

Picture-Taking in Five Minutes



There are four necessary elements in photography: film, camera, subject, and light. Without any one of these elements, successful picture-taking is not possible.

FILM

Film is a light-sensitive material that records an image. Just as there are different types of cameras, there are different types of films. When you purchase a film, it is important that you get the right film for your particular needs. Keep the following in mind:

1. Decide whether you want color prints, black-and-white prints, or color slides for projection. Each film type is intended primarily to make only one of these three kinds of pictures. However, you can have color prints made from color slides, and you can have color slides made from color negatives. Since this involves a second step, it generally costs more.
2. Every camera uses film of a particular size, for example, 135, APS, or 110. Check the camera instruction manual to see what size film your camera uses. If you cannot locate your manual, take your camera with you when you buy film.
3. Know about film speed when you purchase your film. Film speed is a number that indicates the film's sensitivity to light. The higher the number, the more sensitive the film is to light. For example, under dim lighting you should use a high-speed film such as KODAK GOLD MAX 800 Film or KODAK ROYAL GOLD 1000 Film. These films are also good for action shots, as they allow the camera to use faster shutter speeds to freeze the action. In bright sun, use a medium-speed film such as KODAK GOLD 100 Film or KODAK ROYAL GOLD 200 Film for best quality.

THE BASIC CAMERA

All cameras have the same basic parts:

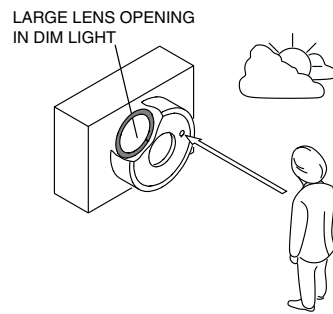
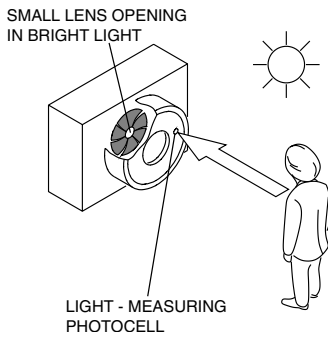
- A light-tight box to keep light out and to serve as a frame to hold the other parts.
- A lens to collect the light reflected from a subject and form an image on the film. It may be a fixed focus lens (for normal picture-taking distances), autofocus, or manual focus.
- A lens opening (aperture) to control the intensity of the light reaching the film. The size of the lens opening may be fixed or it may be adjustable.
- A shutter to control the length of time that light reaches the film. The shutter keeps light out until you take a picture. Simple cameras have one or two shutter speeds. Advanced cameras have a wide range of shutter speeds. A fast shutter speed allows you to capture action scenes.
- A shutter release to open and close the shutter.
- A film-advance mechanism to advance the film for the next exposure.
- A viewfinder to show you the area you are taking pictures of.
- Flash. Some cameras have a built-in flash, while others have a flash shoe for holding a flash accessory.

Types of Cameras

Although all cameras are basically the same, some cameras offer certain features that others don't. There are basically three types of cameras: simple, adjustable, and automatic.

Simple Cameras

To make things easy, we'll call any camera simple if it doesn't offer adjustments for shutter speed, lens opening, and focus, and doesn't have an exposure-control system. Simple cameras have only one or two shutter speeds, and the focus may be preset by the factory for normal picture-taking distance—4 to 5 feet to infinity. Although some simple cameras have a fixed lens opening, others have an adjustment for two or three different lens openings. Set the lens opening according to the recommendations in your camera manual or in the film carton.



Adjustable Cameras

An adjustable camera has controls that allow you to take pictures under a wider range of conditions than is possible with a non-adjustable camera. The main controls are shutter speed, lens opening (aperture), and lens focus.

Shutter speed and aperture are used together to control exposure. The shutter speed not only affects how much light strikes the film, but also how movement in the scene is recorded. For example, if you want to stop the action of a fast-moving subject, use a very fast shutter speed such as 1/1000 second. Since a fast shutter speed allows less light to reach the film, you may have to use a larger lens opening to obtain a proper exposure. A large lens opening means smaller depth of field (range of focus in a picture).

