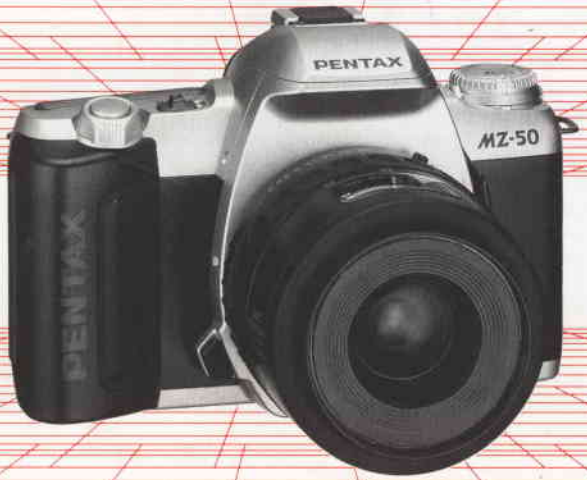
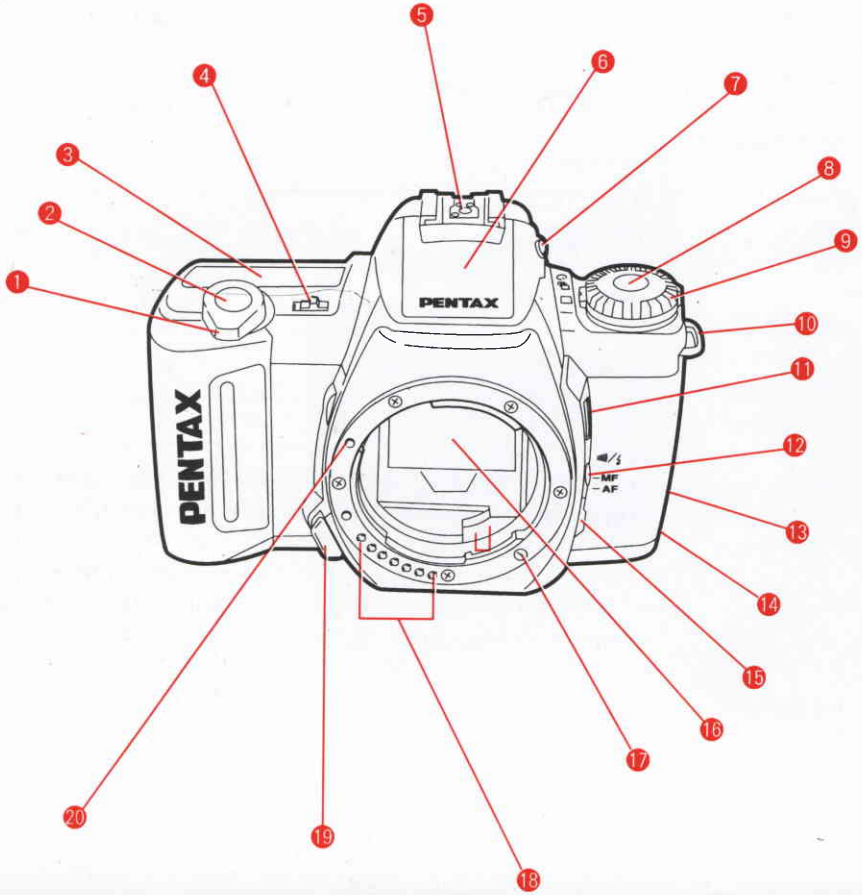
PENTAX® MZ-50 OPERATING MANUAL



NAMES OF WORKING PARTS I



1. Select switch
2. Shutter release button
3. LCD panel (p.6)
4. Main switch (p.20)
5. Hot shoe (p.77)
6. Built-in flash (p.37)
7. Flash pop-up button (p.38)
8. Mode dial
9. Drive mode switch (p.47)
10. Strap lug (p.13)
11. Release socket (p.67)
12. Multi-function button (p.42,69)
13. Back cover release lever (p.22)
14. Mid-roll rewind button (p.26)
15. Focus mode switch (p.33,49)
16. Mirror
17. AF coupler
18. Lens information contacts
19. Lens lock button (p.19)
20. Lens mount index (p.18)

FOR SAFE USE OF YOUR CAMERA

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

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

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

⚠ WARNING

- The electronic circuits inside the camera contain high voltage working parts. Never attempt to disassemble the camera yourself.
- Never touch internal parts of the camera if they become exposed from dropping the camera or for some other reason, as there is danger of an electric shock.
- Wrapping the strap around your neck is dangerous. Make sure that small children do not get the strap caught around their neck.
- Do not look directly at the sun through the camera, as viewing the sun for an extended period may damage your eyes.
- Be sure to store batteries out of the reach of children. Seek medical assistance immediately if accidentally swallowed.

⚠ CAUTION

- Do not use the flash near anyone's eyes, as it may hurt them. Be particularly careful with the flash around infants.
- Never try to disassemble, short or recharge the battery. Also, do not dispose of the battery in fire, as it may explode.
- Remove the batteries from the camera immediately if they become hot or begin to smoke. Be careful not burn yourself during removal.

PRECAUTIONS FOR YOUR CAMERA

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

Precautions when taking pictures

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

Precautions for storage

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

Precautions for proper care

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

PRECAUTIONS FOR BATTERY USAGE

Other precautions

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

- Use two 3V lithium batteries (CR2 type).
- Misuse of the battery can cause hazards such as leakage, overheating, explosion, etc. The battery should be inserted with the "+" and "-" sides facing correctly.
- Battery performance may be temporarily hindered in low temperatures, but will recover in normal temperatures.
- Keep a spare battery on hand for replacement convenience when shooting outdoors or while traveling.
- If the built-in flash is used continuously, the battery may become warm, but it does not mean that the battery is faulty; it is one of the battery's characteristics.
- Replace the batteries at the same time. Do not mix battery brands, type or an old battery with a new one. It may cause explosion or overheating.

