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› [Pentax](#) /

› Pentax K20D Digital SLR Camera User Manual

Pentax K20D

Pentax K20D Digital SLR Camera User Manual

Model: K20D with DA 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 AL II Lens

1. INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the comprehensive user manual for your Pentax K20D Digital SLR Camera. This guide provides essential information to help you set up, operate, maintain, and troubleshoot your camera, ensuring you get the most out of its advanced features and superior image quality. The Pentax K20D is renowned for its 14.6-megapixel CMOS sensor, robust weather-resistant construction, and compatibility with a wide range of Pentax lenses.



Figure 1: Front view of the Pentax K20D camera with the included 18-55mm lens.

2. KEY FEATURES

The Pentax K20D offers a suite of features designed for advanced photo enthusiasts:

- **14.6 Megapixel CMOS Sensor:** Delivers high-resolution images with excellent detail and reduced noise, even in challenging lighting conditions.
- **Shake Reduction (SR) Mechanism:** Integrated into the camera body, providing effective image stabilization with any Pentax K-mount lens.
- **Dust-proof and Weather-resistant Construction:** Features 72 special seals to protect against dust and moisture, allowing for reliable operation in various environments.
- **Comprehensive Dust Removal System:** Includes a Super Protect (SP) coating on the sensor and a high-speed sensor shift mechanism to dislodge dust, along with a Dust Alert function to pinpoint dust locations.
- **2.7-inch Wide-view LCD Monitor:** A large, clear display for composition, focus confirmation, and image review, with a Live View function for real-time viewing.
- **PRIME Imaging Engine:** Pentax Real IMage Engine ensures true-to-life colors and efficient processing.
- **Custom Image Functions:** Allows users to select from six preset options (Natural, Bright, Portrait, Landscape, Vibrant, B&W) and fine-tune image processing parameters.
- **Expanded Dynamic Range Function:** Enhances detail in bright settings, preventing blown-out highlights.
- **Hyper Program and Hyper Manual Functions:** Streamline exposure control for quick adjustments.
- **High-precision 11-point AF System:** Ensures accurate and fast autofocus, even with off-center subjects.

3. SETUP

3.1. Battery Installation

The Pentax K20D uses a Lithium-ion (D-LI50) rechargeable battery. Ensure the battery is fully charged before first use.

1. Open the battery compartment cover located at the bottom of the camera.
2. Insert the D-LI50 battery with the correct orientation, aligning it with the battery contacts.
3. Close the battery compartment cover securely until it clicks into place.

3.2. Lens Attachment

The K20D is compatible with Pentax K-mount lenses. The kit includes the DA 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 AL II Lens.

1. Remove the body cap from the camera and the rear cap from the lens.
2. Align the red mounting index on the lens with the red mounting index on the camera body.
3. Insert the lens into the camera mount and turn it clockwise until it locks with a click.



Figure 2: Side view of the Pentax K20D with an attached lens.

3.3. Memory Card Insertion

The camera supports SD/SDHC memory cards (not included).

1. Open the memory card slot cover on the side of the camera.
2. Insert the SD/SDHC card with the label facing the front of the camera until it clicks into place.
3. Close the memory card slot cover securely.

4. OPERATING THE CAMERA

4.1. Basic Controls

Familiarize yourself with the camera's main controls for efficient operation.



Figure 3: Rear view of the Pentax K20D, highlighting the control layout.

- **Power Switch:** Located around the shutter button.
- **Shutter Button:** Press halfway to focus, fully to take a picture.
- **Mode Dial:** Select shooting modes (e.g., Program AE, Shutter-Priority, Aperture-Priority, Manual).
- **Green Button:** A quick return to standard exposure settings in certain modes, or for quick auto-exposure in manual mode.
- **LCD Monitor:** 2.7-inch display for Live View, menu navigation, and image playback.
- **Control Dials:** Adjust settings like aperture, shutter speed, and ISO.

4.2. Exposure Control

The K20D offers versatile exposure modes:

- **Program AE (P):** Camera sets both aperture and shutter speed automatically.
- **Shutter-Priority AE (Tv):** You set the shutter speed, camera sets aperture. Ideal for controlling motion blur.
- **Aperture-Priority AE (Av):** You set the aperture, camera sets shutter speed. Ideal for controlling depth of field.
- **Manual (M):** You set both aperture and shutter speed.
- **Sensitivity-Priority (Sv):** You set the ISO, camera sets aperture and shutter speed.
- **Shutter/Aperture-Priority (TAv):** You set aperture and shutter speed, camera sets ISO.

