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PENTAX®

PROGRAM **PLUS**



Welcome to the World of Pentax Multi-mode Photography

This programmed camera is an ultra-sophisticated 35mm SLR. Incorporating the latest electronics technology, it invites you to explore the possibilities of four different exposure modes. As the situation demands you can use Programmed AE (Automatic Exposure), Aperture-priority AE, Metered Manual, or Programmed Auto Flash. In each mode, all the exposure information you need is digitally displayed in the viewfinder by means of an LCD (Liquid Crystal Display).

You can enjoy the full versatility of this camera, with a wide range of Pentax accessories including dedicated automatic flash units, a motor drive that shoots up to approx. 3.5 frames per second, a digital data back, etc.

Since your camera has a great many special features and functions, take the time to read this manual carefully. It will help you take full advantage of this extraordinary camera.

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DESCRIPTION OF PARTS

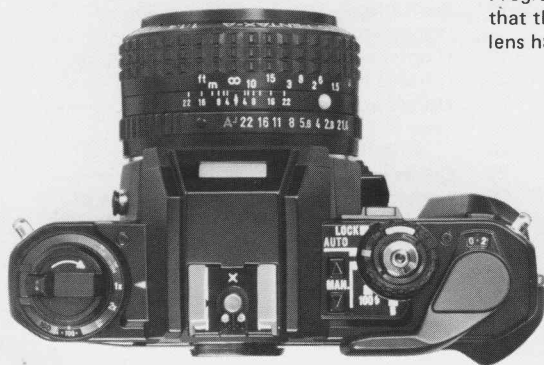


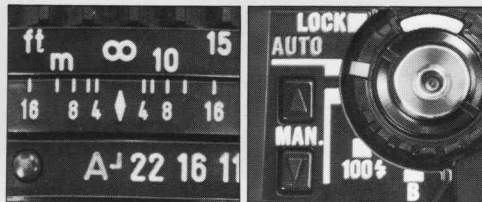
- ❶ Neck strap ring
- ❷ Exposure counter
- ❸ Film wind lever
- ❹ Shutter release button
- ❺ Shutter auto lock button
- ❻ Manual shutter speed select buttons
- ❼ Illuminating window
- ❽ Hotshoe
- ❾ Exposure compensation index mark
- ❿ Exposure compensation scale
- ⓫ Film rewind knob/Back cover release knob
- ⓬ ISO film speed scale
- ⓭ Film rewind crank
- ⓮ Film speed dial lock button
- ⓯ Film speed dial/Exposure compensation dial
- ⓰ Grip Super A
- ⓱ Self-timer lever
- ⓲ Lens release lever
- ⓳ Preview lever
- ⓴ Lens information contacts
- ⓵ Lens alignment index
- ⓶ Instant return mirror
- ⓷ X-synch terminal
- ⓸ Distance scale
- ⓹ Lens alignment node
- ⓺ Aperture scale
- ⓻ "A" index on aperture scale
- ⓼ Focusing ring
- ⓽ Depth-of-field scale
- ⓿ Aperture/Distance index
- ⓿ Aperture ring
- ⓿ Aperture auto lock button

EXPOSURE MODES

This Pentax camera provides four different exposure modes. Choose the mode that suits the photographic situation and the subjects or feelings you want to express.

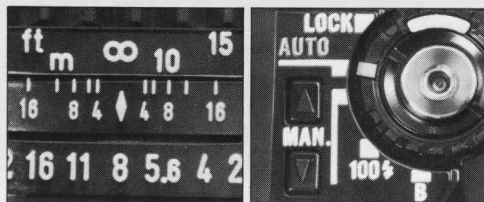
When using conventional Pentax K and Kf mount lenses on this camera, you can use the Aperture priority AE, Metered Manual and all conventional Auto Flash modes. When using new "A" series lenses, you can also select Programmed AE and Programmed flash modes. The reason for this is that those modes are only available when the lens has an "A" (auto aperture setting).





Programmed AE (lens on "A", shutter dial on "AUTO")

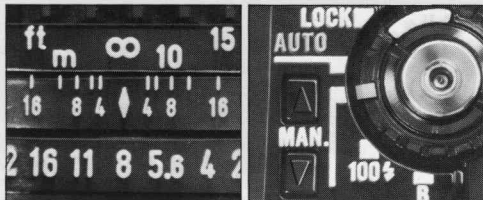
This Pentax camera itself automatically selects the most appropriate combination of shutter speed and aperture to obtain proper exposure, changing them simultaneously according to the subject's brightness. The Programmed AE mode is most suitable for advanced photographers who want to shoot very quickly or for novices who do not want to be bothered by setting exposure controls according to light conditions. (Rf. 32 page for details)



Aperture-priority AE

(lens on any f-number, shutter dial on "AUTO")

When the aperture is set manually, the shutter speed is automatically adjusted by built-in electronic circuitry according to subject's brightness to provide appropriate exposure. When "depth-of-field" is important for your picture, this mode is recommended. It is suitable for both general photography and carefully controlled pictures such as portraits. (Rf. 34 page for details)



Metered Manual

(lens on any aperture, shutter dial on "MAN.")

