PENTAX K-7

Everything you need to know... and then some.

Yvon Bourque

Table of contents and Foreword

I am pleased that you purchased one of our "***Pentax K-7 – Everything you need to know…..and then some"*** book. As an enthusiastic photographer for many years, I have had many Pentax cameras. My first "new" camera was a Pentax Spotmatic, purchased when I was still in Junior High.

When Pentax stepped into the Digital SLR market, I was delighted. Their first few DSLRs (The *ist series) were the smallest DSLRs on the market but were not particularly special with the 6MP CCD. When the *K10D* was introduced, everything changed and Pentax was suddenly a major player. The *K10D* was a breakthrough, in my opinion. It had the capabilities of Professional DSLRs with the price of entry-level DSLRs. It had some unique features found nowhere else at any price. In January of 2008, Pentax announced the *K20D*. It was not a revolution as the *K10D* was, but it certainly was an evolution of the revolution. The *K200D* and the *K2000/KM* followed with no exceptional or marginal improvements. On May 20, 2009, Pentax made history again by introducing the Pentax ***K-7***. This time, it is definitely another revolution, and maybe bigger than the *K10D* was when introduced. Once again, Pentax engineers have pushed the envelope and designed a DSLR with more features than any camera in it's price range.

This book is not about me as a photographer. It is about you and what information you will need when using this marvel of engineering that the ***K-7*** is. The book complements the Pentax user's manual and explains in simple terms how to use the camera. It contains techniques, shortcuts, explanations, tips, examples and photographic information applicable to the ***K-7*** as well as other DSLRs in general.

We opted to publish the book ourselves, just as we published the previous books. This time we offered the ***K-7*** book in a downloadable form only. We save production costs and you save money, and get you book much quicker.

Your feedback is always important to us. As we get feedback from our customers, we can update the book according to what readers wants. We have incorporated many of your suggestions from the previous books into this ***K-7*** book.

Our Website is: **http://www.pentaxdslrs.com**.

Our Blogsite is: **http://pentaxdslrs.blogspot.com/**

From one Pentax user to another, thank you again for your purchase,

Yvon Bourque

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Pentax ***K-7***
Everything you need to know
…..and then some

Foreword

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About the Author:

Back when most of his classmates were dealing with growing up; the author was nurturing a serious enthusiasm for photography. Son of a Montreal carpenter, he enrolled in photography courses, soaked up theory, bought his first camera, shot rolls of film, and learned how to develop and print. All this was before leaving junior high school. He had many dreams and like many aspiring young photographers, he dreamed of getting assignments from National Geographic and traveling the world over.

Decades later, the road has led him into other directions. With the responsibilities of a career and family, his plans were altered, but only slightly. The enthusiasm of the young boy and the love of photography are still strong. He never abandoned his photography dreams. One of his biggest frustrations is that he does not have enough time for more.

He has used all types of photography formats, but now, uses Digital SLR cameras almost exclusively. He states “Technology is good. The freedom to unleash one’s creativity has never been greater. You either follow the flow of progress, or you are left behind”.

His work has given him the opportunity to travel across the United States, Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean. His photography career never took-off as he had dreamed, but as a second career, he has spent countless hours during the past decades capturing not only the beauty and the people of America but other countries as well. He has won numerous awards, written articles and books on his beloved subject, and sold his work throughout the places he lived.

Where does a tireless hobbyist go from here? Like all other areas of our modern life, photography has gone digital. As an artist, he is fascinated with all of the new digital possibilities. He is finally contemplating the idea of replacing his present career shingle for one stating Yvon Bourque, Photographer. “With perseverance, all is possible.”

My preferred editor:

This is my wife Anne. This book and all my other books would not have seen the light of day without someone editing the manuscripts. She wanted the book to be as "user friendly as possible". Whenever she didn't like the way something was explained, I had to redo it. She is responsible for the great number of pictures and illustrations in this book. I tell you, having your spouse as editor is very demanding… having her on the readers' side is the best thing that could have happened to you.

Thank you for your patience Anne. It's not easy to put up with a workaholic.

Yvon

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Foreword

This book was written for all users of the Pentax ***K-7***. No matter what your experience level is, you will find something useful in this book.

A few years ago, most amateur and professional photographers alike, were using film cameras for their picture taking. Within the film cameras, several formats were used. The general public and a good number of professionals used the 35mm format. A select few preferred using medium and large format cameras mainly because of the size of the negatives. Larger negatives rendered better pictures, better colors and fantastic enlargements. Film cameras were very sophisticated and took great pictures. It's no wonder that almost every family owned a 35mm camera.

