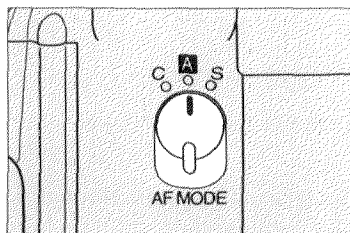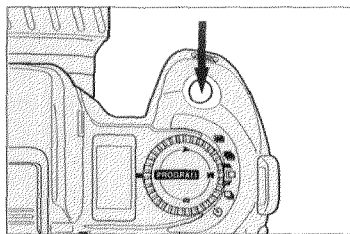# FOCUS LOCK

When your subject is located outside the focus area or in situations where autofocus is difficult to confirm, you can lock focus on your subject. If your subject is small or far away from the camera, we recommend that you select the Spot Focus Area (p.27).

1. Set the AF-mode selector to A or S.

2. Align your subject within the focus area.

3. Press the shutter-release button partway down until the focus signal ● glows.

4. Continue to hold the shutter-release button partway down while you recompose the picture as desired.

5. Press the shutter-release button all the way down to take the picture.

• Focus cannot be locked if the camera is in Continuous Autofocus Mode or if the subject is moving.

• To ensure proper exposure of your off-center subject, as well as sharp focus, exposure will also be locked when the shutter-release button is pressed partway down.

Alternate Focus Lock Methods:

• If you are using an AF Zoom xi or AF Power Zoom lens, you can lock focus by pulling the lens control ring towards you.

• If you are using a manual zoom lens which has a focus-hold button, you can lock focus by pressing the focus-hold button.

SPECIAL FOCUSING SITUATIONS

In the situations described below or similar situations, it may be difficult or impossible for the camera to focus accurately. In such situations, you should use focus lock (p.30) or manual focus (p.32).
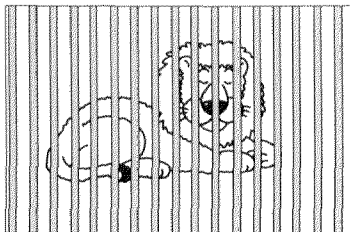
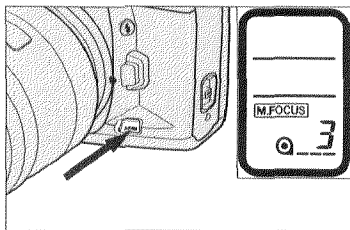If two subjects at different distances overlap within the focus area.
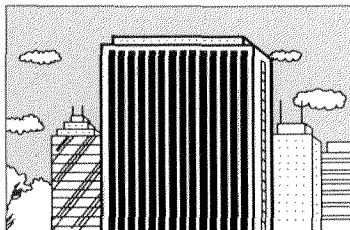
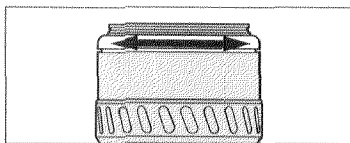If a subject composed of alternately light and dark lines completely fills the focus area.
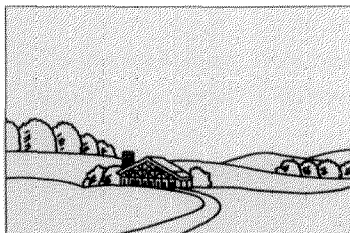
If the subject within the focus area is very bright or low-contrast.

MANUAL FOCUS

1. Press the AF/M focus-mode button so that M.FOCUS appears in the body data panel.

2. Look through the viewfinder and turn the lens focusing ring until your subject appears clear and sharp.
• If you are using an AF Zoom xi or AF Power Zoom lens, pull the control ring towards you and turn it either direction to focus.
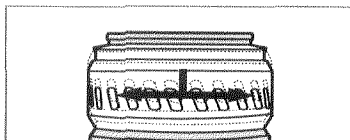
.3. Confirm focus by pressing the shutter-release button partway down. The focus signal ● glows when the subject is in focus.