The combination of shutter speed and aperture is completely up to you. Guided by the meter indication in the viewfinder, you can adjust both controls to obtain proper exposure. If necessary, deliberate over- or under-exposure are also possible. (Rf. 36 page for details)

Programmed Auto Flash

If you use a Pentax dedicated TTL flash unit with the camera in the Programmed AE mode, the camera will automatically select the proper aperture and automatically control flash output. (Rf. 40 page for details)

The TTL flash operation is not feasible with this camera.



9 EASY STEPS

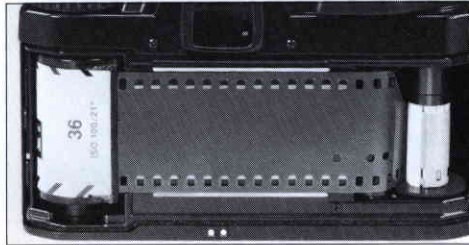
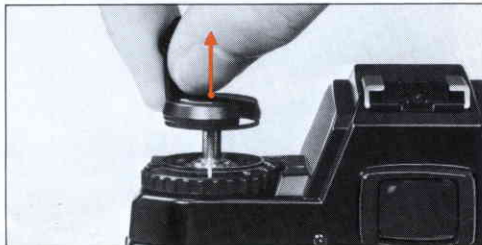
Follow the 9 steps below, and in a very short time you'll be able to take pictures in its Programmed AE mode. For more details about each step, consult the accompanying page numbers.

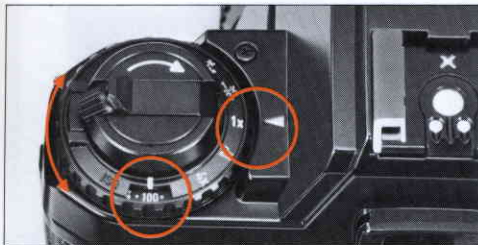
* Remove the cap from the viewfinder eyepiece.



1. Open the battery compartment with a coin and insert batteries (p. 10)

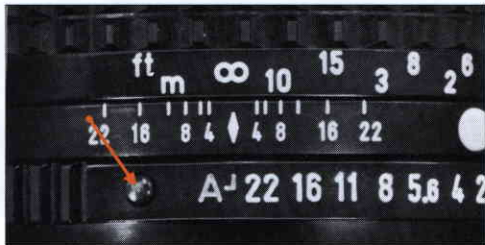
2. Open the camera back, put in a roll of film, close the back and advance the film to the first frame. (p. 20)





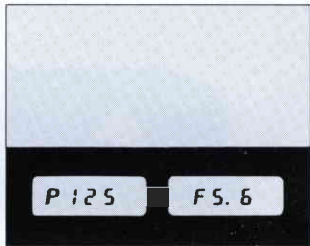
3. Set the ISO film speed to the appropriate number. (p. 19)
Set the exposure compensation dial to 1x. (p. 44)

5. Set the shutter dial to Auto. With both lens and shutter on Auto, the camera is now in the Programmed AE mode. (p. 32)



4. Rotate the aperture ring on your "A" series lens to the Auto position (indexed in green), while depressing the aperture auto lock button. (p. 28)

6. Gently press the shutter release button. You will see both shutter speed and aperture setting indicated on the viewfinder LCD. (p. 32)





7. Focus the lens by rotating the focusing ring. (p. 25)



8. Make sure that the LCD shows a shutter speed faster than 1/60 second. With slower speeds, camera shake may cause blurry pictures. If the speed is 1/60 or faster, release the shutter.

9. After taking the last picture on the roll, push the film rewind button, rewind the film and remove it from the camera. (p. 27)



OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Please refer to pages 32 ~ 40 for detailed information on the exposure modes.

- Programmed AE mode
- Aperture-priority AE mode
- Metered Manual mode
- Programmed Auto Flash mode

INSERTING BATTERIES



Your camera doesn't operate without batteries. Use two 1.5V silver or alkaline batteries, or a 3V lithium battery. Before inserting batteries in the battery compartment, wipe them with a clean dry cloth.

- Open the battery compartment cover with a coin or similar object
- Place the two batteries in the compartment with '+' marks downward, and close the cover.

Battery check

To confirm battery status, set the shutter dial to **AUTO** and slightly depress the shutter release button to activate the metering system. If the LCDs in the viewfinder indicate shutter speed information, the batteries are properly inserted and sufficient in voltage from normal camera functioning.

