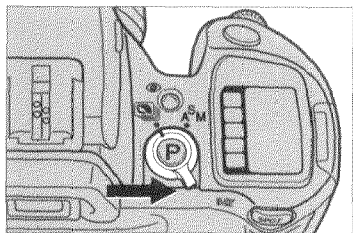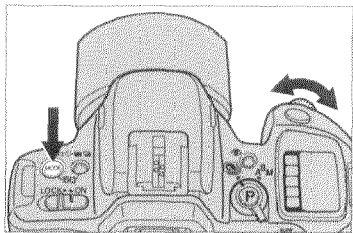# SUBJECT PROGRAM SELECTION

Subject program selection allows you to choose five different subject program modes: Portrait, Landscape, Close-up, Sports and Night Portrait. These program modes allow you to tell the camera what type of picture you will be taking so that it may customize the exposure settings for that type of picture.

1. Set the command switch to ▣.

2. Press and hold the mode button, then turn the control dial until the desired indicator blinks in the data panel.
 • The mode is selected when you release the mode button.

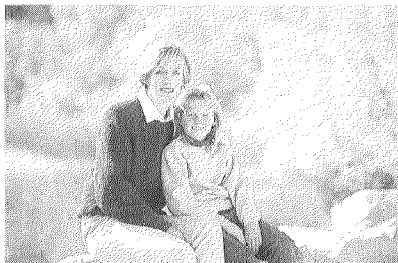|		
◐	**Portrait Mode**	Portrait photography
▲	**Landscape Mode**	Scenic and Travel photography
✿	**Close-up Mode**	Macro photography
⚝	**Sports Mode**	Sports and Action photography
⚝	**Night Portrait Mode**	Night Portrait and Night Scene photography

Portrait mode is best suited for photographing people. Portrait photography benefits from a shallow depth of field (the distance in front and behind your subject which will appear in focus) which isolates the person from the background. In portrait mode the camera will adjust its settings to obtain this effect leaving you free to compose the picture and capture the perfect expression.
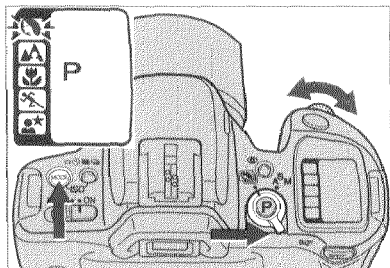
1. Set the Command switch to [🌸].

2. Press and hold the mode button, then turn the control dial until [🌸] blinks in the data panel.

Lens Tips:

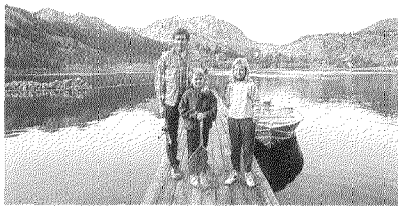Use a mid-telephoto lens with a large aperture for best results.

Flash Tips:

Use flash when your subject is backlit or when there are strong shadows across the face.

Additional Tips:

Lock focus on your subject's eyes and be ready to capture the perfect expression.

Landscape mode is suited for photographing landscape, scenic or travel photographs. Landscape photography generally requires a large depth of field to make sure that everything is in focus. In Landscape mode the camera is automatically set to the smallest aperture possible while maintaining a shutter speed fast enough to prevent blur due to camera shake.
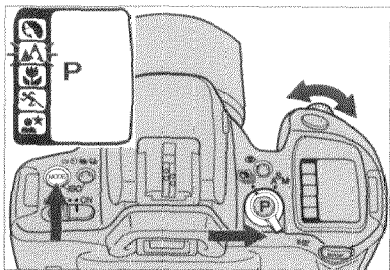
1. Set the Command switch to ▣.

2. Press and hold the mode button, then turn the control dial until ▲▲ blinks in the data panel.

Lens Tips:

Use wide-angle lenses to create a feeling of depth in your picture.

Flash Tips:

Flash is only needed when there is a person in your photograph who is backlit or has strong shadows across the face.

Additional Tips:

Use a tripod to get sharp pictures, especially at slower shutter-speeds.

🌷 CLOSE-UP MODE

Close-up mode is best suited for photographing small subjects such as flowers at close distances. Close-up photography requires accurate focusing, so it is recommended that you use focus lock or manual focus to make sure the main part of your subject is in sharp focus. In Close-up mode the camera will automatically set the best possible aperture and shutter speed for your subject.
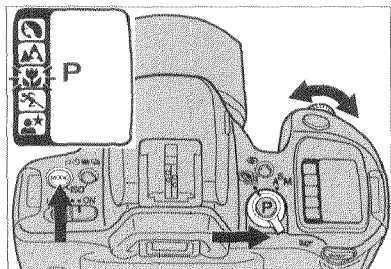
1. Set the Command switch to 🔘.

