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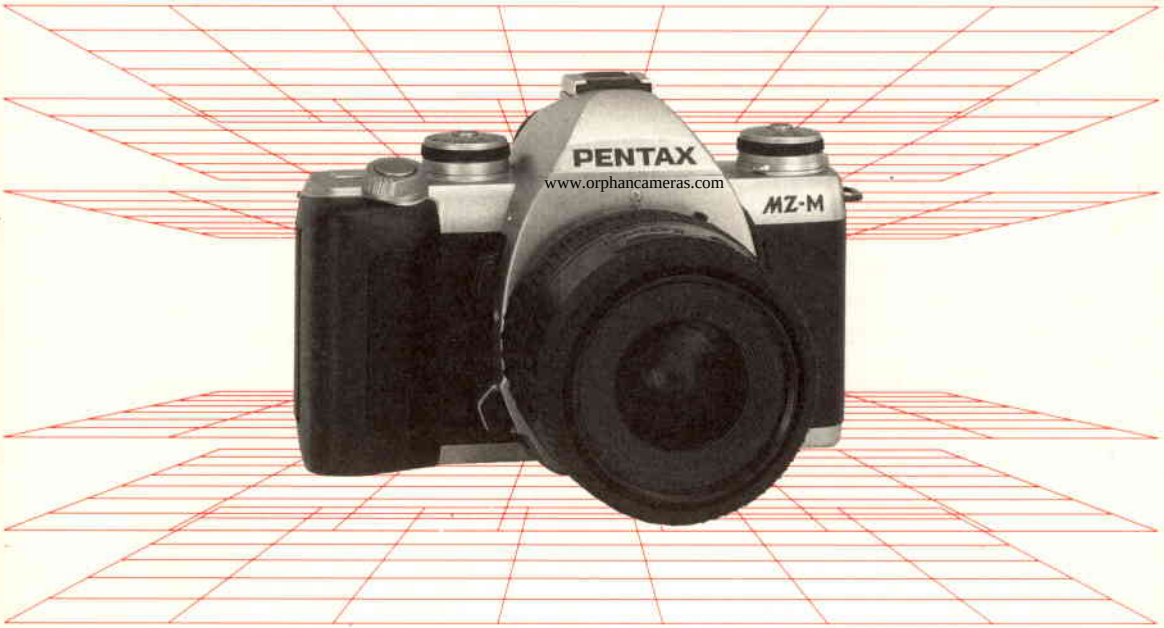
PENTAX®

MZ-M

OPERATING MANUAL



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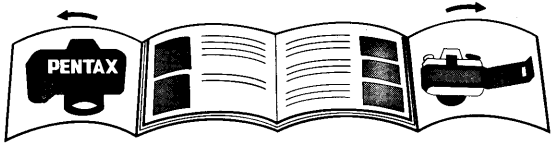
Read this instruction manual carefully to get a full explanation of operations before use.



The names of the camera's working parts are listed on the front and back flaps in this operating manual. Keep the flaps unfolded for quick reference while reading this manual.

Lenses and accessories produced by other manufacturers are not made to our precise specifications and therefore may cause difficulties with or actual damage to your Pentax camera. We do not assume any responsibility or liability for difficulties resulting from the use of lenses and accessories made by other manufacturers.

Icon indicators used in this manual

Operation direction	←
Automatic operation	◀▪▪▪▪▪▶
Attention	◌
Lamp blinking	✳
Correct	○
Incorrect	×