Note: The shutter speed LCD will indicate "1000" until the exposure counter registers "0". This fast speed saves time when advancing film to the first frame. Starting with the first frame on the counter, the LCD provides proper shutter speed and aperture value according to the designated exposure mode.

Automatic power cut-off

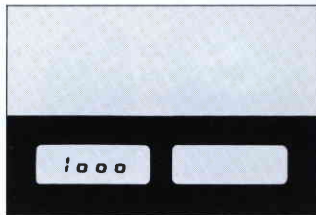
As an energy-saving measure, a timer switch is integrated into the exposure meter circuit. It automatically shuts off power approximately 30 sec. after you take your finger off the shutter release button.

Low battery warning

When batteries become weak, the viewfinder display warns you by alternately displaying exposure information and a row of 000's.



This alternate LCD indication tells you that both batteries should be replaced promptly to restore the camera to normal functioning.



Using batteries correctly

- Incorrect usage of batteries causes such hazards as leakage, heating or explosions. Polarity markings should be carefully checked while inserting batteries. If either battery is erroneously inserted, unexpected mishap may occur.
- The battery discharges small amounts of energy even when not in use. Therefore, the batteries supplied with your camera may be slightly below full capacity, as it has taken some time to reach you.
- Replace both batteries at the same time. Do not mix battery brands and types, or old batteries with new batteries.
- Battery life is approximately six months for alkaline and approximately one year for silver or lithium batteries.
- When not using the camera for long periods of time, you should remove batteries from the camera. Old batteries are apt to leak and damage the battery compartment. Always keep batteries out of the reach of children.

- Never break, recharge, or throw used batteries into fire as a precaution against explosions.
- Batteries should be kept warm in cold climates to prevent lowering of performance.
- Keep spare batteries on hand for convenience in photographing outdoors or while traveling, etc.
- When keeping the camera in a bag or case, lock the shutter release button to avoid the unnecessary consumption of battery power that may result from accidentally releasing the shutter.

- To remove the grip, loosen the grip mount screw fully, and keeping the camera faced downward, slide the grip up until it comes off.



- To mount the grip, fit the grip mount socket (on the rear side of the grip) to the grip lug on the camera.

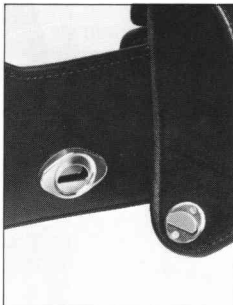
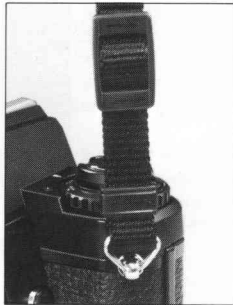
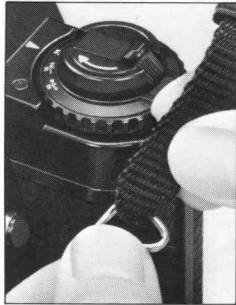


- Align the grip mount screw with the grip mount receptacle on the camera, and keeping the grip pushed down as indicated by the arrow, tighten the grip mount screw with a coin.



Note: The grip should be removed from the camera body when using the Motor Drive A or the Winder ME II.

STRAP AND CASE



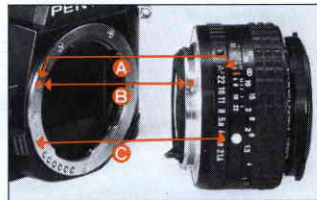
- First strip the clasp and belt ring from either end of the strap.
- Let the strap end go through the neck strap ring and then the belt ring, and further through neck strap ring of the camera. The strap is then folded back.
- Let the strap end run through the belt ring and then clasp as illustrated. Now the end is tightly caught by the clasp. The strap end may be passed through the inside or outside of the clasp.
- Insert the camera body into the back case and put both case hooks around the camera's strap eyelets. The camera body is now held securely in the case.
- The standard soft case comes complete with a front cover.
- To remove the front cover, turn the cover a full 180° while pulling it slightly towards you and the fastener of the cover unlocks.

To mount or interchange Pentax K, K_A and K_f mount lenses follow the steps below. (For screw mount lenses, see p. 55).