2. Press and hold the mode button, then turn the control dial until 🌷 blinks in the data panel.

Lens Tips:

Use one of Minolta's macro lenses or a macro-capable zoom lens.

Flash Tips:

Do not use built-in flash when your subject is closer than 1m (3.3 ft.); lens shadowing may occur. We recommend the use of Macro Flash 1200AF Set.

Additional Tips:

Accurate focus is very important, make sure that you focus on the main part of your subject. Use a tripod to reduce camera shake.

Sports mode is suited for photographing fast action events which require a fast shutter speed to stop the action. In Sports mode the camera automatically sets the fastest possible shutter speed and continuously adjusts the focus to track fast-moving subjects.
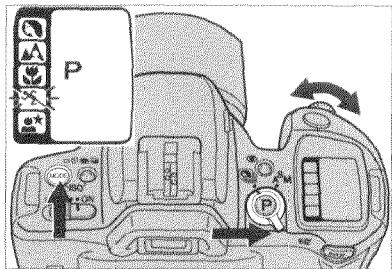
1. Set the Command switch to 🌀 .

2. Press and hold the mode button, then turn the control dial until ✖ blinks in the data panel.

Lens Tips:

Use large aperture telephoto lenses which allow the camera to select faster shutter-speeds.

Flash Tips:

Using flash will only help if your subject is within the flash range (See page 52). Powerful accessory flashes have longer ranges.

Additional Tips:

Use fast film (ISO 400 or higher) and keep the focus frame on your subject.

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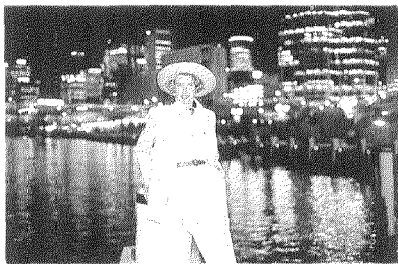Night Portrait mode is suited for portraits and scenic photography at night. Nighttime photography requires the camera to balance the camera's flash with the background. In this mode, the camera uses the largest aperture possible with a longer shutter speed which allows the background to appear in the photograph.
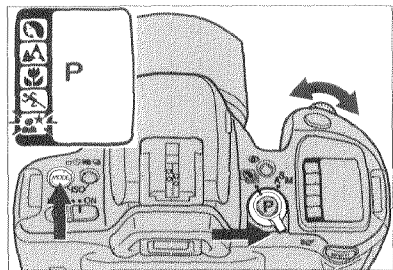
1. Set the Command switch to ⚫.
2. Press and hold the mode button, then turn the control dial until ⚫★ blinks in the data panel.
3. Lift the built-in flash.

Flash Tips:

Use flash when your subject is in front of your night scene.

Additional Tips:

Use faster film (ISO 400 or greater), use a tripod, and focus on the main part of your subject. Warn your subject not to move while the picture is taken.

PHOTOGRAPHING NIGHT SCENES
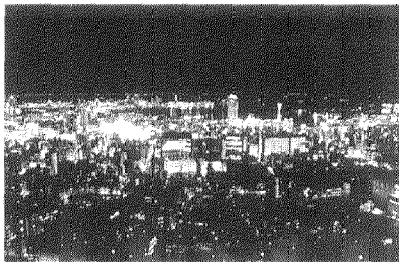
Night Portrait Mode can be used for photographing night scenes as well as portraits simply by cancelling the flash. This mode sets long shutter speeds so you can easily capture beautiful photographs of twilight scenes and night skylines.
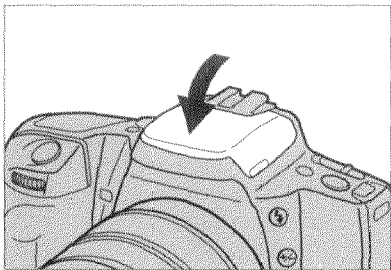
After setting night portrait mode, push down the built-in flash.

Flash Tips:

Do not use flash if you are only photographing a night scene.

Additional Tips:

Use faster film (ISO 400 or greater) and use a tripod. If you are photographing dark night scenes, pictures may not appear clear. If it is difficult to focus, use focus lock (page 47).

