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# PENTAX

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## ME Super



**CONTENTS****IMPORTANT**

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Basic operating instructions	2
"Your ME SUPER Quick Course" .....	2
Description of parts .....	4
Lens mounting .....	6
Inserting batteries .....	7
Film loading and winding .....	8
Setting ASA film speed/memo holder .....	9
The exposure mode dial .....	10
Aperture setting .....	13
Focusing and composing .....	14
Shooting on "AUTO" .....	15
Exposure compensation.....	18
Manual exposures .....	20
Holding the camera .....	26
Unloading the film .....	27
Auto flash photography (AF 200S/AF 160) .....	28
Other flash units .....	29
Self-timer/multiple exposures .....	30
Using a tripod/time exposures at "B" .....	31
Shooting pointers .....	32
Depth-of-field scale .....	34
Depth-of-field table .....	35
Meter coupling range .....	36
Infrared photography .....	37
Using screw-mount takumar lenses .....	38
Open-aperture and stop-down metering lenses .....	40
Resistance to temperature extremes and changes .....	41
Camera maintenance .....	42
Viewfinder diagram .....	44
Specifications .....	46
Warranty policy .....	48

## **Welcome to our growing Pentax family!**

Since we know you'll want to begin using your new Pentax ME SUPER right away, we've provided an "ME SUPER Quick Course" on pages 2 and 3 which covers the basic operating instructions for the "AUTO" mode (the main operating mode) so you can get started. If you wish to familiarize yourself with operating the camera in its other modes, including the new revolutionary "pushbutton" manual mode, be sure to read the pertinent sections of the manual. We also recommend that you read the entire manual very carefully as soon as possible, so that you will understand the full capabilities of your camera and insure years of trouble-free operation.

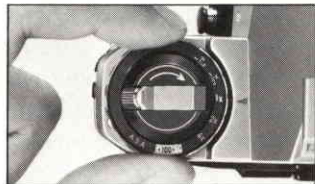
**“Your ME SUPER Quick Course”**



**1.** Insert the two Alkaline batteries. (See page 7)



**2.** Load the film with the exposure mode dial set at “125X” and advance to the first exposure. (See page 8)



**3.** Set the ASA film speed. (See page 9)

**4.** Set the lens aperture. (See page 13)



**5.** Set the exposure mode dial to “AUTO.” (See page 10)



**6.** Set the exposure compensation dial to 1X. (See page 18)

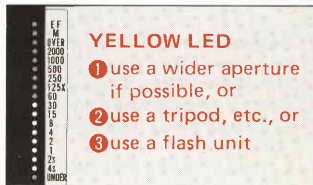
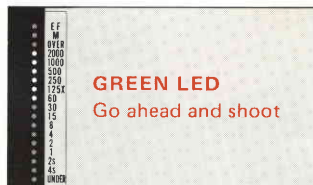




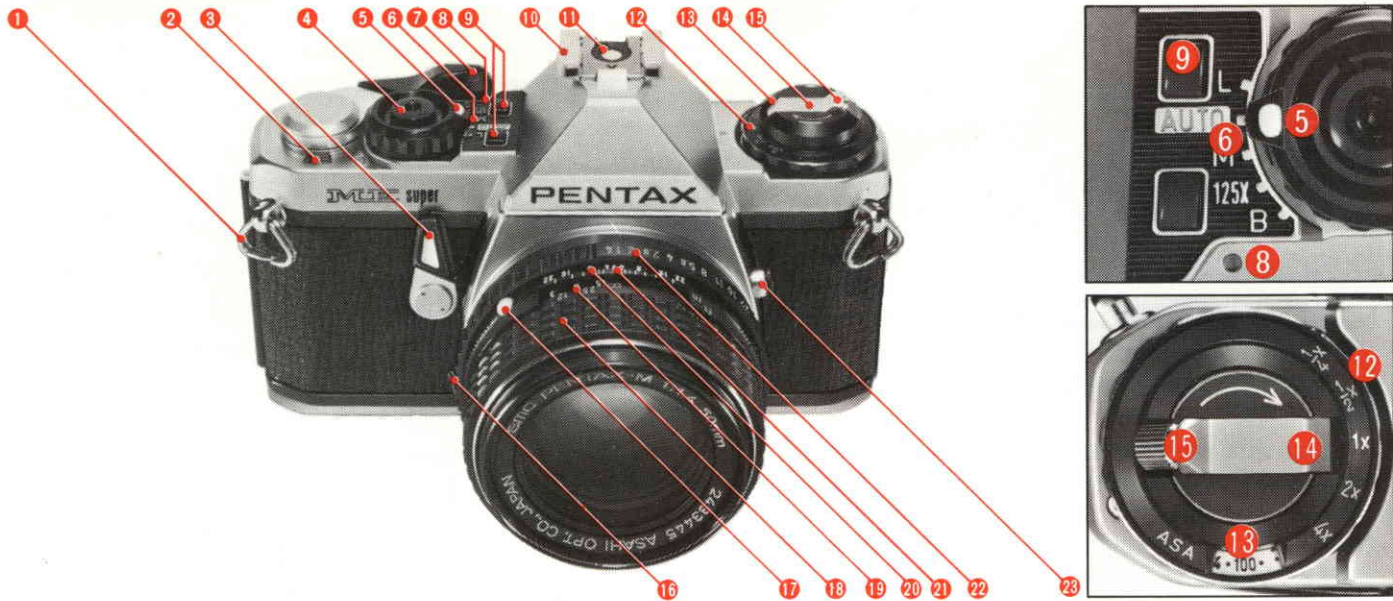
indications, change the f-stop until a GREEN LED appears (See pages 16–17). If a YELLOW LED glows (i.e., those between “30” and “4S” on the viewfinder scale), you can ❶ use a wider lens aperture where a GREEN LED appears (see page 17), or ❷ shoot at the YELLOW LED, but steady the camera with a tripod, etc., (see page 31) or ❸ switch to flash photography. (see pages 28–29)