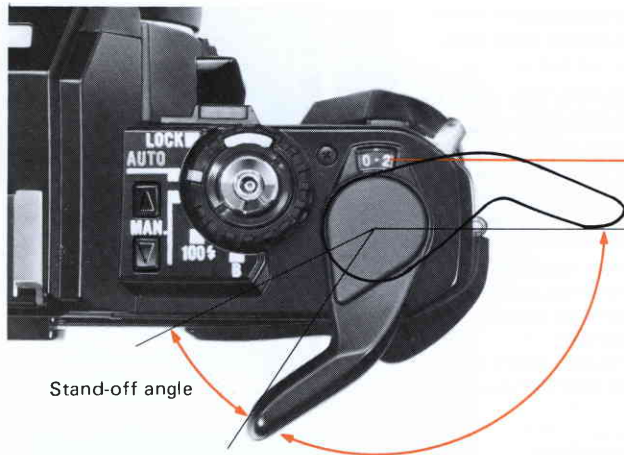
- Remove the body mount cap and the rear lens cap. If the finder cap is still on the eyepiece, remove it. (For the finder cap, see p. 51).
- Align the red dot on the camera body with the red dot on the lens (See **A**, **B**). Seat the lens in the body mount and turn it clockwise until the lens locks with a click. When mounting the lens in dim light, method (**C**) is recommended. This method allows lens mounting by touch. Align the raised node on lens barrel with the lens release by touch. Then turn and lock as above.
- To remove the lens cap, press in on the notches at both sides.
- To remove the lens, press the lens release lever toward the camera body while turning the lens counter-clockwise.
- After removing a lens from the camera body, replace the front and rear lens caps to protect the lens from dust and stains.



Note: Don't damage or stain the electrical contact points on the mount face. When they become stained, wipe them with a clean, dry cloth.



FILM WIND LEVER



Exposure counter

The scale is indexed as follows:

● · 0 · 2 · 4 · 34 · 36, with 0, 20, 34, 36 coded in red. The counter, which is interlocked with the film winding mechanism, indicates the number of exposed frames.

Setting the wind lever for rapid shooting

The film wind lever can be set at the stand-off position for faster film advance. Even if you remove your thumb from the lever, it remains at the stand-off angle, ready for the next quick shot. After completing a series of pictures, the lever should be pushed in to the original position.

Film advance stroke

The film wind lever should be thrown as far as it goes.

Note: The wind lever may stop in the middle of a stroke when the film comes to its end. Do not force the lever, but rewind the film, leaving the lever as it is.

SHUTTER DIAL, SHUTTER RELEASE BUTTON AND SHUTTER RELEASE BUTTON LOCK

- The shutter dial is automatically locked at the AUTO position. To set the dial to other positions (LOCK, MAN., 100 $\frac{1}{2}$ or B), rotate the shutter dial while depressing the shutter auto lock button, and align the index mark (red line) on the dial to the desired position.

LOCK = Shutter release button lock

AUTO = Automatic shutter speed control

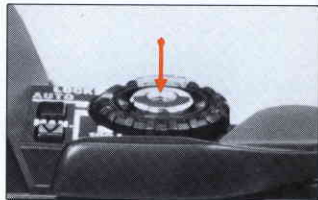
MAN. = Manual shutter speed selection

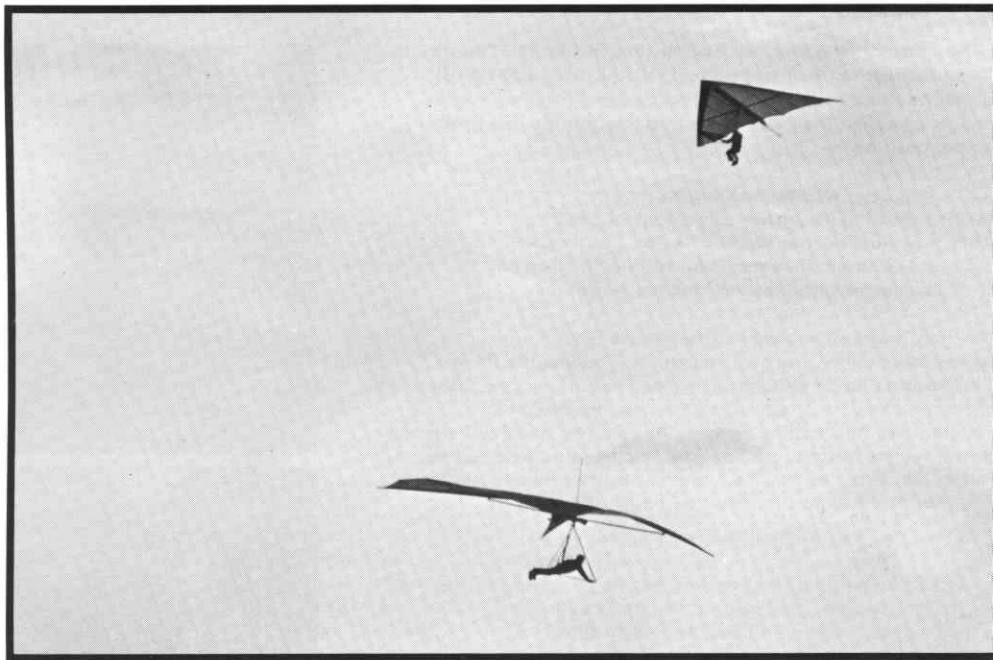
100 $\frac{1}{2}$ = 1/100 sec. for synchronization with electronic flash unit

B = Bulb shutter speed setting for time exposures

- By lightly depressing the shutter release button, you activate the exposure meter. Further pressure will release the shutter. The exposure meter automatically switches off approx. 30 seconds after you take your finger off the shutter release button.