• The selected autofocus area will be used to monitor focus.
• Manual-focus mode will remain selected until you press the AF/M focus-mode button to return to autofocus mode.
• When manual-focus mode is selected, Honeycomb-Pattern Metering operates similar to center-weighted average metering. Therefore, the picture may not be exposed for your subject.
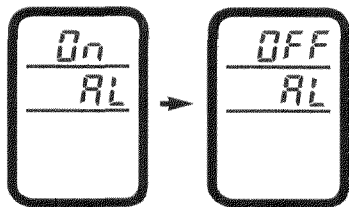
AUTOFOCUS ILLUMINATOR

If the subject or scene is too dark for the camera to focus accurately, lift the built-in flash. The flash will automatically fire a few short bursts before and after the lens focuses to provide the light necessary for the camera to detect and focus on a subject even in complete darkness.

TO TURN THE AF ILLUMINATOR OFF:
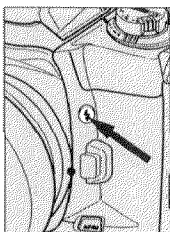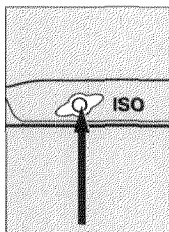
1. Press and hold the ISO button.
2. Then press the flash-control button. "ON AL" appears in the data panel.

3. Press the ISO button once so that "OFF AL" appears.
4. Press the shutter-release button partway down to store the setting.

• To turn the AF illuminator on again, repeat the procedure so that "ON AL" appears in the data panel.

•The autofocus illuminator will not operate when continuous autofocus mode is selected.

EXPOSURE

EXPOSURE MODES

This camera has four exposure modes: Program Autoexposure (PROGRAM), Aperture-Priority Autoexposure (A), Shutter-Speed-Priority Autoexposure (S), and Manual Exposure (M).

PROGRAMMED AUTOEXPOSURE (PROGRAM) MODE (P.37)

PROGRAM mode is ideal when you want to take pictures quickly in the simplest way possible.

APERTURE-PRIORITY (A) MODE (P.38)

In A mode, you select the aperture and the camera automatically sets the shutter speed required for proper exposure.

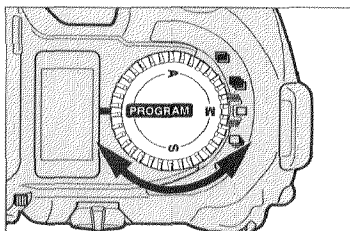## SHUTTER-SPEED-PRIORITY (S) MODE (P.40)

S mode lets you select the shutter speed and the camera automatically sets the aperture for the best exposure.

MANUAL (M) MODE (P.42)

In M mode, you have full control of exposure and the camera will show you how your settings relate to the camera's TTL meter.

## SELECTING THE EXPOSURE MODE

1. Set the exposure-mode selector to PROGRAM, A, S, or M.

PROGRAMMED AUTOEXPOSURE MODE

PROGRAM mode is ideal when you want to take pictures quickly in the simplest way possible. This mode is suited for almost any situation and is very reliable. Program mode features Expert Program Selection which automatically analyzes subject motion and magnification, as well as lens focal length and sets the shutter speed and aperture accordingly.

The following indicators may blink in the viewfinder. Refer to the Trouble Shooting section on page 86 for more information.
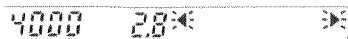
Scene or subject brightness is beyond the camera's metering range.

If both exposure settings blink, the light level is beyond the range of available shutter speeds and apertures.
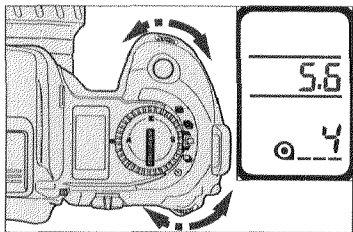
In A mode, you select the aperture and the camera automatically sets the shutter speed required for proper exposure. This mode should be used when you want to control the range of sharpness (i.e., depth of field) in a photograph. Large apertures (small numbers) provide a short depth of field which is ideal for portraits.
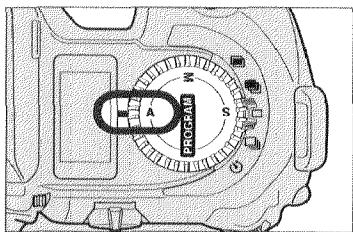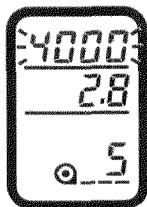
1. Set the exposure-mode selector to A.