PRACTICAL SHOOTING GUIDE

Focusing

Focus on the subject which is not in the center of the viewfinder. ····· p.36
Changing the in-focus range. ····· p.62

Flash photography

Taking a picture in low light situations. ····· p.37
Minimized the red-eye effect. ····· p.43
Automatic Flash Functions. ····· p.45
Taking a picture in a open place such as a church or reception hall. ····· p.77
Taking a portrait when the subject is in the shade. p.81
Taking a picture of people with night scenery in the background. ····· p.82

Zooming the lens

Making a subject larger or smaller. ····· p.30

Exposure modes

Taking a picture with the desired exposure setting. ····· p.64,68
Taking a picture in strong backlit situations with the main subject in the shadow. ····· p.81

Taking pictures of people in various situations

Putting yourself into a picture. ····· p.47
Taking a group photograph. ····· p.56
Taking a portrait photograph. ····· p.56
Taking a picture in strong backlit situations with the main subject in the shade. ····· p.81
Taking a picture of people with night scenery in the background. ····· p.82

Landscape photography

Taking a picture of night scenery. ····· p.66
Taking a picture of people with night scenery. ····· p.82

Others

Imprinting the data on a picture. ····· p.21
Taking consecutive pictures of a moving subject. p.47
Taking a picture of a moving subject. ····· p.59,60
Taking a close-up picture of flower. ····· p.58

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Names of working parts ····· Flaps
Safe use of your camera ····· Inside cover
Precautions for your camera ····· 1
Precautions for battery usage ····· 2
Practical shooting guide ····· 3
Table of contents ····· 4
LCD panel indication ····· 6
Viewfinder indication ····· 7
Easy to use! (For beginners) ····· 8
Camera functions available with various lenses ····· 10
How to use this operating manual ····· 12

I. BASIC OPERATION (PREPARATION) ····· 13-26
Attaching the camera strap ····· 13
Loading the batteries ····· 14
• When the battery is exhausted ····· 17
Attaching the lens ····· 18
Operating the shutter release button ····· 20
Turning on the power ····· 20
Using the Data Back ····· 21
Film loading ····· 22
Unloading film ····· 25
• Rewinding a film in mid-roll ····· 26

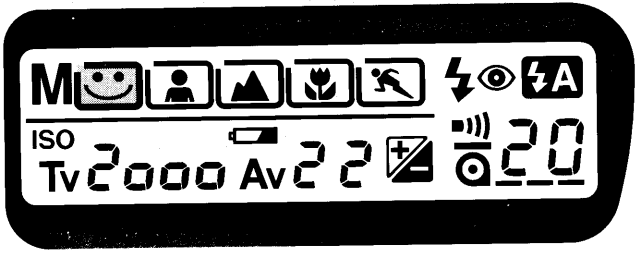
II BASIC OPERATION (SHOOTING) ····· 27-45
Using the Green Operation Mode ····· 27
Setting the Single-Frame Drive Mode ····· 29
Using zoom lenses ····· 30
Holding the Camera ····· 32
Selecting the Autofocus Mode ····· 33
Taking a picture ····· 34
• Focus Lock Function ····· 36
Basic operation of the Built-in Retractable TTL Flash (RTF) ····· 37
• Red-eye Reduction Flash Function ····· 43
• Automatic flash function ····· 45

III ADVANCED OPERATION ····· 46-89
Selecting a Drive Mode ····· 46
• Consecutive Frame Mode ····· 47
• Self-Timer ····· 47
Manual focusing ····· 49
• Using the snap-in focus function ····· 51
Using the Picture Mode ····· 54
• Green Operation Mode ····· 55
• Portrait Program Mode ····· 56
• Landscape Program Mode ····· 57
• Close-up Program Mode ····· 58
• Action Program Mode ····· 59
Selecting an Exposure Mode ····· 60
• Using the Shutter-Priority AE Mode ····· 60
• Using the Aperture-Priority AE Mode ····· 62
• Using the Metered Manual Mode ····· 64
• Bulb Exposure Mode ····· 66
About Exposure Compensation ····· 68
Turning off the audible PCV signal ····· 69
Advanced operation for the Built-in Retractable Flash (RTF) ····· 70
• Compatibility of F and FA lenses with the built-in flash ····· 72
Setting the film speed (ISO) manually ····· 73
Installing the battery in the Data Back ····· 74
Adjusting the data on the Data Back ····· 75
Using a Pentax Dedicated External Flash ····· 77
• Contrast-Control-Sync Flash Photography ····· 79
Daylight-sync shooting ····· 81
Slow-speed-sync shooting ····· 82

ACCESSORIES (OPTIONAL) ····· 83
Camera case ····· 85
Effects of aperture and shutter speed ····· 86
Depth of field ····· 88
The infrared index ····· 89

IV. OTHERS ····· 90-99
Troubleshooting ····· 90
Specifications ····· 92
Program lines ····· 94
Warranty policy ····· 96

LCD PANEL INDICATION



M : Metered Manual Mode (p.64)

: Green Operation Mode(p.55)

: Portrait Program Mode (p.56)

: Landscape Program Mode (p.57)

: Close-up Program Mode (p.58)

: Action Program Mode (p.59)

: Flash information (p.37,38)

: Red-eye reduction flash indication (p.43)

: Automatic flash function information (p.45)
(Smart flash information)

ISO : Manual-set film speed (p.73)

Tv 2000 : Shutter speed

: Battery exhaustion warning (p.17)

Av 22 : Aperture value

: Exposure compensation (p.68)