4.3. Image Quality Settings

Select your preferred image format and quality:

- **RAW:** Unprocessed sensor data, offering maximum flexibility for post-processing.
- **JPEG:** Compressed image format, available in various quality levels (e.g., Fine).
- The camera supports simultaneous RAW+JPEG capture.

4.4. Shake Reduction (SR)

The in-body Shake Reduction system minimizes camera shake. It is compatible with all Pentax K-mount lenses, including older manual focus lenses. The system automatically detects camera movement and shifts the image sensor to compensate.

4.5. Live View Function

To activate Live View, press the Live View button (refer to Figure 3). This allows you to compose and focus using the LCD monitor, which is particularly useful for low-angle or high-angle shots. You can also zoom in 4x or 8x for precise focus confirmation.

4.6. Dust Reduction System

The K20D features a multi-faceted dust reduction system:

- **Super Protect (SP) Coating:** Applied to the image sensor to prevent dust adhesion.
- **Sensor Shift:** High-speed vibration of the image sensor dislodges dust particles.
- **Dust Alert:** A unique function that maps the exact location of dust on the sensor, aiding in manual cleaning.

4.7. Autofocus System

The SAFOX VIII autofocus system features 11 sensor points (9 cross-type) for precise focusing. Selectable focus modes include single-shot AF (AF-S) and continuous AF (AF-C).

4.8. Continuous Shooting

Capture fast-moving subjects with continuous shooting at approximately 3 frames per second (fps) for up to 38 JPEG images. A high-speed burst mode is also available at approximately 21 fps (at 1.6 megapixels).

5. MAINTENANCE

5.1. Cleaning the Camera

- Use a soft, lint-free cloth to clean the camera body. For stubborn dirt, slightly dampen the cloth with water.
- For the lens, use a lens brush or blower to remove dust, then a specialized lens cleaning solution and cloth.
- Avoid using organic solvents like alcohol or paint thinner, as they can damage the camera finish.

5.2. Battery Care

- Store batteries in a cool, dry place when not in use.
- Avoid fully discharging the battery regularly to prolong its lifespan.
- Charge the battery using the supplied charger.

5.3. Sensor Cleaning

While the K20D has an excellent dust reduction system, occasional manual sensor cleaning may be necessary. Use the Dust Alert function to identify dust spots. For persistent dust, consult a professional camera service center or use a sensor cleaning kit with extreme care.

6. TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Camera does not power on.	Battery is depleted or incorrectly inserted.	Charge battery fully. Reinsert battery correctly.
Cannot take pictures.	No memory card inserted or card is full/locked.	Insert a memory card. Check card lock switch. Delete unnecessary files or use a new card.
Images are blurry.	Camera shake, incorrect focus, or dirty lens.	Ensure Shake Reduction is active. Re-focus. Clean the lens. Use a tripod in low light.
Excessive noise in images.	High ISO setting in low light.	Lower ISO setting if possible. Use more light or a wider aperture.
Dust spots on images.	Dust on the image sensor.	Use Dust Reduction function. Use Dust Alert to locate and carefully clean the sensor.

7. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Specification
Model Name	K20D
Photo Sensor Resolution	14.6 MP
Photo Sensor Technology	CMOS
Image Stabilization	Sensor-shift (Shake Reduction)
Lens Mount	Pentax KAF3, Pentax KAF2
Included Lens	DA 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 AL II Lens
Screen Size	2.7 Inches LCD
Supported File Format	RAW, JPEG
ISO Range (Expanded)	100 - 3200
Maximum Shutter Speed	1/4000 seconds
Minimum Shutter Speed	30 seconds
Continuous Shooting Speed	Approx. 3 fps (up to 38 JPEG), Approx. 21 fps (1.6 MP)
Autofocus Points	11 (9 cross-type)
Battery Type	Lithium Ion (D-LI50)
Item Weight	1.76 Pounds
Connectivity	USB
Water Resistance Level	Water Resistant

8. WARRANTY & SUPPORT

Pentax offers a 3-year warranty for the K20D camera, providing extended peace of mind. For technical support, service, or further inquiries, please visit the official Pentax support website or contact their customer service. Keep your purchase receipt as proof of purchase for warranty claims.

For additional resources, you may refer to the included CD-ROM with Pentax PHOTO Laboratory 3 (RAW data processing software), Pentax PHOTO Browser 3 (browser software), and Pentax REMOTE Assistant 3 (camera control software).

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