2. Turn either control dial to select the aperture.

* ➡ Larger aperture settings
* ▪▪▪➡ Smaller aperture settings

3. Compose your photograph and take the picture.

The following indicators may blink in the viewfinder. Refer to the Trouble Shooting section on page 86 for more information.

Overexposure; select a smaller aperture (larger number) until the display stops blinking.
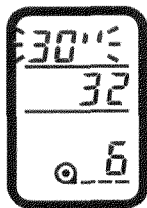
Underexposure; select a larger aperture (smaller number) until the display stops blinking or use flash.


Scene or subject brightness is beyond the camera's metering range.

• Slow shutter speeds may not permit sharp hand-held pictures. Before taking the picture, confirm the shutter-speed setting. If it is slow, select a larger aperture (smaller number), place your camera on a tripod or use flash.
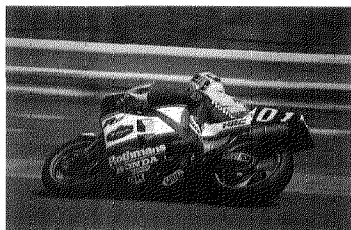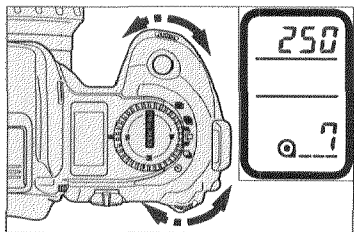
39

S mode lets you select the shutter speed and the camera automatically sets the aperture for the best exposure. This mode is very useful for photographing moving subjects when you want to control subject blur. Faster shutter speeds can freeze the subject.
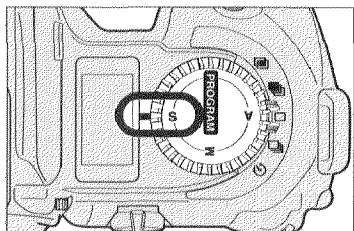
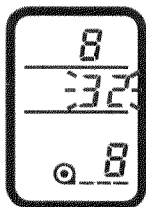1. Set the exposure-mode selector to S.

2. Turn either control dial to select the shutter speed.
* ➡ Faster shutter speeds
* ▪▪▪➡ Slower shutter speeds

3. Compose your photograph and take the picture.

40

The following indicators may blink in the viewfinder. Refer to the Trouble Shooting section on page 86 for more information.

Overexposure; select a faster shutter speed until the display stops blinking.
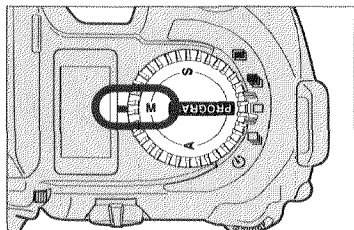

Underexposure; select a slower shutter speed until the display stops blinking or use flash.
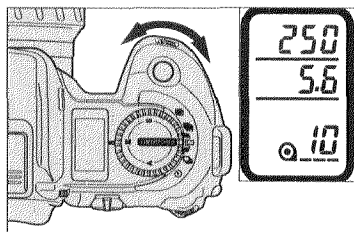

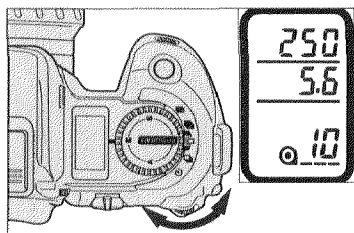Scene or subject brightness is beyond the camera's metering range.

41

MANUAL EXPOSURE

In M mode, you have full control of exposure. In this mode, the metering index appears in the viewfinder so you can see how your settings relate to the camera's TTL meter.

