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Polaroid Spectra System Camera

Wayne Easter

Rhodes, Greece

www.orphancameras.com

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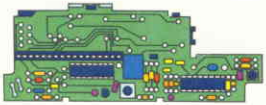
The camera's advanced computer circuitry

Over 30 complex focusing and exposure decisions are made, within 50 thousandths of a second, to give you the best possible picture, every time.

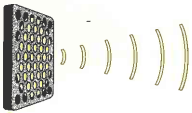
As you touch the shutter button, your camera's advanced computer circuitry:



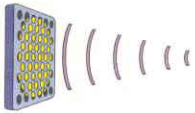
Monitors the position of the control panel switches.

Confirms that the flash is ready to fire.

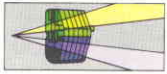
Directs the sonar rangefinder to send sound waves to your subject.



Measures the time it takes the sound to reach your subject and the echo to return to calculate the precise distance to your subject.



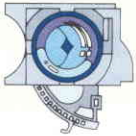
Directs the photocell to measure the light from the scene.



Uses the distance and light measurements to blend light from the scene with just enough flash.

Transmits the distance and light readings to the viewfinder display.

Selects the optimal lens setting, aperture, and shutter speed for a sharp, beautifully exposed picture.



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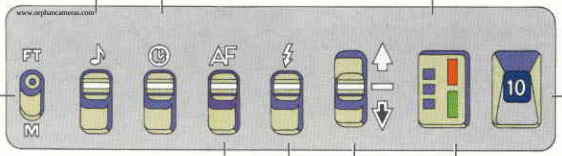
The system control panel

Audio signal switch (slide it down to turn off the camera's audio signals).

Self-timer switch (slide it down to get into your picture), p. 18.

Remote control access (for the Spectra System Remote Control accessory), p. 40.

Feet or meters selector (slide it down, using the tip of a ball-point pen, and the distance reading in the viewfinder will be in meters).



Picture counter (counts down to show how many pictures are left in the film pack).

Sonar autofocus override (slide the switch down to turn off the autofocus system), p. 19.

Rapid-recharge indicators: *Red light* (means the flash is charging). *Green light* (means the flash is ready to fire and you can take a picture).

Programmed flash override (slide the switch down to turn off the flash), p. 19.

Exposure control (use it to lighten or darken a picture), p. 20.

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Spectra System film

Polaroid Spectra System film produces the most brilliant colors in instant photography. This film was developed just for Spectra System cameras and is the only film that can be used in your camera.

Each film pack provides ten pictures and contains a **fresh battery that powers all camera functions.**

A new dye molecule makes colors noticeably brighter . . .

. . . and more detail can be seen in the shadowed areas.

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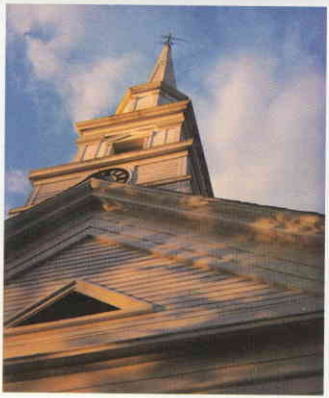
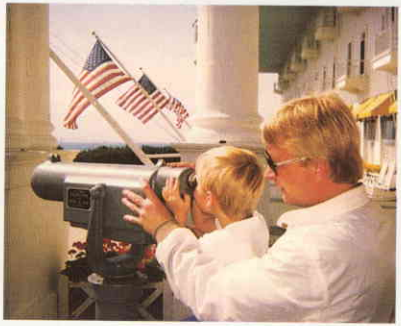


The larger rectangular format allows you to include more in the picture, both vertically. . .



. . . and horizontally.

A film expiration date appears on the bottom of every film box. This date is your assurance that you are buying fresh film.

To load film into the camera, see page 26.

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The autofocus system

As you press the shutter button, your camera sends sound waves—within 10 thousandths of a second—to the central part of the scene (approximate area circled in white).