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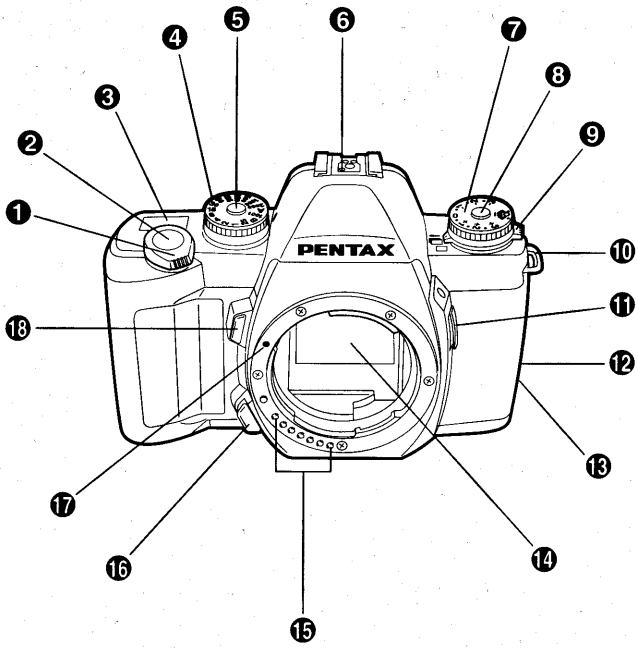
NAMES OF WORKING PARTS I



1. Main switch (p.12)
2. Shutter release button
3. LCD panel (p.3)
4. Shutter dial
5. Shutter dial lock button
6. Hot shoe (p.39)
7. Exposure compensatiion dial (p.15, 33)
8. Exposure compensatiion release button (p.15, 33)
9. Drive mode dial (p.23)
10. Strap lug (p.7)
11. Electronic cable release socket (p.32)
12. Back cover release lever (p.12)
13. Mid-roll rewind button (p.17)
14. Mirror
15. Lens information contacts
16. Lens unlock button (p.11)
17. Lens mount index (p.10)
18. Preview button (p.35)

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FOR SAFE USE OF YOUR CAMERA

Although we have carefully designed this camera for safe operation, please be sure to follow precautions given on this page.

⚠ WARNING This mark indicates precautions that, if not followed, could result in serious injury to the operator.

⚠ CAUTION This mark indicates precautions that, if not followed, could result in minor or medium injury to the operator or damage to the equipment.

⚠ WARNING

- Wrapping the strap around your neck is dangerous. Make sure that small children do not get the strap caught around their neck.
- Do not look directly at the sun through the camera, as viewing the sun for an extended period may damage your eyes.
- Be sure to store batteries out of the reach of children. Seek medical assistance immediately if accidentally swallowed.

⚠ CAUTION

- Never try to disassemble, short or recharge the battery. Also, do not dispose of the battery in fire, as it may explode.
- Remove the batteries from the camera immediately if they become hot or begin to smoke. Be careful not to burn yourself during removal.

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PRECAUTIONS FOR YOUR CAMERA

Your Pentax camera is a high-precision mechanism. Handle it with great care.

Precautions when taking pictures

- Do not use the camera where it may come in contact with rain, water, or any other liquid, because the camera is not weather, water, or liquid resistant. Should the camera get wet from rain, splashing water, or any other liquid wipe it off immediately with a dry soft cloth.
- Do not drop the camera or allow it to hit solid objects. If the camera suffers a shock or impact, take it to a Pentax service center for inspection.
- Be careful not to subject the camera to strong vibrations, shock or pressure. Use a cushion to protect the camera when carrying it in a motorcycle, car, boat, etc.
- Condensation on the interior or exterior of the camera may be extremely harmful to the camera mechanism as it may cause rust. Furthermore, if the camera is taken from warm temperature to a subfreezing one or vice versa, the formation of icelets may cause damage. In such a case, put the camera into a case or plastic bag so that any changes in temperature difference is minimized. Do not remove it from the bag until temperature has stabilized.
- Regular size color prints may cut off what appears on the extreme edges of the film frame. Compose your picture with a margin of safety at the edges.

Precautions for storage

- Avoid leaving the camera for extended periods in places where the humidity and temperature are very high, such as in a car.
- Do not store the camera in a closet with moth balls or in an area where chemicals are handled. Store it in a place with good dry air circulation to prevent the growth of fungus.