1. Set the exposure-mode selector to M.

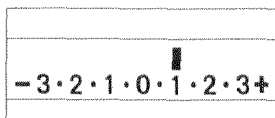2. Turn the front control dial to select the shutter speed.

3. Turn the rear control dial to select the aperture.

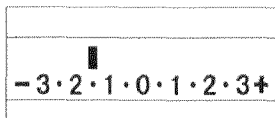4. Compose your photograph and take the picture.

In M mode, the metering index will appear to show you how the exposure value (EV) of your shutter speed and aperture compares to the exposure value determined by the camera's metering system.

−3·2·1·0·1·2·3+	Correct exposure

|	
−3·2·1·0·1·2·3+	Overexposure by 1 EV

−3·2·1·0·1·2·3+	Underexposure by 1.5 EV

• If your exposure settings exceed the camera's suggested exposure value by more than ±3 EV, one of the arrows on the metering index will blink.

BULB

Bulb can only be used in M mode. When set, the shutter will remain open as long as you press the shutter-release button. To avoid blurry pictures, mount the camera on a tripod and use the optional Remote Cord RC-1000 S or L to release the shutter.

1. Set the exposure-mode selector to M.
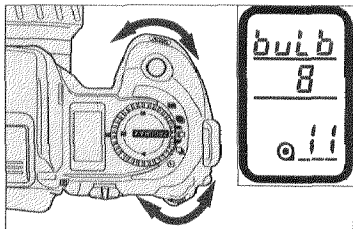
2. Turn the front control dial towards the slower shutter speeds to select bulb. Turn the rear control dial to set the aperture.

3. Press and hold the shutter-release button to take the picture. The shutter will remain open as long as you hold the shutter-release button down.
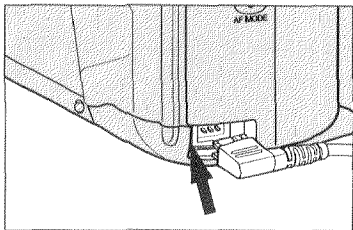
To Attach the Remote Cord:
1. Remove the remote-control terminal cover.
2. Then insert the remote cord's plug into the terminal.

• We recommend that you attach the eyepiece cap to prevent stray light from entering the eyepiece and affecting exposure (See page 9).
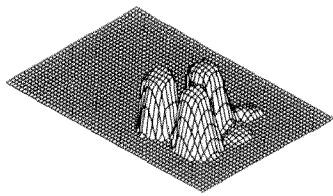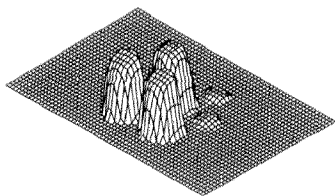
METERING MODES

This camera offers three metering methods: Fourteen-Segment Honeycomb-Pattern Metering, Center-Weighted Average Metering, and Spot Metering.

## 14-SEGMENT HONEYCOMB-PATTERN METERING ⊙

This metering mode is ideally suited for almost any lighting situation providing the correct exposure for the main subject. The camera uses information from the autofocus system to set the metering pattern according to the position of the main subject in the viewfinder. Each segment is then evaluated independently to determine the degree of back-lighting or spot-lighting.

CENTER-WEIGHTED AVERAGE METERING ⊂⊃

In this metering mode, the camera sets the exposure based on an average of the readings made by each segment with an emphasis on the center segments. When photographing subjects that are back-lit, spot-lit, or outside the focus area, you should use exposure compensation (p. 48) or AE lock (p. 49) if you want the main subject to be correctly exposed. Use this mode when you want to base the exposure on a centrally located subject.
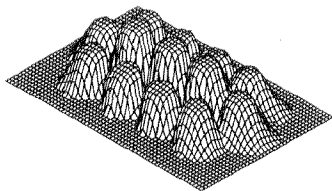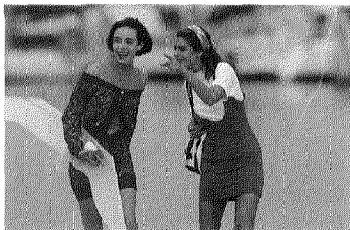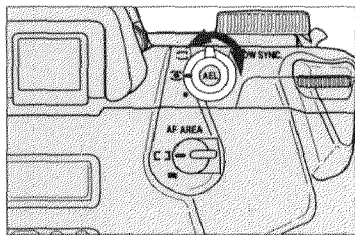
SPOT METERING ●