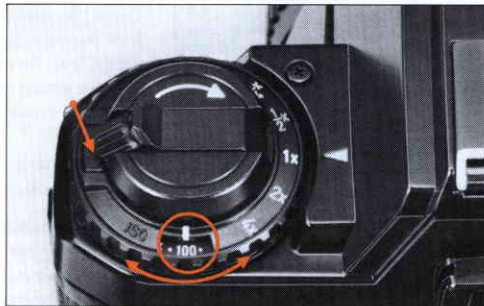
- If you have finished shooting and the shutter is cocked, use the shutter release button lock to avoid accidental release. Set the shutter dial index to "LOCK", and the shutter release will be locked with the exposure meter switched off.





SETTING FILM SPEED, MEMO HOLDER/Grip

Set the film speed dial to the film speed indicated on your film package. Depress the film speed dial lock button, and set the desired speed to the red index mark. Make sure that the dial is securely locked in position, by releasing the lock button and slightly rotating the dial to either side. The chart below represents the index markings on the film speed scale.



Memo Holder/Grip

As a reminder of the type of film in your camera, tear off the top of the film package and insert it in the memo holder frame on the grip at the right end of the back cover. The grip is shaped to give your thumb a firmer hold on the camera.

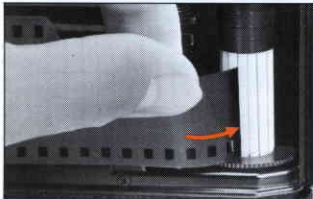


FILM LOADING



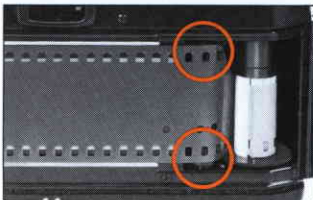
Load the camera with a 35mm film cartridge. Load or unload the film in the shade, avoiding direct sunlight. Set the shutter dial index (red line) to AUTO or MAN. This will automatically set the shutter speed to 1/1000 sec. so that you can advance film quickly until the counter registers "0".

- The camera back opens when you lift 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. If the knob does not fit tightly in to place, rotate the knob while lightly depressing it.

- Draw the film leader across the back and insert it between any of the white needles surrounding the film take-up spool. Insert the film in the direction shown in the illustration.

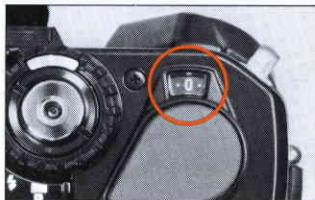


- Slightly wind the film by advancing the film wind lever to the position indicated in the photo, while making sure that both top and bottom sprockets engage the film perforations.

- Lightly rotate the film rewinding knob until any slack is taken up, and confirm that the film is properly fitted between both guide rails. Close the back cover tightly.

- Film advance can be checked by the rotation of the rewinding knob.

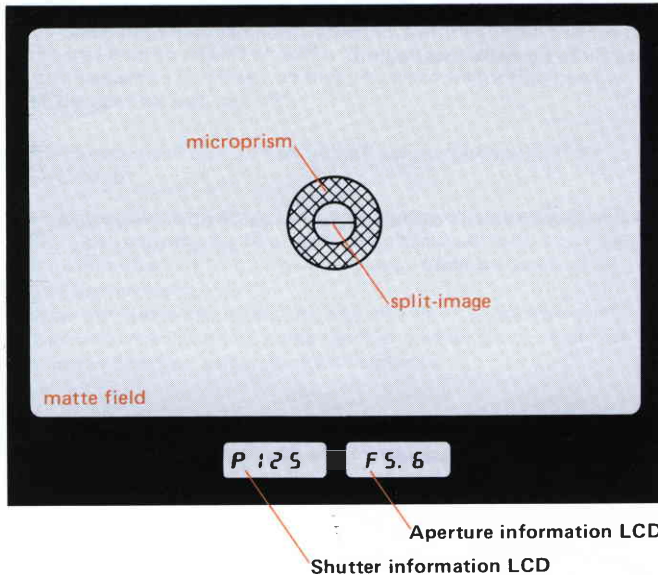
- Repeat shutter-tripping/film-advancing operation until the exposure counter reaches to "0". The next frame is ready for the first shot.