Precautions for proper care

- Never touch the shutter curtain or mirror with your finger or any other object.
- Use a blower and lens brush to remove dust accumulated on the lens or viewfinder.
- Never use solvents such as paint thinner, alcohol or benzene to clean the camera.
- Electrical problems may often be caused by water, dirt or dust at points of electrical contact. Also check for battery leakage, traces of dirt or grease, or corrosion due to salinity or gas. If you cannot correct the problems, have your camera inspected at a Pentax service center. Repairs of this nature are not covered under the terms of the warranty and charges may be assessed.

Other precautions

- The temperature range at which this camera functions properly is -10°C to 50°C (14°F to 122°F).
- A camera which has been submerged in water usually cannot be repaired. If such an accident should occur, it is advisable to contact a Pentax Service Center immediately.
- To maintain optimum performance, it is recommended that the camera be inspected every one or two years. If the camera has not been used for an extended period, or is being prepared for an important photographic session, it is recommended that you have the camera inspected or test shoot with it.
- Repairs deemed necessary due to usage of this product in an industrial or commercial application may not be covered under the terms of the Pentax warranty.
- The PENTAX warranty provides only for the repair of defects in materials or workmanship. Damage of any kind cannot be repaired at no charge under the terms of the warranty. If the difficulty is caused as a direct result of the product being used in conditions as outlined in the "Precautions for Your Camera" section or any other operation contrary to the instructions outlined in this manual, charges will be assessed and a repair quotation will be provided.

PRECAUTIONS FOR BATTERY USAGE

- Use two 3V lithium batteries (CR2 type).
- Misuse of the battery can cause hazards such as leakage, overheating, explosion, etc. The battery should be inserted with the "+" and "-" sides facing correctly.
- Battery performance may be temporarily hindered in low temperatures, but will recover in normal temperatures.
- Keep a spare battery on hand for replacement convenience when shooting outdoors or while traveling.
- Replace the batteries at the same time. Do not mix battery brands, types or old batteries with new, as this may cause overheating or explosion.

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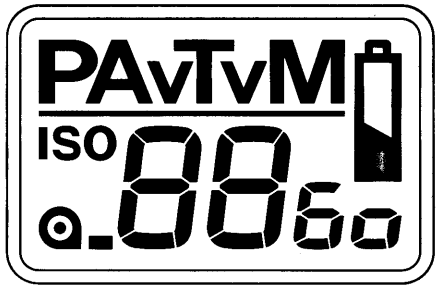
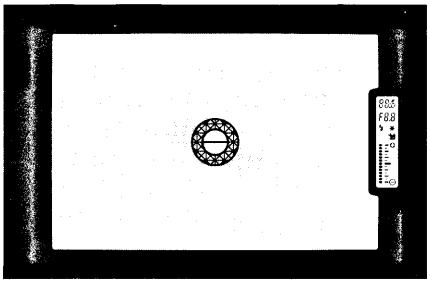
LCD PANEL INDICATION



P : Programmed AE (p.19, 26)
Av : Aperture-Priority AE (p.27)
Tv : Shutter-Priority AE (p.29)
M : Metered Manual Mode (p.30)
88 : Frame Counter (p.14)
⊙ : Film Status Information (p.14)
▯ : Battery Exhaustion Warning (p.9)
ISO : Film Speed Setting Signal (p.15)
88 : Film Speed Information (p.15)

LCD (Liquid-Crystal Display)
When the LCD is exposed to high temperatures over approximately 60°C it may blacken, but when the temperature normalizes, it should return to normal.