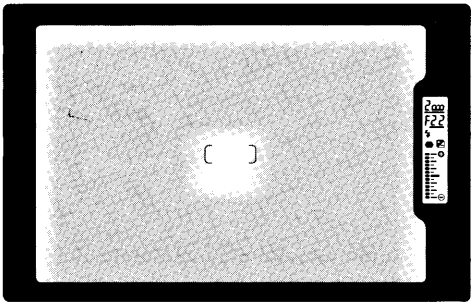
: Audible PCV signal (p.69)

: Film status information (p.24,25)

20 : Exposure counter (p.24)
and Exposure compensation value (p.68)

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

VIEWFINDER INDICATION



[ ] : Autofocus (AF) frame (p.34)

2000 : Shutter speed

F22 : Aperture value

: Flash status information (p.37,38)

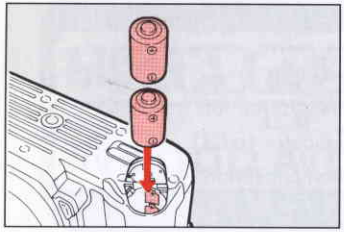
: In-Focus indicator (p.34)

: Exposure compensation (p.68)

: Bar graph (p.65,68)

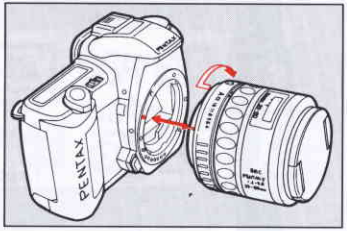
EASY TO USE (For beginners)

1. Loading the batteries



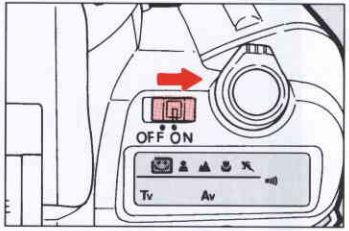
Open the battery chamber cover by using a coin. Load two batteries (**CR2** type) according to the markings (+, −) on the battery chamber cover. (See page 14.)

2. Attaching the lens



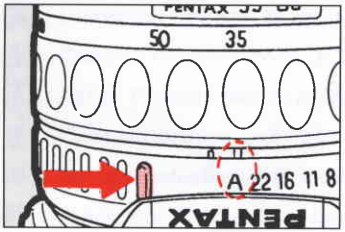
Align the red indexes on the lens and camera. Turn the lens to the right until it seats with a click. (See page 18.)

3. Turning on the power



Slide the main switch to ON. (See page 20.)

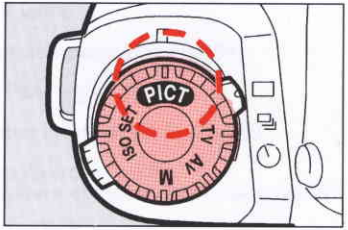
4. Positioning the aperture ring



While holding down the aperture-A-lock button, turn the lens aperture ring to the [**A**] position. (See page 27.)

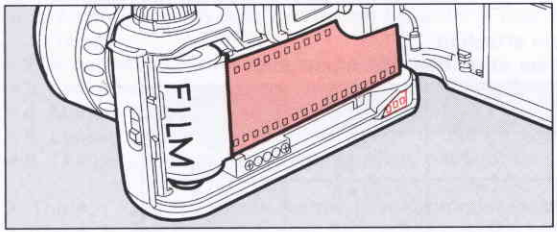
Be sure to set the lens aperture ring to the [A] position.

5. Setting the mode dial



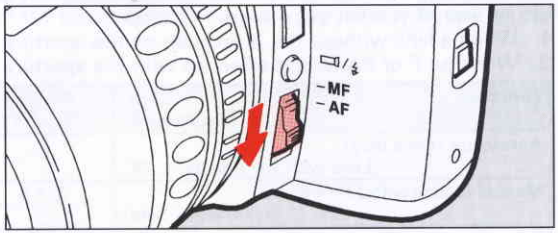
Set the mode dial to [PICT]. (See page 28.). The Green Operation Mode will be set.

6. Loading film



Open the back cover, insert a roll of film, align the end of the film leader with the red mark, and close the back cover. The film should advance to the first frame automatically. (See page 24.)

7. Selecting the Autofocus Mode

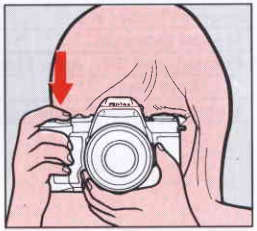


Set the focus mode switch to [**AF**]. (See page 33.)

8. Composing the scene with the zoom ring

While looking through the viewfinder, turn the zoom ring to the right or left until you obtain the desired composition. (See page 30.)

9. Focus on the subject and shoot



Focus [( )] on the subject. Depress the shutter release button fully to take a photo. (See page 34.)

CAMERA FUNCTIONS AVAILABLE WITH VARIOUS LENSES

The following conditions, a correct exposure may not be obtained because the camera always set the maximum aperture even if you set your desired f/stop.

1. When a lens without the A position on the aperture ring is attached.
2. When an F or FA lens is attached with the aperture ring set other than the A position.

Function / Lens [Mount type]	FA lens [K_{AF2}] *1	F lens [K_{AF}] *1	A lens [K_A]	M lens [K] *2
Autofocus (Lens only)	○	○	×	×
(Lens with AF Adapter 1.7X)	-	-	○*3	○*3
Manual focus (with FI) *4	○*5	○*5	○*5	○*5
(with Matte field)	○	○	○	○
Power zoom	×	×	×	×
Image size tracking	×	×	×	×
Zoom clip	×	×	×	×
Auto zoom effect	×	×	×	×
Picture Mode	○	○	○	×
Programmed AE	○	○	○	×
Aperture-Priority AE	○	○	○	△*2
Shutter-Priority AE	○	○	○	△*2
Manual Exposure	○	○	○	△*6
Programmed TTL Auto Flash	○	○	○	×
TTL Auto Flash	○	○	○	○
Multi(2)-segment metering	○	○	○	×

Notes:

* 1. As an F and FA Soft lens do not have the A position on the aperture ring, a correct exposure may not be obtained.
* 2. A correct exposure may not be obtained.
* 3. Lenses with a maximum aperture of f/2.8 or larger. (See AF Adapter operating manual.)
* 4. Manual focusing using the focus indicator (FI) (⬡) in the viewfinder.
* 5. Lenses with a maximum aperture of f/5.6 or larger.
* 6. The bar graph in the viewfinder does not light up.

