On-line camera manual library
This is the full text and images from the manual. This may take 3 full minutes for the PDF file to download.

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CONTAX N1

Instruction manual • Bedienungsanleitung

E/G

We greatly appreciate your purchase of this Contax N1 camera. The Contax N1 is an autofocus single lens reflex camera based on the Contax' fundamental principle of "building cameras for creating works of art". Automatic or manual focus can be selected according to the subject and setting so that the user can achieve the desired results with accuracy.

The Contax N1 is equipped with many features that will maximize creative photographic possibilities. Read these instructions carefully before using the camera to ensure proper use and a long service life. Some of the notable features include:
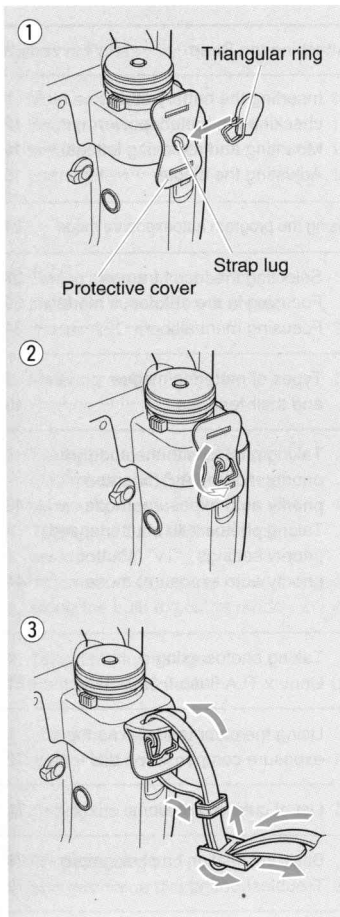
① A 5-frame autofocus detection site pattern that is spread wider throughout the viewfinder. The user can select a single site or have the sites detect focus automatically.

② A high speed shutter with an automatic shutter speed range of 32 seconds to 1/8000 second, with flash sync at 1/250 second.

③ Focus Auto-Bracket Control, for automatic shifting of the focusing distance during a sequence of exposures.

④ Use of high-performance Carl Zeiss T* lenses and various accessories for expanding the range of photographic possibilities.