When the first digital cameras started to appear, the quality was less than desirable, but the potential was certainly there. For several years, many photography magazines were debating whether or not the digital cameras would replace film based cameras. Over time, the quality has so improved, that today, in our opinion, digital cameras exceed the quality of film based cameras. Of course, we are comparing the 35mm and medium format film cameras with the new breed of Digital Single Lens Reflex (DSLR) cameras. It has taken more than a decade to get where we are today, but digital is here to stay.

It wasn't all that long ago when a top DSLR with a sensor in the 2 megapixels range was costing the consumers nearly five thousand dollars or more. For a while, as soon as you spent thousands of dollars for a top-of-the-line digital camera, it was replaced within months with a new and better model. I am sure that some of you remember these times of tribulation.

The market, as this book is written, has stabilized, and the norm in a non-professional DSLR is now around the 12 to 15 megapixels, 20 megapixels and above for professional DSLR cameras. All are enough to produce very good enlargements up to about 16" x 20" and beyond. Full size (roughly 36mm x 24mm, or the same size as a 35mm frame) sensors are available on many DSLRs. The perceived advantage of full frame is that you can use your 35mm format lenses without any correction factor. Pentax is using a smaller sized sensor (APS-C roughly 24mm x 16mm) requiring a correction factor of around 1.5 to 35mm format lenses. If you

shoot with telephoto lenses, it works to your advantage as a 200mm f/2.8 lens acts like a 300mm f/2.8 telephoto at no additional cost. We know that a 300mm f/2.8 telephoto lens is very expensive. The downside is that wide angle lenses will no longer perform as such, but the maximum aperture will remain. Today most companies manufacture super-wide lenses that, when converted to a 1.5x factor, still gives you a nominal wide angle comparable to a 20mm on up in the 35mm format. Wide angle lenses are cheaper than telephotos. In our opinion, full-frame sensors are overrated, especially with the new ***K-7***. The ***K-7*** uses a newly Pentax/Samsung developed 14.6 megapixels CMOS sensor, redesigned from the ground up for the ***K-7***, drastically reducing the digital noise at high ISO. It also allows sizeable cropping.

Unless you want to print your pictures billboard size at 300dpi resolution, the current CMOS sensor will be sufficient to produce stunning pictures and enlargements that were only dreamed of a few years ago. The CMOS sensors use less power and produce very little digital noise at higher ISO.

In the past few years, we have seen many brand names in the camera field disappear. Some acquisitions and mergers took place and some companies just abandoned the competitive digital photography market altogether.

In the past decade, two companies appear to have dominated the market; and indeed still do. There is no doubt that they manufacture good products, but the brand loyalty and recognition may have played an important role in their success.

With Pentax introducing the ***K-7,*** the gap between these two giants has been reduced and there is no doubts that Pentax will once again take a greater share of the market with good products. Pentax took a while before producing its first Digital Single Lens Reflex (DSLR). Some changes are about to happen. Pentax is not new to changing the photographic world. Pentax pioneered the Single Lens Reflex (SLR) camera in 1952 with the introduction of the Asahiflex I camera. In 1954, the Asahiflex II was introduced with the first instant mirror return. In 1964, Pentax did it again by introducing its Pentax Spotmatic camera featuring the first through-the-lens (TTL) metering system in a Pentax camera. A version of the Pentax TTL system is now found in virtually all 35mm SLR cameras and applied to the design of DSLR as well. Many of us learned photography by using the ever popular Pentax K1000.

The new Pentax ***K-7*** is aimed at advanced amateurs to professional photographers but can certainly be used by entry-level photographers as well. It's a camera that will help expand your photographic talents. It can be as easy to operate as a point and shoot, but it also has all of the professional features that you will demand as your experience grows. All Pentax lenses ever made will work with the ***K-7***. It is often said that the glass are the most important factor in taking great photographs. There are many reasons to choose the ***K-7*** for your digital photography endeavors. We have dedicated a whole section on the camera's features alone.

This book is organized in the following way:

Foreword and Table of contents

Chapter 1 "**Know your *K-7***"is dedicated to the general specifications of the ***K-7*** and the review of the many functions of the camera in general.

