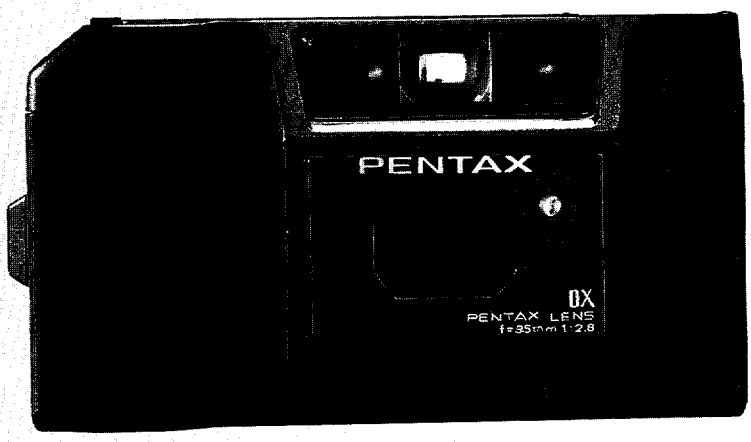
PENTAX®

ESPIO DATE



Thank you very much for choosing the Pentax PC-555 or PC-555 DATE.
This new addition to the Pentax family of 35mm leaf-shutter cameras offer you the convenience of "auto" functions such as auto exposure, auto focusing, auto film loading, auto film winding/rewinding, auto film speed setting, auto flash pop-up, etc. Moreover, the Pentax PC-555 DATE is equipped with an automatic data-recording unit to imprint the date and time on your photos.
Needless to say, your camera is a sophisticated, precision instrument built to give long-lasting, reliable service and will serve you well if you treat it right, with proper handling and reasonable care. So, please read this manual carefully through and familiarize yourself with all the features and functions it has to offer.

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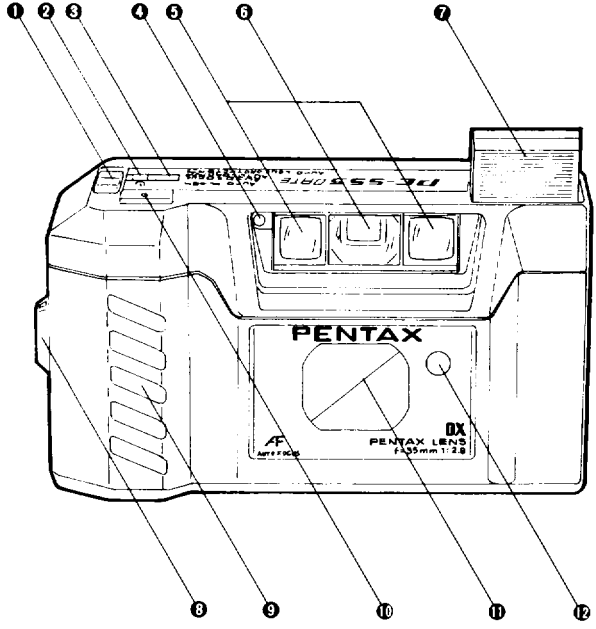
Operating Order

1. Insert the batteries, and check whether the camera functions properly.
2. Load the film, and close the back cover.
3. Aim the camera at the subject you want to photograph, and shoot.
4. When the film rewinding is over, remove the film from the camera and take it to your camera dealer.

Precautions

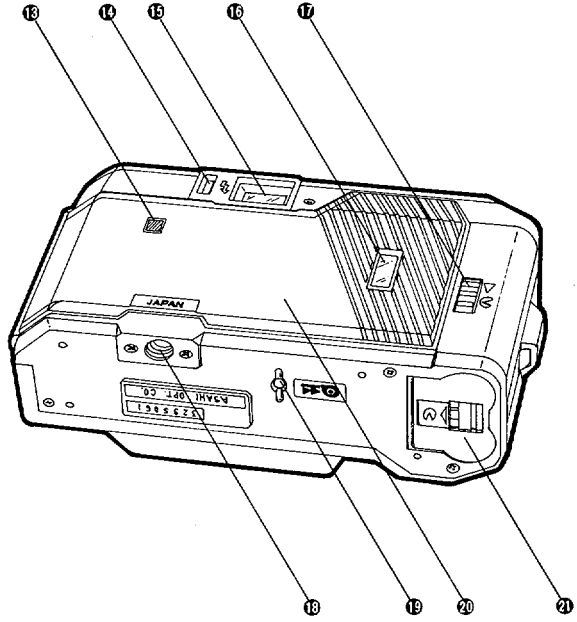
- This camera never functions without batteries in the chamber. Use two AA-size alkaline batteries. Ni-Cd batteries are not suitable.
- The shutter cannot be released when:
  (1) the batteries are exhausted, or they are not properly inserted.
  (2) the main switch is set to OFF.
  (3) the film is being wound or rewound.
  (4) the flash is being charged, or the flash recycle time becomes much longer.
  (5) the back cover is open.