VIEWFINDER INDICATION



⊙ : Microprism (p.21)
⊖ : Split-image (p.21)
8888 : Shutter Speed (p.26, 28, 29, 31)
F8.8 : Aperture Value (p.26, 28, 29, 31)
ϟ : Flash Status Information (p.39)
▨ : Exposure Compensation (p.33)
: Bar Graph (p.31, 33)
✱ : Memory lock (p.34)

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CAMERA FUNCTIONS AVAILABLE WITH VARIOUS LENSES

Some of the special functions (Power zoom, Image-size tracking, Zoom clip, auto-zoom effect) cannot be used with this camera.

Function / Lens [Mount type]	FA lens [K_{AF2}]	F lens [K_{AF}]	A lens [K_A]	M lens [K]	S lens [Screw]
Programmed AE	O*1	O*1	O	X	X
Aperture-Priority AE	O	O	O	O	O
Shutter-Priority AE	O*1	O*1	O	X	X
Metered Manual	O	O	O	O	O
Auto Flash	O	O	O	O	O
Multi (2)-segment metering	O	O	O	X*2	X*2
Approx. f-stop indication	O	O	X	X	X

Notes:

*1. Exception of Pentax-FA Soft 85mm f/2.8 and FA-soft 28mm f/2.8.

*2. Center-weighted metering is used instead of the multi-(2) segment metering mode.

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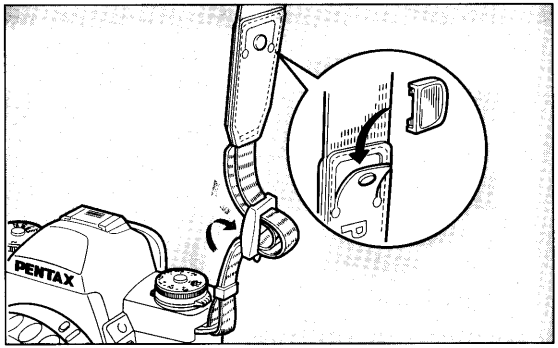
I GENERAL OPERATION

1 ATTACHING THE CAMERA STRAP



Fit the strap on the camera as illustrated.

- There is a pocket on the strap so you can store the finder cap, release socket cover, hot shoe cover or any other small accessory as illustrated.

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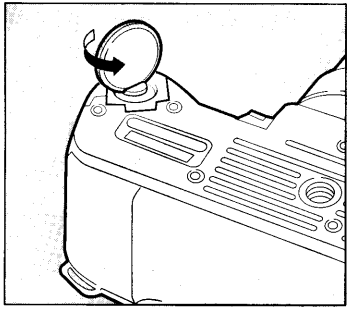
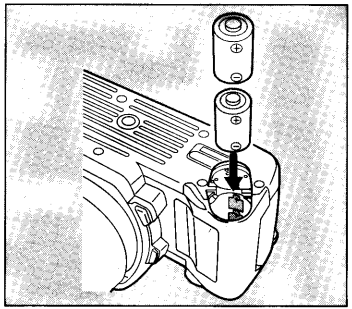
2 LOADING THE BATTERIES

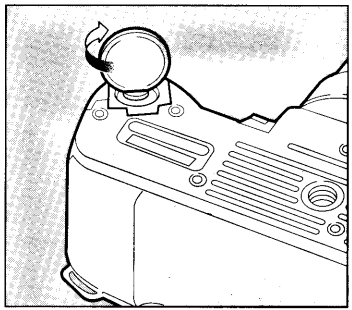
1



2



3



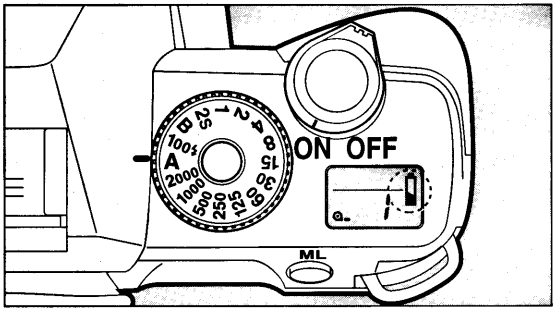
1 Open the battery chamber cover by using a coin or similar object.

