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# CONTAX **NIX**



Instruction manual • Bedienungsanleitung

**GB/D**

We greatly appreciate your purchase of this Contax NX camera. The Contax NX 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. Read these instructions carefully before using the camera to ensure proper use and a long service life.

This camera incorporates 'Custom Functions' which may be used in applications beyond the normal requirements of photography. See page 87 for details.

The abbreviation ' **CF** ' used throughout this manual indicates a custom function.

## Safety warnings

This manual contains the following warnings to ensure safe use of the camera. Please read the explanations thoroughly before use.



### Caution

Failure to use the product correctly may result in injury to the user or damage to property.



### Warning

Failure to use the product correctly may result in serious injury and/or death of the user.

## Cautions in Handling

### <Cautions when using the camera>

- Any foreign matter on the lens or mount should be removed with a blower or by wiping with a soft lens cloth. Fingerprints should be removed by wiping gently with a commercially available lens paper. Foreign matter on the mirror should be removed by wiping gently with a soft lens cloth.
- Remove dust and dirt from the camera body by wiping with a soft cloth. Use of organic solvents such as benzene or thinners may result in damage to the body and should be avoided under all circumstances.

 **Caution**

- Clean the camera thoroughly after use at the beach or in dusty areas. Salt spray may corrode metal components, and may result in damage to, and short-circuit of, electronic components, with the possibility of smoke or fire. The presence of sand in the mechanism of the camera will cause problems in operation.
- The lens may fog-up if the camera is moved immediately from a cold area into a warm room. The condensation on the lens will disappear after a few minutes, however if this process is repeated water droplets will form in the lens and camera body, and may result in damage to, and short-circuit of, electronic components, with the possibility of smoke or fire. Avoid moving the camera suddenly between areas of differing temperature.
- Do not place the camera in direct sunlight. The focusing effect of the lens on nearby objects may result in damage or fire. Always fit the lens cap, and store out of direct sunlight.
- The camera contains precision electronic equipment. Damage to the electronic circuits may result in smoke or fire and consequent damage to the mechanism, and care should be taken to avoid dropping the camera or subjecting it to physical shocks.
- **Check operation of the camera, or take test photographs before using it for important occasions such as overseas trips or weddings. Always carry spare batteries.**

 **Warning**

- If the batteries becomes overheated the camera may emit smoke or a burning smell. In this case, remove the batteries immediately to prevent fire or burns (take care to avoid burns when removing the batteries).
- Do not use the camera in locations where it will be in direct contact with water or in locations with a high moisture content, and do not use the camera with wet hands. Use under such conditions may result in electric shock, short-circuit of electronic components, overheating, smoke, fire, or corrosion. (Note that it is particularly important to be careful when using the camera in rain, snow, or at the beach.)
- Do not use the camera in the vicinity of inflammable gases. Use in such situations may result in fire.
- Do not disassemble or modify the camera. The camera employs high voltage, and modification may result in electric shock.
- The camera contains high-voltage circuits. If it has been dropped, care must be taken not to touch the internal mechanism as this may result in electric shock.
- During flash photography, ensure that the flash is not close to the human eye (particularly the eyes of infants). Use of the flash near the eyes may result in vision disorders.
- Do not look directly at the sun or a strong light source through the camera. Such use may result in vision disorders.



## **Warning**

- Do not take photographs while moving. In particular, do not move while looking through the viewfinder. Use in such situations may result in a fault in the camera.
- Do not pay excessive attention to the subject at the expense of your surroundings during photography.
- Do not leave the camera within reach of infants or children. Take particular attention when using the camera near infants or children, and do not leave it unattended. Infants and children do not understand the safety warnings and cautions, and this may result in the following.
  - The camera dropping or falling, with consequent injury.
  - The camera strap being wrapped around the neck, resulting in suffocation.

### **<Notes on the Shutter Curtain>**

The shutter curtain is made of very thin material. Never push it with a finger, or touch or wipe it. When changing film, take care to ensure that the film tip does not touch the shutter curtain. When using an air blower, ensure that only a gentle jet of air is used. If the jet is too strong it may damage or deform the curtain. Never use a pressurized blower.

### **<Microcomputer Protective Circuit>**

This camera incorporates a safety circuit to protect its microcomputer against strong external static electricity. Operation of the circuit may prevent operation of the camera in rare cases. In this case, set the main switch to OFF, remove and reload the batteries, and continue using the camera.

### **<Photography using infrared film>**

The characteristics of this camera prevent the use of infrared film for photography.

### <Storing the camera>

- Leaving the camera in a warm place (e.g. at the beach during the summer, in direct sunlight inside a vehicle) for a long period of time will result in deterioration of the film and batteries, having a negative effect on the camera.
- If the camera is to be left unused for a long period of time, remove the batteries to guard against damage from fluid leakage.

#### Caution

- Avoid storing the camera in humid and dusty locations, wardrobes containing insecticide, or laboratories containing chemicals. Storage under these conditions may result in damage to, and short-circuit of, electronic components, with the possibility of smoke or fire. Ensure that the camera is stored in a location with good ventilation.