VIEWFINDER DISPLAYS

The split-image center spot and its surrounding microprism collar are brighter and easier to focus than the matte field although any of these can be used for focusing.

Visible at the bottom inside the viewfinder are two LCD displays for shutter speed and aperture value. In addition, viewfinder information includes auto/manual exposure data for each exposure mode, automatic flash data, low battery warning, and error indication.



Shutter information LCD

P Programmed AE mode.

1000 ~ **15"**

Shutter speed in use. 1000 stands for 1/1000 sec. 15" stands for a full 15 sec. Shutter speeds are displayed in full stop increments.

B "Bulb" time exposure.

⚡ Means completion of flash recycling, and auto flash exposure confirmation with a dedicated flash unit.

E Error in shutter speed setting (flickering).
Combination of shutter speed and aperture is not appropriate.

Aperture information LCD

F 1.2 ~ **F 45**

Aperture value. An aperture range from f/1.2 through f/45 is indicated in 1/2 stop increments.

± Match numeral exposure adjustment indication in Metered Manual mode. -3 to +3 indicate exposure deviation from the proper value which is denoted by ±0.

Low battery warning is indicated by alternate displays of shutter-speed/aperture combination, and the mark **000** **00**.



P250

F11

You can focus in three ways, with the split-image, microprism, and/or matte field. To focus using the split-image, turn the focusing ring until the two images in the split-image circle at the center of the focusing screen are perfectly aligned. When using the microprism collar, focus until the glitter disappears from inside the collar. With the matte field, focus until the image on the matte field appears sharp and crisp.

Note: If the maximum aperture of the attached lens is smaller than $f/5.6$ (for example, $f/8$ as in the case of a long telephoto), it is easier to focus on the matte field since the split-image and microprism collar areas become much too dark for satisfactory focusing.

Diopter adjustment for viewfinder eyepiece

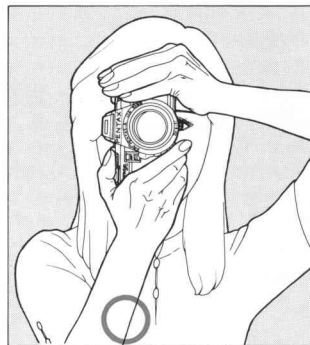
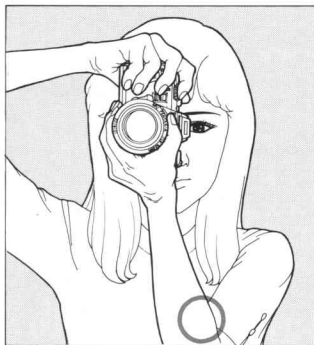
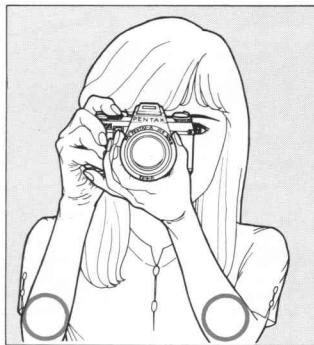
People who wear eyeglasses due to myopia, hypermetropia or presbyopia, sometimes find it difficult to focus while wearing their glasses. In this case, use the accessory diopter correction lenses M (See page 53).



HOLDING THE CAMERA

Proper holding of the camera is essential to minimize camera shake which causes blurred pictures. Practice holding and operating your camera before inserting your first film cartridge. Generally there are three basic ways to hold the camera. In any case, hold the camera tightly to your face with your hands. Accessory Grip Super A and the memo holder/grip will help you keep a steady hold on your camera. Release the shutter gently while slowly breathing out. Strong pressure on

the shutter release button may cause blurred photographs. Take a secure, well-balanced posture without straining yourself. The portion marked ○ in the illustration should be drawn to your body. It is a good idea to stabilize your body and the camera using a tree, building wall, table, etc. For long exposures or while using telephoto lenses it is recommended to use a tripod and a cable release in order to reduce camera shake to the minimum.



When the last frame of the film has been exposed, the film should be rewound into the cartridge before unloading from the camera. Do not force the wind lever beyond the number of frames indicated on the film cartridge.

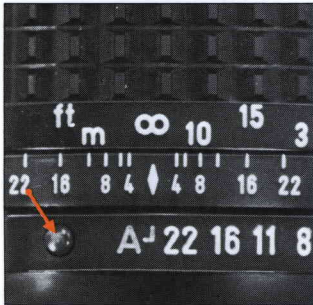
To unload a cartridge

- Depress the film rewind button.
- Turn the rewind crank in the direction of the arrow to rewind the film until you no longer feel the tension.
- After rewinding, lift up sharply on the film rewind knob to open the camera back and remove the film cartridge.