With auto exposures, the fully automatic metering system of your new Pentax ME SUPER selects exactly the right shutter speed for the lighting conditions in your picture. To operate the camera in other modes refer to the section that covers those points.

7. Look through the viewfinder, focus and compose the picture. (See page 14)
8. Activate the camera's meter by pressing the shutter button until one of the LED dots beside the shutter speed scale in the viewfinder glows. If a GREEN LED glows (i.e., those between “2000” and “60” on the scale), take the picture by pressing the shutter button all the way down. If a RED LED glows at either the OVER or UNDER

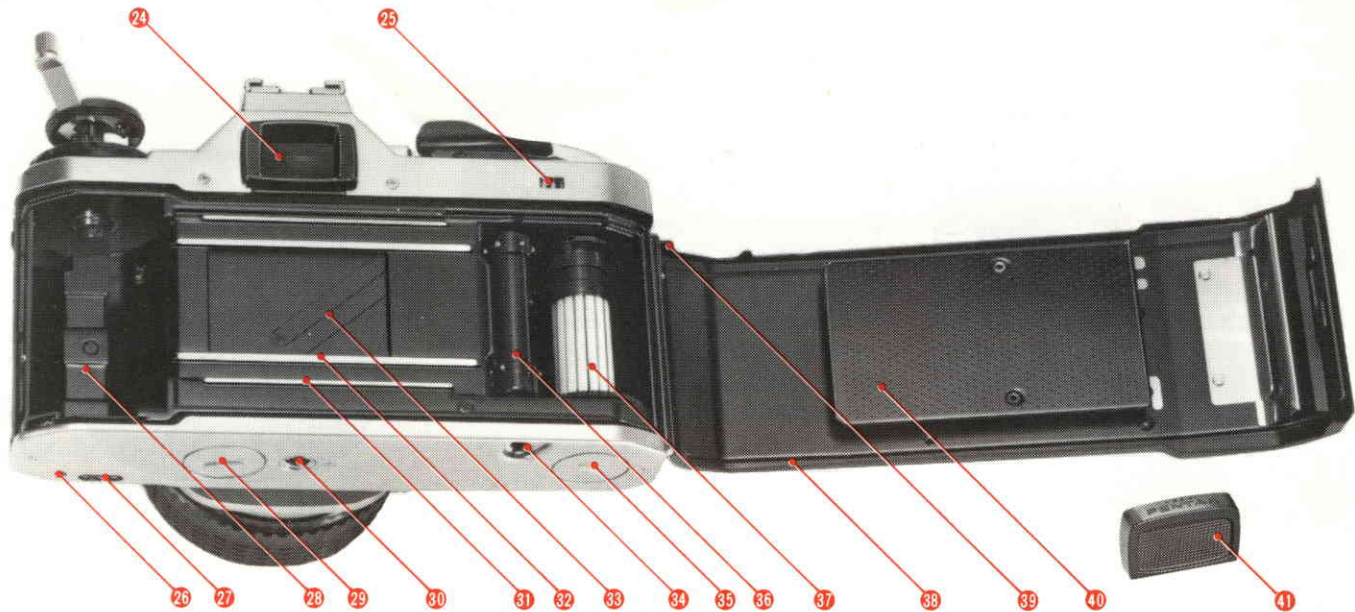


## DESCRIPTION OF PARTS



- |                              |  |                                       |
|------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| ① Neck strap ring            | ⑧ Shutter-cocked indicator             | ⑮ Film rewind knob/Back cover release |
| ② Exposure counter           | ⑨ Manual shutter-speed control buttons | ⑯ Lens release lever                  |
| ③ Self-timer lever           | ⑩ Hotshoe                              | ⑰ Lens alignment node                 |
| ④ Shutter release button     | ⑪ Auto flash contact                   | ⑱ Focusing ring.                      |
| ⑤ Exposure mode index button | ⑫ Exposure compensation dial           | ⑲ Distance scale                      |
| ⑥ Exposure mode indications  | ⑬ ASA film speed index                 | ⑳ Depth-of-field scale                |
| ⑦ Rapid wind lever           | ⑭ Film rewind crank                    | ㉑ Aperture/Distance index             |



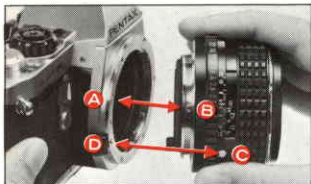


- 22 Aperture ring
- 23 X-synch socket
- 24 Viewfinder eyepiece
- 25 Film advance/rewind indicator
- 26 Guide pin channel
- 27 Winder contact terminal
- 28 Film chamber

- 29 Battery chamber
- 30 Winder/Tripod receptacle
- 31 Film guide rail
- 32 Film rail
- 33 Shutter blades
- 34 Film rewind button
- 35 Film transport coupler
- 36 Sprockets

- 37 Film take-up spool
- 38 Back cover
- 39 Back cover release lug
- 40 Film pressure plate
- 41 Finder cap





1. Remove the rear lens and body mount covers.