### <Cautions for handling batteries>

- Battery performance generally deteriorates as temperature is reduced. In cold areas, the camera should be placed under thermal protective covering, or inside the clothing, before and after use. Batteries which have deteriorated due to low-temperature will recover if returned to normal temperatures.
- Contamination of the + and - terminals of the batteries with sweat and oils may prevent good contact. Always wipe the terminals thoroughly with a dry cloth before using the batteries.
- Always take new, spare batteries on long trips etc.
- The camera will not operate if the battery contacts do not match those in the battery compartment.


#### Caution

- Do not touch the battery terminals with conductive metal objects (e.g. tweezers). This will reduce the life of the batteries, and may result in a short-circuit.

#### Warning

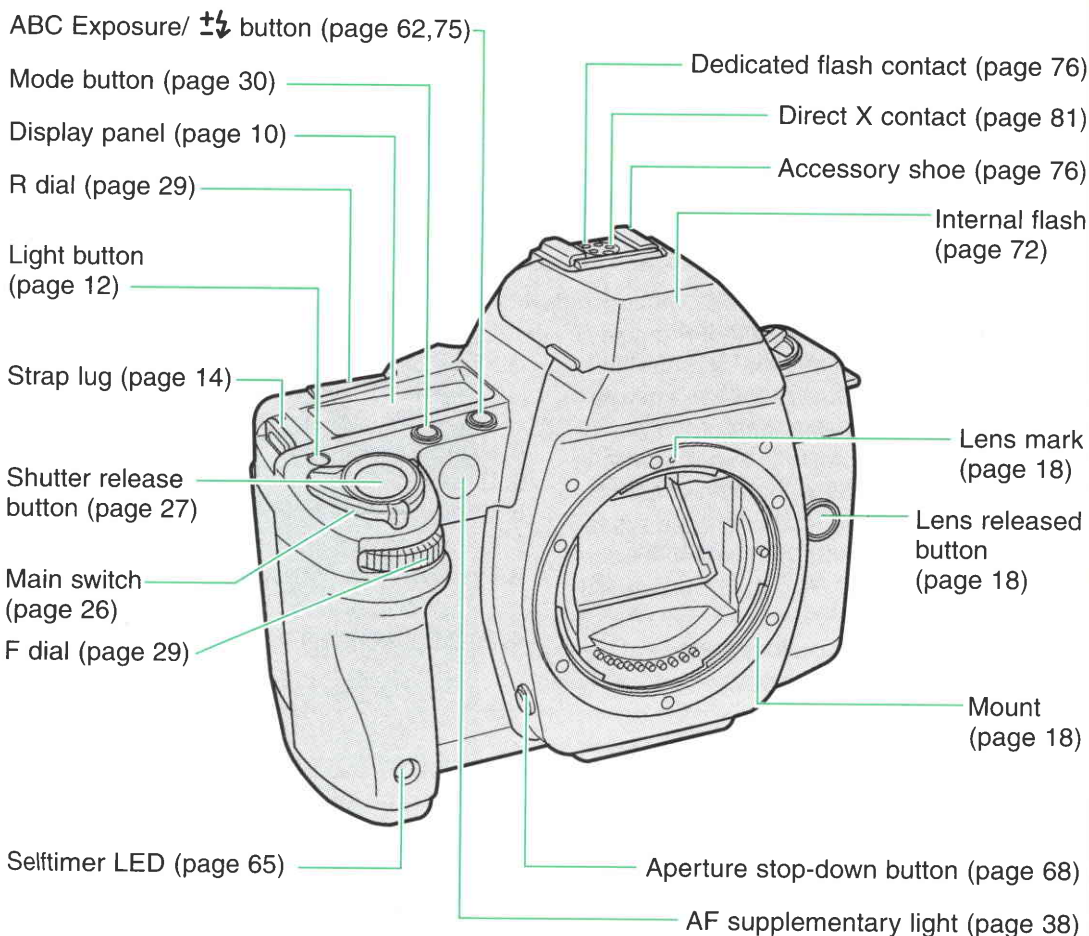
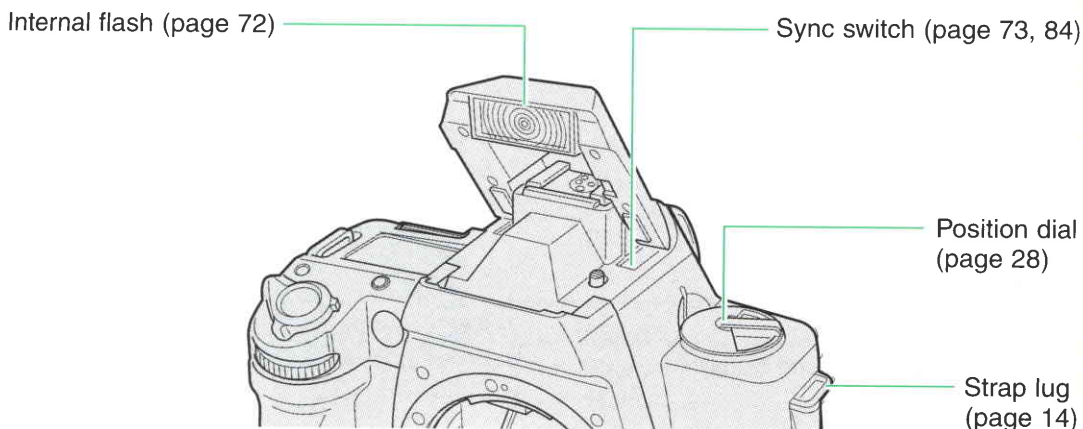
- Adhere strictly to the following requirements. Failure to do so may result in damage to the batteries, fire, injury or contamination of the immediate surroundings.
  - ① Use only the specified batteries in the camera.
  - ② Do not throw batteries in the fire, short-circuit while charging, dismantle, or heat under any circumstances.
  - ③ Do not mix new and used batteries, batteries from different manufacturers, or different types of batteries, in the camera.
  - ④ CR2 batteries (3V lithium batteries) must not be charged under any circumstances.
- When disposing of batteries, insulate the terminals by covering with tape etc. to prevent contact with other metal objects which may result in splitting of the batteries, or fire.
- Store batteries out of reach of children. Contact a doctor immediately if a battery is swallowed. Swallowing may result in a leak in the battery, causing damage to the stomach and intestines.