Note: Should you erroneously open the back before rewinding, do not leave it open. Close it immediately. The last few frames may be ruined by direct light exposure, but the majority of frames on the roll may still be unharmed. Whenever possible, it is also advisable to take the same pictures again with a new film.



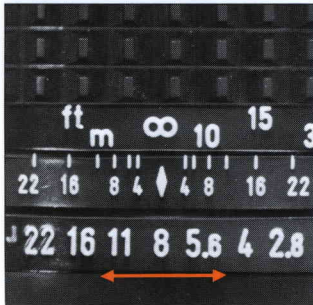
PENTAX "A" LENS



To set the lens in the A position, match the A-index (green line) on the aperture ring to the \diamond index mark while depressing the aperture auto lock button. Release the button to lock the lens in the A position.

To release the lock, rotate the aperture ring towards aperture scale with the auto lock button depressed.

A (auto) setting Programmed AE mode



The following modes are available when the lens is set in the manual f-stops:

f/number setting Aperture-priority AE mode
Metered Manual mode

Shutter dial is automatically locked when set at the AUTO position. To select other positions (LOCK, MAN., 100 $\frac{1}{2}$ or B) rotate the shutter dial, depressing the shutter auto lock button, and match the index (red line) to the desired position. The following modes are available according to the position of the shutter dial.

AUTO Programmed AE mode
 Aperture-priority AE mode

MAN. Metered Manual mode

Manual shutter speed select button

In the Metered Manual mode, select the desired shutter speed by depressing either of the two buttons next to the shutter dial. The digital figure on the shutter speed LCD indicator in the viewfinder increases or decreases step by step as you press the buttons. The front button stops at 1000 (1/1000 sec.), and the rear button at 15" (15 secs.).
















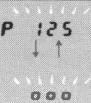
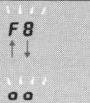
Precautions for shutter speed

If you shoot at shutter speeds slower than 1/60 sec. (30 — 15" on the LCD), you may occasionally get blurred pictures. If you couldn't use a faster shutter speed due to light conditions, the use of a tripod or flash unit is recommended. The use of film with higher sensitivity will also help avoid such low shutter speeds.



WARNING INDICATIONS IN EACH EXPOSURE MODE

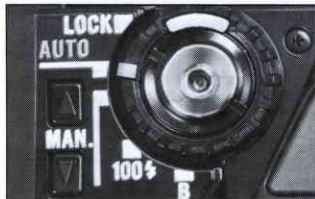
- LCD displays inside the viewfinder flicker to warn of various errors or problems.
- The LCD displays in the table below show the examples. They vary depending on the lens in use, film speed, or the subject's brightness.
- Refer also to the explanations concerning warnings in each exposure mode.
- As to the meter coupling range in the Programmed AE mode, refer to the diagram of Programmed AE control on Page 42. Meter coupling and shutter/aperture coupling ranges are explained on Page 43.

Viewfinder display		Meaning
Shutter speed information LCD	Aperture information LCD	
		These displays show exposure combinations beyond the meter coupling range in the Programmed AE mode. Correct exposure cannot be obtained.
		
		Overexposure. The camera is in the Aperture-priority AE mode. It has chosen the fastest possible shutter speed for the aperture you have set. But the picture will still be overexposed unless you select a smaller aperture. Underexposure. The camera is in the Aperture-priority AE mode. It has chosen the slowest possible shutter speed for the aperture you have set. Try selecting a larger aperture. If the flickering stops, take your picture. If not, there is insufficient light for a normal exposure.
		
		These warnings appear in the Metered Manual mode. +3 means you are three stops over normal exposure. -3 means three stops under. Adjust aperture or shutter speed until you see the ±0 sign.
		
		Beyond meter coupling range in Metered Manual mode. It is not possible to get correct exposure by changing aperture or shutter speed. Use flash or a different sensitivity film.
		
		If you set the shutter dial to the modes other than "AUTO" when the lens aperture ring is set at "A", LCD displays "E" to show an erroneous setting.
		Weak battery warning. In all exposure modes, when you see a row of 000 alternating with exposure information, it's time to change batteries.

SELECTING THE PROGRAMMED AE MODE



- Depress the auto lock button on the aperture ring of your Pentax "A" lens, and rotate its A-index (green line) to the index.



- Set the shutter dial index (red line) on top of the camera to the AUTO position. "P" (Programmed) will then be displayed on the LCD windows inside the viewfinder.



- Lightly press the shutter release button, and a programmed combination of shutter speed and aperture value will be displayed on the LCD indicator in the viewfinder. Further pressure on the button will release the shutter. When you take your finger off shutter release button, the meter switch automatically turns off after about 30 seconds as an energy-saving measure, and the displays of shutter speed and aperture value disappear. However, the "P" display remains on.