The sound waves are used to measure the distance to the person or object (in the central part of the scene) that is **closest to the camera.**

A built-in computer then uses this measurement to provide the correct lens setting, so **be sure that:**

- **The sound waves have a clear path to your subject.** If an object (candlestick, centerpiece, etc.) prevents the sound waves from reaching your subject, the lens will focus on that object, and your subject will be unsharp.
- When photographing more than one person, **everyone is at the same distance from the camera.**
- When taking a picture through glass, you turn off the autofocus system. See page 19.

See page 19.
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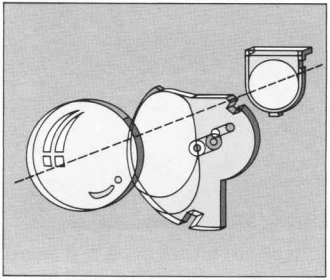
The Quintic lens system

Three patented, computer-designed lens elements combine to form an extremely compact yet powerful 125mm lens with these special features:

- Uniquely curved lens surfaces produce sharp pictures from 2 feet (.6m) to infinity.
- There is virtually no optical distortion, improving picture quality.
- The lens transmits light more evenly to the film.
- A longer focal length makes your subject fill more of the picture area.



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The viewfinder displays

When you have a film pack in the camera and press the shutter button **halfway,** a display appears in the viewfinder to help you take the best possible picture.

When you see **a number in the viewfinder,** it tells you the distance to your subject (in feet or meters). This number will help you follow the distance recommendations throughout this book.

When you see **a green "good picture" symbol:**

The conditions are right for taking a good picture. Press the shutter button **the rest of the way.**

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When you see **a flashing yellow "caution" symbol and hear a warning tone,** you should correct a problem before taking the picture. The distance reading will help you identify the problem. When you see:

The number **1**

Your subject is too close. Release the shutter button and stand **at least 2 feet** (.6m) from your subject.

A number from **16** to **20**

Your subject is beyond the flash range. Release the shutter button and move closer to your subject to keep within the **2 to 15 foot** (.6m to 4.6m) flash range.

A number from **2** to **15**

The flash is off. Slide the flash switch **up** to turn the flash back on.

Distance readings do not appear when your subject is beyond 20 feet (6.2m).

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The programmed flash

Every time you take a picture, **indoors or outdoors,** your camera blends light from the scene with just enough flash to provide the right lighting for the best possible picture.

Here is an example of what this fill-flash system can do:

In this outdoor scene, photographed **without flash,** bright sunlight has created harsh facial shadows.

Your camera blends sunlight with just the right amount of flash to soften shadows and reveal facial details.

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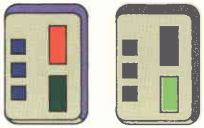
The rapid-recharge system

Not all of the energy needed to fully charge your camera's flash is used every time you take a picture. For example, when your subject is close, less flash is needed so less energy is used than when your subject is farther away. Polaroid's new Spectra System thyristor flash allows this energy to be saved, resulting in faster recharge times—usually **less than a second.**

Recharge indicators

The red light on the control panel will come on and the flash will automatically begin to charge every time you:

- Load film into the camera
- Press the shutter button halfway
- Take a picture
- Open the camera



When the green light comes on, the flash is ready to fire. The light will stay on for 20 to 30 seconds.

If you want to take a picture after the green light has gone off, lightly press and release the shutter button to turn the green light back on.

Flash range

Indoors

Your subject should be **2 to 15 feet** (.6m to 4.6m) from the camera.

Outdoors

Your subject should be **at least 2 feet** (.6m) away.

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The self-timer

The self-timer lets you get into your picture.

To use this feature, place the camera on a tripod or other steady support. If you attach the camera to a **table** tripod, be sure the camera is positioned over one of the tripod's legs for proper support.

Frame your picture in the viewfinder and press the shutter button **halfway** to be sure you get the green "good picture" symbol. Then **release** the shutter button.