2. Match the red dot **A** on the camera body with the red dot **B** on the lens. Insert the lens into the body and turn it clockwise until the lens locks with a click.
3. In the dark, when the red dots are difficult to see, align the raised white node **C** on the lens barrel with the lens release lever **D** by touch. Then turn and lock as above.

4. To detach, hold the camera with your left hand. Depress the lens release lever **D** while turning the lens counter-clockwise with your right hand.



#### NOTE

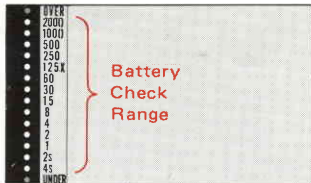
If you have to put the lens down without the rear lens cap, place it only front-element-down, never front-element-up.

When changing lenses outdoors with film in the camera, avoid direct sunlight.



Two Alkaline batteries are packed separately. Be sure to insert them into the battery chamber before operating the camera.

- **Insertion** Open the battery chamber cover with a coin. Insert the two batteries into the chamber as shown above, each with the plus mark (+) facing down. Then, replace the cover and tighten firmly.

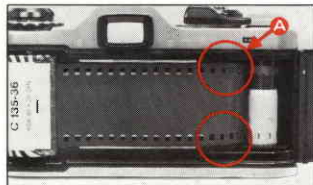
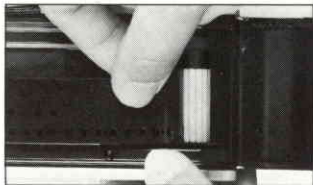


- **Check** To check the batteries, set the exposure mode dial to either the "AUTO" or "M" (Manual) mode settings and lightly press the shutter button to activate the metering switch. **NORMAL BATTERIES:** If batteries are fully active, one of the LED shutter speed dots (i.e., those between "2000" and "4S") will glow continuously in the viewfinder on depressing the shutter button. **WEAK BATTERIES:** When batteries are low, the "2000" – "4S" LED shutter speed dots

**Do not throw dead batteries into a fire as they may explode.**

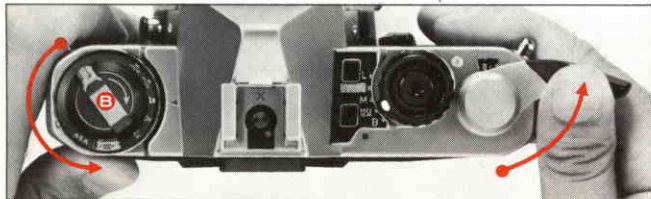
will commence to flicker on and off. This indicates that batteries should be replaced shortly. (NOTE: the LEDs outside the "2000" – "4S" battery check range [i.e., "OVER" – "UNDER" – "EF" and "M"] normally flicker in certain modes and should be disregarded as low battery indication.) **DEAD BATTERIES:** If batteries fail to light entirely on depressing the shutter button **in the "AUTO" or "M" modes**, they are either dead or inserted improperly. If dead, replace both with new ones (NOTE: In emergencies, the camera may also be operated without batteries – see page 11).