CREATIVE
EXPOSURE
MODES

CREATIVE EXPOSURE SELECTION

Creative exposure selection allows you to choose any of four separate exposure modes: Aperture-priority, Shutter-priority, Manual, and Program mode. While the subject program modes allow you to match the camera to the photographic situation, the exposure modes enable you to tailor the camera's operation to your vision of the end result and the degree of camera control you desire. For information on P mode, refer to "Taking Pictures in Program Mode" beginning on page 22.
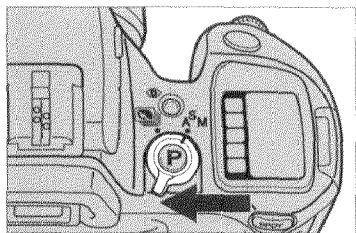
1. Set the command switch to A^SM.
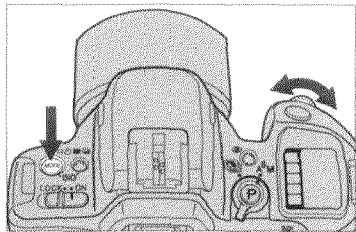
2. Press and hold the mode button, then turn the control dial until the desired indicator blinks in the data panel.
   - The mode is selected when you release the mode button.

A	Aperture-Priority Mode	Manually select aperture
S	Shutter-Priority Mode	Manually select shutter speed
M	Manual Exposure	Manually select aperture and shutter speed

In A mode, you select the aperture and the camera automatically sets the shutter speed required for proper exposure. This mode should be used when you want to control the range of sharpness (i.e., depth of field) in a photograph. Large apertures (small numbers) provide a short depth of field which is ideal for portraits.
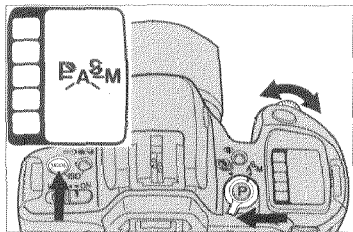
1. Set the Command switch to $A^S M$.
2. Press and hold the mode button, then turn the control dial until **A** blinks in the data panel.
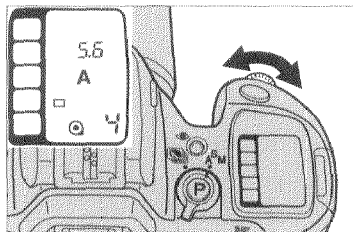
3. Release the mode button and turn the control dial to select the aperture you want.
4. Compose your photograph and take the picture.

- If 2000 or 30s blinks, the required setting is beyond the camera's shutter speed range. Turn the control dial until the blinking stops. (See "Trouble Shooting" beginning on page 74 for more exposure warnings.)
- See page 53 for flash exposure in A mode.

Large Aperture | Small Aperture

The size of the aperture determines the intensity of the light falling on the film as well as the depth of field in the final image. Depth of field is the range in front of and behind the point where the lens is focused which will appear sharp.

Large apertures (small numbers) limit depth of field to a narrow range near the focus point. This is useful whenever you want to place greater visual emphasis on your main subject by intentionally blurring the background, such as in the case of portraits. Small apertures (large numbers) provide greater depth of field, bringing an increasingly greater range into focus. This is important when you are photographing landscapes to ensure that your entire scene is sharp.

LENS APERTURES

⟵ Larger   Smaller ⟶

1.4 1.7 2 2.4 2.8 3.5 4 4.5 5.6 6.7 8 9.5 11 13 16 19 22 26 32

• Usable apertures will depend on the aperture range of the lens you are using.

S MODE: SHUTTER PRIORITY

S mode lets you select the shutter speed and the camera automatically sets the aperture for the best exposure. This mode is very useful for photographing moving subjects when you want to control subject blur. Faster shutter speeds can freeze the subject.

1. Set the Command switch to $A^S M$.
2. Press and hold the mode button, then turn the control dial until **S** blinks in the data panel.
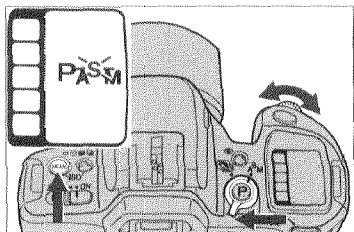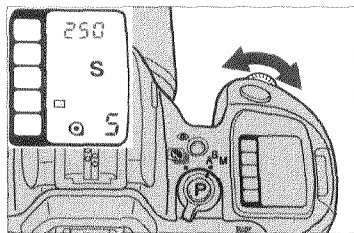
3. Release the mode button and turn the control dial to select the shutter speed you want.
4. Compose your photograph and take the picture.

