PRESS INFORMATION

A New Digital Exposure Meter with Ambient Light/Flash Light Analyse Function

AUTOMETER VF

Minolta is pleased to introduce the Auto Meter VF as the successor to the Auto Meter IV F exposure meter that has earned wide support from amateurs to professionals.

Auto Meter VF

For professional and high level amateur photographers, shutter speed and f number settings are very important. The illumination light received by a subject, including flash light, will have a significant influence on photographs. In view of these conditions, the exposure meter that measures exposure at the shooting scene is an essential tool.

In the market of exposure meters, the Auto Meter IV F has earned a favourable reputation since it was launched in 1992, because of its operability and price. The newly available Auto Meter VF is the successor to the Auto Meter IV F. In addition to the excellent operability and functionality, the Auto Meter VF provides the flash light/ambient light ratio separate display (analyse) function, shadow based/highlight based exposure calculation function for reflected light measurement and the custom settings mode that allows users to specify a desired exposure correction value and shutter speed increment according to the users' preference. Among the Auto Meter series, the Auto Meter VF is the first model providing these functions. Using these functions, users can more easily achieve the desired photographic images.

Main Features

Intensified function for flash light measurement

The Auto Meter VF measures the flash light (momentary light) and ambient light (continuous light) exposure separately with a single measurement operation. (Flash light/ambient light portion measurement method*) The ratio of the flash light exposure in the total exposure is displayed on the quadrant analyse scale along with the measured value. (Flash light proportion display) After measurement, you can simulate the ratios of the flash light and ambient light by changing the shutter speed setting on the Auto Meter VF. This function is useful for taking a photograph with or without the influence of the ambient light on the shooting scene (e.g. modelling lamp, natural light).

* Flash light/ambient light portion measurement method: After taking flash light reading (1), the meter automatically takes ambient light reading (2) with a single measurement operation, and determines the exposure of the flash light through (1) - (2) calculation.

For flash light measurement, the CORD and NON CORD modes are available.
The shutter speed can be specified in the range of 1 sec. to 1/500 sec.

Wide display range

For ambient light measurement, the display range is 30 min. to 1/8000 sec. For flash light measurement, the display range is 1 sec. to 1/500 sec. The display mode can be customised according to the user's preference. The selectable shutter speed increment setting is 1 stop, 1/2 stop or 1/3-stop increments. The selectable FNo. display mode is the conventional intermediate stop display (1/10 stop increments) or the f number direct reading** mode.

** The f number direct reading mode is useful for cameras providing intermediate f number settings (e.g. f3.5, f6.5.)

Versatile exposure calculation functions

In addition to the averaging function that determines an average exposure reading at any two points, the Auto Meter VF provides the shadow based and highlight based exposure calculation functions in reflected light measurement***. For example, if you wish to express the details of a black point on a subject, the meter can calculate the optimum exposure from standard exposure on the shadow point through reflected light measurement. On the contrary, to prevent a white subject from being saturated with white, the meter takes the exposure reading on the highlight point and calculates the optimum exposure from the standard exposure.

*** (when using optional accessories Reflected light Attachment II or View finder 5°)

With the memory function, the Auto Meter VF can store up to two measured values in the memory, enabling lighting ratio and contrast on a subject to be easily confirmed.

Compact, light weight body and simple operations

In spite of the diversified functions, the Auto Meter VF enables simple operation by inheriting the operability of the Auto Meter IV F.

Powered by AA alkaline dry cell

Like the Auto Meter IV F, the Auto Meter VF uses an easy to obtain AA dry cell.

Specifications

Type:	Digital exposure meter for measuring flash light and ambient light
Reception methods:	Incident light and reflected light
Receptors:	Incident light: Spherical Diffuser, Flat Diffuser* (* Optional accessory) Reflected light: Viewfinder 5° (Acceptance angle: 5°)* Reflected light attachment II (Acceptance angle: 4°)* External receptor: Mini Receptor * Incident light/reflected light sensitivity automatic switching function 270° rotating receptor head
Receptor element:	Silicon photocell
Measuring modes:	AMBI mode: Ambient light measurement CORD mode: Flash light measurement with sync cord NON.C mode: Flash light measurement without sync cord
Measuring range (ISO 100)	
Ambient light:	Incident light: Ev -2 to 19.9 Reflected light attachment II: Ev 2.5 to 24.4 Viewfinder 5°: Ev 2.5 to 24.4
Flash light:	Incident light: FNo.1.0 to 90 + 0.9 stops Reflected light attachment II: FNo.1.0 to 90 + 0.9 stops Viewfinder 5°: FNo.1.0 to 90 + 0.9 stops
Repeatability:	±0.1 stops
Calibration coefficients:	Incident light: C = 330 (Spherical Diffuser), C = 250 (Flat Diffuser) Reflected light: K = 14
Display range:	f-number (FNo.): 1.0 to 90 +0.9 stops (0.1-stop increments) Exposure value (Ev): -17 to 40.8 (0.1-stop increments) Shutter speed: Ambient light: 30 min. to 1/8000 sec. (1-, 1/2- or 1/3-stop increments), Flash light: 1 to 1/500 sec. (1-, 1/2- or 1/3-stop increments)

	Framing rate: 8 to 128 frames/sec. ISO: 3 to 8000 (1/3-stop increments) Exposure difference: -10.0 to +10.0 (0.1-stop increments) Analogue scale: FNo.1.0 to 90 (1/2-stop increments) Analyse scale: Flash light proportion 0 to 100% (25% increments)
Other functions:	Analyse function: Flash light proportion display Memory function: 2-point memory function Exposure calculating function: Average exposure, Highlight-based exposure*, Shadow-based exposure* (* When reflected light attachment is used) Brightness difference function: Measuring deviation from standard exposure
Others:	External receptor connecting jack (with cap) Sync terminal Exposure correcting function: -10.0 to +10.0 (-0.8 to 0.7 stops, variable in 0.1-stop increments)
Power source:	Single AA alkaline dry cell
Battery service life:	Approx. 50 hours (for ambient light continuous measurement using alkaline battery)
Operating temperature /humidity range	Temperature:-10 to 50°C (14 to 122°F) Relative humidity: 85% max. (at 35°C (95°F)/no condensation
Storage temperature & humidity	Temperature: -20 to 55°C (-4 to 131°F) Relative humidity: 85% max. (at 35°C (95°F)/no condensation
Dimensions:	59 (W) x 147 (H) x 26 (D) mm
Weight:	125 g (excluding battery)
Standard accessories:	Spherical Receptor, Neck strap, Case
Optional accessories:	Sync Cord III, Viewfinder 5°, Mini Receptor, Reflected light attachment II, Flat Diffuser, Spot Mask, Booster II, Viewfinder 10II (need to set exposure correction to +3.2EV), Spherical Diffuser ND 2EV (need to set exposure correction to +2.0EV), Spherical Diffuser ND 3EV (need to set exposure correction to +3.0EV)