**Avoid direct light when loading your film**



1. Before loading and winding the film, set the exposure mode dial to "125X." Leave it at this setting until after the film has been wound to the first exposure.

**NOTE:** You can also advance the film to the first exposure with the exposure mode dial set to "AUTO" or "M" (Manual), but for convenience sake we recommend setting it to "125X." If you use "AUTO," remove the lens cap and point the camera toward the light;



otherwise inordinately long exposures will result, delaying film advance. Also, the same problem will occur if you use the "M" setting, unless a faster shutter speed is used.

2. Open the camera back by pulling up on the film rewind knob.
3. Place the film cartridge in the film chamber, and push down the rewind knob. Insert the film leader between any of the white pins surrounding the film take-up spool.
4. Advance the film by alternately advancing the rapid-wind lever and depressing the shutter button until both top and bottom sprockets engage the film perforations **A**. Close the back by pressing it firmly.

5. Advance the rapid-wind lever and confirm that the film rewind knob **E** turns counter-clockwise, indicating that the film is properly loaded and is moving from the cartridge to the take-up spool (if the film is being properly advanced, the film advance indicator **A** will flicker). Trip the shutter and advance the film alternately until the exposure counter turns to "1," indicating that the first picture is ready to be taken. **Reset the shutter dial to "AUTO."**



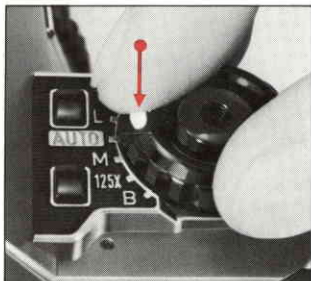
The ASA film speed rating of all 35mm films is given in the data sheet packed with each roll of film. The higher the ASA number, the more sensitive the film is to light. To set the index, lift up the ASA dial **A** and turn it until the ASA number of your film is opposite the orange index mark.

ASA Film Speed Range



### MEMO HOLDER

As a reminder of the type of film in your camera, tear off the top of film box and insert it into the Memo Holder on the back cover of the camera.



Because the camera selects the shutter speed in the "AUTO" exposure mode and pushbuttons are used to set the shutter speed in the "M" (Manual) mode, the shutter speed dial has been eliminated on your ME SUPER. In its place is the exposure mode dial, whereby you simply choose the desired mode of exposure before shooting. In addition to the four exposure modes, the dial also features a shutter-button lock setting.

**To set the dial:** Press down on the small white button on top of the dial with your thumb or forefinger and rotate the dial until the white button aligns with the desired mode setting.

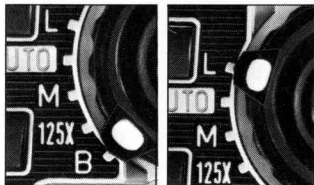
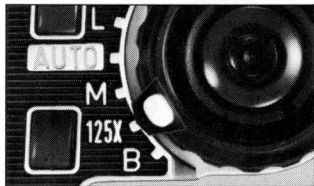
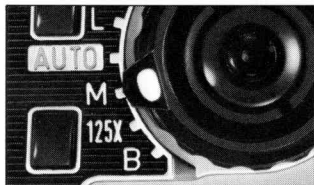
**"AUTO":** You might consider "AUTO" the normal exposure mode and the others as auxiliary modes for special shooting situations. When the exposure mode dial is set to "AUTO," you merely preselect the lens aperture; the camera sets the shutter speed automatically, freeing you to concentrate on framing and composition. Keep the dial at this setting to take advantage of shooting opportunities when they arise. It's also an excellent mode for allowing novices to operate your camera. (See "SHOOTING ON AUTO," page 15, for operating instructions)

**"M" (Manual):** This is the ME SUPER's revolutionary new "push-button" manual exposure setting. While shutter speeds vary continuously in the: "AUTO" mode, by setting the exposure mode dial to "M" you may freeze the shutter speed at any one of the 14 shutter speed settings displayed in the viewfinder using the dual "pushbutton" control system. (See "MANUAL EXPOSURES." page 20.)

