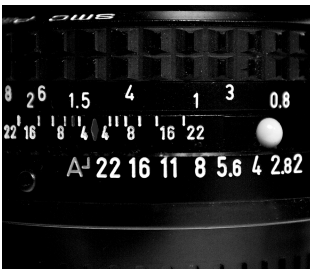


K-mount Manual “A” Lenses

The Pentax “A” series is a line of manual focus lenses which feature an automatic setting on the aperture ring. It fits both 35mm cameras and DSLRs. The incredible 50mm f/1.2 is still available from Pentax. With these manual lenses, the autofocus function is not possible, but the *K10D* allows manual focusing and confirms that autofocus has been achieved with the confirmation in the viewfinder as well as an audible beep. Most of the other functions will work with the “A” series of lenses. To work correctly in the exposure modes, the aperture needs to be set with the “A” position while holding the auto-lock button.



There are a lot of “A” manual lenses still available new from Pentax. These “A” lenses can also be purchased, used, at bargain prices all over the world. Ebay is an excellent source for used lenses.

List of “A” lenses still available new from Pentax:

A 15mm f/3.5
A 20mm f/2.8
A 50mm f/2.0
A 50mm f/1.2
A 35-80mm f/4.0 – 5.6
A 80-200 f/4.7 – 5.6
A 200mm f/2.8 ED
A 300mm f/2.8 ED IF
A 400mm f/2.8 ED IF
A 400mm f/5.6
A 600mm f/5.6 ED
A 1200mm f/8.0 ED IF

K-mount “M” Manual Lenses

The Pentax “M” series is a line of manual focus lenses. They are no longer manufactured, but they can be found all over the world. Again, Ebay is an excellent source for used “M” lenses. These lenses fit both 35mm cameras and DSLRs. However, since the “A” position does not exist on these lenses, the automatic aperture will not work properly. The lenses will work in manual (M) mode (*See note at the bottom of this page*) by choosing the aperture you want to use (Turning the aperture ring based on the depth of field needed or other criteria). The preview button (optically set) can be used to see what the picture will look like but it will not adjust the shutter speed by itself. Pressing the Green button will adjust the shutter speed accordingly. Take the picture.

I found another way that works for me, whereas the metering system can be used in all modes. You will have to manually stop-down the lens if you want a particular aperture other than the maximum aperture. The “M” series will not show the stop-down result in the viewfinder. When installing an “M” lens on your camera, install it in such a way that the lens is not locked into position. Looking at the front of the lens, preset it to the smallest aperture, and mount the lens (clockwise) until you see the iris starting to open from the smallest aperture. Leave the lens at that position. Don’t worry; the lens will not fall off the camera. It’s like the manual cameras of yesteryear but with some automation in respect to the exposure. (*See note at the bottom of this page*). This setup will allow taking pictures in all modes.

K-M manual lens will work properly in (M) mode only while using the Green button. Using the alternative described above, you will be able to take a picture in all modes although it remains a manual aperture lens. Decide if aperture or shutter speed is your priority. Shooting action or portrait, for example, would lean toward either high shutter speed or large aperture respectively. The camera will give the correct exposure for the combination shutter speed / aperture you choose. You can increase the ISO if the combination of shutter speed / aperture is not allowing enough light to take the picture. If the results are still not acceptable to you, use the camera’s Exposure and/or Extended Bracket modes as explained on pages 102–105.

Note: The aperture ring must be set to “Permitted” in the Custom Setting menu otherwise you will not be able to press the shutter release. See Custom Setting menu, page 6/6, 3rd line down.