①

Triangular ring

Strap lug

Protective cover

②

③

<Attaching the strap>

1 Attach the protector to the suspension ring.

2 Attach the triangular ring to the suspension ring.

3 Pass the strap through the protector and triangular ring and attach it as shown on the diagram.
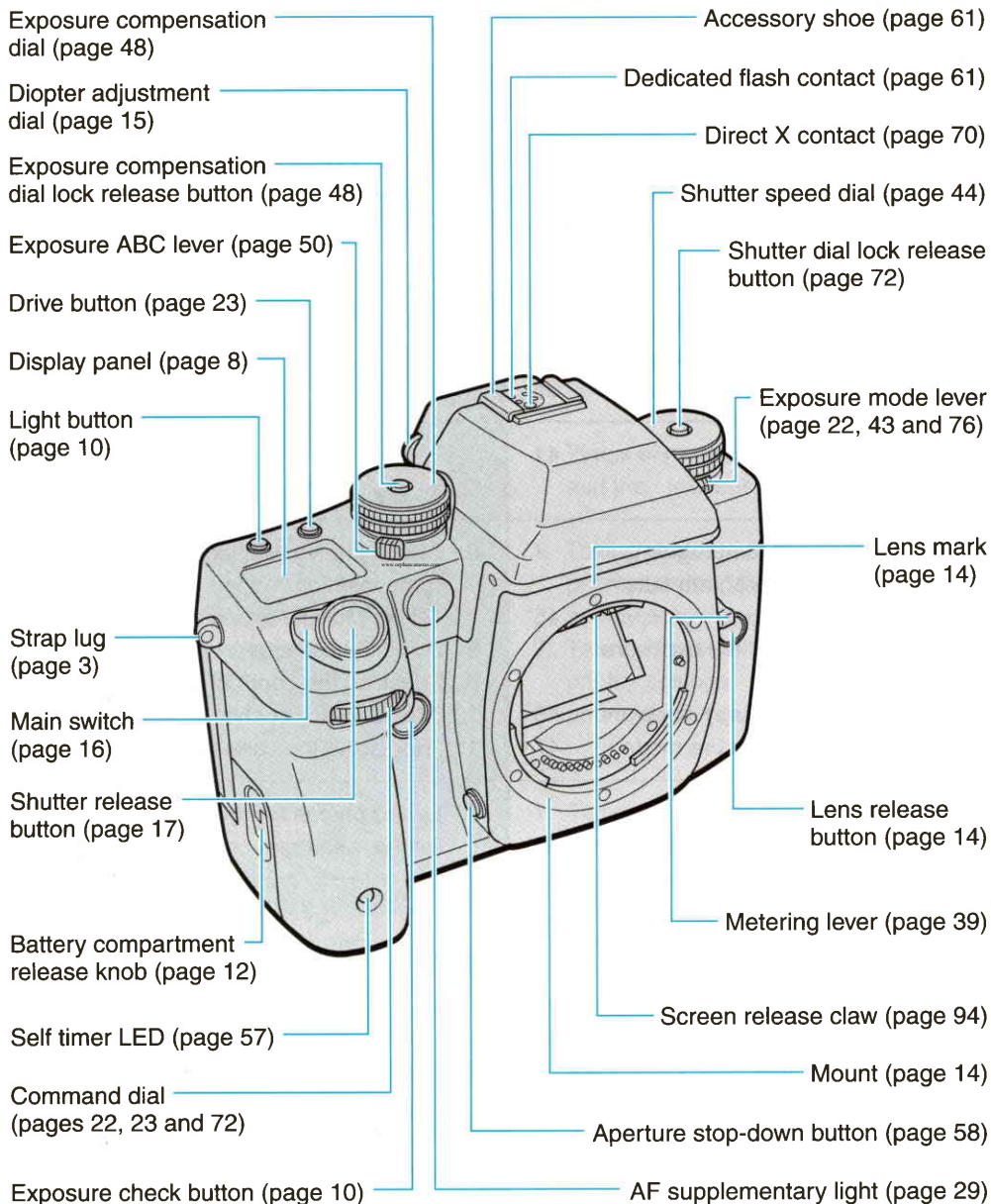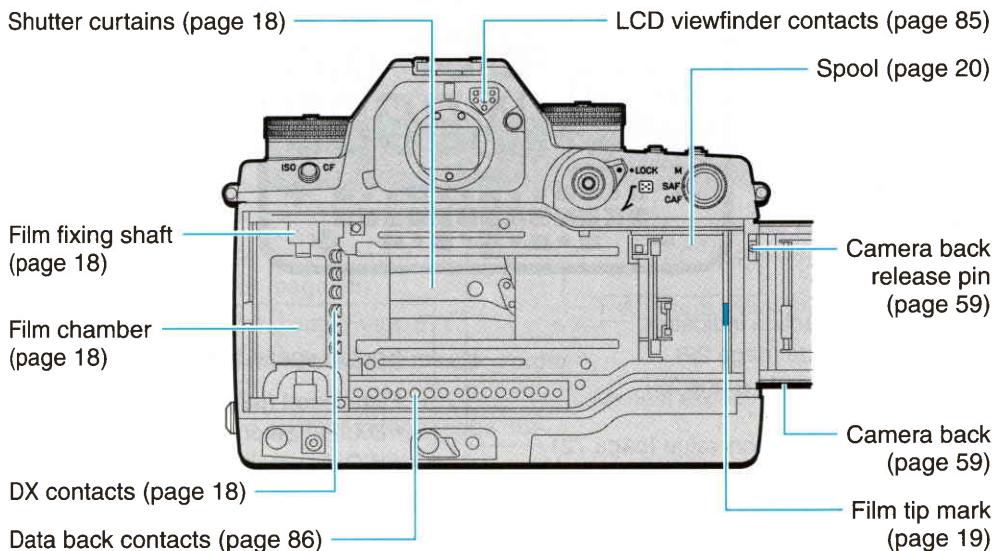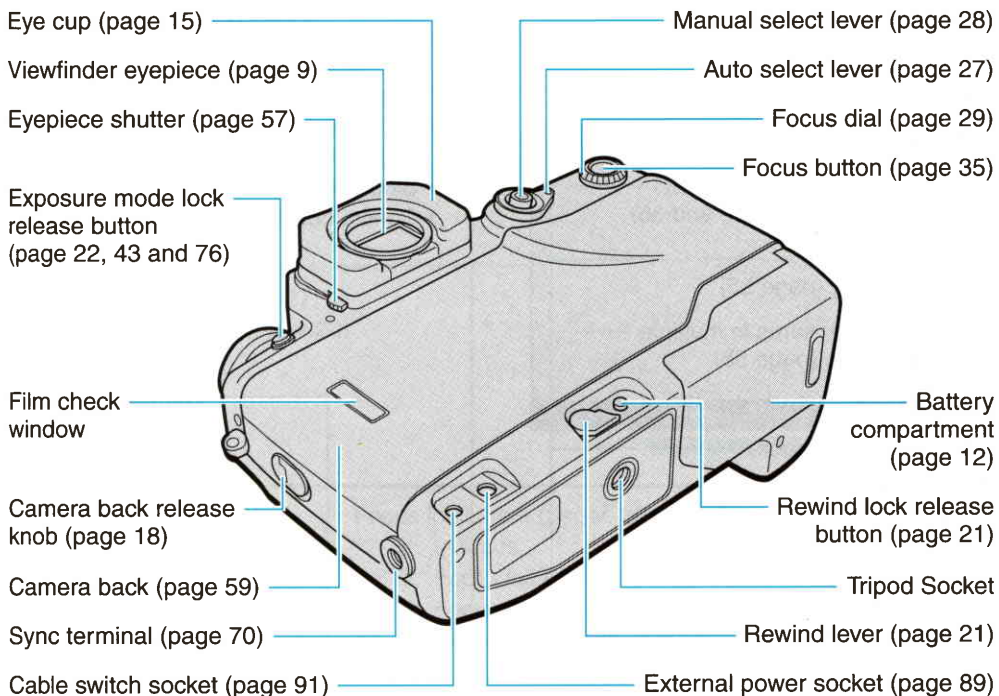
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"◁" lit: Focus is in front of subject
"▷ ◁" flashing: Focusing not possible

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The Contax N1's viewfinder serves as the main information source for focus, exposure and film status.

The viewfinder display turns on when the operations below are performed, then automatically turns off after 16 seconds to save power.

① When the main switch is turned on.

② When the exposure check button is pressed or shutter button is half-pressed while the main switch is turned on.

If some action is taken, such as changing aperture, shutter speed or any dial is used while the viewfinder display is lit, the display time is extended another 16 seconds.

• The time display (power hold time) can be changed. (Page 74)

The viewfinder display turns off in the following cases:

• During shooting.
• When the end of the film is reached.
• While the film is rewinding.
• When rewinding is completed.
• In the all imprint mode.
• When there is a film advance error.
• When the battery is spent.
• When the exposure mode lever is set to ISO or CF.

