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PENTAX STEREO ADAPTOR SET

40mm & 52mm STEREO ADAPTORS

STEREO VIEWER II
Specifications

The Pentax 49mm Stereo Adaptor is designed for use with the standard lens of the Pentax MX or ME, or even the 50mm f/1.4, 50mm f/1.7 or 55mm f/1.8 (filter size: 49mm).

The Pentax 52mm Stereo Adaptor fits the standard 50mm f/1.4 or 55mm f/1.8 lens (filter size: 52mm) of the Pentax K2, KX or KM. If you use the 49mm-52mm adaptor ring, either of the Stereo Adaptors fits the standard lens whose filter size is 49mm.

Base length: 7cm
Adjustable space between two eyepieces: 62mm ± 3mm
Lens power of Stereo Viewer II: -1 diopter

Theory of Stereoscopic Photography

Conventional stereoscopic photography provides a 3-dimensional effect by using two lenses and two pieces of film. With the Asahi Pentax Stereo Adaptor, however, you can produce the same 3-dimensional effect simply by attaching the accessory to any Pentax standard lens. The theory behind Pentax stereoscopic photography is illustrated in Fig. 1. The Stereo Adaptor makes two images on the film, each from a slightly different viewpoint.

For stereoscopic viewing, insert the two-image film (in slide form) into the slot of the Stereo Viewer. Now, a 3-dimensional picture appears before your eyes, as illustrated in Fig. 2. Use only positive films for stereo photography; color reversal film is the most suitable for this purpose.
Mounting the Adaptor

The 49mm or 52mm Stereo Adaptor should be screwed clockwise into the threaded front frame of an SMC Pentax standard lens as far as it will go. The position of the adaptor should then be adjusted by turning it counterclockwise until both the adaptor and the camera body become parallel with each other, as shown in Photo 3.

The Pentax Stereo Adaptor houses four delicate reflection mirrors. When its front and rear caps are removed for actual use, take care not to touch the mirrors. To keep dust from entering, keep caps on whenever the Adaptor is not being used.

Using the Stereo Adaptor

- As shown in Picture 4, hold your camera in a horizontal position. If you shoot in a vertical position, the finished slide must be placed sideways into the viewer, and the viewer turned to a vertical position for stereoscopic effect. Compose the images side by side as shown in Picture 5.
- The image viewed through the single-lens reflex viewfinder of your Pentax SLR camera is divided into two parts—right and left. These two images partially overlap in the center when viewed with the aperture fully opened. Therefore, it is impossible to focus through a micro prism or a split image in the center of the finder. Be sure to focus on the main subject of two images.
- When actually shooting, select 1/5.6 or 1/8 as the aperture setting. Picture 5 was taken with the aperture stopped down to 1/5.6, using SMC Pentax 50mm f/1.4. Stereoscopic pictures taken at 1/5.6 or 1/8 are most suitable for viewing with the Pentax Stereo Viewer.

- The open-aperture exposure meter built into your Pentax K Series, SPF, ES and ESI will work satisfactorily even when you are using the Stereo Adaptor. When using the MX, KX, KM or SPF camera, select the shutter speed matching the aperture of 1/5.6 or 1/8 or even in-between.

- For the best results, place your camera about four meters or less away from the main subject, with appropriate fore- and background details which will help create the sensation of distance. Stereo images taken too close to the subject are difficult to view when the slide is placed into the Stereo Viewer. The close-up range of camera-to-subject is only up to about 1.5 meters. When the subject is very far away from your camera, you need not worry about difficulty of viewing, but the stereoscopic effect will be lost. As the base length of the Pentax Stereo Adaptor is only 7 cm, the adaptor is not appropriate for long-distance views.

Using the Stereo Viewer II

As shown in Picture 6, slide the mounted color reversal film (see Picture 5) into the slot (1) of the Pentax Stereo Viewer. Picture 7 shows how to view through the Stereo Viewer. Facing towards a bright background (out-of-doors or towards a fluorescent lamp), look at the slide through the two eyepieces. Adjust the space between the two eyepiece lenses (2) according to your own eyes for optimum 3-dimensional viewing.

The Pentax Stereo Adaptor Set is particularly useful for the following: commemorative photos, full or half-size portraits, building interiors, flower arrangements or arts and crafts displays, sculptures and teaching using an audio-visual presentation. The Stereo Adaptor and Stereo Viewer are available separately.