- If the aperture display blinks, the required setting is outside the aperture range of the lens. Turn the control dial until the blinking stops. (See "Trouble Shooting" beginning on page 74 for more exposure warnings.)
- See page 53 for flash exposure in S mode.

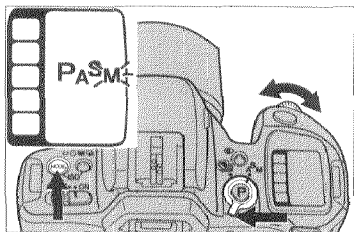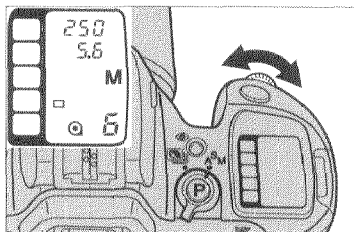Fast Shutter Speed   Slow Shutter Speed

In addition to controlling the duration of the exposure, the shutter speed is an important factor in determining how moving subjects will appear in the final image. Depending of the speed of your subject, slow shutter speeds will make a moving subject appear to flow, creating a greater feeling of motion. Fast shutter speeds, of course, are useful to freeze fast action.

Your choice of shutter speed can also help prevent blurring caused by movement that occurs during exposure, known as "camera shake". For focal lengths longer than f = 50mm, a general rule to follow is that 1/f is the slowest usable shutter speed while the camera is being hand-held. For example, if you are using a 135mm lens, try to avoid using shutter speeds slower than 1/250 sec. if you are not using a tripod.

CAMERA SHUTTER SPEEDS (in seconds)

◀———————— Faster   Slower ————————▶

1/2000 1/1000 1/500 1/250 1/125 1/60 1/30 1/15 1/8 1/4 1/2 1 2 4 8 15 30

- 1/90 sec. is the camera's flash sync speed and can only be selected, manually or automatically, when the built-in flash is raised or an accessory flash is attached and activated. BULB can only be selected in M mode.

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M MODE: MANUAL EXPOSURE

In M mode, you have full control of exposure. In this mode, you select any shutter speed and aperture. The viewfinder data panel will tell you if the exposure you have selected is over, under, or the same as the camera's metered exposure.

1. Set the command switch to A^SM.
2. Press and hold the mode button, then turn the control dial until **M** blinks in the data panel.

3. Release the mode button and turn the control dial to select the shutter speed you want.
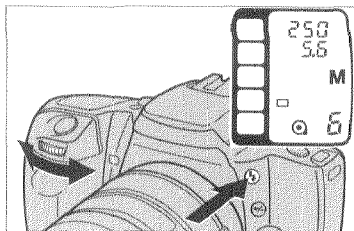

4. Press and hold the flash-control / aperture button, then turn the control dial to select the aperture you want.
5. Compose your photograph and take the picture.

EXPOSURE CONTROL

Exposure is the quantity of light that reaches the film when you press the shutter-release button. This quantity is determined by the intensity of the light that falls of the film and the time that the film is exposed to light.

In M mode, you have full creative control over both of these variables: the aperture setting regulates the intensity of the exposure, and the shutter speed determines the time. By adjusting either of these in relation to the camera's metered exposure value, you can control the overall exposure of each image.
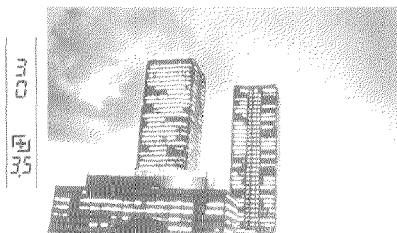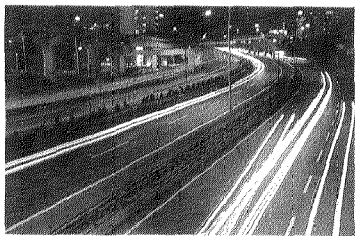

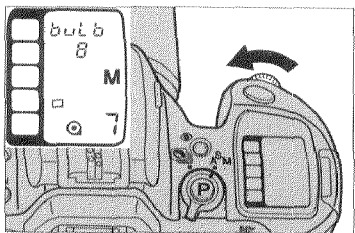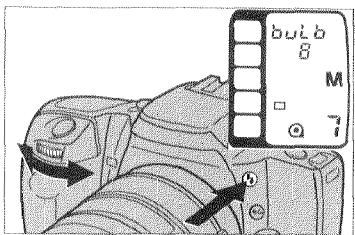Over Exposure 🖽
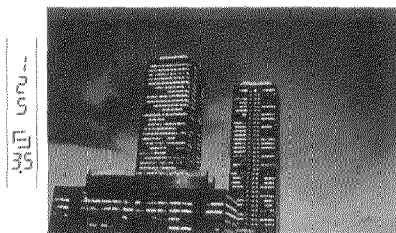

Under Exposure 🖂

Metered Exposure

Bulb can only be used in M mode. When set the shutter will remain open as long as you press the shutter-release button. To avoid blurry pictures, mount the camera on a tripod.