**"125X":** This is a 1/125 sec. mechanical shutter speed provided primarily for flash synchronization with electronic flash units other than the AF 200S. (See page 29) In addition, because the shutter operates mechanically without batteries at this setting, it comes in handy in even of battery failure. In this instance, set the dial to "125X" and adjust the lens aperture according to subject brightness (refer to the exposure guidelines accompanying your film). The 125X setting is also handy for preliminary film advance. (See page 8)

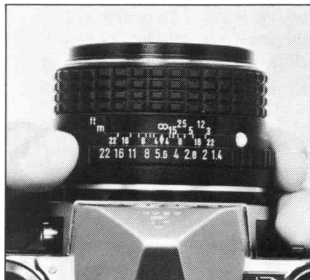
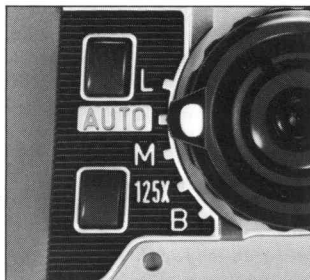
**"B" (Bulb):** When it is desired to make exposures longer than the 4-second range of the electronic exposure system, set the dial to "B". Time exposures lasting several minutes or hours may be made at this setting. (See "TIME EXPOSURES AT "B,"" page 31)

**"L" (Lock):** At this setting the shutter button may be temporarily locked while cocked to prevent accidental shutter release. To disengage the lock, set the dial to the desired exposure mode and release the shutter.







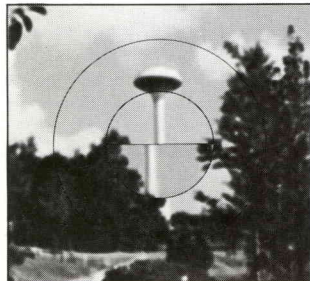
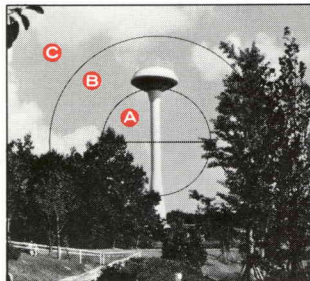


Preselection of the lens aperture is optional when shooting in the "M" (Manual) mode. However, when shooting on "AUTO", it is recommended that you preset the aperture. This is because the shutter speed selected by the automatic exposure system is determined in relation to the lens aperture used. By presetting the aperture control ring to an f-number that is appropriate for lighting conditions in the picture, problems of over and underexposure can be largely eliminated. When shooting on "AUTO" (or manual when applicable), preset the lens aperture as suggested in the following table.

Fine weather .....	f/8 – f/11
Cloud weather .....	f/4 – f/5.6
Indoors .....	f/1.4 – f/2.8

**To set aperture:** The calibrations on the aperture control ring of the lens are referred to as f-numbers or f-stops and denote the size of the lens aperture. To set the aperture, align the figure equivalent to the recommended f-number with the diamond index mark.

**Note on f-numbers:** Lower f-numbers (such as f/1.4) denote wider lens apertures, while higher-f-numbers (such as f/22) denote smaller apertures. With the 50mm f/1.4 lens, for example, f/1.4 is the widest aperture or "open-aperture," while f/22 is the smallest aperture or "minimum aperture." As the size of the aperture also affects the overall sharpness of the photo, you may occasionally wish to vary the aperture setting from the norm for different effects (See page 32.)



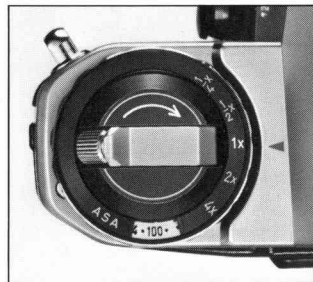
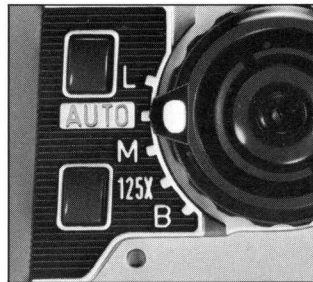
The focusing screen inside the viewfinder of your ME SUPER is a split-image type surrounded by a microprism collar. For precise focus, turn the focusing ring of the lens until the two images in the split-image circle at the center **A** align as one. If you find focusing with the split-image circle difficult, focus with the microprism collar **B** by turning the focusing ring until the glitter disappears from inside the collar. In addition, the field surrounding the center spots **C** may also be used for quick focusing: merely turning the ring until the image comes in clear in the overall viewfinder field. The surrounding field also gives better results than the center spot when using telephoto lenses having a small maximum aperture.

When operating in the "AUTO" mode, the shutter speed is automatically varied by the camera in relation to the preset lens aperture. In most cases, sharply focused, well-exposed photos are easily obtained and the only adjustments required are the preliminaries outlined below. When it is extremely bright, however, or when lighting is limited (such as at dusk, dawn, night, shooting indoors, etc.) additional adjustments are sometimes required. Usually, simply changing the lens aperture is enough, but there are also instances when use of a tripod, electronic flash, or the exposure compensation dial will bring improved results.