Chapter 2 "**How to use your *K-7***" explains the multiple functions of the ***K-7***, and includes many pictures and illustrations. It clarifies the use of the camera's functions from screen menus to actual buttons and switches. There are no simple icons on this camera such as scene mode, night mode, etc, as found on most entry level cameras. We think that you would find these icons unproductive after a short period of time. The advantage of the camera is that you can tailor its operability to your liking or photographic skills. The three basic shooting elements; Aperture, Shutter Speed and the Sensitivity (ISO) are all adjustable with the ***K-7*** in ways that will make the competition rethink their approach. It will not be long before other manufacturers try to mimic the ***K-7***.

Chapter 3 "Processing your *K-7* Images" is a brief review on how to manipulate your images within the camera as well as with a computer. This topic alone is worthy of a book by itself, and there are indeed many books on Digital Imaging readily available. Pentax software and other digital imaging software such as Photoshop CS3®, Lightroom®, and Elements® are briefly visited. The possibilities are endless and are only limited by your ability or desire to manipulate and post-process your images.

Chapter 4 "**The Pentax System**" is dedicated to the Pentax System. Pentax is truly the only manufacturer with 100% backward compatibility. It includes all lenses ever manufactured by Pentax, both 35mm and medium formats. There are about twenty four million genuine Pentax lenses out there. There are probably that many more lenses manufactured by companies such as Tamron ™, Sigma ™, Tokina ™ and other brands. Currently available accessories are also covered and explained in this chapter.

Chapter 5 "**Photography Techniques**" is full of techniques and example pictures along with some suggestions on what to take pictures of.

Chapter 6 "HD Video recording" is dedicated to the new HD video capabilities of the ***K-7***. This new generation of DSLRs with still pictures and HD video capabilities is changing the digital photography landscape. It opens up new possibilities. It is going to be very popular for documenting and photojournalistic approach to your undertakings.

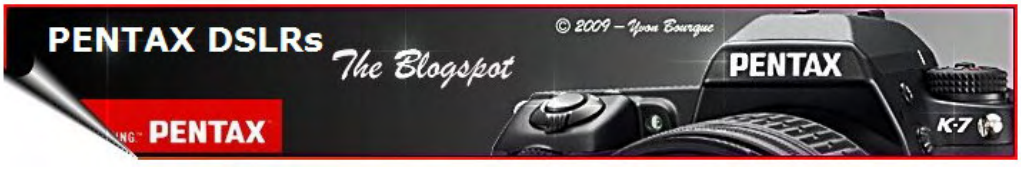
Appendix section includes menu setting tables, factory default tables, lens compatibility chart, mount types, and an index to guide you through this book.

Addendum is comprised of additional ***K-7*** functions, last minute changes, revisions to software or firmware and any additional information found to be useful.

Check our Pentax Blog; we constantly post articles about Pentax products.

http://pentaxdslrs.blogspot.com/

The Blogspot



We also have our website for purchasing our books and downloading important information or samples.

http://www.pentaxdslrs.com/

Website

© 2009, Yvon Bourque - "Ms. J. Peggy"

This is probably the best tool I have, other than the Pentax DSLRs. Lenses and equipment. It allows me to get to places I wouldn't be able to get to otherwise. If you ever owned a Keep, you already know that it is customary to name it, just as you name a boat.

Her name is "**Ms. J. Peggy**". Here is how she got her name:

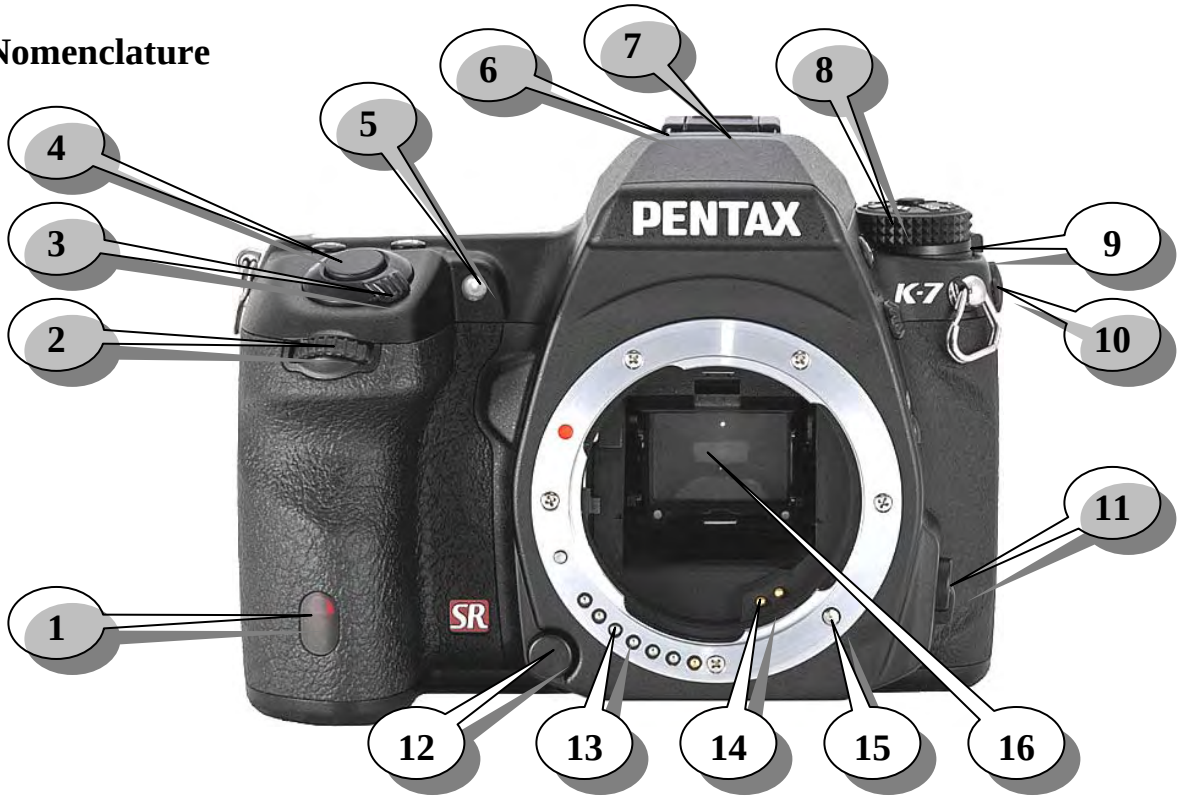
*My two principal hobbies are photography and four wheeling. I wanted a name that would reflect both hobbies. The Jeep came unaltered from the factory and we worked on improving it and finishing it the way it is today. We lifted the whole Jeep 6", put a new motor, new coil-spring suspension, 35" monster tires, etc. It's sort of parallel to digital photography, whereas your original pictures can be taken in "RAW" format and after working on the images, they can be saved in "JPEG" format. My Jeep was originally in "RAW" form from the factory but after altering it, it became like a "JPEG". So I decided to name my Jeep Miss" J. Peggy". This is an acronym for "**J**eep **P**hotographer **E**nvironmentally **G**oing **G**reen...**Y**es!". For short, her nickname is really **Miss Peggy**. It fits both of my hobbies and my views about the environment. I always drive on assigned trails, and usually pick up the trash that other people left behind. It's our only earth and we better take care of our little planet.*