NAMES OF WORKING PARTS



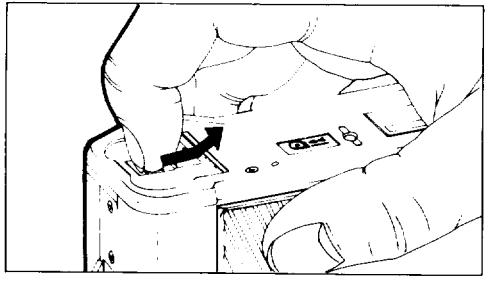
❶ Main switch
❷ Self-timer button
❸ Frame counter
❹ Self-timer lamp
❺ Autofocus windows
❻ Viewfinder window
❼ Flash
❽ Strap hanger
❾ Grip
❿ Shutter button
⓫ Lens cover
⓬ Light-sensor window

⑬ Film-transport indicator
⑭ Flash-ready indicator
⑮ Viewfinder eyepiece
⑯ Film-loaded indicator
⑰ Back-cover-release lever
⑱ Tripod socket
⑲ Mid-roll rewind button
⑳ Back cover
㉑ Battery-chamber cover



INSERTING BATTERIES

1



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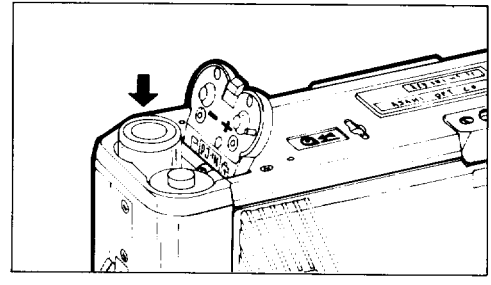
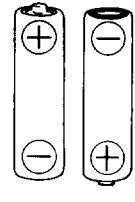


1. Open the Battery Chamber Cover at the base of the camera by sliding it in the direction of the arrow; use a fingernail in the groove to push and raise the cover.

2. Insert two batteries into the chamber with the (+) and (–) sides placed correctly as indicated on the cover.

One set of alkaline batteries should last about a year with average use at normal temperatures, without using flash. But their performance goes down considerably at freezing temperatures.

Manganese batteries are also suitable, but they are far less powerful than alkaline ones.



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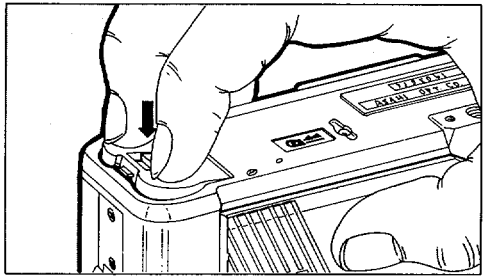
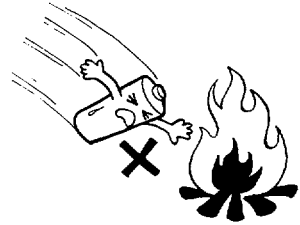


3. Close the cover by pushing it back.

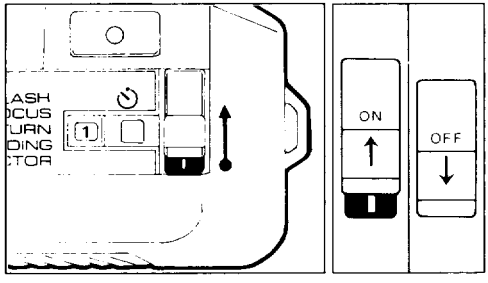
Batteries

- The batteries should be inserted correctly.
- When replacing, be sure to use two fresh batteries of the same brand and type.
- If the batteries are not used for a long time, remove them from the camera. Leaving them in the camera may cause acid leakage and possible damage to the camera mechanism.
- Never break up, recharge or throw used batteries into fire as they may explode.



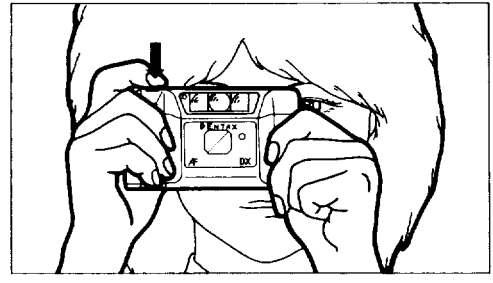
BATTERY CHECK

1



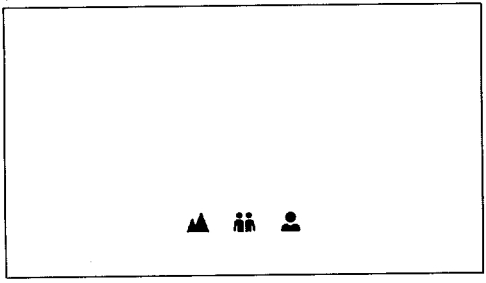
1. Slide the main switch to turn it on. When the switch is set to OFF, the shutter cannot be released. When not shooting, or when storing the camera in the case, be sure to turn the switch off.