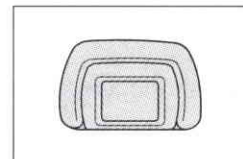
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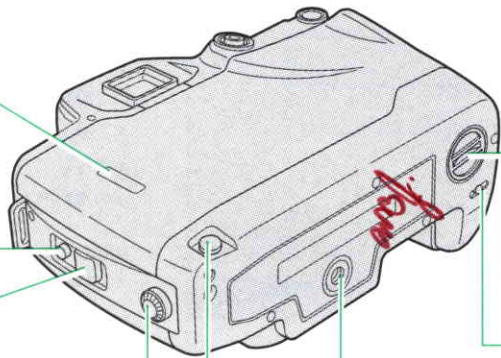
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Eye cup F-3 (Page 15)



Film check window

Camera back release button (page 20)

Camera back opening lever (page 20)

Sync terminal (page 81)

Cable switch socket (page 97)

Battery cover/ Battery compartment (page 16)

Rewind button (page 24)

Tripod socket

Viewfinder contacts (page 11)

DX contact (page 22)

Film chamber (page 20)

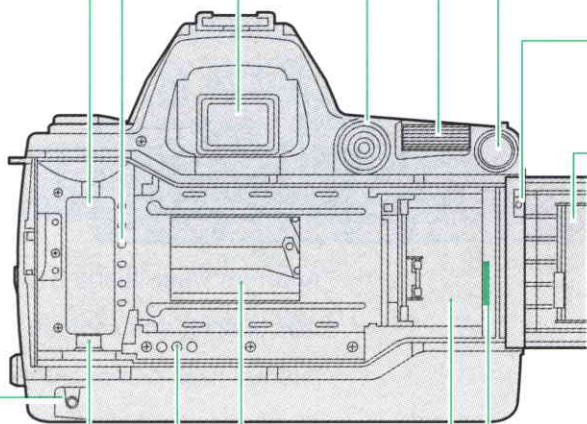
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Film fixing shaft (page 20)

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Shutter curtain (page 20)

Film tip mark (page 21)

Spool (page 21)

## <Display panel>

Exposure counter (page 21)

Selftimer remaining time (page 65)

ABC shooting order (page 62)

Bulb exposure time (page 57)

Film loading indicators

- Film advance error (page 21)
- Film advance normal (page 21)
- Film advancing (display increments)
- End of film (page 24)
- Film rewinding (display decrements)
- End of rewind (page 24)




Focusing mode (page 30)

- “**MF**” Manual focus
- “**SAF**” Single autofocus
- “**CAF**” Continuous autofocus

Exposure mode (page 30)

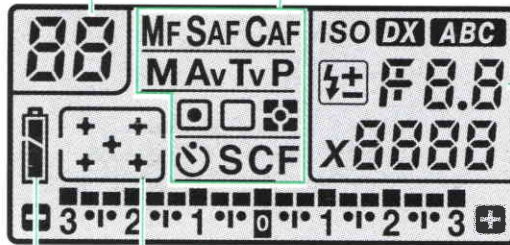
- “**M**” Manual exposure
- “**Av**” Aperture priority auto
- “**Tv**” Shutter priority auto
- “**P**” Program auto

Metering mode (page 30)

- “” Center divided partial metering
- “” Center-weighted average metering
- “” Evaluative metering

Drive mode (page 30)

- “” Selftimer photography (page 65)
- “**S**” Single frame photography (page 45)
- “**C**” Continuous photography (page 45)



Battery remaining (page 17)

Focus frame selection indicators (page 39)

Exposure compensation value (page 58)

- 1/3 EV increments
- 1/2 EV increments

Aperture value (page 51)

ABC setting and compensation range (page 62)

Internal flash compensation (page 75)

Shutter speed (page 52)

Film speed

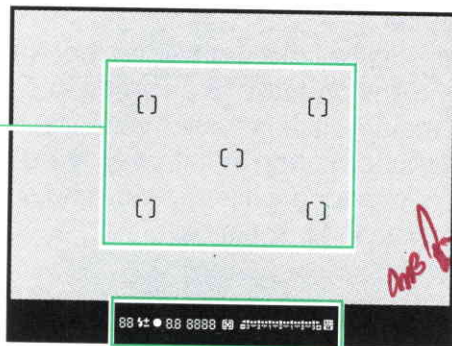
- DX : For automatic setting (page 22)
- ISO : For manual setting (page 23)

Custom functions (page 87, 89)

(This page describes the contents of the displays. All the displays are indicated on these diagrams for explanation purposes. The display will not show all this information at once but only pertinent information for settings and modes.)