Chapter 1

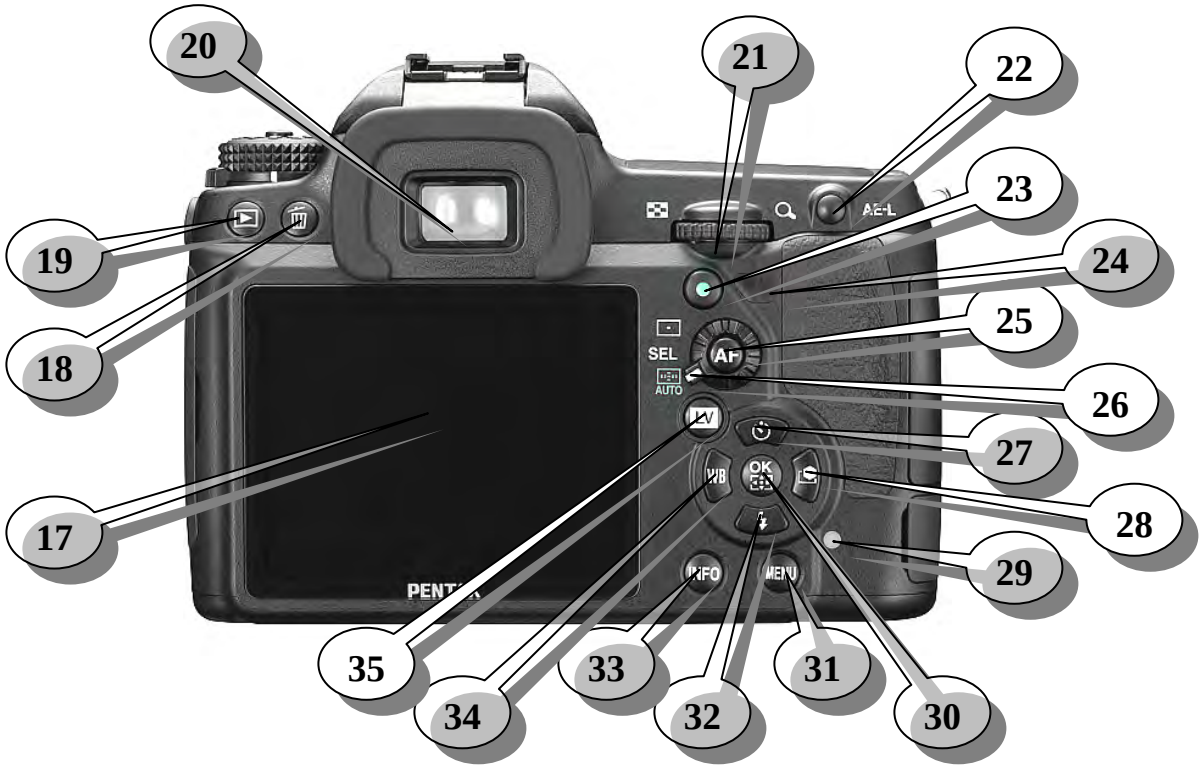
Know your K-7

*The Pentax **K-7** system*

Nomenclature



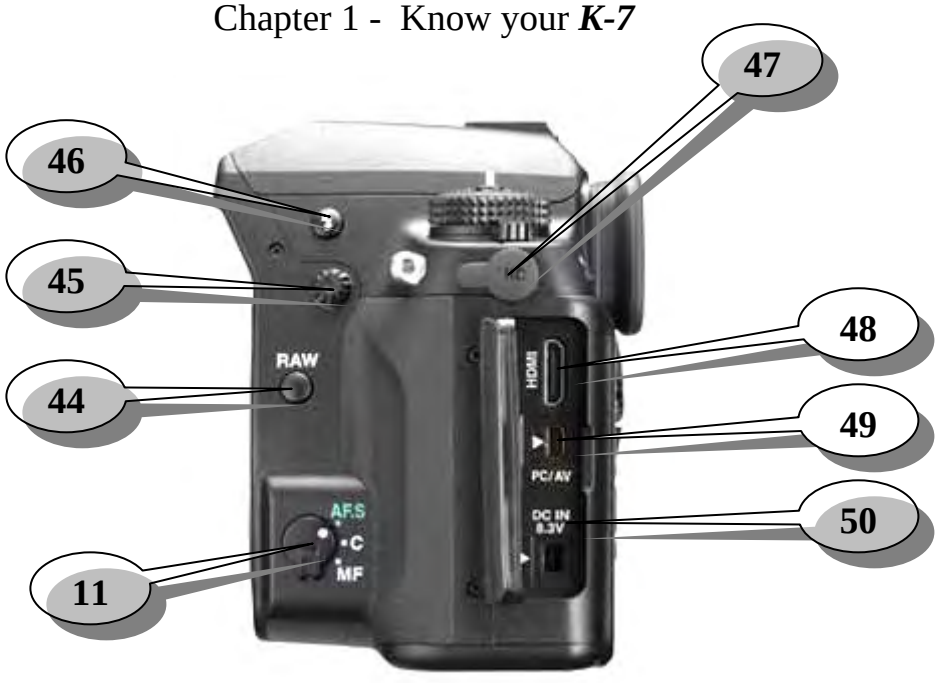
1.	**Self-timer lamp**	Blinks for self-timer. Serves as remote control receiver.
2.	**Front e-dial**	Sets shutter speed, EV compensation values. (Customizable)
3.	**Main Switch**	Rotate to turn camera on or off and for depth of field preview.
4.	**Shutter release**	Press halfway to compose image, press fully to take picture.
5.	**AF Assist Light**	Lights up when AF is difficult to attain in darker scenes.
6.	**Built-in flash**	Retractable P-TTL with guide number 13 @ 100/m.
7.	**Hot shoe**	Camera also uses external flash and wireless flash unit.
8.	**Mode dial**	Changes the exposure mode.
9.	**Metering mode lever**	Changes metering mode; Multi-segment, Center-weighted, Spot.
10.	**Strap Lug (2)**	Loop for the camera strap.
11.	**Focus mode lever**	Switch between Autofocus single, Continuous and Manual focus.
12.	**Lens unlock button**	Press to install or remove lens.
13.	**Lens info contacts**	Exchanges information between the lens and the K-7.
14.	**SDM contacts**	Allows AF with the Supersonic Drive Motor (**SDM)** lenses. Also used for power zoom on some older FA lenses.
15.	**AF coupler**	Handles the AF drive between the lens and ***K-7.***
16.	**Mirror**	Allows Through The Lens (**TTL)** metering and focusing.