2



2. Depress the shutter button halfway.

3



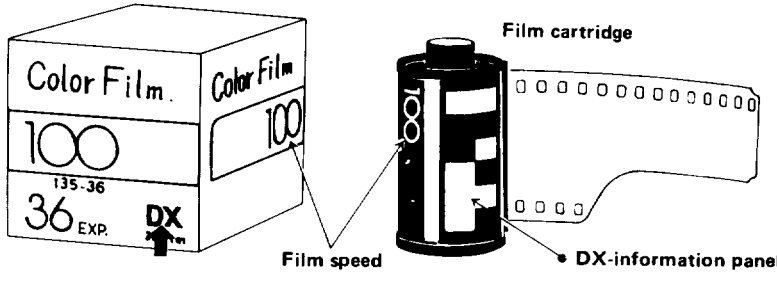
3. When the batteries are properly inserted, one of the distance marks in the lower part of the viewfinder glows. Also, when the subject is dark, the flash pops up automatically, so be sure to push it down after making the battery check.

Battery replacement

The batteries are exhausted and should be replaced in the following cases where:

- the shutter cannot be released even if you depress the shutter button.
- it takes longer than 15 seconds for the flash to be ready.
- When battery voltage drops below the level for the camera to function properly, the safety shutter lock is activated, making it impossible to release the shutter. In such a case, even if one of the distance marks in the viewfinder glows, the shutter cannot be released. (Since the batteries slightly recover the power after a short while, the shutter may accidentally be released.)

DX FILM

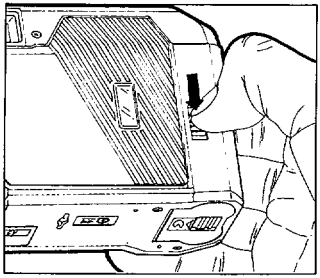


This camera is designed to use DX-coded film with an ISO rating from 50 to 1600, and when such film is loaded, its film speed is automatically set in the camera.

- If non-DX film with any film speed is loaded into this camera, the film speed is automatically set to ISO 100.
- When buying DX film, make sure the package bears the "DX" mark or that the cartridge has a DX-information panel.
- Special films like 35mm Instant Reversal Film cannot be used.

LOADING FILM

1



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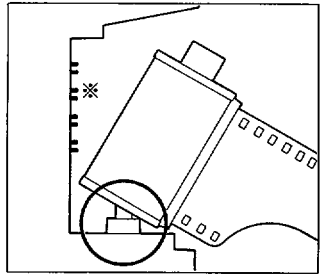

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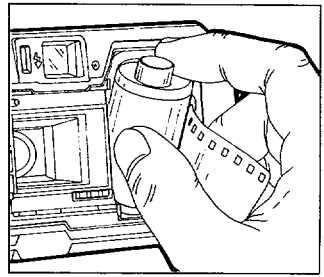


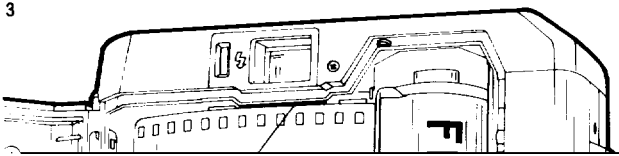
Always load or unload film in a shady spot, or shield the camera and film from direct sunlight with your body.

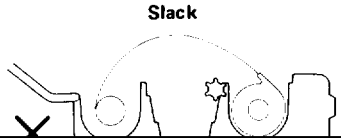
1. Open the back cover by sliding the back cover release lever in the direction of the arrow.

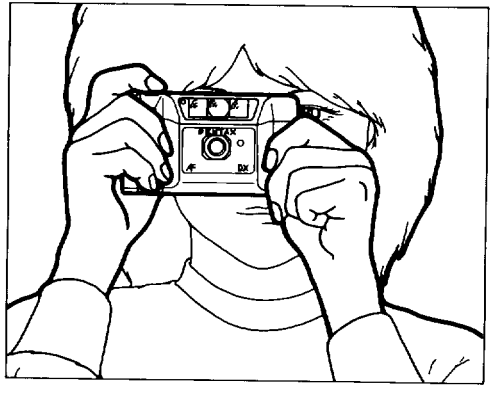
2. As illustrated, place the film cartridge in the film chamber by first fitting its flat side on the top of the rewind shaft.

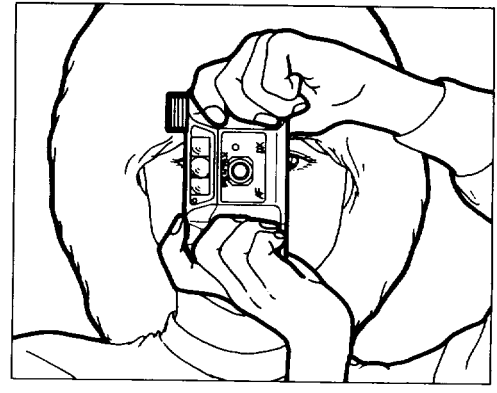
※ **Always keep the DX-Information pins free from scratches, dirt or dust.**