1. Select M mode.
2. Turn the control dial towards the slower shutter speeds until BULB appears in the data panel.

3. Press and hold the flash-control / aperture button, then turn the control dial to set the aperture.
4. Compose the picture.
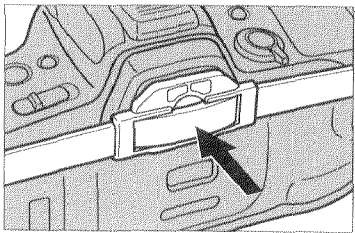
5. Attach the eyepiece cap.
• To attach the eyepiece cap, firmly press the cap until it snaps into the eyepiece. This prevents stray light from entering the eyepiece and affecting exposure.

6. Press and hold the shutter-release button to take the picture.

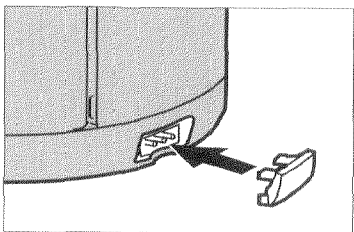• The shutter will remain open as long as you hold the shutter-release button down.

Using Remote Cord:
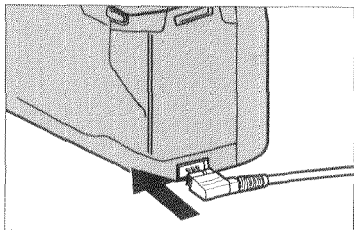
To avoid blurry pictures, use of the optional Remote Cord RC-1000S or L is recommended.

1. Remove the remote-control terminal cover.

2. Then insert the remote cord's plug into the terminal.

To Attach the Remote-Terminal Cover after use:

1. Align the prongs on remote-terminal cover with the remote terminal.

2. Carefully press the cover until it attaches.

• Do not force the cover at an angle. Prongs may snap.

FOCUS

FOCUSING

This camera is set to autofocus (AF) mode each time the camera is switched ON. Pressing the shutter-release button partway down will activate the autofocus system and one of the signals below will appear in the viewfinder. In autofocus mode, the shutter will not release until focus is confirmed.

FOCUS SIGNALS

(((●)))   *Continuous autofocus; focus is confirmed.*

●   Focus is confirmed and locked.

Focus is not possible (shutter locked). Your subject is too close or is one of the special focusing situations described on the next page.
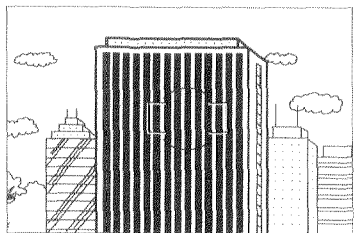
(( )))   Continuous autofocus; lens focusing (shutter locked).

In the situations described below or similar situations, it may be difficult or impossible for the camera to focus accurately. In such situations, you should use focus lock or manual focus which are described on the following pages.
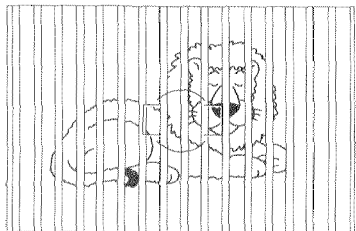
If two subjects at different distances overlap within the focus frame [ ].

If a subject composed of alternating light and dark lines completely fills the focus frame [ ].
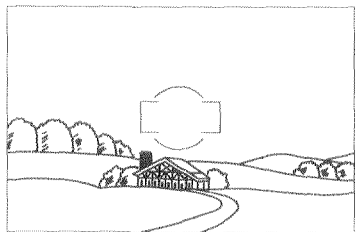
If the subject within the focus frame [ ] is very bright or low-contrast.

FOCUS LOCK

Focus lock should be used when you want to take a picture with your subject outside the focus frame [ ] or in situations where autofocus is difficult to confirm.
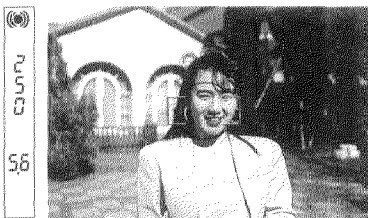
1. Place your subject within the focus frame [ ] and press the shutter-release button partway down.
   - The focus lock indicator ● will glow when focus is locked.
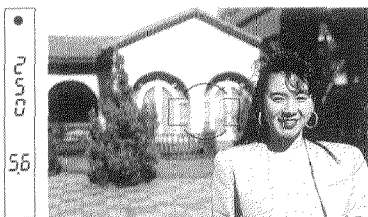
2. Continue to hold the shutter-release button partway down while you recompose your picture as desired.
3. Press the shutter-release button all the way down to take the picture.