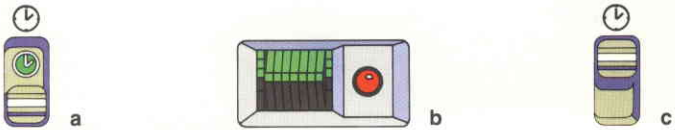
Slide the self-timer switch all the way **down (a).** You now have **12 seconds** to get into your picture.

During the first **10 seconds,** the camera will beep and you will see a flashing red light **(b)** on the front of the camera.

Two seconds before the camera takes the picture, the red light will stay on and the beeps will become a steady signal to remind you to hold still and smile.

After the camera has taken the picture, it will not eject the film until you slide the self-timer switch **up (c). Do not close the camera** before you slide the switch **up.**

If you want to stop the 12-second countdown, slide the switch **up (c)** to turn off the timer.



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Photographing a distant scene through glass

To avoid focusing on the glass and getting a flash reflection, turn off the autofocus and flash systems by sliding **both** switches **down,** as shown.

When you turn off the autofocus system, the lens sets for distant scenes (15 feet to infinity), requiring the picture to be taken in a special way:

- Be sure the scene is **at least 15 feet** (4.6m) from the camera and in **daylight.**
- Frame the picture in the viewfinder and press the shutter button **halfway** (you will not see a distance reading because the autofocus system is off).
- When you see the green "good picture" symbol, take the picture.

If you see the flashing yellow "caution" symbol and hear a warning tone, there is not enough light to take a good picture.

Important: When you have finished taking the picture, turn on the autofocus and flash systems by sliding **both** switches **up.**

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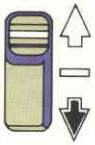
The exposure control

Use the exposure control when you want to **retake** a picture to make it lighter or darker.

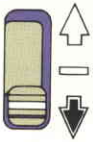
When retaking a picture to make it **lighter:**
Slide the control **all the way up (a).**

When retaking a picture to make it **darker:**
Slide the control **all the way down (b).**

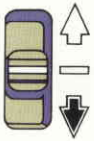
After you have finished taking the picture, do not forget to return the control to the **center position (c).**



a
Lighten



b
Darken



c
Center

Special situations
Pictures taken of people in highly reflective beach or snow scenes often turn out **too dark.** You may want to set the control **all the way up** to the **Lighten** setting **(a)** before taking this type of picture.

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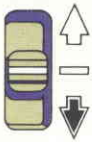

Important

If the background of a **flash** picture is too dark but your subject is well illuminated **(a),** the background is too far away. Moving the control to the **Lighten** setting will **not** correct this problem, so be sure:

The exposure control is in the **center position.** Then retake the picture, placing your subject **near a background** and keeping both within the **2 to 15 foot** (.6m to 4.6m) flash range **(b).**

a The background is too far from the subject.

b The background is close to the subject and both are within the flash range.

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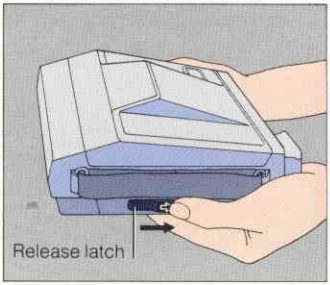
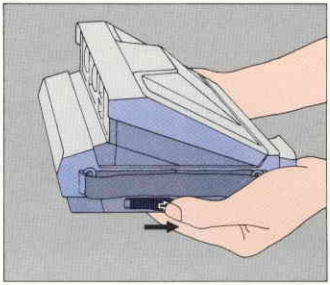
1

Open the camera

Place both hands under the camera as shown. Slide the release latch **back.** The camera will open automatically.