- The A, F, and FA lenses are the bayonet mount lenses.
- The A, F, and FA lenses have "A" (auto) position on existing K-mount lenses.
- The screw mount lens CANNOT be used to this camera because correct exposures will not be obtained.

HOW TO USE THIS OPERATING MANUAL

This manual is organized into the following sections, allowing you to optimize the use of the camera:

I. BASIC OPERATION (PREPARATION) Page 13 - 26

III. ADVANCED OPERATIONS Page 46 - 89

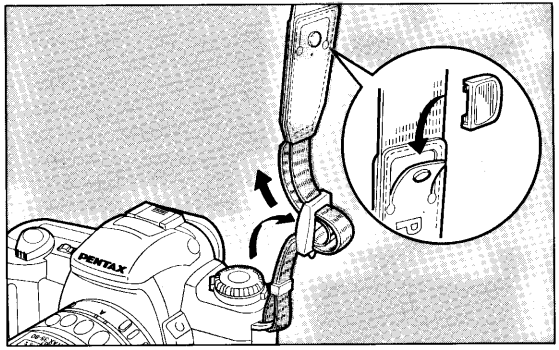
II. BASIC OPERATION (SHOOTING) Page 27 - 45

IV. OTHER INFORMATION Page 90 - 99

- If you want to begin taking pictures with this new camera as soon as possible, read section I and II, **"BASIC OPERATION (PREPARATION)" and "BASIC OPERATION (SHOOTING)."**
  These sections introduce only the basic functions of this camera. More detailed information can be found in section III and section IV.

I. BASIC OPERATION (PREPARATION)

(1) ATTACHING THE CAMERA STRAP

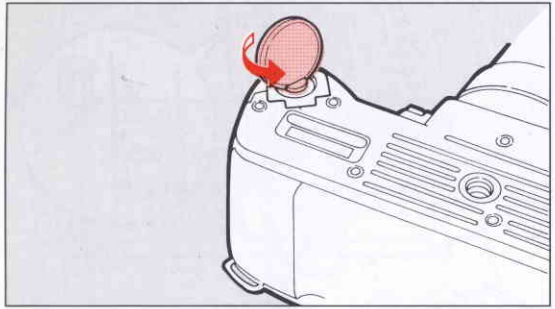


Fit the strap on the camera as illustrated.

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

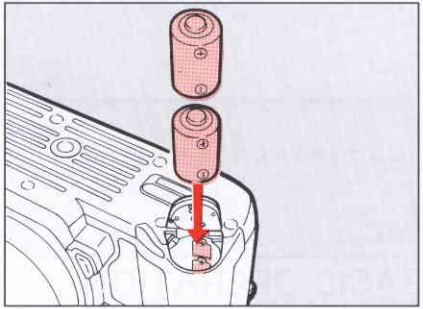
(2) LOADING THE BATTERIES

1



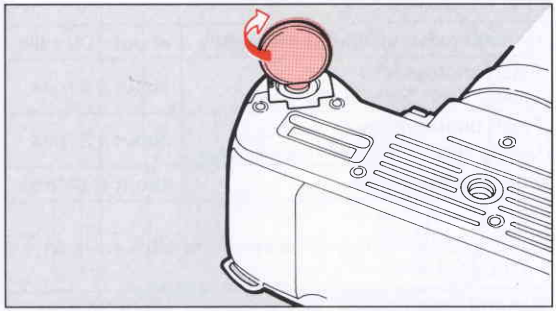
1. Open the battery chamber cover by using a coin, etc. as shown in the illustration.

2



2. Load two 3V lithium batteries (CR2) or equivalent as shown in the illustration.

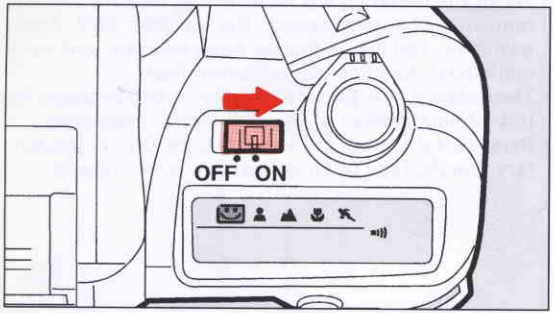
3



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

- When the batteries are replaced, all camera settings remain unchanged except the audible PCV signal switching, red-eye reduction flash function and automatic flash function of the built-in flash.
- The optional "AA-Battery Pack F_6" is also available for this camera instead of using the lithium batteries.
- Replace the battery at the same time. Do not mix battery brands, type or an old battery with a new one.

4



4. Slide the main switch to the ON position and check that the LCD panel shows the information as shown above.

- The LCD display as shown above is displayed when the mode dial is set at [P/C7] without a lens attached.