2 Load two batteries (CR2 type) according to the markings (+,) in the battery chamber.

3 Turn the battery chamber cover screw in the direction of the arrow to lock it securely.

- Misuse of the battery can cause hazards such as leakage, overheating, explosions, etc. The battery should be inserted with the "+" and "-" sides facing correctly.
- The optional " AA-Battery Pack FG" is also available for this camera instead of using the lithium batteries.
- Replace the batteries at the same time. Do not mix battery brands, types or old batteries with new, as this may cause overheating or explosion.
- Keep spare batteries on hand for replacement convenience when shooting outdoors or while traveling.

*



*** Low Battery Warning**

When the batteries are nearly exhausted, the battery symbol [▯] appears on the LCD panel to warn you. Even if the battery symbol appears, exposure will be correct as long as the shutter releases, but the batteries should be replaced as soon as possible.

* When the low battery warning [▯] starts blinking, the shutter cannot be released.
* Replace both batteries at the same time.

Battery Life (using 24-exposure film rolls at 20°C/68°F)

General existing light photography	about 120 rolls
Bulb exposure time	about 8 hours

Battery Life (using 24-exposure film rolls at -10°C/14°F)

General existing light photography	about 30 rolls
Bulb exposure time	about 2 hours

CR2 batteries were used under Pentax testing conditions. Actual battery life and performance may vary drastically depending on external conditions such as temperature and freshness of the battery.

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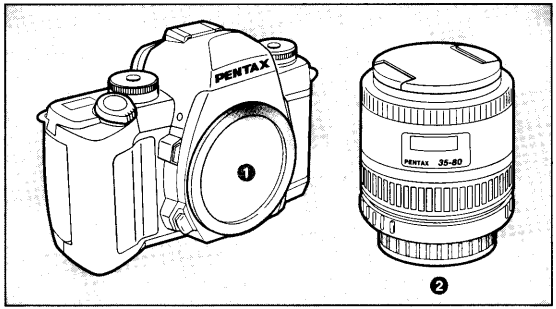
3 ATTACHING THE LENS

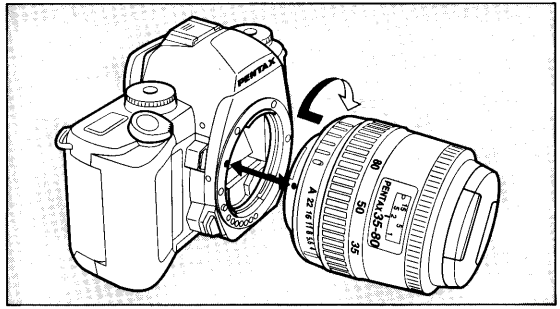
1



1 Remove the body mount cap ❶ and rear lens cap ❷ as shown in the illustration.

- The body mount cap is designed to protect the camera against scratches and dust at the factory.
- For storage, the optional accessory "Body Mount Cap K" is available.

2



2 Align the red dots on the camera and lens mount, attach the lens to the camera body, and turn it fully to the right until it clicks into place.

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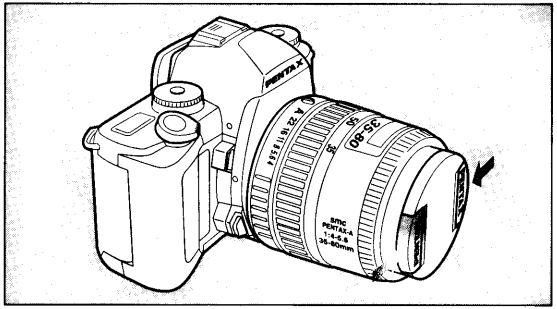
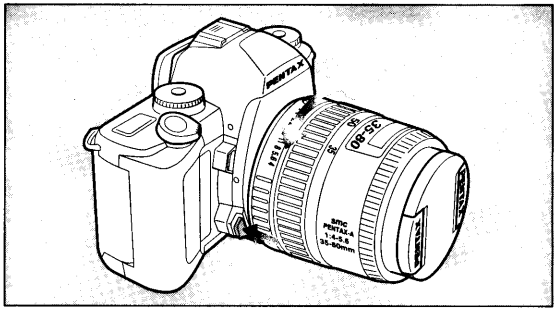
3