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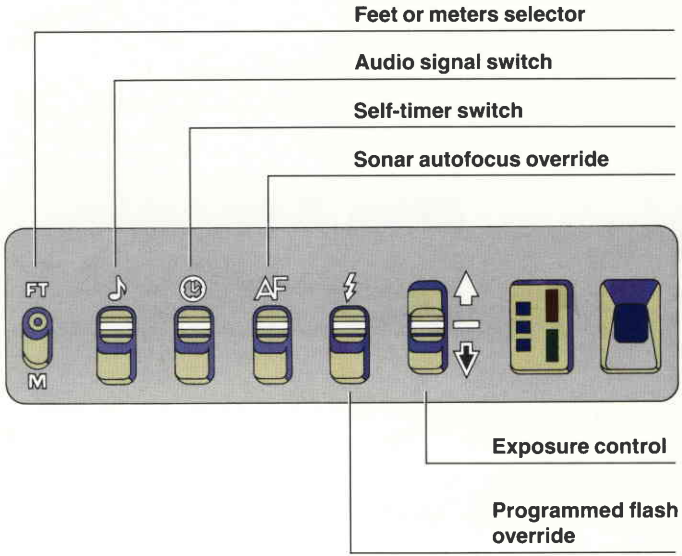
2

Check the control panel switches

When you want the camera to be **fully automatic,** be sure all the switches are in a row, as shown.

For an explanation of what each switch does, see page 9.



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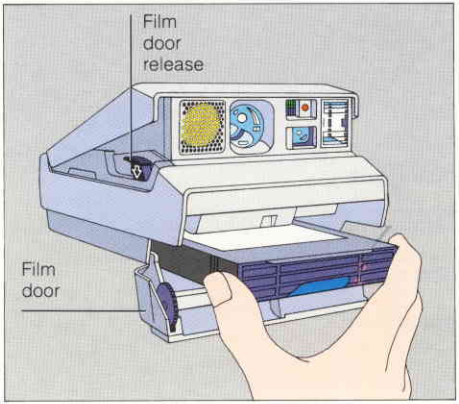
3

Load the film

Use only Polaroid Spectra System color film. Other Polaroid films cannot be used with this camera.

Push the film door release **down.** The film door will open.

Hold the film pack by its edges only and slide it all the way into the camera.



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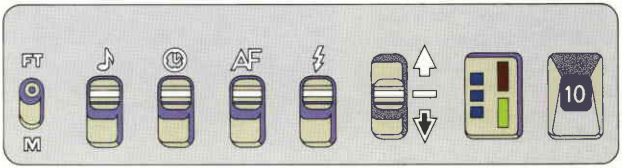
As soon as you close the film door, **the battery in the film pack will power the camera** and you will see:

- The film cover eject.
- The picture counter set to 10.
- A green light indicating the flash is ready to fire.



4

Position your subject

You can take the most pleasing pictures of people, **both indoors and outdoors,** when they are **3 to 5 feet** (.9m to 1.5m) away. The distance reading in the viewfinder will help you stay within this range.

Indoors: Your subject should be within the **2 to 15 foot** (.6m to 4.6m) flash range. For best results, your subject should also be near a light-colored background.

Outdoors: Your subject should be **at least 2 feet** (.6m) from the camera.

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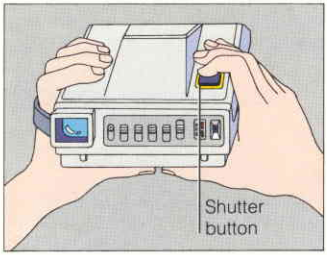
5

Take the picture

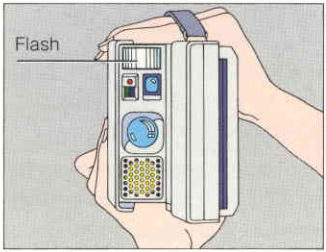
Slide your left hand through the hand strap and hold the camera as you would a pair of binoculars.

For horizontal pictures, hold the camera as shown in illustration **(a).** For vertical pictures, position the camera with the **flash on top** as shown in illustration **(b)** to get the best result.

a



b



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Frame your subject in the viewfinder and press the shutter button **halfway.** You should see the following viewfinder display:

The distance to your subject, for example, 5 feet.*

A green "good picture" symbol telling you to press the shutter button **the rest of the way** to take the picture. When you **release** the button, the camera will eject the picture.

If you see a flashing yellow "caution" symbol and hear a warning tone when you press the shutter button **halfway,** see page 15.

If you have pressed the shutter button **halfway** and want to change your position, **release** the shutter button and then make the change.