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

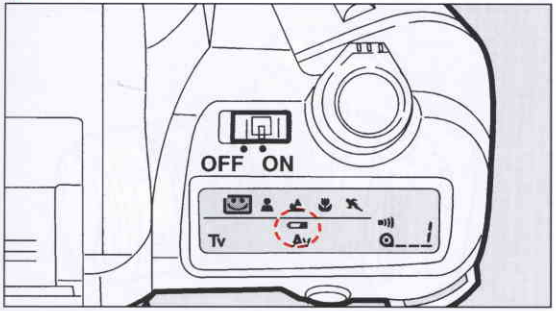
General existing light photography	about 100 rolls
Flash photography (using flash 50% of the times)	about 25 rolls
Flash photography (using flash 100% of the times)	about 12 rolls
Bulb exposure time	about 8 hours

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

General existing light photography	about 30 rolls
Flash photography (using flash 50% of the times)	about 15 rolls
Flash photography (using flash 100% of the times)	about 7 rolls
Bulb exposure time	about 2 hours

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

*



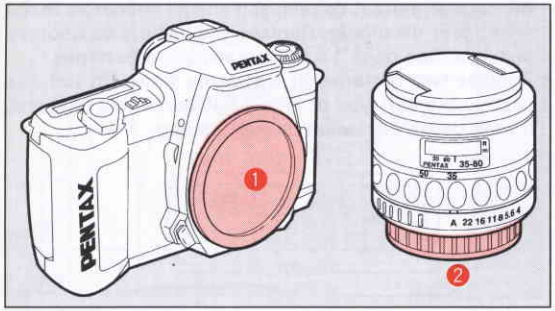
* Low Battery Warning

When the batteries are nearly exhausted, the battery symbol [▭] appears on the LCD panel to warn you. Replace the batteries as soon as possible. See page 14 for replacing the batteries.

- When the low battery warning [▭] starts blinking, the shutter cannot be released and all indicators in the viewfinder disappear. Replace the battery as soon as possible. See page 14 for replacing the batteries.
- Replace two batteries at the same time. Do not mix battery brands, type or an old battery with a new one. It may cause explosion or overheating.

(3) ATTACHING THE LENS

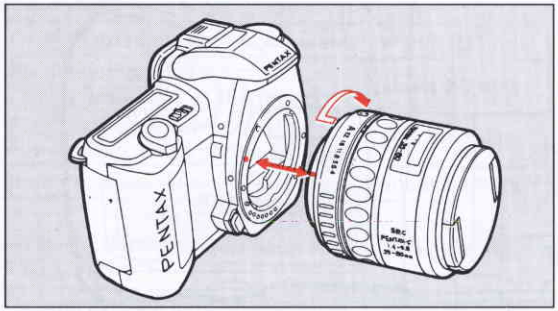
1



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

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

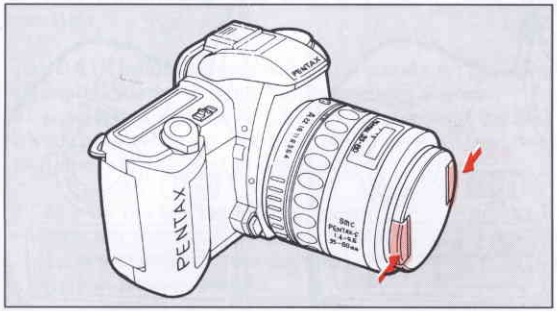
2



2. Align the red dots on the camera and lens mount, attach the lens to the camera body, and turn it fully to the right until you hear a click.

- Ensure that the camera's main switch is in the [OFF] position before attaching a lens to prevent unexpected operation of the lens.

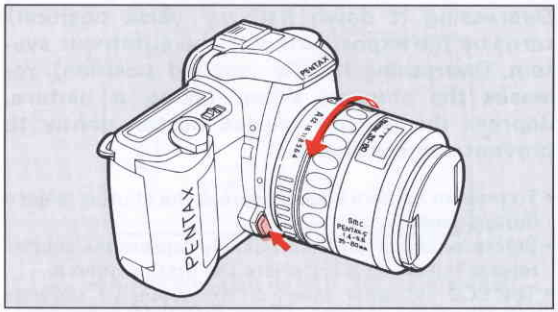
3



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

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

*



*** How to remove**

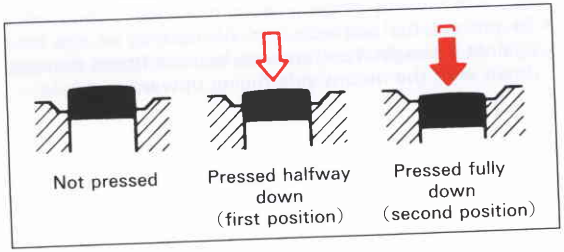
To remove the lens, turn it to the left while depressing the lens-lock-release button.

- To protect the contacts and AF coupler of the lens against damage after removal, be sure to set the lens down with the mount side facing upward.

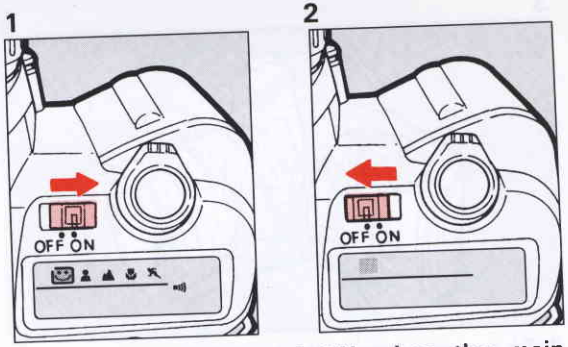
(4) OPERATING THE SHUTTER RELEASE BUTTON

The shutter release button has two positions. Depressing it down halfway (first position) turns on the exposure meter and autofocus system. Depressing it fully (second position) releases the shutter. When taking a picture, depress the shutter release button gently to prevent camera shake.

- To prevent camera shake, depress the shutter release button gently.
- Before loading a roll of film, slowly depress the shutter release button to learn where the first position is.
- The LCD indication stays on for about 10 seconds after the button is released from the halfway position. Depressing the shutter release button down halfway keeps the LCD indicator on.