3 To remove the front lens cap, squeeze the tabs on both sides in the direction of the arrow.

- We assume no responsibility nor liability for damages resulting from the use of lenses made by other manufacturers.
- The camera body and lens mount incorporate lens information contacts. Dirt, dust, or corrosion may cause damage to the electrical system. Clean the contacts with a soft, dry cloth.

*



* To remove the lens, turn it to the left while depressing the lens unlock button.

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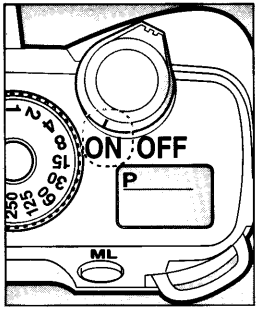
4 TURN ON THE CAMERA

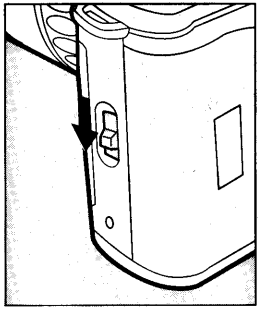


Set the main switch to the ON position.

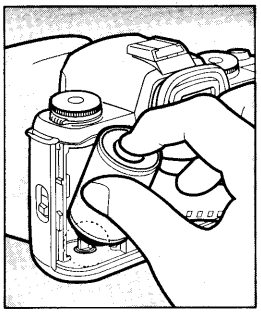
Note:
The LCD panel shown above is an example. The actual display that you see may be different if a lens is attached or if you have made other camera settings.

5 LOADING FILM

1



2



1 To open the back cover, slide the back cover release lever in the direction of the arrow.
2 Place the film cartridge in the film chamber as shown in the illustration.

- Always load and unload film in the shade or by using your body to shade the camera.
- Pull the film leader out only far enough to reach the take-up spool.

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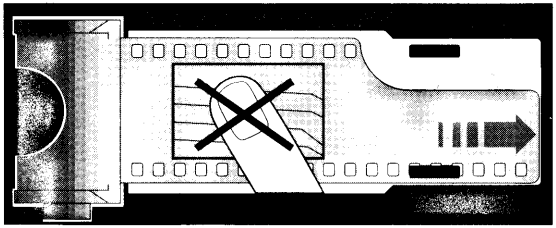
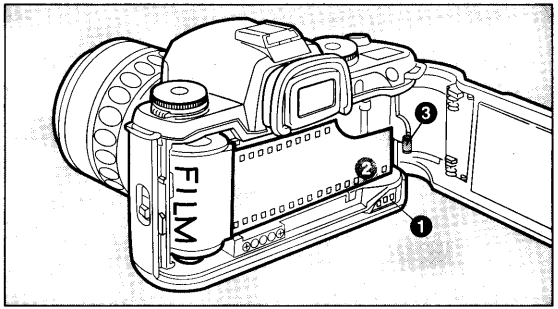


THE SHUTTER CURTAINS ARE FINE-PRECISION MATERIAL. DO NOT TOUCH THEM WITH YOUR FINGERS OR ANY OTHER OBJECT WHILE LOADING FILM.

- If you have pulled out too much film, push it back into the cartridge to reduce the slack.
- The DX information pins in the film chamber are used to read film speed. Keep them clean and free from scratches. To remove smudges, wipe them gently with a soft, dry cloth.