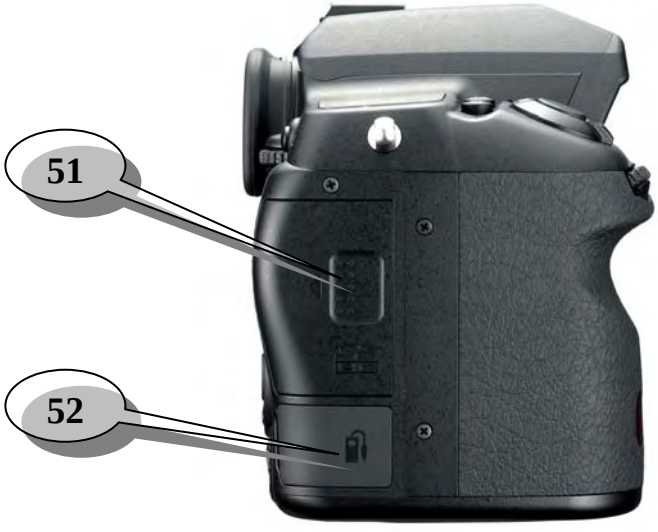
17.	**3” LCD monitor**	Displays exposed pictures, allows access to menus.
18.	**ERASE button**	Press to delete current picture.
19.	**Play button** ▶	Press to see pictures on LCD screen
20.	**Viewfinder**	If you don’t know what this is for, abandon photography. ☺
21.	**Rear e-dial**	Sets aperture and sensitivity values. Customizable.
22.	**AE-L button**	Press to lock current exposure before shooting.
23.	**Green button**	Always reset exposure mode to Automatic Exposure.
24.	**Rear Self-timer lamp**	Blinks for self-timer. Serves as remote control receiver.
25.	**AF button**	Press to focus on target prior to metering.
26.	**AF point switching**	Rotate to select focusing area; Auto • Select • Center.
27.	**Four-way Controller ▲**	Part of four-way controller up button▲ / Access to Drive Mode.
28.	**Four-way Controller ▶**	Part of four-way controller right button▶ / Access Custom Image
29.	**Card access lamp**	Illuminates or blinks when SD card is accessed.
30.	**OK button**	Press to save setting from menu / Selects metering point.
31.	**Menu**	Press to activate Menu modes on the LCD monitor.
32.	**Four-way Controller ▼**	Part of four-way controller down button▼ / Access Flash settings
33.	**Info button**	Press to view info of current photo on the LCD.
34.	**Four-way Controller ◀**	Part of four-way controller left button◀ / Access **WB** settings
35.	**Live-view button**	Initiate Live-view mode.

36.	**Diopter adjustment**	Adjusts the viewfinder to suit your eyesight.
37.	**EV compensation**	Press to adjust EV compensation with rear e-dial.
38.	**ISO button**	Press to adjust / change ISO settings with rear e-dial
39.	**LCD Panel**	Displays current camera settings and information

40.	**Cover unlock tab**	Pull and turn to lock / unlock battery cover.
41.	**Battery housing cover**	Batteries are housed here.
42.	**1/4" Tripod Socket**	Attachment for tripod.
43.	**Battery Grip connector**	Connections permitting the use of the D-BG4 battery grip



44. Raw button	Press on-the-fly to shoot RAW or RAW + JPG (Customizable)
45. X-Sync socket	For using studio lighting – Sync to 180th sec.
46. UP button	Press the UP button to pop the built-in flash up.
47. Microphone input	Stereo connection socket for external microphone.
48. Mini HDMI output	High-Definition Multimedia Interface.
49. USB Video Terminal	Connects DSLR to computer for data transfer.
50. DC Input terminal	For connecting power sources other than batteries.
51. SD card cover	SD card compartment located under this cover.
52. Cable switch terminal	Input for remote control device.



Information you see in the viewfinder