<Display panel illumination>
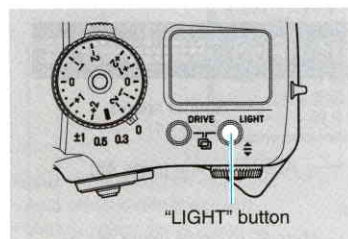
"LIGHT" button

The display panel can be illuminated when viewing conditions require. The light turns on and off each time the "LIGHT" button is pressed.

• If other dials or buttons are operated while the display panel is lit, the duration of illumination is automatically extended. The display panel light turns off as soon as the shutter is released.

BASIC OPERATIONS PRIOR TO SHOOTING

This section describes procedures that should be taken prior to photographing and includes basic operations of this camera.
If you already have basic knowledge on handling a camera and wish to start taking photographs immediately, proceed to "SIMPLE SHOOTING PROCEDURE" on page 24.

\<Inserting the battery\>

Turn the main switch off before inserting the battery.

1 **Lift the battery compartment release knob and turn it in the direction of the arrow until it stops.**

2 **Press on the center, slide in the direction of the arrow to remove the battery compartment.**

3 **Insert a 6V lithium battery (2CR5) into the battery compartment. Ensure that the battery contacts and those in the battery compartment match.**

4 **Line up the edge of the battery compartment with the edge mark on the camera's body, then slide in the direction of the arrow to attach.**

Edge mark
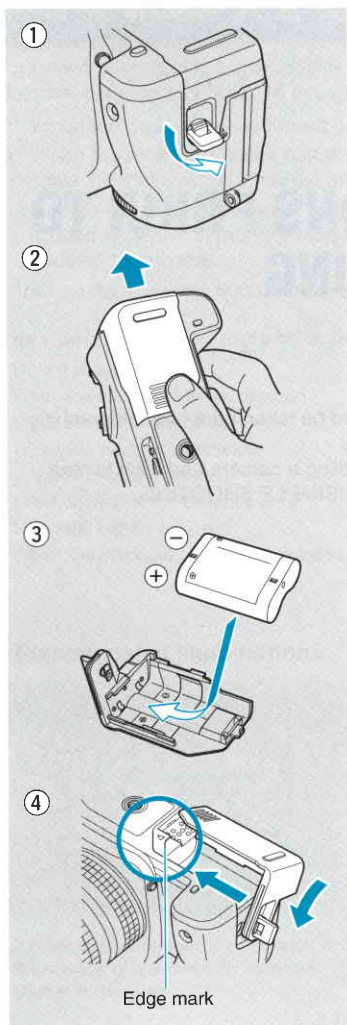
⑤
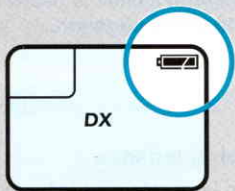
5 Turn the battery compartment release knob clockwise to fasten.

- Lower the release knob into its original position.
- The " ▰▱ " battery mark appears in the display panel.
- Even when using a new battery, during continuous shooting or at low temperatures the voltage may decrease momentarily and the " ▱▰ " mark may light. If this happens, turn the main switch off then back on 2 or 3 times. If the " ▰▱ " mark lights, there is enough battery power.
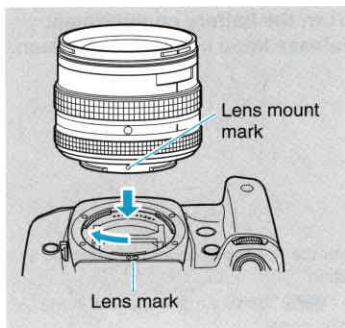
<Checking the battery power>

The " ▰▱ " marks mean the following:
Check the battery power with the main switch turned on.

Display when main switch is on	Meaning
▰▱	There is sufficient battery power.
▱▱	Battery power is low and will need replacement soon.
▱▰ (flashing)	Replace with a new battery.
▱ (flashing)	Camera will not operate.

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Lens mount mark

Lens mark

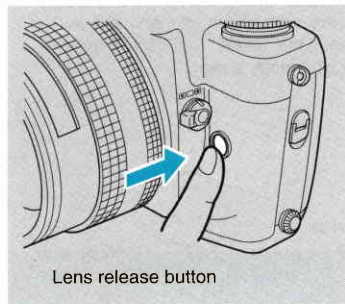### \<Mounting lenses\>

1 Remove the camera's body cap and the lens rear cap.

2 Line up the mount mark on the lens with the lens mark on the camera, insert the lens, then turn it clockwise until a click is heard and the lens is firmly engaged.

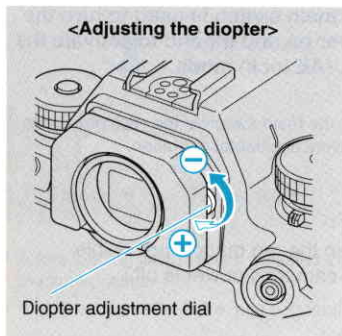Lens release button

\<Removing lenses\>

Press the lens release button and turn the lens counterclockwise all the way until it stops, then pull it forward to remove it.

- Be careful not to touch the lens surface or the inside of the body when mounting and removing lenses.
- When replacing the lens while film is loaded in the camera, do so in the shade, avoiding direct sunlight.

