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Helios 77M-4

Helios 77M-4 50mm F1.8 Lens User Manual

For Sony E-Mount Cameras

INTRODUCTION

This manual provides instructions for the proper use and care of your Helios 77M-4 50mm F1.8 vintage lens. Designed for Sony E-mount cameras, this manual focus lens offers a classic photographic experience with its distinct optical characteristics. Please read this manual thoroughly before using the lens to ensure optimal performance and longevity.

LENS COMPONENTS

Familiarize yourself with the main components of your Helios 77M-4 lens.



Image: The Helios 77M-4 50mm F1.8 lens, displaying its manual focus ring, aperture ring, and depth of field scale. This view highlights the robust construction and clear markings essential for manual operation.

- **Focus Ring:** Used to adjust the focus manually.
- **Aperture Ring:** Used to set the desired aperture (f-stop).
- **Depth of Field Scale:** Provides an indication of the depth of field at various apertures.
- **Mounting Ring:** Connects the lens to the camera body.

SETUP

Mounting the Lens

1. Ensure your camera is turned off.
2. Remove the rear lens cap from the Helios 77M-4 lens and the body cap from your Sony E-mount camera.
3. Align the white index mark on the lens barrel with the corresponding white index mark on the camera body.
4. Insert the lens into the camera mount and rotate it clockwise until it clicks into place. Do not force the lens.
5. Once mounted, remove the front lens cap.



Image: The Helios 77M-4 lens securely attached to a Sony E-mount camera body. This illustrates the correct mounting position, ready for use.

Camera Settings

Since this is a manual lens, you will need to adjust your camera settings:

- Set your camera to **Manual (M)** or **Aperture Priority (A)** mode.
- Enable "**Release without lens**" or "**Shoot without lens**" in your camera's menu, as the camera will not detect an electronic connection to the lens.
- Consider using "**Focus Peaking**" and "**Magnified View**" features on your camera for easier manual focusing. Refer to your camera's manual for specific instructions on these features.

OPERATING THE LENS

Adjusting Aperture

The aperture is controlled directly on the lens using the aperture ring. Rotate the ring to select your desired f-stop. A wider aperture (smaller f-number like F1.8) allows more light and creates a shallower depth of field, ideal for portraits. A narrower aperture (larger f-number) allows less light and creates a deeper depth of field, suitable for landscapes.

Manual Focusing

To focus, rotate the focus ring on the lens barrel until your subject appears sharp in the viewfinder or on the LCD screen. Utilize your camera's focus peaking and magnification features for precise focusing, especially at wider apertures.

- **Focus Peaking:** Highlights in-focus areas with a colored outline.
- **Magnified View:** Zooms in on a portion of the image for critical focus assessment.

MAINTENANCE

Cleaning the Lens

- Use a soft, lint-free microfiber cloth specifically designed for optical surfaces to clean the front and rear elements.
- For stubborn smudges, apply a small amount of lens cleaning solution to the cloth, not directly to the lens.
- Use a blower brush to remove dust particles before wiping to prevent scratching.
- Never use abrasive materials or harsh chemicals.

Storage

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

TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Camera does not recognize lens / Cannot take photos	Manual lens, no electronic contacts.	Enable "Release without lens" or "Shoot without lens" in camera settings.
Images are blurry	Incorrect focus or camera shake.	Ensure proper manual focus using focus peaking/magnification. Use a faster shutter speed or tripod to prevent camera shake.
Images are too dark/bright	Incorrect exposure settings (aperture, shutter speed, ISO).	Adjust aperture on the lens. Adjust shutter speed and ISO on the camera to achieve desired exposure.
Dust or smudges on images	Dirty lens elements.	Clean lens elements carefully using a blower brush and microfiber cloth.

SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Model	Helios 77M-4
Focal Length	50 mm
Maximum Aperture	F1.8
Lens Type	Standard Prime Lens
Compatible Mountings	Sony E-Mount (NEX, A7 series, 6500, a6300, a6000, a5100, a5000, a3000)
Focus Type	Manual Focus
Manufacturer	77M-4 (as per product data)

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

This product is a vintage lens. Specific warranty information may vary depending on the seller and purchase conditions. Please refer to your purchase documentation for details regarding any applicable warranty. For technical support or inquiries, please contact the retailer or the original manufacturer if contact information is available. As a vintage item, direct manufacturer support may be limited.



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