After you have taken the picture, the red light on the control panel will come on while the flash automatically recharges. The recharge time is usually **less than a second.** When the green light comes on, you can take another picture.

Handle the picture gently during the **first 60 seconds** of development. Fanning or bending the picture will disturb the development process.

*Distance readings do not appear when your subject is beyond 20 feet (6.2m).

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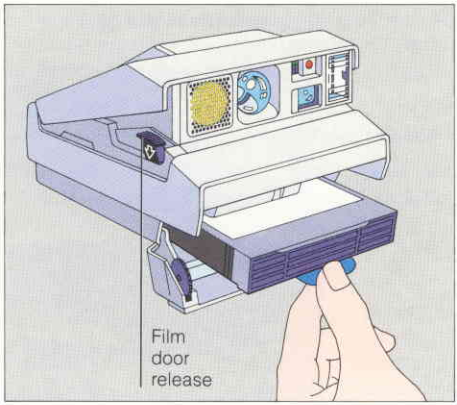
To remove an empty film pack

After you have taken the **tenth picture, three chimes** will sound to remind you to remove the empty film pack.

Push the film door release **down** to open the film door. Pull the blue tab to remove the film pack.



When the camera contains an empty film pack:

- You will hear **three chimes** when you open the camera.
- You will hear **three chimes** and then see a **flashing zero** in the viewfinder when you press and hold the shutter button **halfway.**

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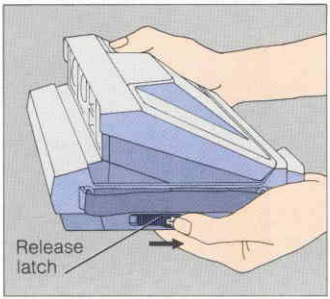
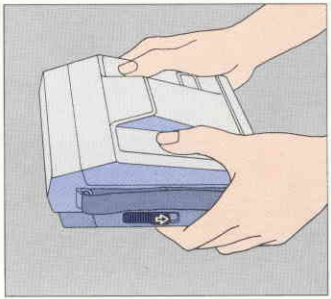
To close the camera

When you have finished using the camera, close it to protect the lens.

Hold the camera as shown. Slide the release latch **back.** Push **both** sides of the cover down until it locks.





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Color

Since vibrant, bold colors are vividly reproduced on Spectra System film, look for color when framing the scene in the viewfinder. Or, use colorful props **(a).**

An awareness of contrasting colors in the world around you can improve the visual impact of your photographs. The brightly colored plane against the dark background is an example of a striking combination of color **(b).**

a

b

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Distance

You can take the most pleasing pictures of people when they are **3 to 5 feet** (.9m to 1.5m) from the camera. Then backgrounds become less distracting and attention focuses on your subjects.

The distance reading in the viewfinder will help you stay within this range.

The subject was **4 feet** (1.2m) from the camera.

The subject was **8 feet** (2.4m) from the camera.

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Background

Indoors: Try to have a light-colored background (wall, curtain, etc.) a few feet behind your subject. Then both will be well lit by the flash.

Outdoors: Keep the background as simple as possible, so it will not compete with your main subject.

Composition

When photographing landscapes, include something in the foreground to establish a feeling of depth or dimension **(a).**

Try framing your subject off center to create a sense of balance **(b).** To do this, center your subject in the viewfinder. Press and **hold** the shutter button **halfway** to lock in the correct lens setting. Then reframe your subject off center and press the shutter button **the rest of the way.**

a

b

The Polaroid Photography Club

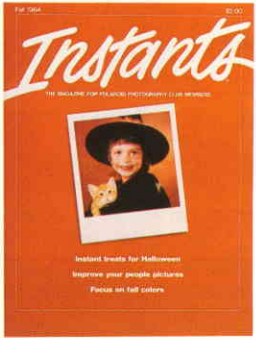
You are cordially invited to join the Polaroid Photography Club–exclusively for Polaroid camera owners.