3. Adjusting the diopter

\<Adjusting the diopter\>

Diopter adjustment dial

\<Attaching a diopter lens\>

Eyepiece ring
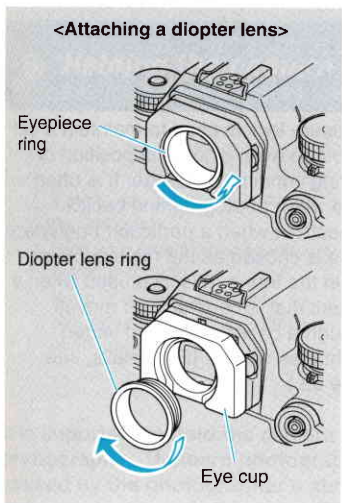
Diopter lens ring

Eye cup

This camera is equipped with a built-in diopter correction mechanism. Turn the diopter adjustment dial and adjust for your vision.

The adjustment range is −3D to +1D (Diopter).

- If the diopter cannot be sufficiently adjusted using the camera's diopter correction mechanism, use a separately sold FM type diopter lens.
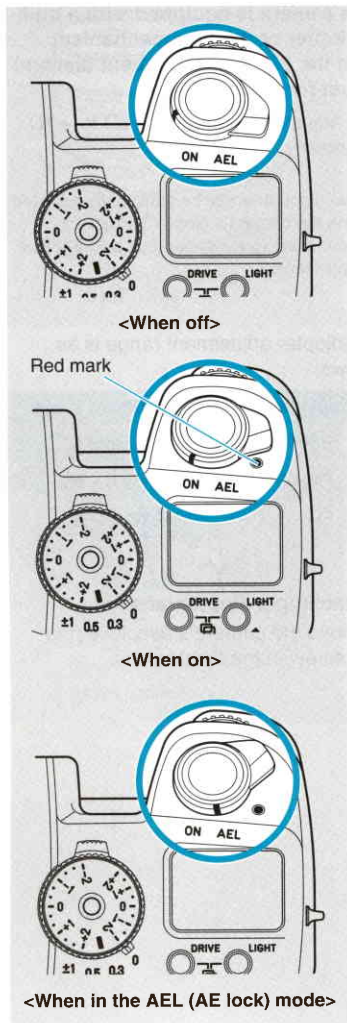
The diopter adjustment range is as follows:

Diopter lens	Adjustment range
Built in	−3D to +1D
FM −3	−6D to −2D
FM +2	−1D to +3D

\<Attaching a diopter lens\>

Remove the camera's eyepiece ring and screw in the diopter lens.

<When off>

Red mark

<When on>

<When in the AEL (AE lock) mode>

The main switch is used to turn the power on and off and to activate the AEL (AE lock) mode.

• Set the main switch at the click position to prevent accidental operation.

OFF:
When the red mark is not visible
The camera's power is off.

ON:
The camera's power is on.

AEL:
Use this when you want to lock the exposure (AE lock). Automatic exposure lock is used to maintain a set exposure even when composition or lighting conditions change. It is often used when photographing backlit subjects or when a particular brightness value is chosen as the main subject within the frame. It is also used when a subject that is constantly lit moves through a background with varied brightness values. (For details, see page 53.)

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5. Shutter release button

Shutter release button

Half pressure   Full pressure
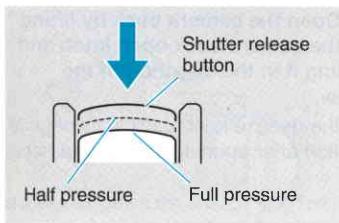
The shutter release button operates in two steps.

When the shutter button is half-pressed, the viewfinder display turns on and the autofocus and metering functions are activated. When pressed further (full pressure), the shutter is released and the photo is taken.

• Before loading film, practice pressing the shutter release button to get used to the half-pressure position.

• To prevent camera shake, use a smooth motion when pressing the shutter release button.

6. Holding the camera

① Tuck in your elbows and stabilize the camera.

② Hold your breath when pressing the shutter button.

③ Keep your arms and hands relaxed and press the shutter button gently.
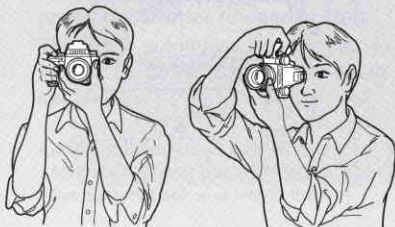
It is important to hold the camera firmly in order to achieve sharp photographs. Unsharp photographs are often due to camera shake caused by the photographer's abrupt motion when taking a picture.

Practice working with the camera and making both vertical and horizontal compositions. Find positions that are comfortable for you. Propping yourself or the camera against a building or tree can often be effective.

• When taking photographs in dark places or in other cases where the shutter speed is slow, use a tripod to avoid camera shake.

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7. Loading film
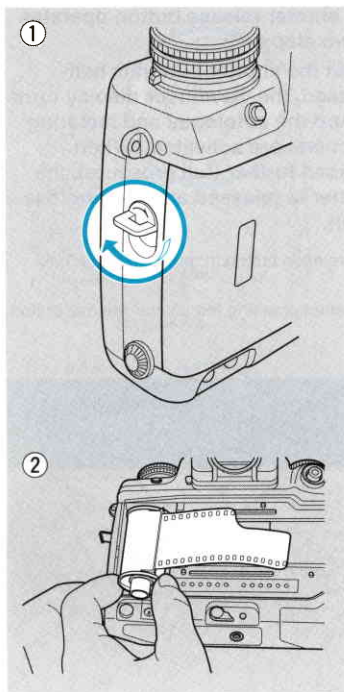
1 **Open the camera back by lifting the camera back open knob and turning it in the direction of the arrow.**

Set the release knob back in its original position after opening the camera back.

- The first time you use the camera be sure to remove the protective sheet inside the camera before loading film.
- Be careful not to touch the DX and data back contacts. If they become dirty clean them off with a soft cloth.
- Load and remove film out of direct sunlight.