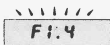
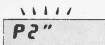
Programmed AE mode warnings

When the programmed combination of shutter speed and aperture value is beyond the meter coupling range, the camera displays two warnings.



Both shutter speed and aperture flickering at high values.

This indicates that the light situation exceeds the light measuring ability since subject brightness is extremely high. To get a proper exposure, use another film with lower sensitivity or an ND filter.

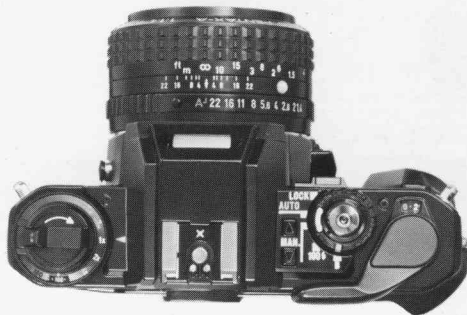


Both flickering at low values.

The subject is extremely dark and below the lowest limit of the Programmed AE mode's meter coupling range. Use a higher speed film, flash or some other illumination source to throw more light to the subject.



Should you happen to shift the shutter dial to the modes other than "AUTO", a flickering "E" (Error) warning appears on the shutter speed LCD. The shutter cannot be released even if the button is depressed.



SELECTING THE APERTURE-PRIORITY AE MODE



- Rotate the lens aperture ring to the desired f/stop. If the ring is locked at the "A" position, release it by depressing the aperture auto lock button.



- Set the red index of the shutter dial to AUTO.



- Pressing the shutter release button slightly; the shutter speed will be digitally indicated on the LCD inside the viewfinder. Further pressure will release the shutter. Shutter speed indication will disappear from both LCD indicators when the meter is automatically switched off by the built-in timer. Aperture-priority AE is the best mode for taking pictures with emphasis on depth-of-field. For more information, refer to page 46.

Aperture-priority AE mode warnings

If the subject is very bright, you will see a flickering



As remedy, shift the aperture ring towards smaller values (or, to the direction of f/22).

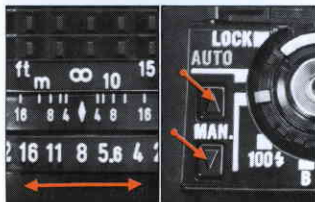
If the subject is dark you will see flickering.



Rotate the aperture ring towards the lens' maximum aperture (f/1.4). When the display stops flickering, you can take a proper exposure. If flickering continues even after the aperture is changed, the subject is too dark or too bright for a normal exposure. For very bright subjects, use a slower film or an ND filter, and dark subjects, use a faster film, flash or other artificial lighting.



SELECTING THE METERED MANUAL MODE



• Set the shutter dial red-line index to "MAN." (manual) and select the desired shutter speed. The shutter speed will be displayed on LCDs inside the viewfinder.

• Rotate lens aperture ring to an F value. Should the lens be locked as A (auto) and should "E" appear in the viewfinder, release it by depressing the aperture auto lock button.

• Slightly depress the shutter release button, and you will see one of the following indications (+3, +2, +1, ±0, -1, -2, or -3) displayed on the aperture value window in the viewfinder. These figures show the steps of over- or under-exposure (EV value).

- + = over-exposure
- ±0 = correct exposure
- = under-exposure

Should the lighting condition go over the limit of three steps, the +3 or -3 indication flickers.

• For normal shooting, adjust the lens aperture so that correct exposure, indicated by ±0, is obtained. Should you select the lens aperture prior to the shutter speed, adjust the shutter speed to obtain the correct exposure.

If you prefer over- or under-exposure, you can freely select any exposure applying the indication as a guidance.

As soon as the meter switch is turned off by the built-in timer, the aperture indication goes out, but the shutter speed display remains on.

Warnings for Metered Manual mode

The following indications will be given for over- or under-exposure.

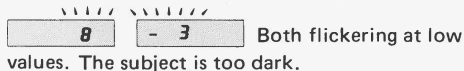
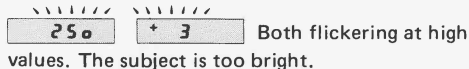


This indicates over-exposure of more than three steps. Change to a faster shutter speed (towards 1/1000 sec.), or select a smaller aperture by rotating the aperture ring toward f/22.



In this case, the exposure is more than three steps under. Change to a slower shutter speed (towards 15 secs.), or rotate the aperture ring towards f/1.4. When your shutter/aperture combination comes within the range of ± 3 , the flickering stops.

If the situation is beyond the meter coupling range, indications are as follows.



In either case, the subject is not within the meter coupling range. So you will not be able to obtain a proper exposure simply by changing aperture and shutter speed settings.