

Sony A230Y

Sony Alpha A230 Digital SLR Camera User Manual

Model: A230Y

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1. INTRODUCTION

This manual provides detailed instructions for the proper use and care of your Sony Alpha A230 Digital SLR Camera. The Alpha A230 features a 10.2-megapixel APS-size CCD image sensor, in-camera SteadyShot INSIDE image stabilization, and a 2.7-inch Clear Photo LCD Plus display. It is designed for both amateur and enthusiast photographers seeking high-quality imaging and user-friendly operation.

Please read this manual thoroughly before operating your camera to ensure optimal performance and longevity.

2. WHAT'S IN THE BOX

Verify that all items are present in your camera package:

- Sony Alpha A230 DSLR Camera Body
- SAL1855 18-55mm Standard Zoom Lens
- SAL55200 55-200mm Standard Zoom Lens
- Rechargeable Lithium-Ion Battery
- Battery Charger
- Power Cord
- Shoulder Strap
- Body Cap
- Lens Caps (front and rear for each lens)
- Eyepiece Cup

- USB Cable
 - Software CD-ROM (if included)
 - Printed Documentation
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3. SETUP

3.1 Charging and Installing the Battery

1. Insert the supplied Lithium-Ion battery into the battery charger.
2. Connect the charger to a power outlet. The charging indicator will illuminate.
3. Once charging is complete (indicator turns off or changes color), remove the battery.
4. Open the battery compartment cover on the bottom of the camera.
5. Insert the charged battery into the compartment, ensuring it clicks into place. Close the cover securely.

3.2 Inserting a Memory Card

The Sony Alpha A230 supports Memory Stick PRO Duo, Memory Stick PRO-HG Duo, and SD/SDHC memory cards.

1. Locate the memory card slot cover on the side of the camera.
2. Open the cover.
3. Insert the memory card with the correct orientation until it clicks into place.
4. Close the memory card slot cover securely.

3.3 Attaching a Lens

The camera comes with two standard zoom lenses: an 18-55mm and a 55-200mm lens.

1. Remove the body cap from the camera and the rear lens cap from the desired lens.
2. Align the white index mark on the lens barrel with the white index mark on the camera body.
3. Mount the lens by turning it clockwise until it locks into place with a click.
4. Remove the front lens cap.



Figure 3.3.1: Sony Alpha A230 DSLR Camera with the 18-55mm lens attached. The image shows the front view of the camera, highlighting the lens, body, and the 'Sony' and 'Alpha a230' branding.

3.4 Initial Power On and Date/Time Setting

1. Turn the camera's power switch to the ON position.
2. The first time you power on, you may be prompted to set the date, time, and time zone. Follow the on-screen instructions using the control buttons.

4. OPERATING THE CAMERA

4.1 Basic Shooting Modes

The mode dial on top of the camera allows you to select various shooting modes:

- **Auto Mode:** The camera automatically sets optimal exposure and other settings for most situations.
- **Program Auto (P):** The camera sets aperture and shutter speed, but you can adjust other settings.
- **Shutter Priority (S):** You set the shutter speed, and the camera sets the aperture.
- **Aperture Priority (A):** You set the aperture, and the camera sets the shutter speed.
- **Manual (M):** You control both aperture and shutter speed.
- **Scene Selection Modes:** Specific modes optimized for portraits, landscapes, sports, etc.

4.2 Focusing

The Alpha A230 features Eye-Start Autofocus, which automatically activates when you bring the camera to your eye. The camera uses Contrast Detection AF.

- **Autofocus (AF):** Press the shutter button halfway down to focus. The camera will confirm focus with a beep and/or an indicator in the viewfinder/LCD.
- **Manual Focus (MF):** Switch the lens to MF mode and rotate the focusing ring on the lens to adjust focus manually.

4.3 Exposure Control

The camera offers both manual and automatic exposure control. Key settings include:

- **ISO Sensitivity:** Adjusts the camera's sensitivity to light. Expanded ISO Minimum is 100.
- **White Balance:** Set to Auto for most situations, or choose specific presets (Daylight, Shade, Cloudy, etc.) for accurate color reproduction.
- **Metering:** The camera uses Evaluative metering to determine optimal exposure.

4.4 Image Stabilization (SteadyShot INSIDE)

The Alpha A230 features built-in SteadyShot INSIDE image stabilization, which reduces blur caused by camera shake. This system works with any compatible lens attached to the camera body.

