do not cross the split-image center line. Correct focus will be obtained even with foreground objects as long as they do not cross the split-image center line.

Picture Composition: When composing a picture, first focus on the key subject. Remember, the focusing system reads only the subject which bisects the split-image line of the viewfinder, so keep the subject in the center until you have finished focusing, then frame as you like.

Zoom Lenses: The best way to focus with a zoom lens is at the maximum focal length setting, then frame as you like. This way distracting foreground matter can be easily eliminated.

On some occasions you will have to focus manually

While your auto focus system is extremely accurate, there will be occasions when you will have to focus manually. When this occurs, both LED arrows will light (or flash depending on lighting conditions), informing you to focus in the conventional manner as indicated on page 38.

These situations arise mainly when lighting is insufficient or contrast is too flat for the sensor to read the subject. Examples include photographing indoors in dimly lit room, outdoors at dawn, twilight or in heavy shade or overcast. (EV 4, at ASA 100, 1 sec. at f/4). Subjects without contrast, such as a white wall also present a problem, as do excessively bright subjects, strong backlighting, fast moving subjects, very fine patterns or lines and subjects with extreme contrast (over EV 16 at ASA 100, 1/125 sec. at f/22).

Note: Even with subjects lacking contrast, the system can sometimes be made to work if some mark or distinguishing feature of the subject can be placed in the center spot of the viewfinder, such as the bicycle tire in the top photo.

When both LEDs light continuously, you must focus manually. Lighting or contrast is insufficent for Electronic Focus.

Special Purpose Photography: The TTL electronic focus is also convenient for a wide range of special-purpose applications such as close-ups, macrophotography, photography with a microscope, or with shift or bellows lenses. In many of these instances, you can focus in the normal manner as described above.
With bellows and lens extension accessories, however, the exposure factor will make the lens aperture smaller. Be sure to take this into account when you set the electro focus selector.
Although most standard filters can be used with the lens, with dark black and white filters you should focus manually; also for regular polarizing filters.

Battery Check: Battery voltage is adequate for correct focus with the TTL Electronic Focusing System as long as the LED focusing display inside the viewfinder lights. When the LEDs no longer light, voltage is insufficient for electronic focusing.
If continued use of the electronic focus system is desired, replace all four batteries together. Do not mix battery brands or types; this could actually shorten battery life and is dangerous.

NOTE: Battery voltage will be adequate for normal "Auto" or electronic manual exposures for a considerable time after voltage is no longer sufficient for electronic focusing. Exposure can be made in the normal manner without TTL electronic focus (See page 38).

IMPORTANT: Always set the electro-focus selector to OFF when the electronic focusing system is not in use to ensure longer battery life.