- Focus lock cannot be used with moving subjects.

**Alternate Focus Lock Methods:**
- If you are using a manual zoom lens which has a focus-hold button, you can lock focus by pressing the focus-hold button.
- If you are using an AF Zoom xi or AF Power Zoom lens, you can lock focus by pulling the lens control ring towards you.

MANUAL FOCUS

In situations where the autofocus system is not suitable and focus lock is not possible, you may focus the lens manually. The autofocus system will continue to monitor focus and will indicate when the subject within the focus frame is in focus.
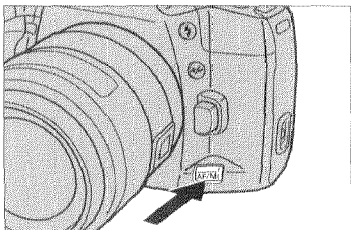
1. Press the focus-mode button so that the manual focus indicator M.FOCUS appears in the data display.
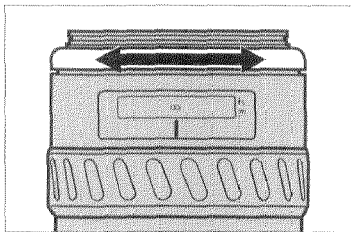
2. Look through the viewfinder and turn the lens focusing ring until your subject appears clear and sharp.

• If you are using an xi-series or power zoom lens, pull the control ring towards you and then rotate it in either direction to focus.

AUTOFOCUS ILLUMINATOR

If the flash is raised and the camera detects that the scene is too dark to focus accurately, the flash will automatically fire a few short bursts before and after the lens focuses (AF illuminator). This provides the light necessary for the camera to detect and focus on your subject.

• The range of the AF illuminator flash is approximately 1 to 5m (3.3-16 ft.).
• AF illuminator flash may not fire when the focal length you are using is 300mm or more, or when the AF Macro Zoom 3X - 1X is used.

TO TURN THE AF ILLUMINATOR OFF:
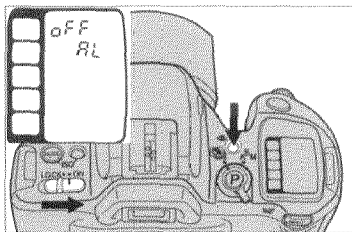
Press and hold the red-eye reduction button while you turn the camera on.
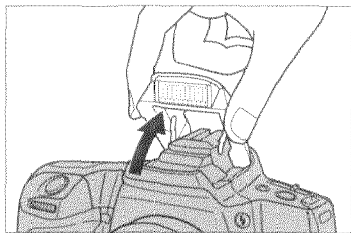• "OFF AL" appears in the data panel.

• To turn the AF illuminator on again, repeat the procedure so that "ON AL" appears in the data panel.

FLASH

USING THE BUILT-IN FLASH

The built-in flash provides coverage for lens focal lengths as short as 28mm. The flash output is controlled automatically by the camera's TTL (through-the-lens) flash metering system.

Grip both sides of the flash and gently lift it. If the flash will fire with the next shutter release, *Ɒ* appears in the viewfinder when you press the shutter-release button partway down.
After you have finished using flash, push it back down.

FLASH SIGNALS

Ɒ Built-in flash is up or attached accessory flash is on and charging.

⚡
Ɒ Flash is charged and will fire when the shutter-release button is pressed.

⚡ (After picture is taken, blinks rapidly) Flash output was sufficient to provide a correct exposure.

Ɒ Lighting conditions require flash. Raise the built-in flash or attach an accessory flash.

• If *⚡* doesn't blink after picture is taken, flash output was not sufficient. Make sure your subject is within the flash range (see next page), and release the shutter after flash is charged.

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BUILT-IN FLASH PRECAUTIONS

FLASH RANGE

The range of the built-in flash varies depending on the speed of the film and the maximum aperture of the lens being used, please take note to the working range of the built-in flash.