Every three months you will receive INSTANTS magazine–36 colorful pages with feature articles and photographs, tips, techniques, contests, and interviews with famous photographers–designed to make your Polaroid picture taking more rewarding and more fun.

Members of the Polaroid Photography Club receive value coupons on Polaroid film purchases, prints and enlargements, and photo accessories. Polaroid photo experts are available on a members-only, toll-free, "hot-line."

To receive a complimentary issue of INSTANTS, return your camera registration card.

For more information on the Polaroid Photography Club, call toll free: 800-225-1384 from anywhere in the U.S.A.



www.orphancameras.com

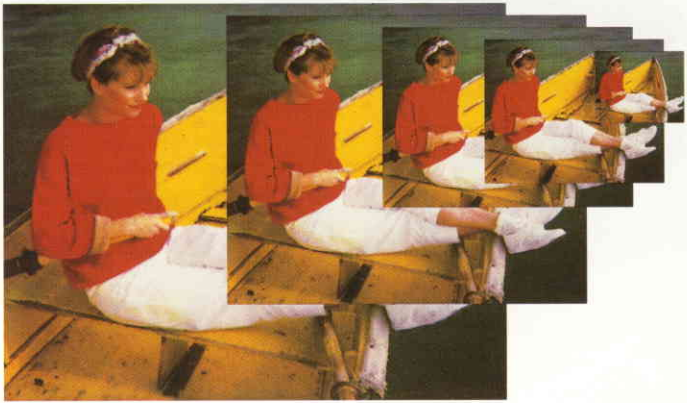
Laser prints and enlargements

Polaroid now offers laser prints and enlargements of your Spectra System photographs.

Using advanced laser technology, Polaroid Laser Print Service will produce borderless prints and enlargements, with superior color and detail, in these sizes: 2 x 2½, 3½ x 4¼, 4 x 5, 5 x 7, 8 x 10, and 11 x 14.

See your local participating dealer. Or, for your convenience, there is a mailer in every box of Spectra System film and an order form on the back of the film cover, which is ejected when you load your camera.

If you have any questions or special requests, call toll free: 800-421-1030. In California, call collect: 213-643-8093.



Customer Service: 800-225-1284

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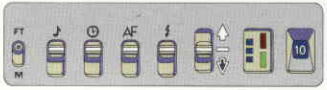
Troubleshooting

If you are having a picture-taking problem, check to be sure your camera is fully automatic

To make your camera **fully automatic,** be sure all the switches on the control panel are in a row, as shown. Then retake the picture. If this does not correct the problem, review this section or call Customer Service toll free: 800-225-1384. In Canada, call toll free: 800-268-6970.



Unsharp picture

Cause

An object in the foreground prevented the sound waves from measuring the distance to the subject. The lens focused on the object, causing the subject to be unsharp and at times too dark.

Solution

The sound waves travel to the central part of the scene. Be sure there are no objects in front of your subject. See page 12.

When the subject is not centered in the picture, the sound waves pass by the subject and measure the distance to the background.

This causes the subject to be unsharp because the lens focuses on the background.

Center your subject in the picture.

Or, if you want to keep your subject off center, frame your subject in the middle of the viewfinder. Press and **hold** the shutter button **halfway** to lock in the correct lens setting. Then reframe your subject off center and press the shutter button **the rest of the way.**

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Unsharp picture

When the shutter button is pressed **halfway,** the correct lens setting locks into place. If the photographer or the subject moves **after** the shutter button is pressed halfway, it causes the picture to be unsharp.

If you press the shutter button **halfway** and then decide to reposition yourself or your subject, **release** the shutter button and make the change.

When a picture is taken in low light (at dusk, in the shade, etc.), the shutter can stay open for as long as 2.8 seconds; and camera movement can cause the picture to be unsharp.

Hold the camera steady as you take the picture, or place the camera on a tripod or other firm support.

Background too dark

The background was either too far from the subject or beyond the flash range.

Be sure the exposure control is in the center position.

Place your subject **near** a background and keep both within the **2 to 15 foot** (.6m to 4.6m) flash range. See page 21.