Spot metering should be used when you want to meter a very small section of the scene. The camera sets the exposure according the brightness of the area inside the 5.5mm-diameter spot circle in the center of the viewfinder.
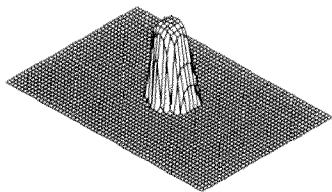
SELECTING THE METERING MODE

1. Set the metering-mode selector to ⊙ , ◻ , or ● .

EXPOSURE COMPENSATION

This function enables you to compensate exposure up to ±3 EV in 1/2 EV increments in situations where the camera's metering system may not be able to determine accurate exposure. Increased exposure is recommended for scenes which are very bright, such as snow or beach scenes; similarly decreased exposure is recommended when the scene is composed of mostly darker tones like a shadow scene.
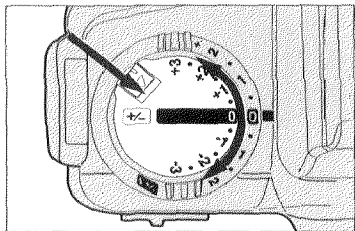
While pressing the lock release, rotate the exposure-compensation dial to set the compensation value. It can be set in increments of 0.5 EV from –3 EV to +3 EV.

• To cancel exposure compensation, set the dial to ±0.0.
• You can add a pointer to the metering index to indicate the amount of compensation. See page 81 for instructions.

AE LOCK

This control is used in Program, A, or S autoexposure modes to lock the exposure settings in any metering pattern. AE lock can be used, for example, when center-weighted average metering is selected and the main subject is not in the center of the viewfinder or when the subject is back- lit or spot-lit. It is also useful with spot metering when you want to set the exposure according to a small section of the scene/subject inside the viewfinder.

1. Center your subject inside the viewfinder.
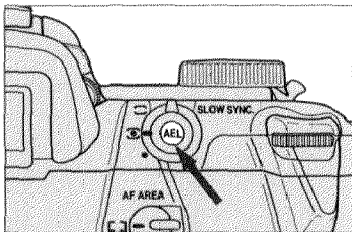
2. Press the AE-lock button. While the exposure is locked, "AEL" appears in the viewfinder.

• The metering index appears when the AE-lock button is pressed to show the difference between the locked exposure value (0) and the exposure value of the area inside the spot circle (pointer). See page 80 for details.

3. Continue to hold the AE-lock button down while you recompose the picture.
• The pointer on the metering index will move to show the difference between the exposure value of the area now inside the spot circle (pointer) and the locked exposure value (0).

250 AEL 5.6 −3·2·1·0·1·2·3+

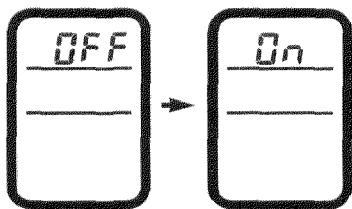4. Press the shutter-release button all the way down to take the picture.

• If the flash-on indicator ⌐≡ appears in the viewfinder, slow-shutter sync will operate. See page 64.

ALTERNATE AE LOCK METHOD

You can change the function of the AE-lock button so that the exposure is locked and held by pressing the button once and unlocked by pressing it again.
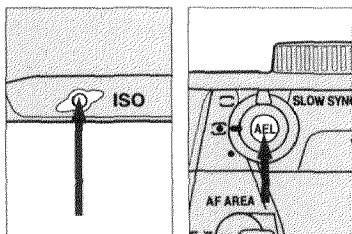
1. Press and hold the ISO button.
2. Then press the AE-lock button. "OFF" appears in the body data panel.

3. Press the ISO button once so that "ON" appears.
4. Press the shutter-release button partway down to enter your selection.