APERTURE	ISO 100	ISO 400
f/2.8	1.0 - 4.2 m 3.3 - 13.8 ft.	1.0 - 8.4 m 3.3 - 27.5 ft.
f/4	1.0 - 3.0 m 3.3 - 9.8 ft..	1.0 - 6.0 m 3.3 - 19.7 ft.
f/5.6	1.0 - 2.1 m 3.3 - 6.9 ft..	1.0 - 4.2 m 3.3 - 13.8 ft.

For example, when you use 28-80mm f/4-5.6 lens and film with ISO 100 and take built-in flash pictures, flash range is 1.0-3.0m at 28mm and 1.0-2.1m at 80mm.

CAUTION : LENS SHADOWING MAY OCCUR

Lens shadowing may occur in the bottom of your pictures when using the built-in flash with certain Minolta AF lenses. To reduce the chance of shadowing, never use a lens wider than 28mm, never use a lens hood, and do not photograph closer than 1m (3.3 ft). The following lenses may cause shadowing at the wider focal lengths:

AF Zoom 28 - 70mm f/2.8   AF Zoom 28 - 135mm f/4-4.5
AF Zoom 28 - 85mm f/3.5-4.5   AF Zoom 35 - 200mm xi f/4.5-5.6

Built-in flash should not be used with the following lenses:
AF 300mm f/2.8 APO   AF 600mm f/4 APO

USING FLASH IN P, A, S, M MODES

USING FLASH IN P MODE

When the built-in flash is up or an attached accessory flash is on, it will automatically fire in low-light or back-lit situations. The camera will select the most appropriate shutter speed and aperture settings.

TO FIRE THE FLASH MANUALLY
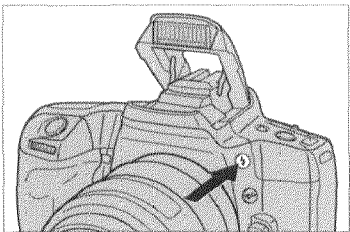
In P Mode, you can manually fires the built-in flash or accessory flash. Press and hold the flash-control / aperture button while you take the picture.

USING FLASH IN A, S, M MODES

When the built-in flash is up or an attached accessory flash is on, it will fire each time you take a picture. When the built-in flash is down or an attached accessory flash is off, it will not fire.

A MODE FLASH: You can select any aperture setting and the camera automatically sets the shutter speed.

S MODE FLASH: Operation in S mode is the same as in P mode. The camera automatically sets the aperture setting and shutter speed.

M MODE FLASH: You can select any aperture setting and shutter speeds between 1/90 and 30 second, including BULB.

RED-EYE REDUCTION

When photographing people or animals at night or in low-light situations, the effect called "Red-eye" may occur due to the flash reflecting off the inside of the subject's eyes. To reduce this effect and produce more natural and beautiful pictures, use the red-eye reduction mode with the built-in flash.
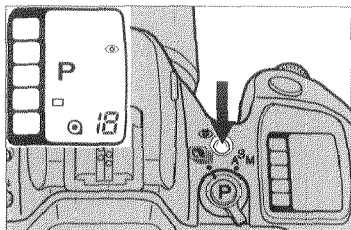
1. Press the red-eye reduction button so that the red-eye reduction indicator ◉ appears in the data panel.
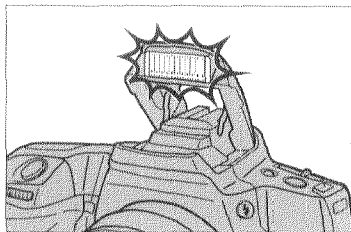
2. Warn your subject that the flash will fire a series of short flash bursts just before the picture is taken.

• To cancel the red-eye reduction, press the red-eye reduction button again so that ◉ disappears in the data panel.

Normal Flash

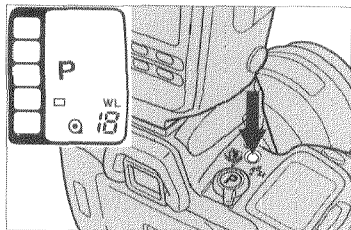Wireless / Remote Flash

Wireless / Remote Ratio Flash

Wireless / Remote Off-Camera Flash Control is available with the Minolta accessory flashes: 5400HS, 5400xi, or 3500xi. Wireless / Remote flash allows you to experiment with creative lighting techniques using off-camera accessory flashes without a tangle of accessory cords and connectors.