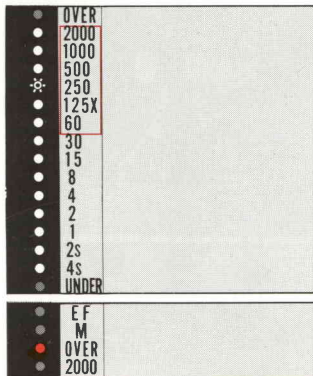
**Preliminaries:** Before checking the exposure for auto operation, be sure you have performed the following:

- (1) Check that the ASA film speed is set properly (page 9).
- (2) Preset the lens aperture as described on page 13.
- (3) Set the exposure mode dial to "AUTO."
- (4) Set the exposure compensation dial to 1X.

**Exposure Check:** Put your eye to the viewfinder and lightly press the shutter button until one of the Light Emitting Diode (LED) indicators glows. There is no need to maintain finger pressure on the shutter button to keep the display lit. Once it is turned on, it remains lit for approximately 20 – 35 seconds. If it goes out before you complete your exposure, simply press lightly on the shutter button once again.



The figures seen in the viewfinder from "2" to "2000" refer to the shutter speeds in fractions of seconds (i.e., 1/2 sec. to 1/2000 sec.), "1" to "4S" indicate full-second shutter speeds.



### GREEN LED – CORRECT EXPOSURE “Go ahead and shoot”

If one of the GREEN LEDs light (i.e., those between “2000” and “60,” no further adjustments are required. Simply focus, compose your picture and shoot by pressing the shutter button all the way down. A GREEN LED indicates that the shutter speed is fast enough to shoot while holding the camera in your hand.

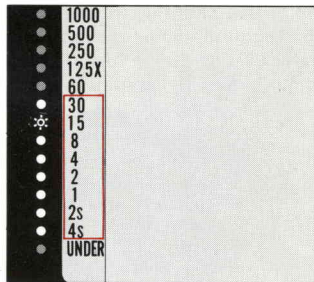
### RED “OVER” LED – OVEREXPOSURE

If the RED LED beside the “OVER” indication at the top of the shutter speed scale lights, your shot will be overexposed unless you adjust the lens aperture ring. To correct for overexposure, turn the aperture ring clockwise to a smaller aperture (i.e., f/5.6 to f/8, f/11, etc.) until one of the GREEN LEDs light. It is not necessary to stop when the LED lights at “2000” (when more depth-of-field is desired use a slower shutter speed and smaller lens aperture — see page 32).

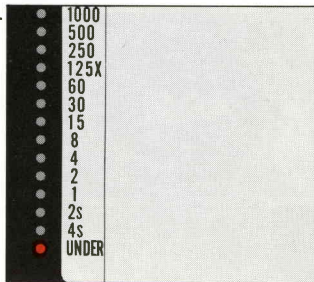
**CAUTION:** If you should happen to press the shutter button while the shutter dial is set on AUTO with the lens cap on, or in very poor lighting conditions, the mirror may lock up, resulting in abnormally long exposure. To correct this, the shutter can be quickly closed by turning the shutter dial to 125X. After closing the shutter, be sure to reset the shutter dial to AUTO.

**YELLOW LED – SLOW EXPOSURE/CAMERA SHAKE WARNING**

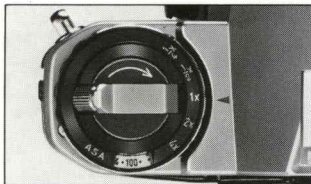
When the shutter speed drops below 1/60 sec., although exposure will be correct, the slightest movement of the camera – even vibration from pressing the shutter button – often produces “camera shake” at the critical moment of exposure; this in turn will cause blurred pictures. The LEDs between “30” and “4S” illuminate in yellow to warn against camera shake. If a YELLOW LED lights, first try a wider lens aperture (i.e., f/5.6 to f/2.8, f/1.7, etc.) to see if a GREEN LED will appear. If the GREEN LED doesn’t light before you reach the widest lens aperture, do either of the following: ① Shoot at the fastest possible shutter speed indicated by a YELLOW LED, but brace the camera on a firm surface: better still, use a tripod – to minimize camera shake (page 31) or, ② switch to flash (page 28–29).

**RED “UNDER” LED – UNDEREXPOSURE**

When light is extremely limited, the RED LED beside the “UNDER” indication at the bottom of the scale glows to warn you against underexposure. If this LED lights, first try setting the lens to its widest aperture (f/2, f/1.4, etc.). If a GREEN LED lights, go ahead and shoot. If a YELLOW LED appears, follow the procedure outlined in “YELLOW LED – SLOW EXPOSURE” above. If the RED “UNDER” LED remains lit even at the widest aperture: ① make a time exposure using a tripod at the “B” mode setting, or ② switch to flash (pages 28 – 29).