## <Viewfinder display>

Focus frame (normally displayed)  
(page 39)



## <Viewfinder display>

Flash mark (pages 72, 76)

Internal flash compensation  
mark (page 75)

Focus indicators (page 40)

“○” lit: In focus

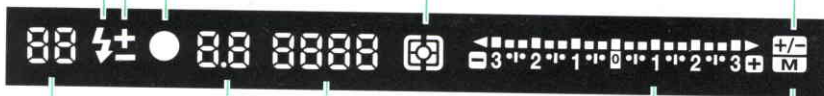
“○” flashing: Focusing not  
possible

Metering mode (page 48)

- Evaluative metering
- Center-weighted average light metering
- Center divided partial metering

AE lock (page 60)

Exposure compensation  
(page 58)



Shutter speed (page 52)

Aperture value (page 51)

Exposure counter (page 21)

Selftimer remaining time (page 65)

ABC shooting order (page 62)

Film loading indicators (page 21)

Manual exposure (page 55)

Exposure compensation  
value (page 58)

- 1/3 EV increments
- 1/2 EV increments

Exposure meter (page 55)

Metering difference  
(page 87)

The display in the viewfinder incorporates a variety of information - as well as the focus, aperture, and shutter speed, it also shows the exposure meter and exposure counter.

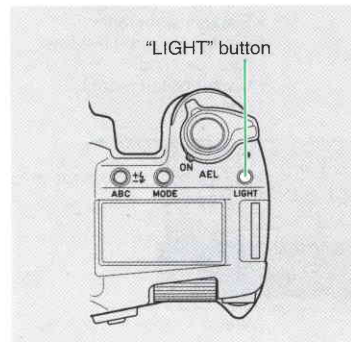
The viewfinder display turns on when the operations below are performed, then automatically turns off after 16 seconds to save power.

- ① When the main switch is turned on.
- ② When the shutter button is half-pressed while the main switch is turned on.  
If any dial is changed while the viewfinder display is lit, the display time is extended another 16 seconds.

“**CF**” Display time may be changed. (Power hold time, page 87).

- The viewfinder display turns off in the following cases:  
Photography, Film finished, Rewinding, Rewinding finished, Film advance failure, Battery discharged

## <Display panel illumination>




The display panel has an illumination function. Press the “LIGHT” button once to light the display panel, and press it again to extinguish it. The panel is cleared automatically after 16 seconds.

- 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.

“**CF**” Illumination time may be changed. (Power hold time, page 87)



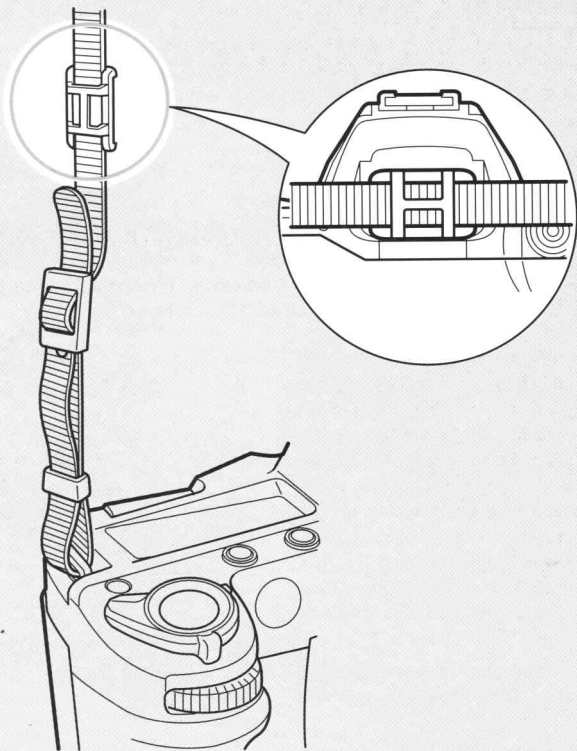
# BASIC OPERATIONS PRIOR TO SHOOTING



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 35.

## 1. Fitting the strap and viewfinder shade adapter

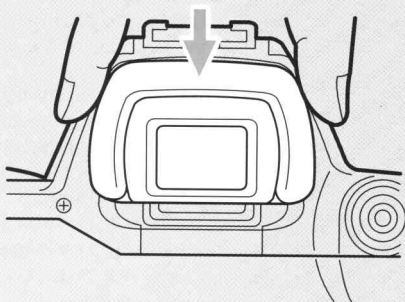
First pass the strap through the viewfinder shade adapter supplied with the camera, and then attach the strap to the camera as shown below.