In wireless / remote flash mode, the off-camera flash is triggered by a coded signal from the camera's built-in flash when you press the shutter-release button. Another signal stops it once the camera's TTL flash meter detects the proper exposure has been received. You can also obtain a 2:1 lighting ratio automatically. When selected, the off-camera flash provides 2/3 of the full exposure and the camera's built-in flash adds the remaining 1/3.
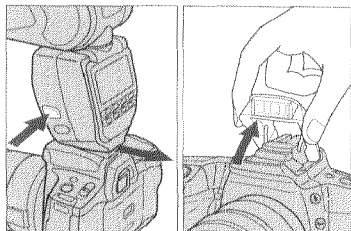
SETTING WIRELESS / REMOTE FLASH MODE
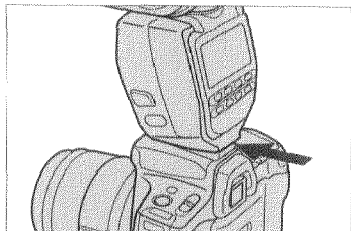
1. Attach the accessory flash (5400HS, 5400xi, or 3500xi) to the camera and turn both the flash and camera on.


2. Press the red-eye reduction button - **WL** will appear in the data panel and the flash is now set for wireless / remote flash.

3. Remove the accessory flash and raise the camera's built-in flash. The accessory flash is now ready to be positioned.

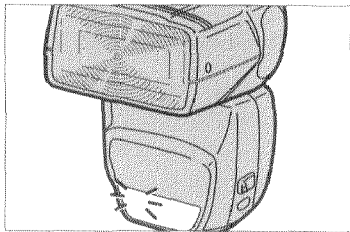## TAKING PICTURES IN WIRELESS / REMOTE FLASH MODE

1. Position your camera and 3500xi flash unit using the information of this page. If you are using a flash unit other than the 3500xi off-camera, refer to that flash instruction manual.
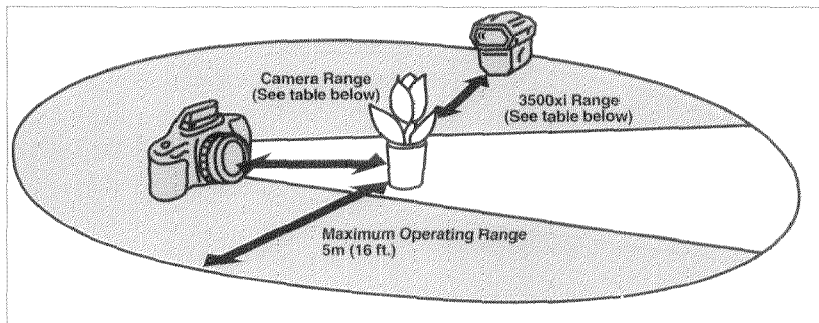

Aperture	Camera-Subject Distance		3500xi-Subject Distance	
	ISO 100	ISO 400	ISO 100	ISO 400
f/2.8	1.4-5m/4.6-16.4 ft.	2.8-5m/9.2-16.4 ft.	1-5m/3.3-16.4 ft.	2-5m/6.6-16.4 ft.
f/4	1-5m/3.3-16.4 ft.	2-5m/6.6-16.4 ft.	0.7-4.5m/2.3-14.7 ft.	1.4-5m/4.6-16.4 ft.
f/5.6	1-5m/3.3-16.4 ft.	1.5-5m/4.6-16.4 ft.	0.5-3.2m/1.6-10.5 ft.	1-5m/3.3-16.4 ft.

• The off-camera flash unit may not detect the control signals if it is behind the subject.
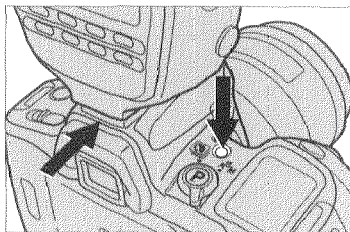
2. Wait for both the flashes to charge.
• The accessory flash's AF illuminator will blink when the flash is fully charged.
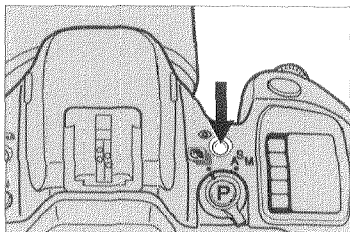
3. Press the red-eye reduction button to test fire the accessory flash and wait again for both flashes to charge.
4. Press the shutter-release button all the way down to take the picture.

CANCELLING WIRELESS/REMOTE FLASH

1. Reattach the accessory flash to camera.
2. Press the red-eye reduction button so that **WL** disappears in the data panel.

• To cancel wireless / remote flash mode on the 3500xi separately from the camera, first turn the flash off. Then, press the ON/OFF button to turn the flash on and hold the button until the wireless lamp turns off.
• To cancel wireless / remote flash mode on other flash units, refer to your flash owner's manual.

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