

Honeywell Pentax Spotmatic

TYPE: 35mm eye-level single-lens reflex.
LENS: 50mm f/1.4 Super-Takumar with interchangeable thread mount, stops to f/16, focusing to 18 in.

SHUTTER: Cloth focal-plane with speeds from 1 to 1/1000 sec. plus B, FPX sync, self timer.

VIEWING: Non-interchangeable eye-level prism with full focusing screen plus fine ground-glass collar, central micro-prism.

OTHER FEATURES: Mercury battery-powered CdS exposure meter behind-lens, coupled to shutter speeds and lens aperture, instant-return mirror, quick-return diaphragm, depth of field

preview, film wind signal, exposure control signal.

PRICE: with 55mm f/1.4 Super-Takumar, \$289.50; with black finish, \$299.50; with 55mm f/1.8 Super-Takumar, \$249.50.

MANUFACTURER: Asahi Optical Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan. **IMPORTER:** Honeywell Photographic Prod., 4800 E. Dry Creek Rd., Denver, Colo.

PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS: 5½ in. long, 3¾ in. high, 3½ in. deep. **WEIGHT:** 1 lb. 14 oz.

The Honeywell Pentax Spotmatic incorporates a fully integrated exposure

meter system. Two 3mm diameter CdS cells, one on either side of the finder eyepiece, face forward to measure the light transmitted through the prism from the entire focusing screen. To make a meter reading, you first set the film's ASA index (20 to 1600) by lifting up and turning the outer rim of the shutter speed dial (8). You then press upwards on a small electrical circuit switch (12) at the left side of the camera's lens mount. This not only turns on the meter system but also sets the camera's automatic diaphragm control mechanism to manual operation.

Looking through the finder you will see at the right, outside the picture area, a vertical cutout section with a center point. A meter needle rides up and down in the section. You get correct exposure either by changing shutter speed dial setting or closing down the lens aperture until the meter needle is centered.

If you examine the Spotmatic and the H3v models side by side you will see a general family resemblance in body contour and type of trim, but the Spotmatic is really a completely different camera inside out except for most of the finder system.

The lens mount is now a sturdy die-casting instead of pressed metal. While the top and bottom plates remain pressed metal, the thickness has been increased. Mechanical interior parts have been improved.

The rubberized-cloth shutter mechanism has also been improved. The curtain movement has been speeded up and now allows a 1/60 sec. electronic flash shutter speed instead of the near 1/50 sec. used on other Pentaxes.

The film advance (7) represents the first geared wind lever used on a Pentax. The lever is slightly sturdier than on other Pentaxes and can advance film and wind the shutter with a single 160° stroke, or a series of strokes.

Film loading is slightly different. You pull upwards sharply on the rewind knob (11) of the Spotmatic to open the back, instead of using a side catch.

The behind-the-lens meter was able to read well in low light, down to 1/15 sec. at f/1.4 with a film having an ASA of 400.

To take a reading with the Pentax meter system, the lens must be stopped down to shooting aperture. This of course increases depth of field and darkens the finder. At moderate apertures the camera can still be focused accurately with the meter system operating. However, when a small aperture is used the finder can get too dark and the depth of field too great for good focusing. The meter switch should then be turned off to allow the lens to reopen fully for focusing. Then, after focusing, the switch can again be activated to check exposure just before shooting.