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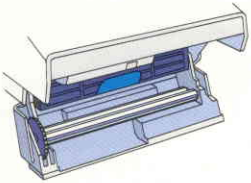
Subject too dark	Cause	Solution
	The camera's photocell measured the bright window light, causing the subject to be too dark.	Reposition your subject away from the bright background.
	When a bright source of light (lamplight, candlelight, etc.) is in the central part of the scene and in front of the subject, the camera's photocell will measure the bright light, causing the subject to be too dark.	Move the source of light to one side of your subject so it is not in the central part of the scene.

Hazy picture		
	There are fingerprints on the lens.	Breathe on the lens. Then wipe it gently with a clean, soft facial tissue. **Do not use silicone-treated eyeglass tissues.**

Repeated spots or bar pattern

The developer rollers inside the film door need to be cleaned.



Open the film door (it is all right to do this when there is film in the camera as long as it is not in direct sunlight). Clean the developer rollers with a lint-free cloth dampened with water, if necessary.

Picture too blue or too red/yellow

Pictures taken at temperatures below 55°F (13°C) can have a **blue tint.**

Try to keep the camera and film as warm as possible. Being careful not to bend the developing picture, immediately place it in a warm pocket for at least a minute.

Or, if you are near a warm place, hold the shutter button down to delay ejecting the picture.

Pictures taken at temperatures above 95°F (35°C) can have a **red or yellow tint.**

Keep the camera and film as cool as possible. Avoid storing the camera or film in hot places such as the glove or luggage compartment of a car. Keep the developing picture away from hot surfaces like the hood of a car.

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Lens care

It is important to avoid touching the lens. Should you need to remove dust or fingerprints, breathe on the lens and wipe it gently with a clean, soft facial tissue. **Do not use silicone-treated eyeglass tissues.**

Picture care

As the picture develops, its image area is dry because the development process takes place inside the film. This allows you to stack developing pictures.

During the **first 60 seconds** of development, handle the picture gently. Fanning or bending the picture will disturb the development process. While developing, the picture should be held by its wide white border.

At temperatures below 55°F (13°C), immediately place the developing picture (being careful not to bend it) in a warm pocket for at least a minute. Or, if you are near a warm place, hold the shutter button down to delay ejecting the picture.

Also keep the developing picture away from hot surfaces like the hood of a car.

Film care

For best results, use Spectra System film when the temperature is between 55°F (13°C) and 95°F (35°C). At temperatures below 55°F (13°C), keep the camera and film as warm as possible. Above 95°F (35°C), keep the camera and film as cool as possible. Store the film below 75°F (24°C), if possible. In its sealed foil pouch, the film can be refrigerated (not frozen). Let the film reach room temperature before using it; this will take at least an hour.

Camera repair

If you think your camera needs repair, please call Customer Service toll free: 800-225-1384. In Canada, call toll free: 800-268-6970.

Full one-year warranty

If your camera proves to be defective within the warranty period, we will, without charge, either repair it or at our option, replace it with a fully reconditioned camera.

The warranty period is **one** year from the original date of purchase. For the Special Edition camera, an optional warranty/service contract, for an additional **four** years, is available through Special Edition dealers when you purchase the camera.

To verify the warranty period, you should keep the sales slip or other proof of the purchase date. Without this information, the warranty will be determined by the manufacturing date on the camera.

The repair or replacement of your camera is guaranteed for the remaining warranty period on your original camera. If, within the warranty period, your camera is mailed to us for service from inside the U.S.A., it will be returned with a postal refund.

The warranty does not cover damage caused by accident, misuse, or tampering with the camera, and a charge will be made for such repairs.

For warranty service, the camera must be returned to and repaired by a Polaroid Service Center or Authorized Service Center in the U.S.A. or Canada. You can return the camera through your Polaroid camera dealer. If that is not convenient, call Customer Service toll free: 800-225-1384. In Canada, call toll free: 800-268-6970.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other rights, which vary from state to state.

This warranty excludes all consequential damages. Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of accidental or consequential damages, so the foregoing limitation or exclusion may not apply to you.

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