3





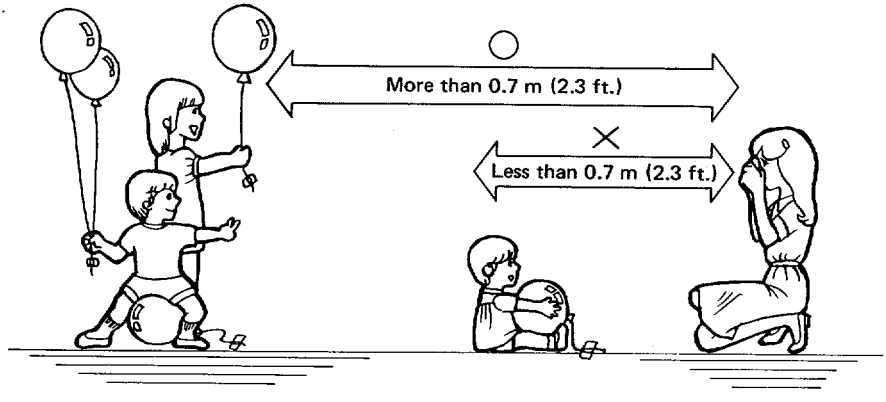




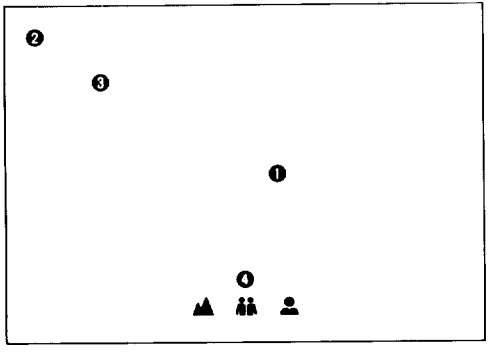
It is important to hold the camera properly in order to take blur-free photos. Practice holding and operating the camera before inserting your first roll of film.

The illustrations show the basic holding positions. No matter which position you use, be sure to grip the camera steadily with both hands, hold the camera gently against the face in a fixed position, and relax the rest of your body in a secure posture. Brace the elbow of the arm supporting the camera against your body. Always press the shutter button gently. When taking flash pictures with the camera held vertically, be sure to keep the flash head on the upper side.

EFFICIENT CAMERA-TO-SUBJECT DISTANCE



• For the best possible results, take your pictures within the camera-to-subject distance from 0.7 meters (2.3 ft.) to ∞ (infinity). This camera does not focus on the subject less than 0.7 meters (2.3 ft.) away.



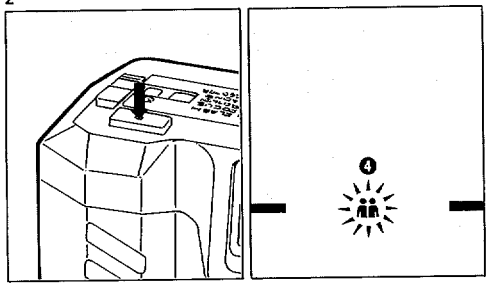
❶ Autofocus spot (Bring this on the main part of your subject.)
❷ Picture-area frame (Ordinary picture-taking range)
❸ Parallax-correction frame (Close-distance picture-taking range)
❹ Distance marks:
= Approx. 0.7 ~ 1 m (2.3 ~ 3.3 ft.)
= Approx. 1 ~ 1.8 m (3.3 ~ 5.9 ft.)
= Approx. 1.8 m ~ ∞ (5.9 ft. ~ ∞)

1

1. After composing your picture, bring the ❶ autofocus spot on the main part of your subject.

• In this case, be careful not to put your fingers, hair, strap, etc. in front of the autofocus windows, taking lens, light-sensor window and flash.

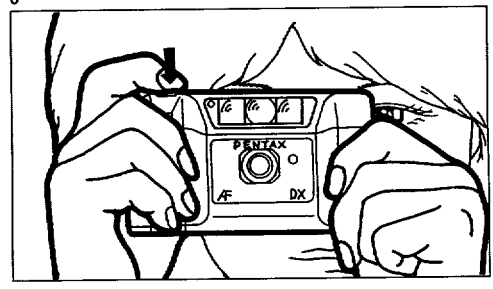
2



2. As you depress the shutter button halfway, one of the ❹ distance marks lights up. If the flash does not pop up, you are ready to depress the shutter button completely to take a picture.

• If the flash pops up, the subject is not bright enough and you have to use flash. (For the use of flash, refer to page 20.)
• When the distance mark (👥) lights up, compose your picture within the ❸ parallax-correction frame.

3

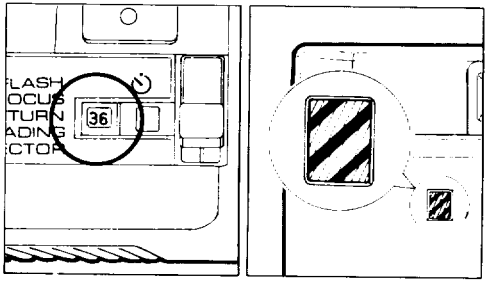


3. As you depress the shutter button further, the lens cover opens automatically and the shutter is released. As you release your finger from the shutter button, the film will automatically be wound on to the next frame and the lens cover will also close.

• When you wish to recompose your picture or change the subject, release your finger from the shutter button and re-depress the button.
• When the batteries are exhausted, the shutter may not be released.

REWINDING FILM

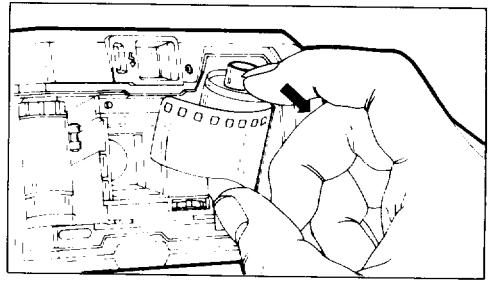
1



1. Several seconds after the last frame of the roll is exposed, the motor automatically starts rewinding the film. While the rewind operation is taking place, the Film Transport Indicator's red stripes keep flickering.