• To return to the standard AE lock method, repeat the procedure so that "OFF" appears.
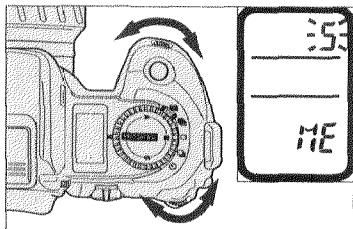• AE lock is cancelled if the metering mode is changed.

MULTIPLE EXPOSURE

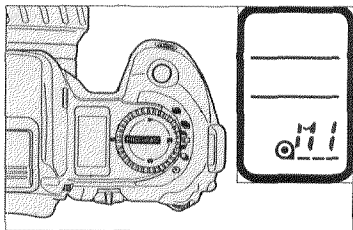In multiple-exposure mode, up to nine exposures can be overlapped on the same frame.
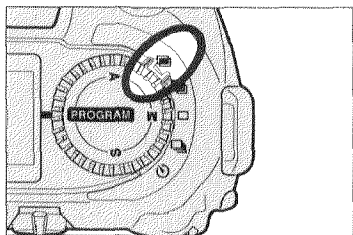
1. Set the drive-mode selector to 🔲 .
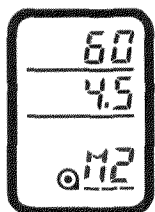• This position is only for setting multiple-exposure mode and the shutter is locked.

2. Turn either control dial to select the number of exposures.
• The number appears in the body data panel.

3. Move the drive-mode selector to 🔲 , ⬛ , 🕐 .
• M1 will appear in the frame counter to indicate the camera is ready to take the first exposure of the series.

4. Compose your picture and press the shutter-release button all the way down to take the picture.

• The frame counter changes to M2 and will continue to increase until after the last picture is taken.

5. Repeat step 4 until all the exposures are made. After the last exposure, the film will automatically advance to the next frame and the regular frame counter will resume.

• Multiple-exposure mode is canceled after all the exposures are made.

TO CANCEL BEFORE ALL EXPOSURES ARE MADE:
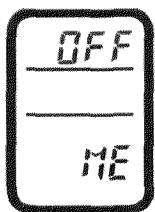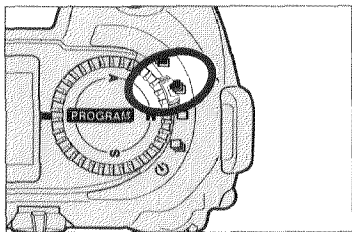
1. Set the drive-mode selector to ▣ .
2. Turn either control dial until "OFF" appears in the body data panel.
3. Set the drive-mode selector to □ , ⚏ , ⚙ .

• The film will automatically advance to the next frame and the regular frame counter will resume.

Note:

• If the battery is removed before all exposures are made, multiple-exposure mode will be canceled, but the film will not advance.

EXPOSURE BRACKETING

Exposure bracketing allows you to expose a series of 3 frames with 0.5 EV change between exposures in the order of normal, under, over. The camera brackets the exposure by adjusting shutter speed and/or aperture settings. If flash is used, the camera will bracket flash output rather than exposure settings (see page 66).

1. Set the drive-mode selector to ▧ .

2. Press and hold the shutter-release button down until all three frames have been exposed. The series will be canceled if you lift your finger from the button before all three exposures are made.

FLASH
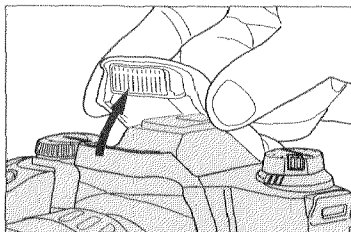
The built-in flash provides coverage for lens focal lengths as short as 28mm. The flash output is controlled automatically by the camera's TTL (through-the-lens) flash metering system.