- Ensure the SteadyShot INSIDE function is enabled in the camera's menu for optimal performance, especially in low light or when using longer focal lengths.

4.5 Display and Viewfinder

- **2.7-inch Clear Photo LCD Plus display:** Used for reviewing images, navigating menus, and Live View (if available on this model).
- **Optical Viewfinder:** Provides a direct, clear view through the lens for precise framing and focusing.

4.6 Recording and Playback

- **Still Image Capture:** The camera captures 10.2 MP still images in RAW or JPEG format.
- **Continuous Shooting:** Capture fast-moving subjects at up to 6 frames per second.
- **Video Recording:** The camera supports 1080p video resolution with MP4 format, at frame rates of 24, 30, or 60 FPS.
- **Playback:** Use the playback button to review captured photos and videos on the LCD screen.

5. MAINTENANCE

5.1 Cleaning the Camera and Lens

- **Camera Body:** Wipe with a soft, dry cloth. For stubborn dirt, use a cloth lightly dampened with water. Avoid using organic solvents.
- **Lens:** Use a lens brush or blower to remove dust. For smudges, use a lens cleaning solution and a microfiber cloth. Never touch the lens surface with your fingers.
- **Image Sensor:** If dust appears on images, use the camera's sensor cleaning function or consult a professional service center.

5.2 Battery Care

- Store batteries in a cool, dry place when not in use.
- Avoid fully discharging the battery frequently to prolong its lifespan.
- If not using the camera for an extended period, remove the battery.

5.3 Storage

When storing the camera for long periods, ensure it is clean, dry, and stored in a well-ventilated area away from direct sunlight, high temperatures, and humidity. Use desiccant packets if storing in humid environments.

6. TROUBLESHOOTING

This section addresses common issues you might encounter with your Sony Alpha A230 camera.

Problem	Possible Cause / Solution
Camera does not power on.	Battery is not charged. Charge the battery fully. Battery is inserted incorrectly. Reinsert the battery with correct orientation. Battery is depleted. Replace with a charged battery.
Images are blurry.	Lens is not focused. Ensure autofocus is engaged or manually focus correctly. Camera shake. Enable SteadyShot INSIDE or use a faster shutter speed. Subject movement. Use a faster shutter speed.
Memory card error.	Memory card is full. Delete unnecessary files or insert a new card. Memory card is corrupted. Format the card (this will erase all data). Memory card is not inserted correctly. Reinsert the card.
No image appears on the LCD screen.	The display mode might be set to viewfinder only. Check display settings. Screen brightness is too low. Adjust brightness in settings.

7. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Model Name	Alpha A230Y
Image Sensor	10.2 MP APS-C CCD
Image Stabilization	SteadyShot INSIDE (in-camera)
Lens Mount	Sony A-mount (Compatible with Sony E via adapter)
Included Lenses	SAL1855 (18-55mm) and SAL55200 (55-200mm) standard zoom lenses
Autofocus System	Eye-Start Autofocus, Contrast Detection
ISO Sensitivity	Expanded ISO Minimum 100
Shutter Speed	Minimum 0.1667 seconds
Continuous Shooting	Up to 6.00 fps
Display	2.7-inch Clear Photo LCD Plus
Viewfinder	Optical
Supported Memory Cards	Memory Stick PRO Duo, Memory Stick PRO-HG Duo, SD/SDHC
File Formats	RAW, JPEG (Fine quality)
Video Resolution	1080p
Video Capture Format	MP4
Frame Rate	24, 30, 60 FPS
Connectivity	HDMI, USB 2.0, Wireless Technology
Battery Type	Lithium Ion
Item Weight	3.2 Pounds
Item Height	7.32 inches
Warranty	90 days limited warranty

8. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

8.1 Warranty Information

This Sony Alpha A230 camera comes with a **90 days limited warranty** from the date of purchase. This warranty covers manufacturing defects and issues arising from normal use. Please retain your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

For detailed terms and conditions of the warranty, please refer to the warranty card included in your product packaging or visit the official Sony support website.

8.2 Customer Support

If you encounter any issues not covered in the troubleshooting section or require further assistance, please contact Sony customer support. You can typically find contact information (phone numbers, email, or online chat) on the official Sony website or through the retailer where you purchased the camera.

When contacting support, please have your camera model number (A230Y) and serial number ready, along with a detailed description of the problem.