- It usually takes about 30 seconds to rewind a roll of 24-exposure film.
- Never open the camera back until the motor stops.

2



2. Open the camera back and remove the film cartridge by first pulling the top of the cartridge toward you with your finger, as shown above.

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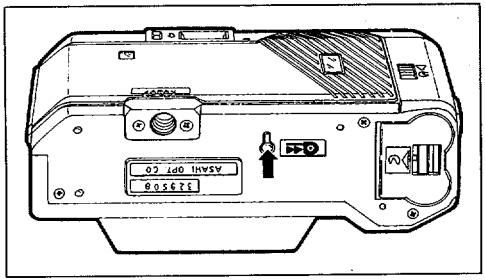


※ If you want to rewind the film in midroll, push the Midroll Rewind Button with a fingernail, and the motor will start rewinding. The motor will automatically stop on completion of rewinding.

• When the battery power gets extremely low, the motor may stop during rewinding. Should it happen, replace the batteries and push the Midroll Rewind Button to complete rewinding.

FOCUS-LOCK TECHNIQUE

If the subject you wish to focus on is out of the Autofocus Spot as shown above, it will be out of focus and only the background will be in focus. You can avoid this problem by using the focus-lock technique in the following order.

1 2

1. Bring the Autofocus Spot on the main subject.
2. As you depress the shutter button halfway, the Distance Mark in the lower part of the viewfinder lights up, locking the focus on the subject temporarily.

• As long as you keep depressing the shutter button halfway and the Distance Mark keeps glowing, the focus lock is maintained. The focus will be unlocked as soon as you release your finger from the shutter button.

3

3. While keeping the shutter button depressed halfway, move the camera to recompose your picture with the subject in the desired position, then depress the shutter button all the way to take the picture.

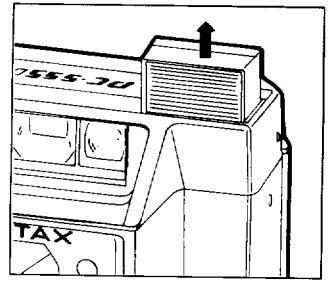
Difficult Autofocus Subjects

The autofocus system of this camera may not function properly in the situations described below. In such cases, focus on a subject near the actual subject you are shooting, and lock the focus by using the focus-lock technique, then frame the subject and shoot.

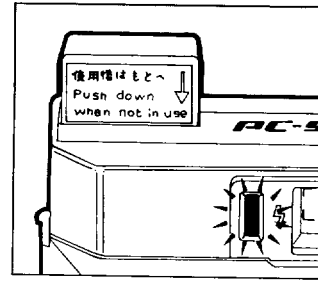
1. Black objects which are hard to reflect light (infrared).
2. Wire netting, latticework, iron exercise-bar, etc. with less light reflection.
3. When neon signs, fluorescent lamp, television, sunlight coming through the trees, etc. are in or around the Autofocus Spot.
4. Glass, mirrors, car bodies, etc. which are glossy and reflective.
5. Fast moving objects like trains.
6. Water jets, surface of water, smoke, flame, fireworks, etc. which are formless.

As you depress the shutter button halfway in a dark place, the flash automatically pops up, and the camera is set for flash photography. Also when you take a picture of people in the shade of trees or in a dimly-lit place, the flash can be used as a supplementary light. Also when you wish to use flash in a bright place (daylight-sync photography), cover the camera's light-sensor window with your hand and depress the shutter button halfway, so that the flash pops up automatically.

1



2



1. As you depress the shutter button halfway in a dark or dimly-lit place, the flash automatically pops up and begins to be charged.
2. The flash-ready lamp near the viewfinder eyepiece will light up in several seconds, so make sure it does, and then depress the shutter button further to release the shutter. After shooting, be sure to push the flash down to the original position.

Number of Flashes
About eight rolls of 24-exposure film or five rolls of 36-exposure film can be shot with this flash with fresh alkaline batteries at normal temperatures.

Flash Control Range
0.7 ~ 2.8 m (2.3 ~ 9.2 ft.) with ISO 50 film
0.7 ~ 4 m (2.3 ~ 13.1 ft.) with ISO 100 film
0.7 ~ 5.6 m (2.3 ~ 18.4 ft.) with ISO 200 ~ 1600 film

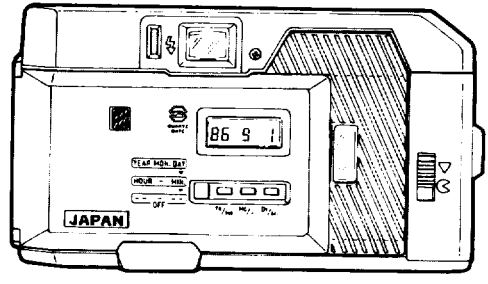
CAUTIONS

- The recycle time of this flash is about six seconds with fresh batteries. If it takes more than 15 seconds, the batteries are most probably exhausted.
- Even if you depress the shutter button before the flash-ready lamp lights, the shutter is not released.
- Do not depress the shutter button while the flash is being charged; otherwise the charging will be interrupted.
- When the flash is not in use, keep the flash head in its original position to prevent power consumption.
- When using the flash as a supplementary light source in daylight, the flash effect slightly differs, depending on the brightness around the subject or the camera-to-subject distance.