2 **Insert the film at an angle as shown on the diagram.**

Shutter curtain

The shutter curtain is a precision part. Be extremely careful not to touch it or poke it with the tip of the film or your finger. In particular, never press the shutter release button when the tip of the film is positioned over the shutter curtain.
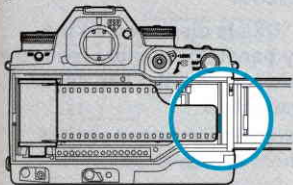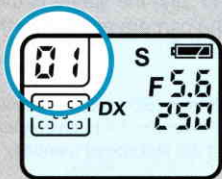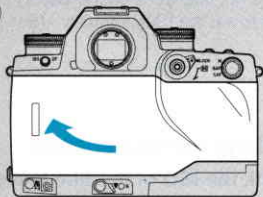
3 **Pulling on the tip of the film, draw out the film to the position of the orange " I " mark, then set it over the spool.**

Make sure the film is flush (not bulging out), as shown in the diagram.

• If the drawn out section of the film is too long, do not try to continue loading the film. Wind it back up into the film cartridge to adjust the length.
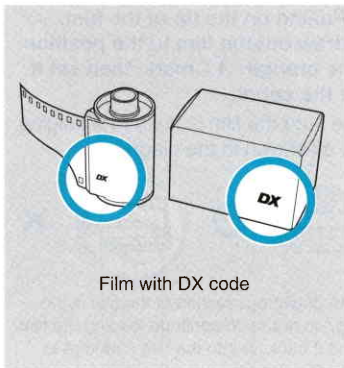
4 **Securely close the camera back, turn the main switch on and press the shutter release button.**

The film is automatically advanced to the first frame and the film counter is set to "01".

• If "00" still flashes on the film counter, the film has not been properly loaded. Open the camera back and reload the film.

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Film with DX code

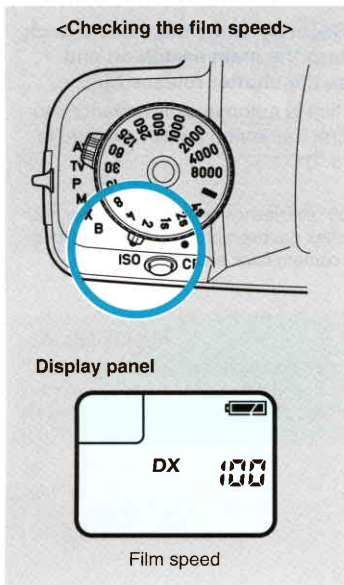## \<Automatic setting of the ISO film speed\>

When "DX" is displayed on the display panel, the camera reads the DX code and sets the film speed automatically.

The automatic film speed settings range from ISO 25 to 5000.

- When film with no DX code is loaded, the film speed is automatically set to ISO 100.
- If "DX" is not displayed on the display panel, be sure to set the ISO manually. (See page 22.)

\<Checking the film speed\>

Display panel

Film speed

\<Checking the film speed\>

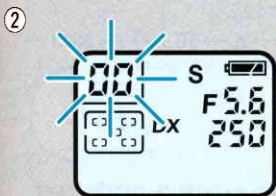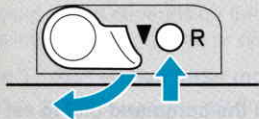**To check the ISO of the film loaded in the camera, set the exposure mode lever to "ISO".**

"DX" or "ISO" and the speed of the film loaded in the camera appear on the display panel.

- To set a different ISO from that indicated for the film (for example, for push processing), see "Setting the film speed manually" on page 22.

8. Removing film
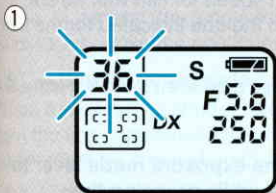
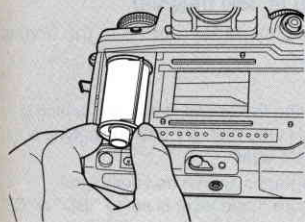
First and second digits flash
alternately

Once the film has been fully
exposed, film advance stops and the
first and second digits of the film
counter flash alternately.

1 **With the main switch on, turn the
rewind lever in the direction of
the arrow while pressing the rewind
lock release button.**

The numbers on the film counter
decrease while the film is rewinding.
Once the film is completely rewound,
the motor stops and "00" flashes on the
film counter.

2 **Check that the motor has
stopped and that "00" is flashing
on the film counter, then open the
camera back and remove the film.**

• Remove the film in a place out of direct
  sunlight.
• If the end of the film is left out of the film
  cassette at film rewinding, set the custom
  function on page 74.
• Be sure to remove the film after rewinding it.
  After the film has been rewound, the
  camera will not operate until the camera
  back has been opened.
• After removing the film, have it developed
  as soon as possible.
• Note that if more photographs than the
  regular number of frames on the film have
  been taken, the last frame may be cut
  during the developing process.
• For midroll rewind, follow steps 1 and 2
  described above.

Use the procedure described below to set the film speed for film with no DX code or when you want to set a different ISO from the one indicated for the film.