(5) TURNING ON THE POWER



1. **The power is turned ON when the main switch is moved to the right.**
2. **The power is turned OFF when the main switch is moved to the left.**

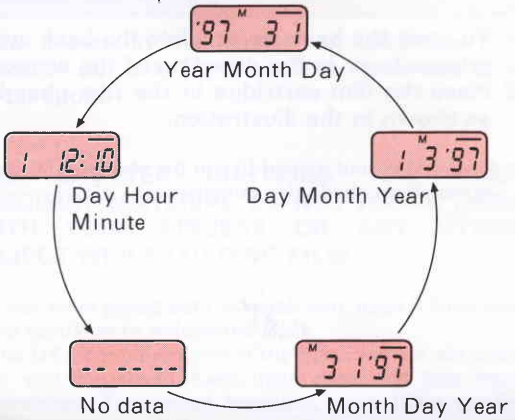
- When not in use, ensure that the main switch is set to the OFF position.

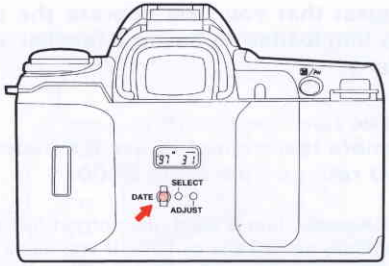
(6) USING THE DATA BACK

If you purchased the DATE model, read this section.

The DATE model records data information on your photographs clearly on each frame that you expose.
At each press of the DATE button as shown in the illustration, the mode on the LCD panel of the Data Back switches as indicated in the chart.

- [M] on the LCD indicates "Month".
- When the shutter is released, the bar mark [–] in the display blinks for a few seconds to indicate that the data has been imprinted.





- [-- -- --] indicates that no data will be imprinted.
- If there is a white or yellow object in the corner of the picture where the data is imprinting, the data may be difficult to read. When composing your photograph, try to avoid brightly-colored subject in that corner.
- To adjust the data, see page 75.
- The data back operates on a 3V lithium battery. If the data imprinted on the picture or the data displayed on the LCD panel become weak or invisible, the battery may need replacing. To replace the battery see page 74.
- See page 75 for more detail.

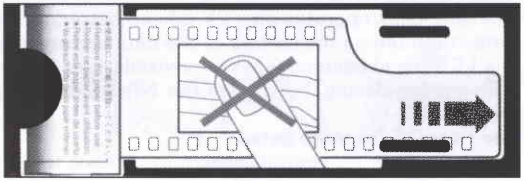
(7) FILM LOADING

We suggest that you first operate the camera with no film loaded to become familiar with its operations.

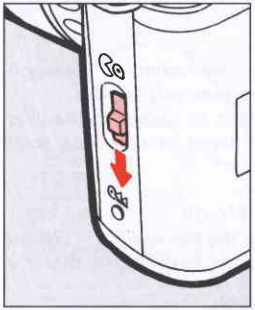
Automatic film speed setting

This camera is designed to use DX-coded films with ISO ratings from 25 to 5000.

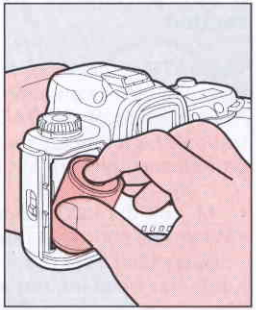
- When DX-coded film is used, the correct film speed is automatically set for the camera. If you use a non-DX coded film, you can set the film speed manually. See page 73.
- Before loading film for the first time after purchase, open the back cover and remove the protective card. **DO NOT TOUCH THE SHUTTER CURTAINS.**



1



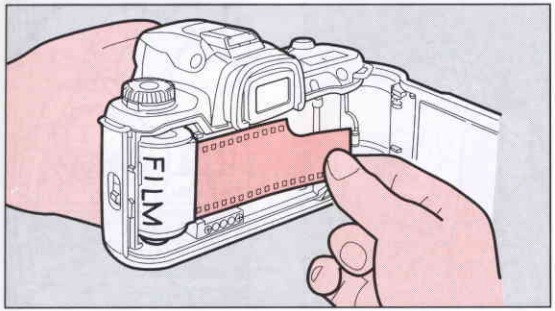
2



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

- Always load and unload film in the shade or by using your body to shade the camera.

3

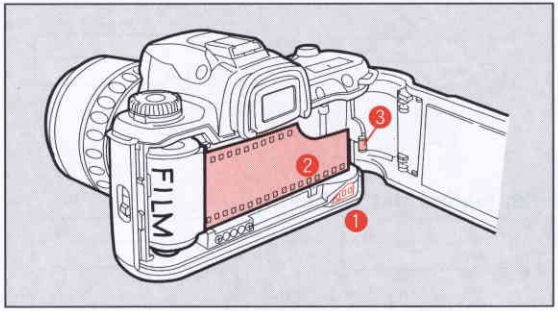


3. As shown in the illustration, pull the film leader out only far enough to reach the take-up spool.

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

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

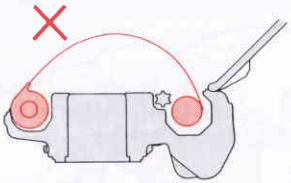
4



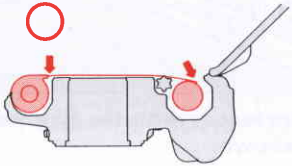
4. Align the film leader with the film leader end mark ❶ as shown.

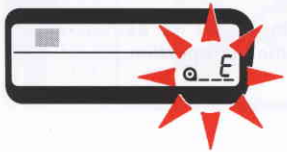
- Make sure that the film leader is positioned under the film retainer ❸ as shown in the illustration.
- Make sure that the film perforations properly engage on the sprocket tooth ❷.
- If the end of the film leader is extremely bent, straighten it or cut off the bent portion.