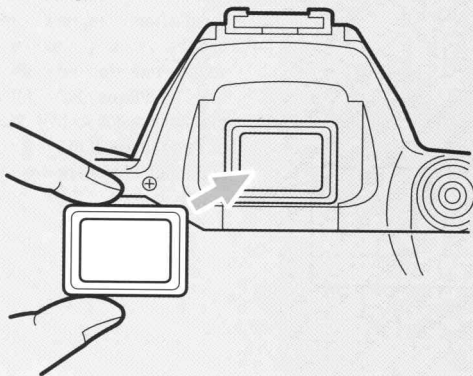
When using the selftimer, light entering the viewfinder when the eye is moved away may interfere with a correct reading of incident light. In such cases, fit the viewfinder shade adapter to the viewfinder.

## 2. Fitting the eye cup/diopter correction lens

The eye cup F-3 is fitted as shown below.



The separately available FL diopter correction lenses (+3, +2, +1, 0, -2, -3, -4, -5 available) are fitted as shown below. The eye cup may be fitted on the diopter correction lens.

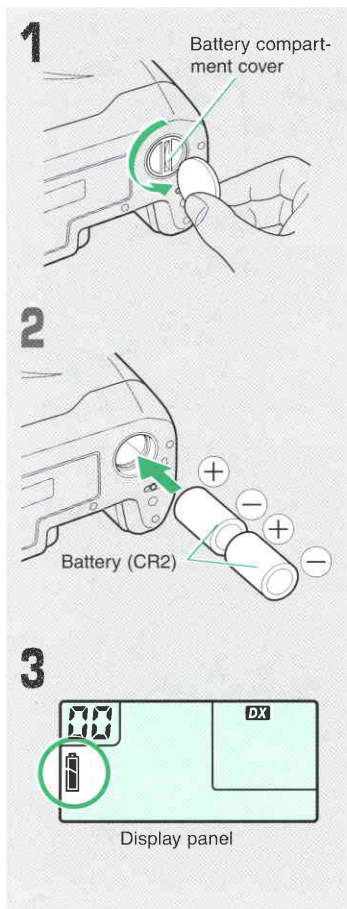




### 3. Inserting the batteries and checking the battery power

#### <Inserting the batteries>

Turn the main switch off before inserting the batteries.




#### 1 Open the battery compartment cover.



Use a coin to turn the battery cover in the direction of the arrow.

#### 2 Insert two 3V lithium batteries (CR2) into the battery compartment. Ensure that the battery contacts and those in the battery compartment match.

- The camera will not operate, and may malfunction, if the batteries are inserted in the wrong direction.

#### 3 Close the battery compartment cover.





The “” mark appears in the display panel.

- Even when using new batteries, during continuous shooting or at low temperatures, the voltage may decrease momentarily and the “” mark may light. If this happens, set the main switch to OFF then back ON two or three times. If the “” mark lights there is enough battery power.

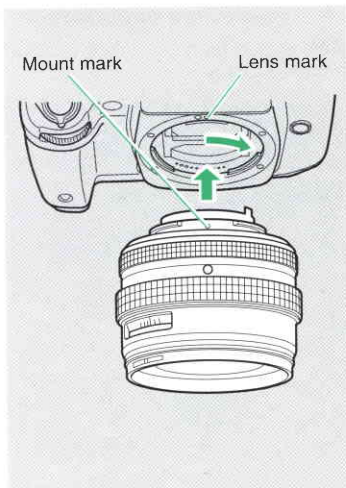
### <Checking the battery power>

The meaning of the battery marks are as follows:

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.

## 4. Mounting and removing lenses

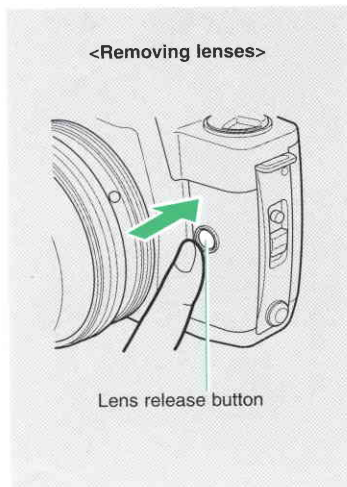


### <Mounting lenses>

**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.

- Use Contax N-mount lenses.
- Contax 645 system lenses can be used by mounting on an NAM-1 mount adapter. (page 102)



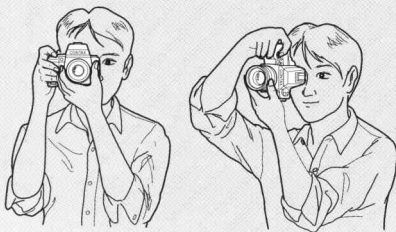
### <Removing lenses>

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.

## 5. 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.



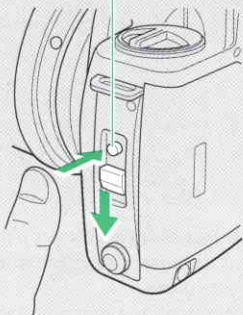
**It is important to hold the camera firmly in order to achieve sharp photographs. Unsharp photographs are often due to camera shake caused by the photographer's abrupt motion when taking a picture.**

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.