- The manual ISO setting range is ISO 6 to 6400.
- If you set the film speed manually this setting will be used even when using film with a DX code.
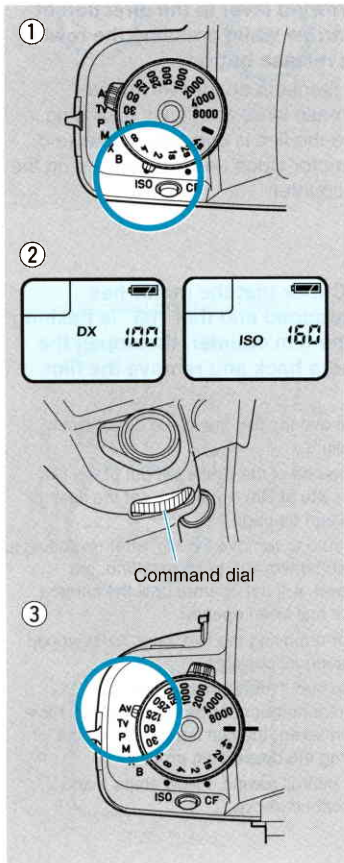
① **1 Set the exposure mode lever to "ISO" while pressing the exposure mode lock release button.**

"DX" or "ISO" and the film speed appear on the display panel.

② **2 Turn the command dial to set the film setting to "DX" or the desired value.**

DX ←→ 6 ←→ 8 ←→ 10 ←→ • ←→ 5000 ←→ 6400 ←→ DX ←→ 6 (repeated)

Command dial

③ **3 Set the exposure mode lever back to the exposure mode. The setting is now finished.**

The display panel returns to the normal display.

- Once the film speed is set, this setting is stored in the memory until the setting is changed again.
- Photographs cannot be taken if the exposure mode lever is set to "ISO" or "CF".

10. Switching the drive mode

The drive modes described below can be selected according to the subject and scene. In general, the single frame mode is for still subjects such as portraits or landscapes, while the continuous mode is best for moving subjects.

"S" — Single frame mode

When the camera's shutter release button is pressed, a single frame is taken, then the film is advanced to the next frame and stops. The shutter release button must be pressed again for another exposure.

"C" — Continuous shooting mode

When pressure is maintained on the shutter release button frames are exposed and film is advanced continuously. A maximum of about 3.5 frames per second can be taken continuously while the shutter release button is pressed. (The shooting speed depends on the shutter speed, the film speed, whether data back imprint function is on or off and the condition of the battery.)

" ⟳₁₀ " " ⟳² " — Self timer mode

Set this mode to use the self timer. For details, see page 57.

①

Drive button

②

Command dial

③
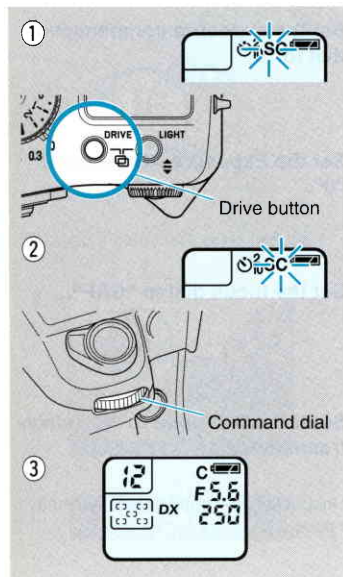
1 Press the drive button to set the drive mode.

All the drive modes appear on the display panel and the currently selected drive mode flashes.

2 Turn the command dial until the desired drive mode indicator is flashing.

The drive mode switches as follows when the command dial is turned.

"S" ⟷ "C" ⟷ "⟳²" ⟷ "⟳₁₀"

3 Press the drive button to set the selected drive mode. The display panel returns to the normal display.

23

SIMPLE SHOOTING PROCEDURE
<Using the program autoexposure mode>

In the program auto mode, the camera automatically sets the combination of the shutter speed and aperture (the exposure value) according to the brightness of the subject. We recommend using this mode if you are using a camera for the first time or if you want to take photos without worrying about the aperture and shutter speed settings.

Exposure ABC lever

Exposure compensation dial

Focus dial

Drive button
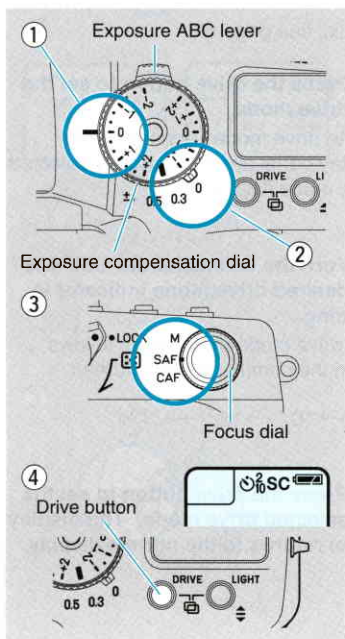
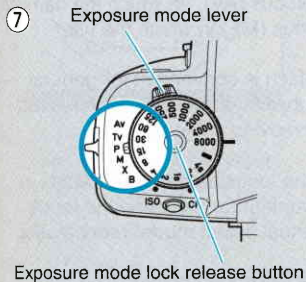First turn the main switch on and set the various modes as described below.
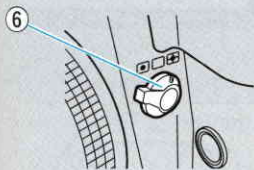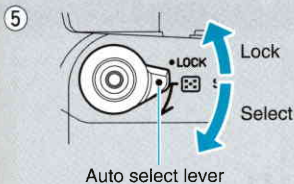
1 Set the exposure compensation dial to "0".

2 Set the Exposure ABC lever to "0".

3 Set the focus dial to "SAF".

4 Set the drive mode to "S" (single frame mode).

• For instructions on setting the drive mode, see page 23.

24

⑤

Lock

Select

Auto select lever

⑥

⑦ Exposure mode lever

Exposure mode lock release button

⑧

5 Move the auto select lever several times in the direction of the arrow to set the focusing frame selection indicator to " 🔲 ", then move the lever upwards to lock.