In difficult lighting situations where there is an extreme contrast between the subject and the background, the auto exposure system tends either to over or underexpose the subject somewhat, which results in the loss of detail. To compensate for such situations, your ME SUPER is provided with an exposure compensation dial which overrides the influence of the adverse lighting source.

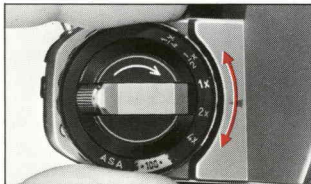


The dial surrounds the film rewind crank and is scaled 4X, 2X, 1X, 1/2X and 1/4X (X indicates the exposure increase or decrease factor).

**“Normal Exposure”** is obtained at the 1X setting. Always keep the dial at this setting when exposure compensation is not needed.

**Exposure Increase:** At the 2X and 4X settings the camera is programmed automatically to double and quadruple the light reaching the film.

**Exposure Decrease:** Conversely, at the 1/2X and 1/4X settings, one-half and one-fourth the amount of light is delivered to the film.



**To set the Dial:** Place your fingers on the outer rim of the dial and turn it until the figure representing the amount of compensation required aligns with the orange index pointer. When exposure compensation is employed, the red LED beside the “EF” indication at the top of the viewfinder scale will flash when you activate the exposure meter to warn that an “exposure factor” is being employed.



**Compensation for Backlit Subjects:** For subjects with the sun behind them, or against a bright snowy background, brightly lit window, etc., increase the exposure by setting the dial either to 2X or 4X. (Use your own judgement of the brightness of the scene in determining which factor to use.)

**Compensation for Spotlit Subjects:** When the subject is spotlighted on stage, etc., or for any intensely lit subject against a dark background, decrease the exposure by setting the dial to 1/2X or 1/4X to help bring out the details of the subject.

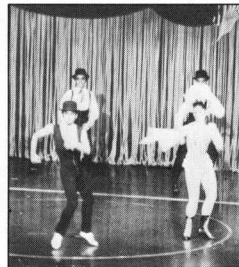
**ALWAYS SET THE EXPOSURE COMPENSATION DIAL BACK TO 1X WHEN COMPENSATION IS NO LONGER REQUIRED.**



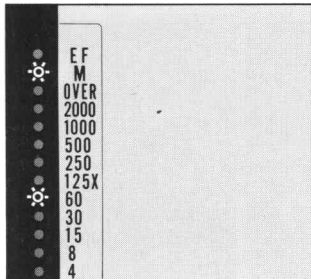
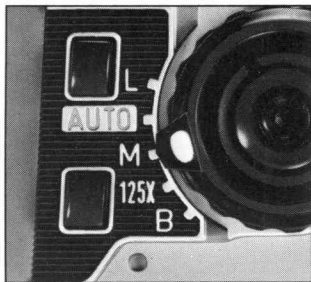
compensated



uncompensated







While the shutter speed in the "AUTO" mode varies continuously in relation to lighting conditions, the ME SUPER's revolutionary new "pushbutton" manual exposure system lets you freeze the shutter speed at any one of the 14 LED shutter speed settings displayed inside the viewfinder — a handy feature for fast moving subjects and other special exposure situations. To select the manual shutter speed, just turn the exposure mode dial to "M," activate the exposure meter and press either the shutter speed increase or decrease button. As shutter speed setting is done completely with the eye to the viewfinder, the fumbling characteristic of the traditional shutter speed dial has been eliminated

**Exposure Metering:** After setting the exposure mode dial to "M," depress the shutter button lightly. This activates the meter and lights the LED shutter speed display inside the viewfinder. As with auto exposures, the display remains lit for approx. 20 — 35 sec. and goes out. If additional metering time is required, simply press the shutter button lightly once again.

**Manual Shutter Speed Indication:** Each time you activate the meter while operating in the manual mode, the "M" (manual) indicator lights as a reminder that you are making manual exposures. In addition, the shutter speed to which the system was set prior to activating the meter will also light (even when you turn the mode dial away from the "M" setting, the manual

exposure memory circuit displays your previous manual shutter speed when you reactivate the meter on switching back to "M").