## 6. Loading film

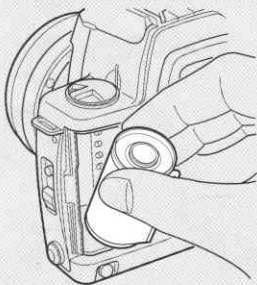
### 1 Camera back release button



**1** Open the camera back by lifting the camera back release button while sliding the camera back opening lever downwards.

- 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

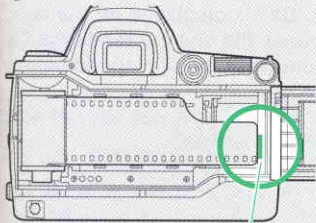


**2** Insert the film at an angle as shown on the diagram.

Insert the film fixing shaft onto the projection in the film cartridge.

### 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**

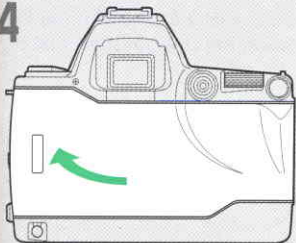
"I" mark

**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.



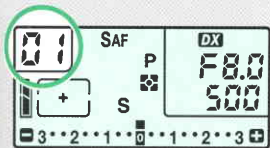
- If the drawn out section of the film is too long, do not try to continue loading the film. Wind it back up into the film cartridge to adjust the length.

**4**

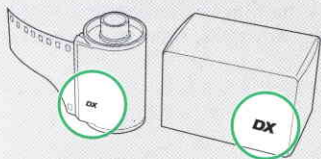
**4** Securely close the camera back, turn the main switch on and press the shutter release button.

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

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

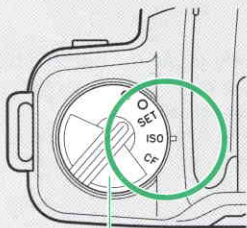


Display panel



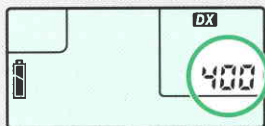
Film with DX code

#### <Checking the film speed>



Position dial

#### Display panel



Film speed

### <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 23.)

### <Checking the film speed>

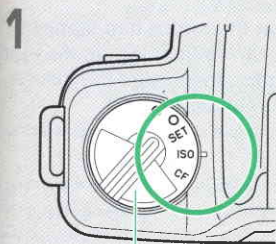
To check the ISO of the film loaded in the camera, set the position dial to “ISO”.

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

## 7. Setting the film speed manually

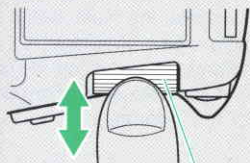
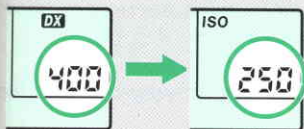
Use the procedure described below to set the film speed for film with no DX code or when you want to set a different ISO from the one indicated for the film.

- 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.



Position dial

2



R dial

### 1 Turn the position dial to "ISO".

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

### 2 Move the R dial to set the film speed to the desired value.

DX ↔ 6 ↔ 8 ↔ 10 ↔ • ↔ 5000  
↔ 6400 ↔ DX ↔ 6 (repeated)

- Film speed determined automatically when set to DX.

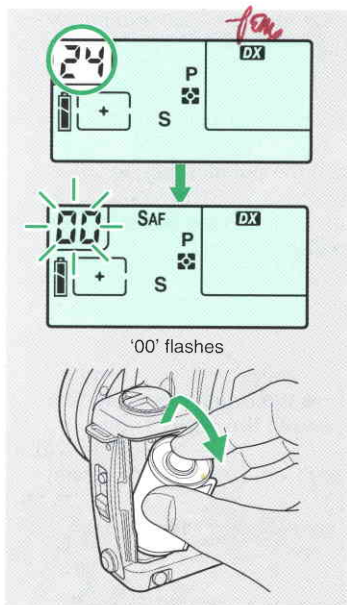
### 3 Return the position dial to "O" (white) or "●" (green). Setting is now complete.

The display panel returns to the normal display.

- Once the film speed is set, it is stored in memory until it is changed again.
- Photographs cannot be taken if the position dial is set to "SET", "ISO", or "CF".



## 8. Removing film



Once the film has been fully exposed it is automatically rewound.

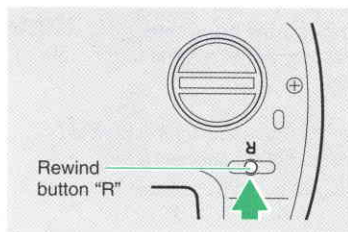
The numbers on the exposure counter decrease while the film is rewinding. Once the film is completely rewound, the motor stops and "00" flashes on the exposure counter.

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

- Remove the film in a place out of direct sunlight.
- 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.

### <Rewinding mid-way through the film>

To rewind film mid-way through the film, first make sure that the main switch is ON, and using a coin or a fingernail, press the rewind button "R" on the base of the camera (do not use a sharp pointed object for this purpose).



**CF** It is also possible to use the Custom Functions to prevent automatic rewind (page 88). Once the film has been fully exposed, film advance stops and the first and second digits of the exposure counter flash alternately. Rewind as described in <Rewinding mid-way through the film>.