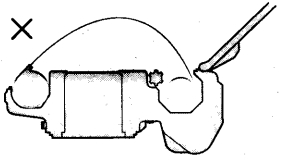
3



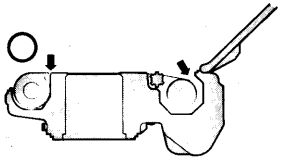
3 Align the film leader with the film leader end mark ❶ as shown.

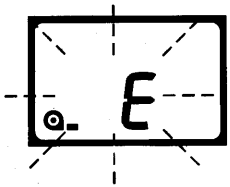
- Make sure that the film perforations properly engage on the sprocket teeth ❷.
- Make sure that the film leader is positioned under the film retainer ❸ as shown in the illustration.

× Film loaded with slack No!



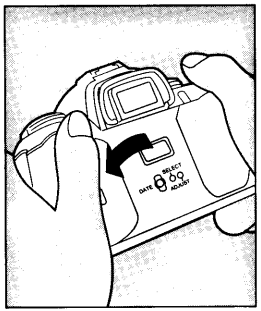
○ Film loaded flat Yes!

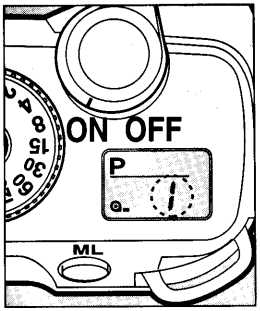




- If the film is not loaded properly, [E] on the LCD panel blinks, indicating that the film is not loaded properly. Open the back cover and load the film once again.

4





4 Close the back cover and, if you have not already done so, set the main switch to the [ON] position. The film automatically advances to the first frame.

- Check that [1] and [ ] are displayed on the LCD panel.
- The film counter indication advances one each time the shutter is released.

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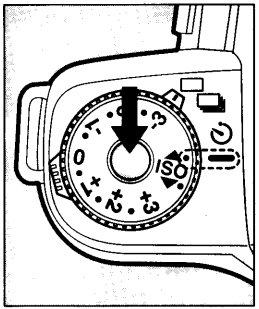
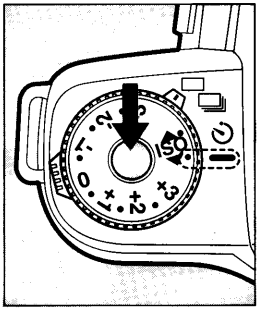
6 FILM SPEED (ISO) SETTING

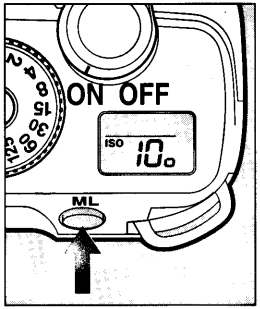
1



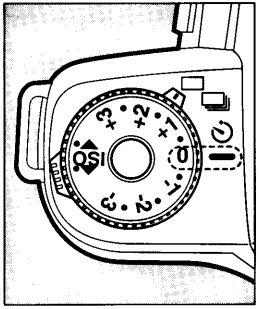
2



3



4



Automatic film speed setting

This camera is designed to use DX-coded films with ISO ratings from 25 to 5000. When DX-coded film is used, the correct film speed is automatically set for the camera. If you use a non-DX coded film, set the film speed manually.

To set the ISO film speed manually:

1 **To change the ISO to a larger number (higher film speed), turn the exposure compensation dial to [▲] while holding down the exposure compensation dial release button.**

2 **To change the ISO to a smaller number (lower film speed), turn the exposure compensation dial to [▼] while holding down the exposure compensation dial release button.**

3 **Depress the memory lock button until the desired ISO is indicated on the LCD panel.**

4 **After the ISO is set, move the exposure compensation dial to [0].**

Note:

- The shutter cannot be released with the exposure compensation dial set at [▲] or [▼].
- When the ISO film speed is set manually, [**ISO**] appears on the LCD panel.