1. Grip both sides of the flash and gently lift it. If the flash will fire with the next shutter release, $\not{\!\!\!\!\!p}$ appears in the viewfinder.
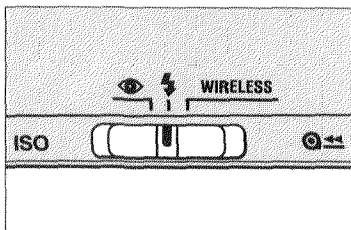
2. Set the flash-mode selector to $\frac{\ }{4}$ or ⊚.

3. When the flash is fully charged, $\frac{\ }{4}$ will appear. Press the shutter-release button all the way down to take the picture.

4. After you have finished using flash, push it back down.

RED-EYE REDUCTION

When photographing people or animals at night or in low-light situations, the effect called "red-eye" may occur due to the flash reflecting off the inside of the subject's eyes. To reduce this effect and produce more natural and beautiful pictures, use red-eye reduction.
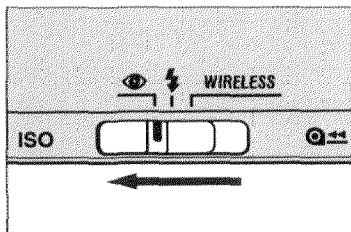
Set the flash-mode selector to ⊚ .

Warn the person you are photographing that the flash will fire several short flash bursts just before the picture is taken.

BUILT-IN FLASH PRECAUTIONS

FLASH RANGE

The range of the built-in flash depends on the film speed and aperture setting you are using. To ensure proper exposure, make sure your subject is positioned within the range listed below.

Aperture	ISO 100	ISO 400
f/2.8	1 - 4.2m (3.3 - 13.8 ft.)	1 - 8.4m (3.3 - 27.5 ft.)
f/4	1 - 3m (3.3 - 10 ft.)	1 - 6m (3.3 - 20 ft.)
f/5.6	1 - 2.1m (3.3 - 6.9 ft.)	1 - 4.2m (3.3 - 13.8 ft.)

If you want to take flash photographs closer than 1m (3.3 ft.) we recommend that you use Minolta's Close-Up Diffuser CD-1000. Otherwise lens shadowing may occur in the bottom of your picture. This accessory provides softer lighting for more pleasing close-up photographs.

CAUTION: LENS SHADOWING MAY OCCUR

Shadowing may occur in the bottom of your picture if you use the built-in flash with the lenses listed below. Contact your nearest Minolta Service Facility for their conditions of use. When using the built-in flash, never use a lens wider than 28mm or use a lens hood.

AF 28-85mm f/3.5-4.5   AF 28-135mm f/4/4.5   AF 28-70mm f/2.8 G

The built-in flash cannot be used with the following lenses:
AF 300mm f/2.8 APO   AF 600mm f/4 APO

58

Lighting conditions require flash. Raise the built-in flash *or attach an accessory flash.*
This signal will appear when your subject is backlit and the built-in flash is down, or an attached accessory flash is off, when the camera is set to P(Program) mode.
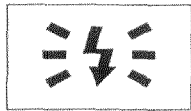
Flash is charged and will fire when the shutter-release button is pressed.

Flash with red-eye reduction is selected. Flash will fire when the shutter-release button is pressed.

(After picture is taken, blinks rapidly) Flash output was sufficient to provide a correct exposure.

High-Speed Sync Flash. Only available with 5400HS flash unit. See the flash owner's manual for details.

Wireless/Remote Flash is selected. See page 68 for more information.

When the built-in flash is up or an attached accessory flash is on, it will automatically fire in low-light or back-lit situations. The camera will select the most appropriate shutter speed and aperture settings.

In PROGRAM mode, you can manually fire the built-in flash or accessory flash.
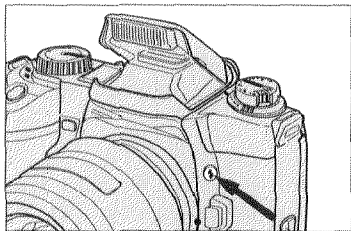
While pressing the flash-control button, press the shutter-release button to take the picture.

When the built-in flash is down or an attached accessory flash is off, it will not fire.

• In many situations where the lighting is dim, canceling the flash will add a particular mood to your photographs. Instead of flash, use film with a higher film speed and/or place your camera on a tripod.