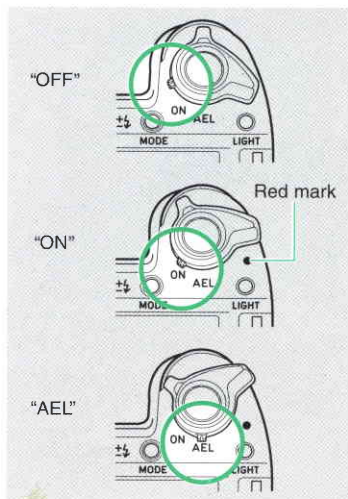
**CF** It is possible to rewind and leave the film tip protruding from the film cartridge when rewinding with the Custom Functions (page 88).



# BASIC OPERATIONS



# 1. Main switch



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). It is often used when photographing backlit subjects. It is also used when a subject that is constantly lit moves through a background with varied brightness values. (page 60)

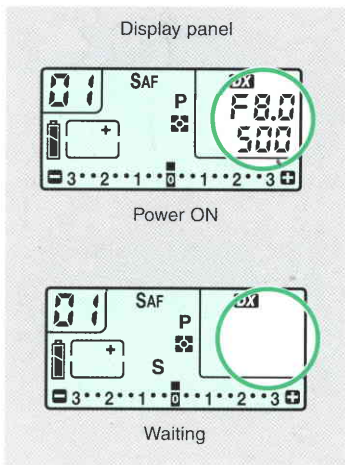
## <Power hold time>

If no action is taken, the panel is cleared automatically after 16 seconds to reduce power consumption. The following occurs in the wait state.

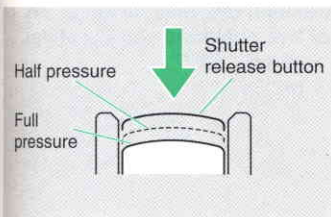
- ① The display in the viewfinder is cleared.
- ② The aperture and shutter speed values in the display panel are cleared.
- ③ The F and R dials cannot be used.

The display is activated again when the shutter button is half-pressed.

“**CF**” The power hold time in Custom Functions may be changed (page 87).



## 2. Shutter release button

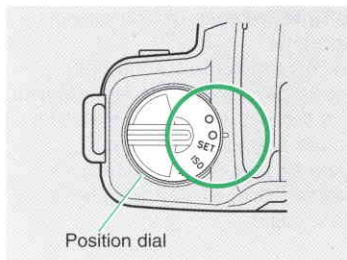


The shutter release button operates in two steps.

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 photograph is taken.

- Before loading film, practice pressing the shutter release button to get used to the half-pressed position.
- To prevent camera shake, use a smooth motion when pressing the shutter release button.

### 3. Position dial



The position dial may be set at any one of five positions - “○” (white), “●” (green), “SET”, “ISO”, or “CF”.

#### <1. Photography>

The “○” (white) and “●” (green) settings are for photography.

“○” (white): Stores the current photography mode (focus, exposure, metering, drive) in memory. When the main switch is set to ON, the camera starts operation in the previous mode set in the photography position (“○” (white)).

“●” (green): The same combination of photography modes (focus, exposure, metering, drive) set in the SET position is selected each time the main switch is set to ON.

When shipped from the factory the modes are focusing mode “SAF”, exposure mode “P”, metering mode “☒”, and drive mode “S”.

The details of each mode may be altered as necessary (page 31, 37).

#### <2. SET>

Setting details for “●” (green).

#### <3. ISO>

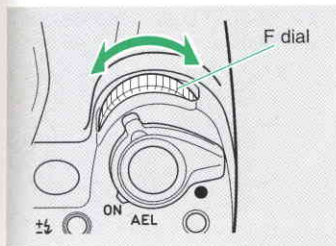
Checking film speed, and setting film speed manually.

#### <4. CF>

Setting “CF” (Custom Functions) (page 86).

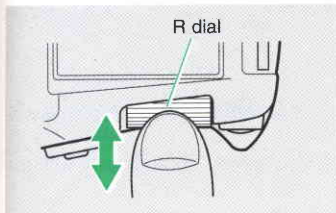
## 4. F and R dials

The F dial (front command dial) and R dial (rear command dial) are used for a variety of settings.



### F dial (front command dial)

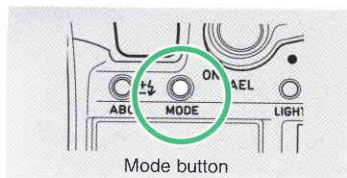
- Exposure correction settings
- Selecting the photography mode (focusing mode, exposure mode, metering mode, drive mode).
- ABC settings
- Internal flash metering correction
- “CF” Custom function settings



### R dial (rear command dial)

- Shutter speed settings
- Selecting the photography mode (focusing mode, exposure mode, metering mode, drive mode).
- Film speed settings
- “CF” Custom function settings

## 5. Mode button and mode details



The mode button is used to select the focusing mode, exposure mode, metering mode, or drive mode.

Press the "MODE" button and set with the F or R dial as necessary.

