

Canon Canon EF 400MM F5.6L USM

Canon EF 400mm f/5.6L USM Super Telephoto Lens Instruction Manual

Model: Canon EF 400MM F5.6L USM

1. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Canon EF 400mm f/5.6L USM Super Telephoto Lens is a high-performance lens designed for Canon SLR cameras. It is renowned for its portability, ease of handling, and sharp optical performance, making it an excellent choice for wildlife and nature photography, especially for fast-moving subjects. This L-series lens incorporates Super UD-glass and UD-glass elements to ensure outstanding image quality across the frame.



Figure 1: The Canon EF 400mm f/5.6L USM Super Telephoto Lens.

2. KEY FEATURES

- **Lens Construction:** 7 elements in 6 groups, ensuring optical clarity and performance.
- **Optical Elements:** Features one Super UD-glass element and one UD-glass element, similar to fluorite, for sharp, high-contrast images.
- **Focal Length & Maximum Aperture:** Fixed 400mm focal length with a maximum aperture of f/5.6, ideal for telephoto applications.
- **Diagonal Angle of View:** 6° 10', providing a narrow field of view for distant subjects.
- **Closest Focusing Distance:** 3.5 meters (11.5 feet), allowing for detailed close-ups of distant subjects.

- **Filter Size:** Accepts 77mm filters.
- **Focusing System:** Internal focusing with a high-speed, quiet Ultrasonic Motor (USM) for fast and accurate autofocus.
- **Manual Focus Override:** Full-time manual focus capability allows for precise adjustments even in autofocus mode.
- **Integrated Design:** Includes a built-in lens hood and a detachable tripod mount for enhanced usability and stability.
- **L-Series Quality:** As an L-series lens, it represents Canon's highest optical and mechanical standards, indicated by a distinctive red ring.

3. SETUP

3.1 Attaching the Lens

1. Align the red dot on the lens with the red dot on your Canon SLR camera body.
2. Insert the lens into the camera's lens mount.
3. Rotate the lens clockwise until it clicks into place, indicating it is securely locked.

3.2 Detaching the Lens

1. Press and hold the lens release button on your camera body.
2. Rotate the lens counter-clockwise until it stops.
3. Gently pull the lens straight out from the camera body.

3.3 Using the Built-in Lens Hood

The lens features a built-in sliding lens hood. To extend it, gently pull the front section of the lens forward until it locks into position. To retract it, push the front section back towards the lens body. The lens hood helps to prevent flare and ghosting by blocking stray light from entering the lens.

3.4 Attaching the Detachable Tripod Mount

The lens includes a detachable tripod collar for improved balance and stability when mounted on a tripod or monopod. To attach, slide the collar onto the lens barrel and tighten the locking knob. Ensure it is securely fastened before mounting to a tripod.



Figure 2: The Canon EF 400mm f/5.6L USM lens, illustrating its compact size and built-in features.

4. OPERATING THE LENS

4.1 Focusing

The lens features an AF/MF (Autofocus/Manual Focus) switch on the barrel. Set the switch to **AF** for automatic focusing, which is generally recommended for most shooting situations, especially with fast-moving subjects. For precise control or in challenging lighting conditions, switch to **MF** and rotate the focusing ring manually.

Video 1: Canon EF 101 - Lens Basics. This video provides an overview of lens terminology including focusing, aperture, and focal length.

4.2 Image Stabilization (IS)

This specific lens model (EF 400mm f/5.6L USM) **does not feature built-in Image Stabilization (IS)**. When shooting with a telephoto lens, camera shake can be more pronounced. To minimize blur, use a fast shutter speed, a sturdy tripod or monopod, or increase your camera's ISO sensitivity in low light conditions.

4.3 Aperture and F-Stop

The lens has a fixed maximum aperture of f/5.6. The aperture controls the amount of light entering the lens and influences the depth of field. A wider aperture (smaller f-number) allows more light and creates a shallower depth of field, blurring the background. A narrower aperture (larger f-number) allows less light and creates a greater depth of field, keeping more of the scene in focus.

4.4 Focal Length

This is a prime lens with a fixed focal length of 400mm. This super telephoto focal length provides significant magnification, making distant subjects appear closer. It is ideal for capturing wildlife, sports, and other subjects where you cannot get physically close.

Video 2: Canon EF 101 - Telephoto Lenses. This video explains the characteristics and uses of telephoto lenses.

4.5 L-Series Lenses

The 'L' in the lens name signifies that it is part of Canon's professional-grade 'Luxury' series. These lenses are built with the highest quality optics and construction, often featuring weather sealing and superior image performance. The distinctive red ring around the front of the lens barrel is a visual indicator of its L-series status.

5. MAINTENANCE

5.1 Cleaning the Lens

- Use a lens blower to remove dust and loose particles from the lens surfaces.
- For smudges or fingerprints, use a clean, soft microfiber cloth specifically designed for optics, along with a small amount of lens cleaning solution.
- Avoid touching the glass elements directly with your fingers.

5.2 Storage

- Always attach the front and rear lens caps when the lens is not in use.
- Store the lens in a dry, cool place, away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.
- If storing for extended periods, consider using a dehumidifying agent to prevent mold growth.

6. TROUBLESHOOTING

6.1 Blurry Images

- **Camera Shake:** Due to the 400mm focal length and lack of IS, camera shake is a common cause of blur. Use a tripod/monopod or faster shutter speeds.
- **Incorrect Focus:** Ensure the AF/MF switch is set correctly. If using AF, ensure the camera has locked focus on your intended subject. If using MF, carefully adjust the focus ring.
- **Low Light:** In low light, your camera might struggle to achieve focus or require slower shutter speeds, leading to blur. Increase ISO or use external lighting.

6.2 Autofocus Not Working

- Check the AF/MF switch on the lens barrel; it should be set to **AF**.
- Ensure the lens is securely attached to the camera body.
- Verify that your camera's autofocus settings are appropriate for the shooting conditions.

7. SPECIFICATIONS

Specification	Detail
Brand	Canon
Model Name	Canon EF 400MM F5.6L USM
Focal Length	400 mm (Fixed)
Maximum Aperture	f/5.6

Minimum Aperture	32
Lens Type	Telephoto, Prime
Lens Design	7 elements in 6 groups
Compatible Mountings	Canon EF
Focus Type	Ultrasonic (USM)
Image Stabilization	None (Optical IS not present)
Filter Size	77 mm
Item Weight	2.8 Pounds
UPC	082966203022

8. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

The Canon EF 400mm f/5.6L USM Super Telephoto Lens comes with a **1-year warranty** covering both labor and parts. For detailed warranty information, service requests, or additional support, please visit the [Official Canon Store](#) or contact Canon customer service.

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