Flash not used ↑

Flash used ↓

PC-555 DATE



As the date and time set in your DATE camera are good only in Japan, readjust them before use.

Film

- DX films with ISO ratings from 64 to 1600 can be used. The film speed is automatically switched in the dating unit.
- The only non-DX film that can be used for this unit is one with ISO 100.

When Shooting

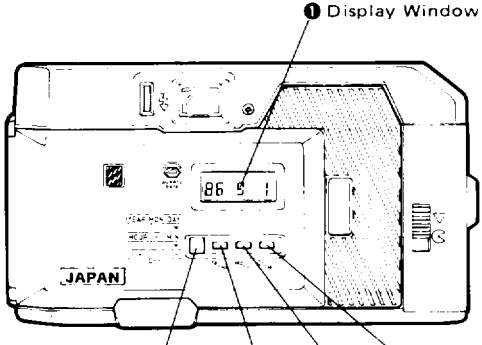
- If the data printing section in the picture area is too bright, the recorded data may be difficult to see. Frame the picture so that reflections or white objects may not overlap the data printing section.
- The Year/Month/Day and Hour/Minute data cannot be imprinted on the same picture.
- When the shutter is released, the word "PRINT" will appear in the Display Window, indicating that imprinting has been completed.

Battery

One 3-volt lithium battery (CR-2025) built in the back cover powers the clock and data display. It should last about five years, although the life may differ, depending on how often it is used or how it is stored. If the clock does not work properly or the LCD displays are not seen clearly, it indicates that the battery is getting weak, so please have it replaced by your nearest, authorized Pentax service facility as soon as possible. Do not try to replace it by yourself.

LCD (Liquid Crystal Display)

- When the LCD is exposed to a high temperature of around 60°C, it may blacken, but when the temperature falls, it will return to normal.
- The LCD may also tend to slow down in response at lower temperatures, but it is one of the characteristics of LCD's, not a defect.
- The unit should work perfectly in the temperature range of around 50° ~ 0°C.



Setting Button

❸	❹	❺
YEAR	MON. (Month)	DAY
HOUR	—	MIN (Minute)
— —	—	— —

Setting Data

- The mode display in the ❶ Display Window will switch from "Year-Month-Day" to "Hour-Minute" to" - - - - - - " (No Display) in this order each time the ❷ Mode Selector Button is depressed. Stop depressing the ❷ Button when the desired mode is displayed.
- Depressing the Setting Button ❸ , ❹ or ❺ once will advance the displayed figures one at a time. For rapid advance, keep depressing the button, and within a second or two, the figure will increase continuously. To depress the button, use a ball-point pen or the like.
- Unless the "Hour-Minute" mode is correctly set, the "Year-Month-Day" mode will not be correctly set.

Setting "Hour-Minute" Mode

15 - 30 (= 3:30 p.m.)

1. Press the Mode Selector Button until the "Hour-Minute" mode is set in the Display Window.
2. Press the ❹ Setting Button and set the second according to the announcement of time or your watch. The second "__" will be set to zero, although it will just keep flickering in the Display Window.
3. Press the ❺ Setting Button and set the minute to "30" in the Display Window
4. Press the ❸ Setting Button and set the hour to "15" in the Display Window. The 24-hour clock designation is used for the time indication.

• Note that since the sign "–" between "Hour" and "Minute" flickers every second, it may not be imprinted on the film if the shutter is released while it is invisible.

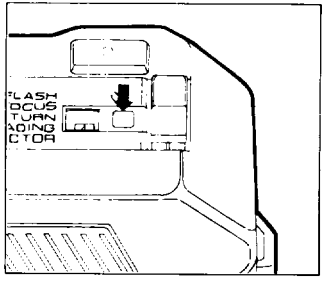
Setting "Year-Month-Day" Mode

86 9 1 (= September 1, 1986)

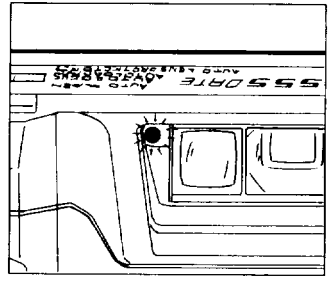
1. Press the Mode Selector Button until the "Year-Month-Day" mode is set in the Display Window.
2. Press the ❸ Setting Button and set the year to "86" in the Display Window.
3. Press the ❹ Setting Button and set the month to "9" in the Display Window.
4. Press the ❺ Setting Button and set the day to "1" in the Display Window.

SELF-TIMER

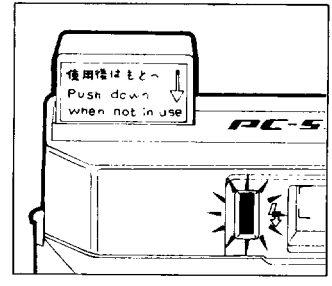
1



1



2



Use the self-timer when you want to get yourself into the photograph.