In contrast, if you are photographing a garden flower close up and you want all of the flower petals to record sharply, use a small aperture such as $f/16$ to obtain good depth of field. Since a small aperture means less light striking the film, you may need to use a slow shutter speed to compensate.

Keep in mind that the large f -numbers such as $f/16$ and $f/22$ refer to small lens openings and the small f -numbers such as $f/2.8$ and $f/4$ represent large lens openings. An easy way to remember this is to think of the numbers in terms of fractions: $1/2.8$ is larger than $1/16$.

Automatic Cameras

An automatic camera is easy to use like a simple camera but has some of the picture-taking versatility of an adjustable camera. Automatic cameras have an exposure-control system that regulates the size of the lens opening or the shutter speed (or both).

Some automatic cameras are shutter-priority, which means you choose the shutter speed and the camera chooses the aperture. Others are aperture-priority; you choose the aperture and the camera chooses the shutter speed. Some advanced models have programmed exposure, in which the camera sets both the shutter speed and aperture.

SUBJECT

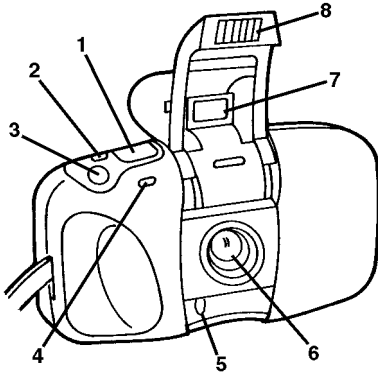
A good subject is whatever appeals to you. Such subjects as a child's birthday party, a setting sun, a happy bride and groom, and a snow-capped mountain peak are favorites with almost everybody.

But try the unusual too. Good pictures often begin by seeing the common subject in an uncommon way. Keep your imagination going with constant practice.

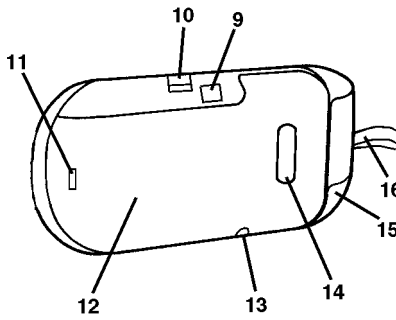
LIGHT

To record a photographic image, film must be exposed to light. For good pictures, you must expose the film in your camera to the proper amount of light. If too little light reaches the film, your pictures will be too dark (underexposed). If too much light reaches the film, your pictures will be too light (overexposed). It is important to read the exposure data in your camera instruction manual or the film carton.

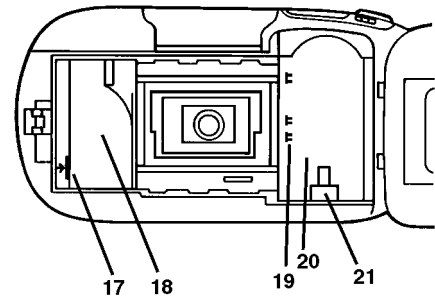
PARTS OF A CAMERA



1. LCD Panel
2. Self-Timer Button
3. Shutter Button
4. Self-Timer Lamp
5. Meter-Cell Window
6. Lens
7. Viewfinder
8. Lens Cover/Flash



9. Viewfinder Eyepiece
10. Panoramic Switch
11. Film-Door Latch
12. Film Door
13. Tripod Socket
14. Film Window
15. Battery Door
16. Camera Strap



17. Film-Tip Mark
18. Film Take-Up Spool
19. DX-Code Sensors
20. Film-Magazine Chamber
21. Film Magazine Spindle

TIPS FOR BETTER PICTURES

No matter what camera and film you are using, you'll take better pictures if you remember the following tips:

- Hold the camera steady. Stand still and grip the camera firmly with both hands while holding your elbows close to your body. Gently squeeze the shutter release.
- Take close-ups of your subject when possible. With most cameras you can get as close as 4 or 5 feet. With some cameras you can get closer.
- Keep the picture simple. Have one center of interest and avoid cluttered or distracting backgrounds.
- Keep your subject busy. Have people doing something natural instead of staring at the camera.
- Include a foreground subject when photographing distant scenes.

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