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Pentax Optio 50

Pentax Optio 50 5MP Digital Camera User Manual

Model: Optio 50



1. INTRODUCTION

This manual provides detailed instructions for the safe and effective use of your Pentax Optio 50 5MP Digital Camera. The Pentax Optio 50 is a compact digital camera featuring a 5-megapixel CCD sensor, a 3x optical zoom lens, and a 1.8-inch LCD display. It is designed for capturing high-quality still images and short video clips. Please read this manual thoroughly before operating the camera and retain it for future reference.

2. SAFETY INFORMATION

To ensure safe operation and prevent damage to your camera, please observe the following precautions:

- **Battery Safety:** Use only specified battery types (AA-size or Lithium). Do not mix old and new batteries, or different types of batteries. Remove batteries if the camera will not be used for an extended period.
- **Water and Moisture:** This camera is not waterproof. Do not expose it to rain, moisture, or immerse it in water.
- **Temperature Extremes:** Avoid using or storing the camera in extremely hot or cold environments.
- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth for cleaning. Do not use organic solvents.
- **Disassembly:** Do not attempt to disassemble or modify the camera. Refer all servicing to qualified personnel.
- **LCD Screen:** The LCD screen is fragile. Avoid applying pressure or impact.

3. PACKAGE CONTENTS

Verify that your package contains the following items:

- Pentax Optio 50 Digital Camera
- USB Cable
- Strap
- Software CD-ROM
- User Manual (this document)
- *Note: Batteries and SD/MMC memory card are typically sold separately.*

4. CAMERA SETUP

4.1. Identifying Camera Parts

Familiarize yourself with the main components of your Pentax Optio 50 camera.



Figure 1: Front view of the Pentax Optio 50 Digital Camera. This image displays the camera's silver body, the lens barrel, the built-in flash, and the Pentax branding.

- **Lens:** 3x Optical Zoom lens.
- **Flash:** Built-in flash for low-light conditions.
- **Shutter Button:** Activates focus and captures images.
- **Power Button:** Turns the camera on and off.
- **LCD Monitor:** 1.8-inch display for viewing images and menu.
- **Control Pad/Buttons:** For menu navigation and setting adjustments.
- **Battery/Memory Card Compartment:** Located on the bottom or side of the camera.

4.2. Installing Batteries

The Pentax Optio 50 operates on either two AA-size batteries or one Lithium battery.

1. Locate the battery compartment cover, usually on the bottom of the camera.
2. Slide the latch and open the cover.
3. Insert the batteries according to the polarity indicators (+/-) inside the compartment.
4. Close the battery compartment cover securely until it clicks into place.

Important: For optimal performance and battery life, especially with AA batteries, consider using high-quality rechargeable NiMH batteries.

4.3. Inserting a Memory Card

The camera uses SD/MMC memory cards for storing images and videos. It also has 12MB of internal memory.

1. Locate the memory card slot, often near the battery compartment.
2. Open the memory card slot cover.
3. Insert the SD/MMC card with the label facing the correct direction (refer to the diagram near the slot). Push until it clicks into place.
4. Close the memory card slot cover.

To remove the card, gently push it in until it clicks, then release, and it will eject slightly.

4.4. Setting Date and Time

Upon first power-on or after battery replacement, you may need to set the date and time.

1. Turn on the camera.
2. Navigate to the **Setup Menu** using the control buttons.
3. Select **Date/Time**.
4. Adjust the year, month, day, hour, and minute using the directional buttons.
5. Confirm your settings.

5. BASIC OPERATION

5.1. Powering On and Off

- To turn on: Press the **Power** button. The lens will extend, and the LCD will activate.
- To turn off: Press the **Power** button again. The lens will retract, and the camera will shut down.

5.2. Taking Still Photos

1. Turn on the camera.
2. Frame your shot using the LCD monitor or the optical viewfinder.
3. Press the **Shutter** button halfway down to focus. The focus indicator will light up.
4. Press the **Shutter** button fully down to capture the image.

5.3. Using the Zoom

The camera features a 3x optical zoom and a 4x digital zoom.

- To zoom in (telephoto): Push the zoom lever towards 'T'.
- To zoom out (wide-angle): Push the zoom lever towards 'W'.
- Digital zoom activates after reaching the maximum optical zoom.

5.4. Flash Modes

The built-in flash has several modes to suit different lighting conditions. Access flash settings via the menu or a dedicated button.

- **Auto Flash:** Camera automatically determines if flash is needed.
- **Flash On:** Flash fires for every shot.
- **Flash Off:** Flash does not fire.
- **Red-eye Reduction:** Fires a pre-flash to reduce red-eye effect.