Film loaded with slack **No!**



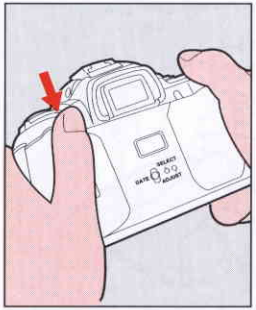
Film loaded flat **Yes!**

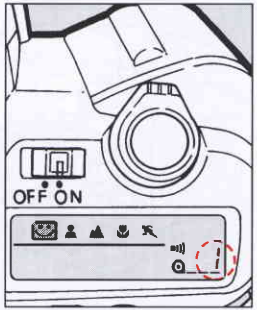




- If the film is not loaded properly, [⊙__E] on the LCD panel blinks, indicating that the film is not loaded properly. Open the back cover and load the film once again.

5



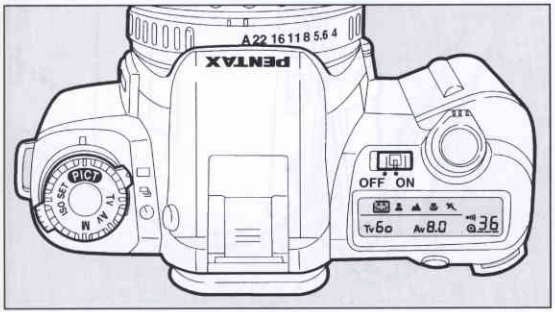


5. Close the back cover and set the main switch to [ON]. The film automatically advances to the first frame.

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

(8) UNLOADING FILM

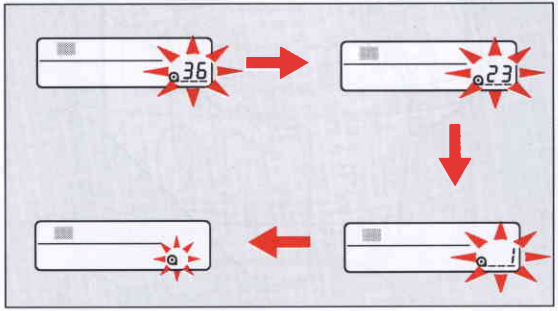
1



1. The film automatically rewinds at the end of the roll.

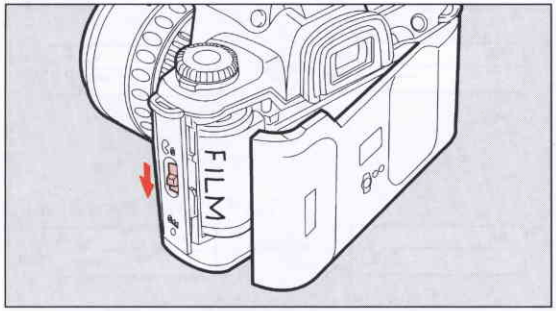
- During rewinding, [---] blinks on the LCD panel, indicating that the film is being rewound, the exposure counter counts frame numbers in reverse.
- Never open the back cover until the whole film roll is completely rewound.
- When removing the film from the camera, protect it from exposure to direct sun light.

2



2. When the film is fully rewound, only [⊙] blinks on the LCD panel.

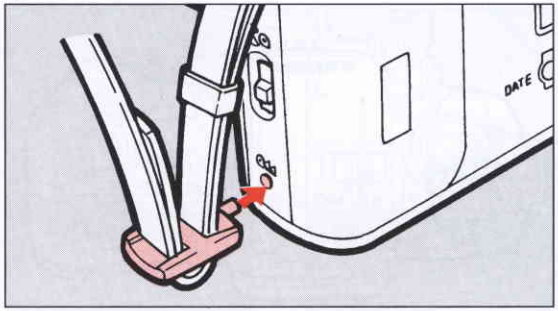
3



3. Open the back cover and remove the film.

- A roll of 24-exposure film takes about 13 seconds to rewind.
- Before opening the back cover, check that [⊙] is blinking.
- The shutter may be released a frame or more after the specified number of frames have been used as indicated by the number of frames on the film cartridge. However, those extra frames may be lost in processing. When you take important pictures, rewind the film when the film reaches the number of frames indicated on the film cartridge.

*



*** Rewinding a film in mid-roll**

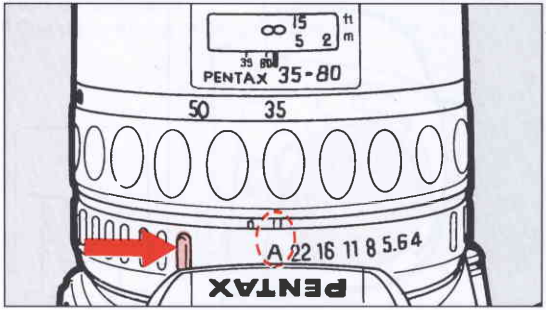
If you wish to unload the film before exposing all the frames, use this function.

Set the main switch to the ON position, and then depress the mid-roll rewind button by using the protruding part of the strap clamp.

- Do not depress the button with an object having a sharp tip.
- Before opening the back cover, check that [⊙] is blinking.

II. BASIC OPERATION (SHOOTING)

1



For easy picture taking, use this mode. You simply depress the shutter release button. The camera selects the best combination of aperture and shutter speed automatically.

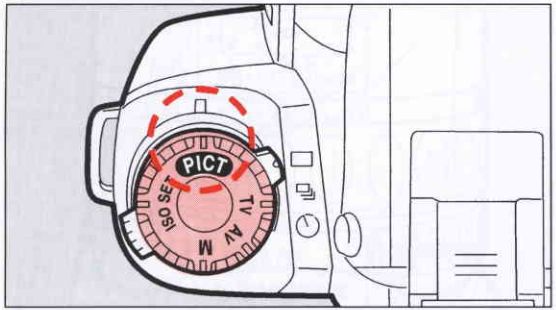
Confirm that the lens aperture ring is set to the [A] position.
If the aperture ring is set to a position other than the A position, a correct exposure may not be obtained.