6 Set the metering mode to evaluative metering (" ⊞ ").

7 Turn the exposure mode lever while pressing the exposure mode lock release button and set the exposure mode to "P".

8 Point the camera at the subject, position the subject within the focus frame in the viewfinder, then half-press the shutter button.
(Use any one of the five focus frame.)

9 Focusing is performed. When the subject is in focus, the focus frame used to focus flashes red once and "○" (focus mark) lights.

10 With the shutter button still half-pressed, determine the composition, then press the shutter button all the way in to take the photo.

25

FOCUSING

This camera offers two types of focusing: autofocus (AF), in which the camera adjusts the focus automatically, and manual focus (MF) in which the user adjusts the focus manually.
There are two AF modes: "SAF" (single AF) which is convenient for general photography when photographing stationary subjects, and "CAF" (continuous AF) which comes in handy for taking photos of moving subjects.
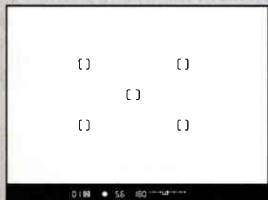
In addition, there are two modes for selecting the focusing frame or frames in the AF modes. The "auto select mode" is convenient for adjusting the focus within a certain range in general, while the "manual select mode" can be used for focusing accurately on a selected point.
This camera is also equipped with the functions described below. Use them according to the subject and scene.

① The camera's "dual focus mechanism" allows you to switch to the manual focus mode by turning the lens' focus ring when the focus is set in the SAF mode (page 30).
② "One shot auto focus" for focusing automatically while the focus button is pressed in the manual focus (MF) mode (page 35).
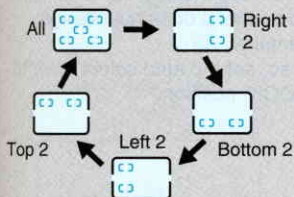
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1. *Selecting the focus frames*

Focus frames

<Auto select mode>

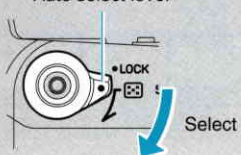**<Switching Auto Select Mode>**
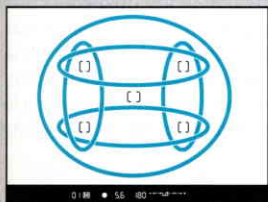
Auto select lever

This camera has five focusing frames: the frame at the center of the picture and four peripheral frames positioned on diagonal lines. There are two modes for selecting the focusing frame or frames: the "**auto select mode**" in which the camera automatically selects the most appropriate focusing frame from among the different focusing frames according to the position of the subject, and the "**manual select mode**" in which a specific focusing frame can be designated.

There are two auto focusing frame select modes. In one mode the most appropriate frame is selected from among the five focus frames. In the other mode the focus frame is selected from two adjacent peripheral frames (top/bottom, left/left or right/right). When the operation for switching the auto select mode is performed, the selected focusing frames flash(es) red once.

<Auto select mode>

The auto select mode switches as shown on the diagram each time the auto select lever is moved in the direction of the arrow.

• This cannot be set in the manual focus mode.

"[°.°]" : This mode is suited for general photography. The camera automatically selects the most appropriate of the five focusing frames.

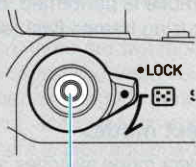"[□]" : This mode is suited for compositions containing subjects at equal distances at the edges of the picture. The camera selects the frame for which the shooting distance is shortest from among the two selected focusing frames.

<Manual select mode>

[ ]   [ ]
   [ ]
[ ]   [ ]

0   5.6   180

Focus frame
(Select one of the five.)

Manual select lever

<Manual select mode>

Select the desired focusing frame using the manual select lever. Move the lever in the direction of the desired focusing frame to select one of the peripheral focusing frames, push it to select the center focusing frame. This mode is suited for cases in which you want to focus accurately on the selected frame.

<Locking the selected focusing frame>

The selected focusing frame can be locked so that it does not change accidentally.
To do so, set the auto select lever to the "LOCK" position.

<Locking the selected focusing frame>

Lock

●LOCK
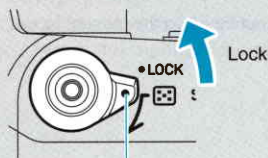
Auto select lever

Display panel (example)

Auto select mode   Manual select mode

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2. *Focusing in the autofocus mode*

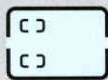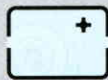The auto focus mechanism is activated when the shutter button is half-pressed while the focus dial is at the "SAF" or "CAF" position. The focusing frame selected when the shutter button is half-pressed lights red momentarily. After the distance is measured, the frame for which the focus was adjusted lights red momentarily.

①

Focus dial

② Manual select lever

Lock

Auto select lever

③
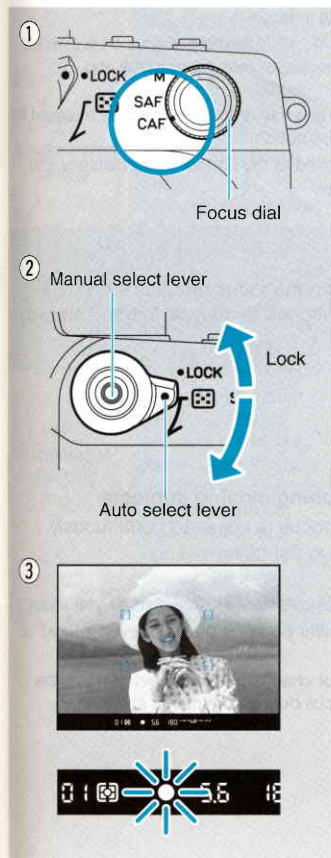
1 **Set the focus dial to "SAF" (single auto focus) or "CAF" (continuous autofocus).**

2 **Select the focusing frame.**
Use the auto select lever or manual select lever to select the frame, then lock it.

