

Pentax ME Super

Pentax ME Super 35mm SLR Camera Instruction Manual

MODEL: ME SUPER

Introduction

The Pentax ME Super is a compact and lightweight 35mm Single-Lens Reflex (SLR) camera, renowned for its aperture-priority automatic exposure mode and full manual control. It is an ideal camera for both beginners and experienced photographers looking to explore film photography. This manual provides essential instructions for setting up, operating, and maintaining your Pentax ME Super camera.



Front view of the Pentax ME Super 35mm SLR camera with its standard 50mm lens attached.

Setup

1. Battery Installation

The Pentax ME Super requires two LR44 (or equivalent) batteries to power its light meter and electronic shutter. To install the batteries:

1. Locate the battery compartment cover on the bottom of the camera body.
2. Use a coin to turn the cover counter-clockwise and remove it.
3. Insert two fresh LR44 batteries, ensuring the positive (+) side faces outwards.
4. Replace the cover and turn it clockwise with a coin until it is securely fastened.



Bottom view of the Pentax ME Super camera, showing the battery compartment.

2. Lens Attachment and Detachment

The Pentax ME Super uses a Pentax K-mount system. To attach or detach a lens:

- **To Attach:** Align the red dot on the lens with the red dot on the camera body's lens mount. Gently insert the lens and turn it clockwise until it clicks into place.
- **To Detach:** Press the lens release button located on the camera body, then turn the lens counter-clockwise until it detaches.

Video demonstrating how to attach and detach a lens on the Pentax ME Super camera.

3. Film Loading

Loading 35mm film correctly is crucial for proper operation.

1. Open the camera back by pulling up the film rewind knob.
2. Place the film cassette into the film chamber on the left side. Push the rewind knob back down to secure the cassette.
3. Pull the film leader across to the take-up spool on the right. Insert the film leader into one of the slots on the take-up spool.
4. Advance the film slightly using the film advance lever until the sprocket teeth engage with the film perforations.

5. Close the camera back firmly until it clicks.
6. Advance the film two frames (by pressing the shutter and using the film advance lever) to ensure the film is properly loaded and to move past any light-exposed leader. The frame counter should show '1'.



Rear view of the Pentax ME Super camera with the film door open, showing the film chamber and take-up spool.

Video demonstrating the process of loading film into a Pentax camera.

Operating the Camera

1. Setting ISO (Film Speed)

The ISO setting on the camera must match the ISO of the film you are using. This tells the camera's light meter how sensitive the film is to light.

- Lift and rotate the outer ring of the shutter speed dial (located on the top left of the camera) to set the correct ISO value (e.g., 200, 400).



Top view of the Pentax ME Super camera, showing the ISO setting on the shutter speed dial.

2. Setting Shutter Speed

The shutter speed controls the duration the film is exposed to light. It is set using the main dial on the top of the camera.

- In **Aperture-Priority Auto (AUTO)** mode, the camera automatically selects the shutter speed based on the set aperture and light conditions.
- In **Manual (M)** mode, you manually select the shutter speed from 1/1000 second (fastest) to 1 second (slowest), or 'B' for Bulb mode (shutter remains open as long as the button is pressed).

Video demonstrating how to set the shutter speed on the Pentax ME Super camera.

3. Setting Aperture

The aperture controls the size of the lens opening, affecting depth of field and light intake. It is set on the lens itself.

- Rotate the aperture ring on the lens to select your desired f-stop (e.g., f/1.7, f/2.8, f/8). Smaller f-numbers indicate a wider opening and shallower depth of field.

4. Focusing

The Pentax ME Super features manual focus. To achieve sharp images:

- Look through the viewfinder and rotate the focusing ring on the lens until your subject appears sharp. The split-image and microprism collar in the viewfinder assist with accurate focusing.

5. Metering System

The camera uses a center-weighted metering system, which measures light primarily from the center of the frame, with less emphasis on the edges. This is ideal for portraits or subjects that occupy the central area of your composition.

6. Taking a Photo

Once the film is loaded, ISO, aperture, and shutter speed are set, and the subject is in focus:

1. Frame your shot through the viewfinder.
2. Press the shutter button halfway down to activate the light meter and check the exposure indicators in the viewfinder.
3. Adjust settings as needed to achieve correct exposure (e.g., adjust aperture in manual mode, or let the camera select shutter speed in auto mode).
4. Press the shutter button fully to take the picture.
5. Advance the film using the film advance lever to prepare for the next shot.

Maintenance

Proper maintenance ensures the longevity and optimal performance of your camera.

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, lint-free cloth to clean the camera body. For the lens, use a lens brush or air blower to remove dust, followed by a lens cleaning solution and microfiber cloth. Avoid touching the lens elements directly.
- **Storage:** Store the camera in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures. Use a desiccant pack in the camera bag to prevent moisture buildup.
- **Battery Care:** Remove batteries if the camera will not be used for an extended period to prevent leakage.

Troubleshooting

- **Camera Not Powering On:** Check if batteries are correctly installed and have sufficient charge. Replace if necessary.
- **Film Not Advancing:** Ensure the film leader is properly attached to the take-up spool and the film door is securely closed.
- **Exposure Issues:** Verify the ISO setting matches the film. In manual mode, ensure shutter speed and aperture are set appropriately for the lighting conditions. In auto mode, check if the aperture is set correctly.
- **Blurry Images:** Confirm the lens is properly focused. Use a faster shutter speed or a tripod in low light to prevent camera shake.

Specifications

Type	35mm Single-Lens Reflex (SLR) Camera
Lens Mount	Pentax K-mount
Standard Lens	Pentax 50mm f/1.7
Film Type	35mm Film
Metering System	Center-Weighted
Exposure Modes	Aperture-Priority Auto (AUTO), Manual (M)
Shutter Speeds	1/1000s to 1s, Bulb

ISO Range	25-1600 (manual setting)
Focusing	Manual Focus
Viewfinder	Optical, 0.9x magnification, 95% frame coverage
Flash	Hotshoe, Manual Flash
Self-Timer	Yes
Batteries	2 x LR44 (or equivalent, not included)
Weight	1.5 Pounds (approx. 680g)
Color	Black