1. Depress the self-timer button, and the self-timer lamp will light up and release the shutter in about ten seconds. About two seconds before the shutter release, the lamp starts flickering, indicating that the shutter will soon be released.

2. If you depress the self-timer button in a dimly-lit place, the flash will pop up, but because of the safety device, the self-timer does not operate until after the flash-ready lamp glows. So re-depress the selftimer button after making sure the flash-ready lamp glows.

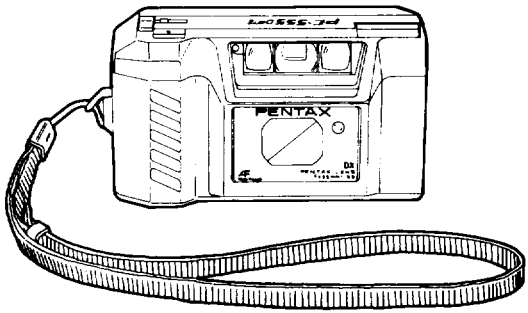
• The self-timer operation can be interrupted either by re-depressing the button or by turning the main switch off.

TAKING CARE OF YOUR CAMERA

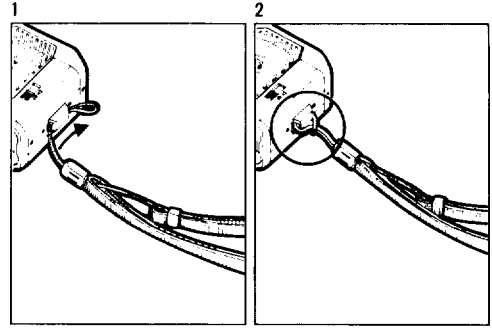
Your Pentax camera is a sophisticated, precision instrument built to give long-lasting, reliable service. It will serve you well if you treat it right, with proper handling and reasonable care. The major causes of damage are:

1. Dropping or banging the camera against immovable objects, which can damage the camera in many ways.
2. Water damage, particularly if the camera is submerged in salt water. Your camera is not water-proof! It must be protected from salt spray at the beach, splashing of any kind, and shielded from the rain. If your camera does get soaked, wipe it dry immediately and rush it to a Pentax service center.
3. Dirt and sand can cause serious damage to the shutter and other moving parts of the camera. Your camera needs periodic cleaning to keep it operating properly. To remove dirt and dust, you need lens-cleaning fluid, lens-cleaning tissues, bulb-type ear syringe, camel's hair brush, etc. Never use a solvent such as thinner or alcohol.
4. One set of batteries should last a year with average use without using flash, at normal temperatures. Humidity and temperature extremes should be avoided. Keep your camera out of direct sunlight, car trunks, and glove compartments. Shooting outdoors in winter presents a problem since batteries won't function if they get too cold. In cold weather carry your camera under your coat or jacket to keep the batteries warm. The temperatures at which this camera should function properly are approx. $50^{\circ} \sim -10^{\circ}C$.
5. Vibration experienced when you are traveling in a car, plane, or ship, can cause screws to loosen. To minimize this problem use foam-rubber padding about one inch thick to line the bottom of your camera bag.

ATTACHING STRAP; SOFT CASE

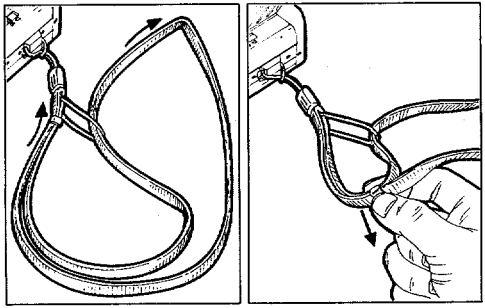


You can use this strap as a neck strap or a wrist strap.

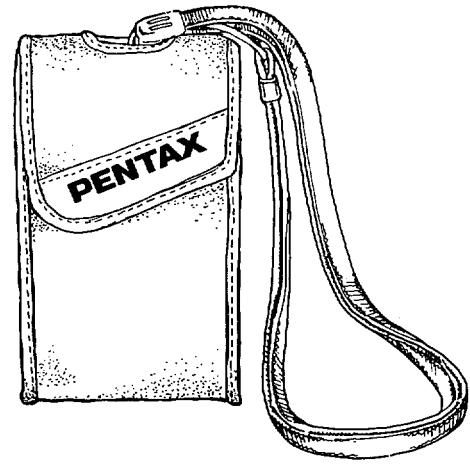


1. Pass the string of the strap through the Strap Hanger.
2. Pass the other end of the strap through the ring of the string. You have now a wrist strap.

3 4



3. To make it a neck strap, move the belt ring to the other end of the strap, and then, as illustrated, pull the strap out from the small ring.
4. To return it to a wrist strap, pull the belt ring out from the small ring, and move the belt ring to the other end of the strap.



This soft case is optional. Pass the strap attached to the camera, through the hole on the top of the case.