### [Mode details]

#### <1. Focusing mode>

- **SAF** : Single autofocus (page 41)  
Used for general photography, e.g. photographing stationary subjects.
- **CAF** : Continuous autofocus (page 41)  
Used for continuous photography of moving subjects.
- **MF** : Manual focus (page 44)  
Used for manual focusing.


#### <2. Exposure mode>

- **Av** : Aperture priority auto (page 51). Used for automatic photography with a fixed aperture.
- **Tv** : Shutter priority auto (page 52). Used for automatic photography with a fixed shutter speed.
- **P** : Program auto (page 53). Used for automatic photography without intervention by the user.
- **M** : Manual exposure (page 55). Used for photography with the exposure (aperture and shutter speed) controlled by the user.

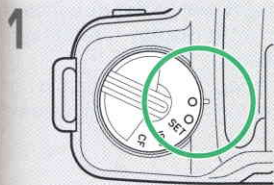
#### <3. Metering mode> (page 48)

-  : Evaluative metering
-  : Center-weighted average metering
-  : Spot metering

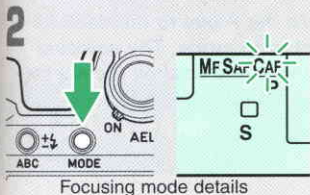
#### <4. Drive mode> (page 45)

- **S** : Single frame photography  
A single photograph is taken, and the film advanced and stopped, with each press of the shutter button.
- **C** : Continuous photography  
Continuous photography at a maximum rate of approximately 2.3 frames per second while the shutter button is pressed. (The rate varies with shutter speed, film speed, whether or not data back is used, and the state of the batteries.)
-  : Selftimer photography (page 65)  
Used for selftimer photography.

## 6. Selecting the mode ( *focusing mode, exposure mode, drive mode* )

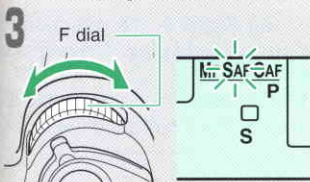


**1** Set the main switch to ON and set the position dial to “○” (white) or “●” (green).

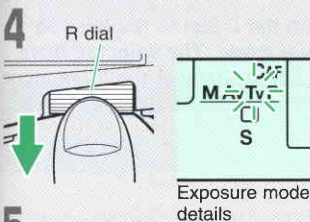


**2** Press the mode button.

“Focusing mode details” appears on the display panel and the current focusing mode flashes.



**3** Turn the F dial to the desired focusing mode. The selected focusing mode flashes (select the focusing mode details).



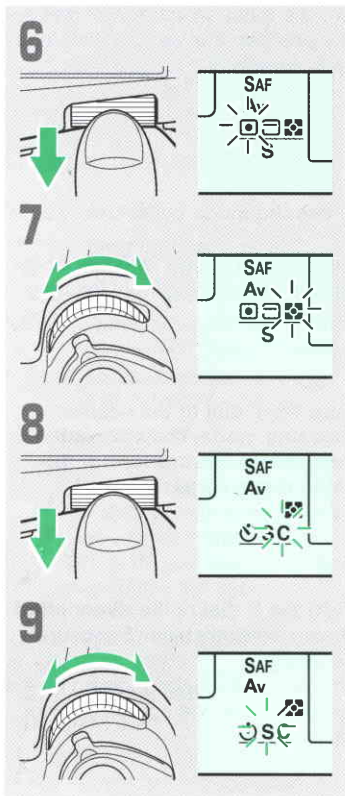
**4** Turn the R dial in the direction of the arrow to display “Exposure mode details”.

“Exposure mode details” appears on the display panel, and the current exposure mode flashes.



**5** Turn the F dial to the desired exposure mode. The selected exposure mode flashes (select the exposure mode details).





**6** Turn the R dial in the direction of the arrow to display “Metering mode details”.

“Metering mode details” appears on the display panel, and the current metering mode flashes.

**7** Turn the F dial to the desired metering mode. The selected metering mode flashes (select the metering mode details).

**8** Turn the R dial in the direction of the arrow to display “Drive mode details”.

“Drive mode details” appears on the display panel, and the current drive mode flashes.

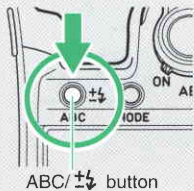
**9** Turn the F dial to the desired drive mode. The selected drive mode flashes (select the drive mode details).

**10** Press the mode button to return to the normal display.

The details of the selected modes are displayed, and setting is complete.

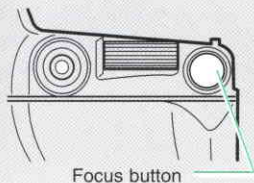
- Setting may also be completed by half-pressing the shutter button.

## 7. ABC/± button



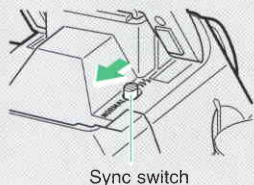
Used for ABC setting (page 62). Press the ABC button, and set with the F dial. This button may also be used for flash correction (page 75).

## 8. Focus button



Used for focus lock during autofocusing (page 43). Also used for one-shot autofocus with manual focusing (page 45).

## 9. Sync switch



Selects first curtain synchronization (NORMAL) or second curtain synchronization (page 84). Normally set to "NORMAL".