

# Pentax K 1000

**FOCUSING:** Manual.  
**LENSES:** Interchangeable Pentax lenses in Pentax K bayonet mount.  
**SHUTTER:** Horizontal-travel with mechanically controlled speeds one to 1/1000 second plus B. X sync at 1/60 second.  
**FILM ADVANCE:** Manual advance and rewind.  
**EXPOSURE SYSTEM:** Metered manual. Two CdS cells in viewfinder read TTL centerweighted pattern. EV 3-18 (at ISO 100, with f/2 lens). Film-speed range ISO 20-3200, no DX contacts.  
**VIEWFINDER:** Fixed eye-level prism with non-interchangeable screen; central microprism, fine groundglass collar, full-focusing outer area. Meter needle at right of image area with matching cutout, over/underexposure markings.  
**FLASH:** Hot shoe, PC socket.  
**BATTERY:** One 1.5-volt silver-oxide.  
**PRICE:** Body only, \$210; with 50mm f/2 lens (as shown), \$290.

The venerable K 1000 still runs counter to every trend in the SLR market. Most new models offer total automation of exposure, film han-

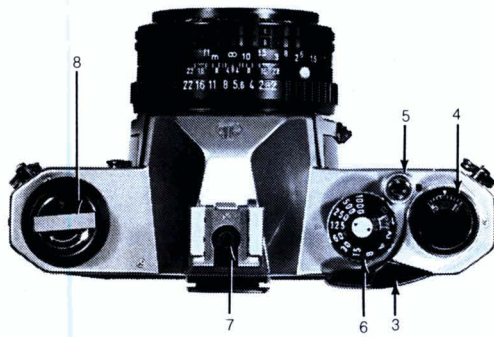
dling, flash and even focusing. But with this modest, unchanged camera, you do everything by hand. There are no LCD panels, no motors and no flashing lights. In fact, old-timers may recognize the K 1000 as a simplified descendant of the Spotmatic F, circa 1973.

Controls are pared down to the essential few, all located in a cluster on the top deck. Turn the knurled shutter-speed dial to choose from the once-common range of one to 1/1000 second plus B. Shutter timing is accomplished mechanically at all speeds, so if the battery dies you lose only the light meter. The ISO film speed, quaintly marked ASA, is visible in a window on top of the shutter dial. To change the setting, you lift and turn a ring on the dial.

Film loading is straightforward: slip the leader into the take-up spool and stroke the winding lever. At the end of the roll, press the rewind release on the camera's bottom plate, then flip up the rewind lever and turn it manually. Are we leaving anything out? Oh yes,



1. Lens-release button. 2. PC sync terminal. 3. Winding lever. 4. Frame counter. 5. Shutter-release button. 6. Shutter-speed dial from 1 to 1/1000 second. 7. Conventional hot shoe. 8. Rewind crank.



there's a frame counter built into the hub of the film-advance lever.

To turn on the light meter, you remove the lens cap! (Purists may quibble that the meter is on even with the cap in place, but power drain is minimal.) Looking through the finder, you'll see a small cutout on the right, flanked by plus and minus signs. Choose your shutter speed, then adjust the lens aperture ring until the needle floats in the center of the cutout. If depth of field is of paramount importance, set the aperture first, but remember that the shutter has no in-between speed settings. Also, the edges of the metering cutout are placed just right to serve as 1/2-EV over- and underexposure marks.

Because it has no exposure automation, the K 1000 is equally compatible with all varieties of K-type bayonet-mount lenses. Even the new auto-focus KA-F models function properly, albeit with manual focusing. In order to help you focus, the viewfinder has a central microprism spot, surrounded by a finely ground collar.

A hot shoe on the prism housing

accepts any standard electronic flash unit. For flash guns without the requisite electrical contact, there's a PC socket near the lens mount. Automated flash units with external sensors will give you flash AE, but not dedicated operation. Remember to set the shutter to 1/60 second or slower; otherwise a portion of the picture will be underexposed.

That about wraps up the features of the K 1000. You may be wondering how such a simple camera can survive in the late 1980s. The answer is equally simple—this is a wonderful tool for learning how to take pictures. By making all the decisions, you discover vital connections between shutter speeds, f/stops, depth of field, action stopping and image sharpness. (Unfortunately, there's no depth-of-field preview control.) Manual metering forces you to think about light and decide what kind of effects you want to achieve. The K 1000 is certainly not the fastest or most convenient SLR on the market, but it offers the serious student an inexpensive way to explore the craft of photography.