PC-555

Type: 35 mm fully-automatic, leaf-shutter camera.
Film: 35 mm DX film with ISO ratings from 50 to 1600 or non-DX film with ISO 100.
Film loading: Automatic film loading. Closing back cover automatically sets film to first frame.
Film wind/rewind: Automatic winding system (approx. one frame per sec., single exposure only); automatic rewinding at end of roll (rewind speed: approx. 30 sec. for 24-exposure film); automatic rewind stop (possible to rewind in mid-roll); film-transport indicator provided.
Frame counter: Automatic reset type.
Lens: Pentax 35 mm f/2.8 with 4 elements in 4 groups, 63° angle of view and minimum focus distance of 0.7 m.
Lens cover: Automatic opening/closing, coupled with shutter release.
Focusing: Infrared-active autofocus system; autofocus range from 0.7 m to infinity; built-in focus-lock device.
Shutter: Programmed-AE type electronic shutter with speeds from approx. 1/500 to 1/30 sec.
Self-timer: 10-sec. delay electronic type with red lamp and activator button; possible to interrupt operation.
Viewfinder: Albada-bright-frame viewfinder with autofocus spot, picture-area frame, parallax-correction frame and distance marks. Shows 85% of picture area. 0.45X magnification.
Exposure: Programmed-AE control from EV 8 (approx. 1/30 sec., f/2.8) to EV 17 (approx. 1/500 sec., f/16) at ISO 100, with SPD light sensor
Meter switch: Shutter button. Flash: Built-in pop-up type with flash-ready indicator and guide number of 11 (ISO 100 in meter).
Flash: Built-in, pop-up type with flash-ready indicator and guide number of 11 (ISO 100, meter).
Flash control range: 0.7~ 4 m (2.3 ~ 13.1 ft.) with ISO 100 film.
Recycle time: Approx. 6 sec. with fresh alkaline batteries.

Number of flashes: Approx. 8 rolls of 24-exposure film or 5 rolls of 36-exposure film (at 30-sec. intervals and at normal temperatures).
Power source: Two AA-size alkaline batteries. Ni-Cd batteries not suitable.
Dimensions: 119.5(W) x 68.5(H) x 49.5(D) mm (4.7" x 2.7" x 1.9")
Weight: 270 g (9.5 oz.)
Accessory: Strap

PC-555 DATE

Film: DX film with ISO 64 – 1600 (automatic film-speed switching).
Data recording system: An internal recording lamp records information onto reverse side of film.
Data imprinting mode: Push buttons to set unit to any of three modes; "Year/Mon/Day," "Hour/Min," or "_ _ _ _" (Blank). Year/Mon/Day mode ("80" to "19" – 1980 to 2019): Month ("1" to "12"); Day ("1" to "31"). Hour/Min mode: Hour ("0" to "23"); Minute ("00" to "59"). Blank mode "_ _ _ _" (no data imprinted).
Power sources: One lithium battery for clock and data display; camera's batteries also serve for data imprinting.
Dimensions: 119.5 (W) x 68.5(H) x 52.5(D) mm (4.7" x 2.7" x 2.1")
Weight: 285 g (10 oz.)

WARRANTY POLICY

All Pentax cameras purchased through authorized bona fide photographic distribution channels are guaranteed against defects of material or workmanship for a period of twelve months from date of purchase. Service will be rendered and defective parts will be replaced without cost to you within that period, provided the equipment does not show evidence of impact, sand or liquid damage, mishandling, tampering, battery or chemical corrosion, operation contrary to operating instructions, or modification by an unauthorized repair shop. The manufacturer or its authorized representatives shall not be liable for any repair or alterations except those made with its written consent and shall not be liable for damages from delay or loss of use or from other indirect or consequential damages of any kind, whether caused by defective material or workmanship or otherwise; and it is expressly agreed that the liability of the manufacturer or its representatives under all guarantees or warranties, whether express or implied, is strictly limited to the replacement of parts as hereinbefore provided. No refunds will be made on repairs performed by non-authorized Pentax service facilities.

Procedure During 12-month Warranty Period

Any Pentax which proves defective during the 12-month warranty period should be returned to the dealer from whom you purchased the equipment or to the manufacturer. If there is no representative of the manufacturer in your country, send the equipment to the manufacturer, with postage prepaid. In this case, it will take a considerable length of time before the equipment can be returned to you owing to the complicated customs procedures required in Japan in importing and re-exporting photographic equipment. If the equipment is covered by warranty, repairs will be made and parts replaced free of charge, and the equipment will be returned to you upon completion of servicing. If the equipment is not covered by warranty, regular charges of the manufacturer or of its representatives will apply. Shipping charges are to be borne by the owner. If your Pentax was purchased outside of the country where you wish to have serviced during the warranty period, regular handling and servicing fees may be charged by the manufacturer's representatives in that country. Notwithstanding this, your Pentax returned to the manufacturer will be serviced free of charge according to this procedure and warranty policy. In any case,

however, shipping charges and customs clearance fees are to be borne by the sender. To prove the date of your purchase when required, please keep the receipts or bills covering the purchase of your equipment for at least a year. Before sending your equipment for servicing, please make sure that you are sending it to the manufacturer's authorized representatives or their accredited repair shops, unless you are sending it directly to the manufacturer. Always obtain a quotation of the service charge, and only after you accept the quoted service charge, instruct the service station to proceed with the servicing.

This warranty policy does not apply to Pentax products purchased in the U.S.A., U.K., or Canada. The local warranty policies available from Pentax distributors in those countries supersede this warranty policy.

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