How to set

1. Turn the lens aperture ring to the [A] position as shown in the illustration.

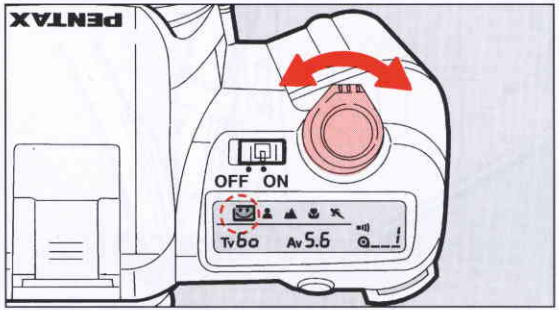
- To move the lens aperture ring to the [A] position, turn the aperture ring while holding down the aperture-A lock button on the lens.

2



2. Set the mode dial to the [PICT] position.

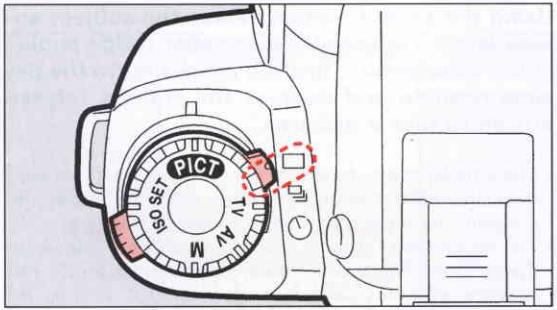
3



3. Move the select switch until [☐] superimposes on [☺].

• See page 54 for any other exposure mode.

(2) SETTING THE SINGLE-FRAME DRIVE MODE



Set the drive mode switch to the [□] position.

- One picture is taken each time the shutter release button is depressed.
- See page 46 for other available function.

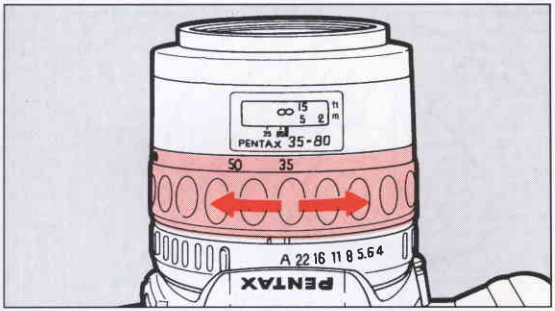
(3) USING ZOOM LENSES

Telephoto

Wide angle

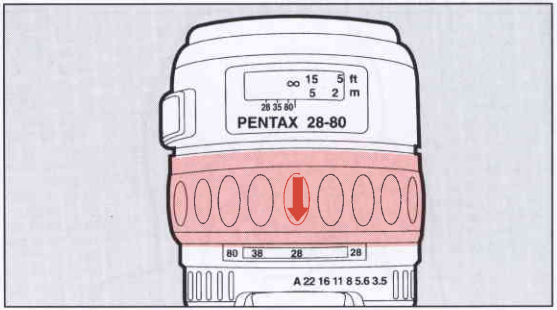
Using the zoom function makes the subject appear larger (telephoto) or smaller (wide angle) in the viewfinder. Turn the zoom ring to the desired position and depress the shutter release button to take a picture.

- The smaller the number shown in the zoom scale window, the wider the angle. Conversely, the larger the number, the more magnified the image appears.
- The Image Size Tracking Mode, Zoom Clip Mode, Auto Zoom Effect Mode and Power Zoom function do not operate with this camera even if an FA lens is attached.



Turning the zoom ring to the right makes the subject appear larger (telephoto) and turning it to the left makes the subject appear smaller (wide angle).

*

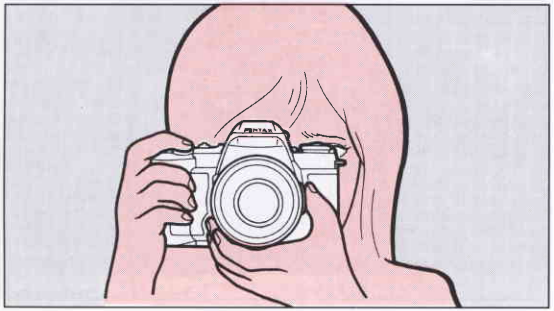


* Using the manual zoom function with an FA zoom lens attached

Pull the power zoom ring toward the camera body until the wards [POWER ZOOM] are hidden.

(4) HOLDING THE CAMERA

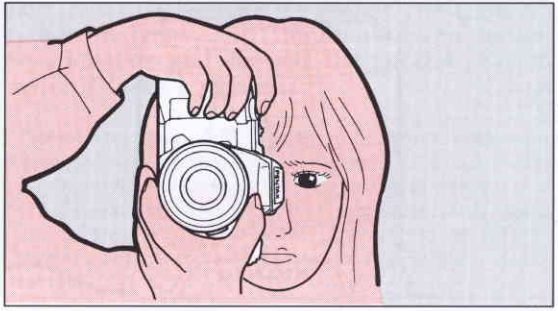
Camera held horizontally



For best results, be sure to hold the camera correctly as shown in the illustrations.

- Hold the camera firmly with your left hand supporting the camera and lens as shown in the illustrations.
- While taking a picture, hold your breath and gently depress the shutter release button. Sudden force on the shutter release button will cause camera shake, making the picture blurred.

Camera held vertically



- To reduce camera shake, support your body or the camera on a solid object - a table, tree, or a wall for instance.
- When using an ultra-telephoto lens, a tripod that is heavier than the total weight of the camera and lens is recommended to avoid camera shake.
- Although there are individual differences among photographers, in general the shutter speed for a hand held camera is the inverse of the focal length. For example, 1/50 of second when the focal length is 50mm, and 1/100 of second when it is 100mm. Using a tripod is recommended when the shutter speed is slower than this.