5.5. Viewing Images (Playback Mode)

1. Press the **Playback** button (often indicated by a triangle icon).
2. Use the directional buttons to scroll through your captured images.
3. To exit playback mode, press the **Shutter** button or the **Playback** button again.

6. ADVANCED FEATURES

6.1. Exposure Settings

The Optio 50 offers manual exposure settings, as well as aperture and shutter priority modes for more creative control.

- **Manual Exposure:** Allows you to set both aperture and shutter speed.
- **Aperture Priority (Av):** You set the aperture (F2.8-F4.8), and the camera selects the appropriate shutter speed.
- **Shutter Priority (Tv):** You set the shutter speed (1/1000 to 1/2 seconds), and the camera selects the appropriate aperture.
- Access these modes via the camera's mode dial or menu system.

6.2. White Balance

Adjust white balance to ensure accurate color reproduction under different lighting conditions. The camera features an Auto White Balance setting.

- Navigate to the **White Balance** setting in the menu.
- Select **Auto** for general use, or choose specific presets if available (e.g., Daylight, Cloudy, Fluorescent).

6.3. Video Recording

The Pentax Optio 50 can record video clips at 320 x 240 resolution at 20 frames per second, with audio.

1. Switch the camera to **Movie Mode** (if available via a mode dial) or select it from the menu.
2. Press the **Shutter** button to start recording.
3. Press the **Shutter** button again to stop recording.

6.4. Connecting to a Computer

You can transfer images and videos to your computer using the supplied USB cable.

1. Ensure the camera is off.
2. Connect one end of the USB cable to the camera's USB port and the other end to your computer's USB port.
3. Turn on the camera. It should be recognized as a removable disk or a PTP device.
4. Follow your computer's instructions to import photos.

The camera supports USB 1.1 connectivity. For direct printing, the camera is also compatible with PictBridge.

7. MAINTENANCE AND CARE

- **Cleaning the Lens:** Use a soft, lint-free cloth specifically designed for camera lenses. Avoid touching the lens with your fingers.
- **Cleaning the Body:** Wipe the camera body with a soft, dry cloth. For stubborn dirt, slightly dampen the cloth with water, then wipe dry.
- **Storage:** When not in use, store the camera in a cool, dry place, away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures. Remove batteries if storing for extended periods.
- **Memory Card Care:** Handle memory cards carefully. Avoid bending or exposing them to static electricity.

8. TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Camera does not turn on.	Batteries are dead or incorrectly inserted.	Replace batteries or reinsert them correctly, observing polarity. Ensure battery compartment is closed.
Poor battery life.	Using standard alkaline batteries; frequent flash use; extensive LCD use.	Use high-quality rechargeable NiMH batteries. Reduce flash usage and LCD screen time.
Cannot take pictures.	Memory card full; no memory card; lens cap on (if applicable); camera in playback mode.	Delete unwanted images or insert a new memory card. Ensure camera is in shooting mode.
Images are blurry.	Camera shake; subject too close; focus not achieved.	Hold camera steady. Ensure subject is within focus range. Press shutter halfway to confirm focus before shooting.
LCD screen is blank.	Camera off; power saving mode; damaged screen.	Turn camera on. Press display button to activate LCD. If still blank, contact support.

9. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Model Name	Pentax Optio 50

Feature	Detail
Photo Sensor Resolution	5 Megapixels
Photo Sensor Technology	CCD (1/2.5-inch)
Optical Zoom	3x
Digital Zoom	4x
Focal Length	32mm - 96mm (35mm equivalent)
Maximum Aperture	F2.8 - F4.8
Shutter Speed	1/1000 to 1/2 seconds
ISO Range	Auto, 50, 100, 200
LCD Screen Size	1.8 Inches
Memory Storage	SD/MMC card slot, 12MB internal memory
File Format	JPEG (Stills), AVI (Video)
Video Resolution	320 x 240, 20 fps (with audio)
Power Source	2x AA-size batteries or 1x Lithium battery
Interface	USB 1.1, PictBridge
Dimensions (Approx.)	Compact form factor (specific dimensions not provided in source)
Weight (Approx.)	6.4 ounces (without batteries)

10. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For information regarding your product's warranty, please refer to the warranty card included with your purchase or visit the official Pentax support website.

If you encounter issues not covered in the troubleshooting section, or require further assistance, please contact Pentax customer support. Contact details can typically be found on the manufacturer's website or in the product packaging.

[Visit the Pentax Store on Amazon](#) for more product information and accessories.

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This manual is for informational purposes only. Specifications are subject to change without notice.