### Shutter Speed Control Pushbuttons

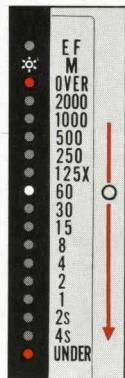
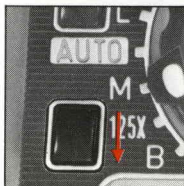
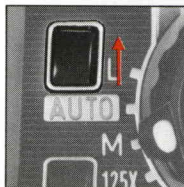
Two shutter speed control pushbuttons are provided to enable rapid shutter speed selection in the manual mode. These operate when the exposure mode dial is set to "M" (manual) and the shutter release button is partially depressed to light the LED display inside the viewfinder.

#### Shutter Speed Increase – Forward Button

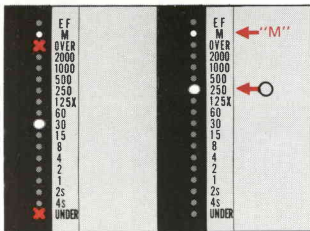
Press the forward button and the LED shutter speeds inside the viewfinder will increase from bottom to top. Let go of the button when the LED lights beside the desired shutter speed. When the display reaches "2000" at the top of the scale, it starts over from the bottom (for example: 1000 – 2000 – 4S – 2S – 1 – 2 . . . . 500 – 1000 – 2000 – 4S – 2S, etc.).

#### Shutter Speed Decrease – Rear Button

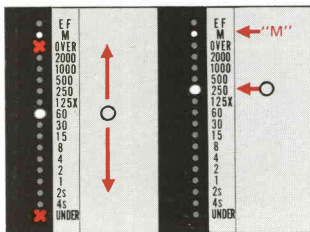
Press this button and the LED shutter speed display decreases from top to bottom. At the bottom of the scale, the display starts over again at the top (thus: 2S – 4S – 2000 – 1000 . . . . 15 – 8 – 4 – 2 – 1 – 2S – 4S – 2000, etc.).



**EXPOSURE SETTING:** With the manual exposure system you have the option of setting either the shutter speed or the lens aperture first. The "OVER" and "UNDER" LEDs flash in the viewfinder to serve as guides for setting the correct exposure.



**Shutter Speed First:** Set the desired shutter speed with the shutter speed control pushbuttons. If the "OVER" LED still flashes, stop the lens down to a smaller aperture (i.e., f/5.6 to f/11, f/16, etc.) until it goes out. If the "UNDER" LED remains lit, set the lens to a wider aperture (i.e., f/5.6 to f/2, f/1.4, etc.). Exposure is correct when the shutter speed and the "M" LED are the only LEDs that remain lit in the viewfinder.



**Aperture First:** Set the f-number you wish to shoot at with the aperture control ring, then match up the shutter speed with the shutter speed control pushbuttons. When the "OVER" LED is lit, increase the shutter speed until it goes out. When the "UNDER" LED is lit, decrease the shutter speed until the "UNDER" indication goes out.

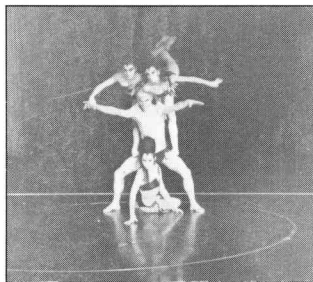
Exposure is correct when the shutter speed and the "M" LED are the only LEDs that remain lit in the viewfinder.

**Overexposure:** If the "OVER" LED fails to go out when you set the exposure by presetting the shutter speed, use a faster shutter speed; conversely, if it remains lit when you preset the lens aperture, use a smaller aperture.

**Low-Light Exposures/Underexposure:** With either method, when exposure conditions require that you use a slow shutter speed below 1/60 sec., be sure to take precautions against camera shake (page 17). If the underexposure LED remains lit even after you have given maximum exposure, either make a time exposure at the "B" setting (page 31), or switch to flash photography (pages 28–29.)

**NOTE**

**Shortcut:** When changing from a slow to a fast shutter speed, it is not necessary to use the shutter speed increase button. If the given shutter speed is 2 sec. and you desire to increase to 1/1000 sec., for example, simply press the decrease button until the LED lights at "1000." (When going from a fast to a slow shutter speed, reverse the procedure by taking a shortcut with the shutter speed increase button.)



**Exposure in Difficult Lighting:** The exposure compensation dial does not function with the manual exposure system because exposure factors may be employed freely by varying the aperture or shutter speed setting as desired. Generally, for backlit subjects, open the aperture 1 or 2 additional stops, or decrease the shutter speed 1 or 2 stops. With spotlighted and other intensely lit subjects, either stop the aperture down 1 or 2 stops, or increase the shutter speed 1 or 2 additional stops. Accordingly, either the "OVER" or "UNDER" LED will remain lit while exposure factors are being employed. (NOTE: With the TTL metering system, filter, close-up and other such exposure factors are automatically compensated for by the built-in exposure meter.)