3 **Frame the camera at the subject on which you want to focus, position the subject within the selected focusing frame, then half-press the shutter button.**
The focus is adjusted automatically. When the subject is in focus, the focus mark ("○") lights in the viewfinder.

4 **Now press the shutter button all the way in to take the picture.**

AF supplementary light
If the subject is dark or its contrast is so low that it is difficult to focus, the camera automatically projects AF supplementary light on it to increase the precision of the autofocus unit.
The irradiation section at this time is the center of the picture.
The effective range of the AF supplementary light is approximately 5m.

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<"SAF" (single auto focus)>

This mode is recommended for general photography (still life, portraits, landscapes, etc.).

Half-press the shutter button to focus. Once the subject is in focus, the focus is locked at that position.

- The shutter cannot be released if the subject is not in focus.
- It is not possible to focus on the desired subject if "▷ ◁" is flashing. Focus on a different object at the same distance as the subject, lock the focus, then recompose and photograph the original subject. (Page 32)
- If "▷ ◁" is flashing but you want to take the photo anyway, the shutter can be released by pressing the shutter button while pressing the focus button.
- When the drive mode is set to "C", the focus is locked at the first focusing distance and remains at that set distance for subsequent photos.

<Dual focus mechanism>

If the lens' focus ring is turned by hand when the focus mode is set to "SAF" and the focus mark ("○") is lit, the mode switches to manual focus. This is a way to fine tune focus.

<"CAF" (continuous autofocus)>

This mode is recommended for photographing moving subjects.

When the shutter button is half-pressed, the focus is adjusted continuously. Check that the subject is in focus before taking the picture.

- In the "C" (continuous shooting) mode, the focus is continuously adjusted as you shoot.
- In this mode, the shutter is released when the shutter button is pressed, even if "▷ ◁" is flashing.
- In some instances, depending on the movement or change in the subject position, the camera may not be able to keep the subject in focus during continuous shooting.

<Relationship between the focus mode and drive mode>

Drive mode \ Focus mode	"SAF" (single auto focus)	"CAF" (continuous auto focus)	"M" (manual focus)
"S" (single frame mode)	When the shutter button is half-pressed, the focus is adjusted. Once the subject is in focus, the focus is locked at that position (focus lock). • The shutter cannot be released if the subject is not in focus.	The focus is adjusted continuously while the shutter button is half-pressed. • The shutter can be released even if the subject is not in focus.	The focus is adjusted by turning the lens' focus ring by hand.
"C" (continuous shooting mode)	Focusing is performed in the same way as in the single frame mode. In the continuous shooting mode, the focus is locked at the distance at which the first frame (photo) was exposed and remains at that position for subsequent frames.	Focusing is performed in the same way as in the single frame mode. In the continuous shooting mode, the focus is readjusted for each new frame of film exposed.	Focusing is performed in the same way as in the single frame mode.

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<Focus lock>

If the subject is not within a focusing frame with the desired composition, use the procedure described below to lock the focus on that subject.
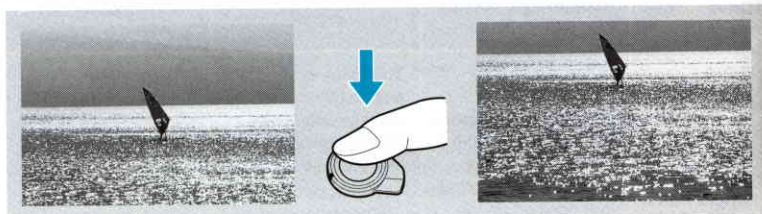
❖ In the "SAF" (single auto focus) mode

1 **Point the camera at the subject on which you want to focus, position the subject within a focusing frame, then half-press the shutter button.**

The focus is adjusted automatically. When the subject is in focus, the focus mark ("○") lights in the viewfinder and the focus is locked at that position.

2 **Still half-pressing the shutter button, position the camera to achieve the desired composition, then press the shutter button all the way in to take the picture.**

• The focus is locked as long as the shutter button is half-pressed, so it does not change when the camera is repositioned.
• The focus lock is canceled when you release your finger from the shutter button.

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❖ In the "CAF" (continuous auto focus) mode

1 **Point the camera at the subject on which you want to focus, position the subject within the focusing frame, then half-press the shutter button.**

The focus is adjusted continuously while the shutter button is half-pressed.

2 **Check that the focus mark in the viewfinder is lit, then press the focus button.**

The focus is locked when the focus button is pressed.

3 **Still pressing the focus button, position the camera to achieve the desired composition, then press the shutter button all the way in to take the picture.**

• The focus is locked as long as the focus button is pressed.

<Subjects that may cause problems for the autofocusing system>

For the subjects described below, the camera may not be able to focus automatically and the "▷ ◁" (focusing not possible) mark may flash. In such cases, either use the focus lock function to first focus on a different object at the same distance as the subject or adjust the focus in the manual focus mode.

① Extremely bright or extremely dark subjects.
② Subjects which have little or no contrast.
③ When the sun or other strong light sources are within or near the focusing frame.
④ When there are two or more subjects at extremely different distances within the focusing frames.
⑤ Subjects with repeating patterns.
⑥ When the ambient light level is very low or an ND or polarizing filter is used.

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