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# SUNPAK®

THYRISTOR

# auto 383

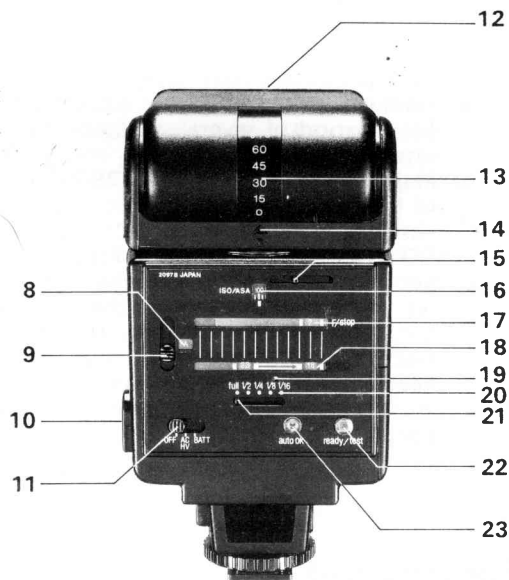
S U P E R

## OWNER'S MANUAL

### INTRODUCTION

WELCOME to the world-wide family of Sunpak owners. Your Sunpak auto 383S is one of the most advanced electronic flash units in the world. It is the product of extensive research and development and has been designed to give you many enjoyable years of service. Because many of the fine features of your new auto 383S are so unique, please take a few minutes to read this owner's manual carefully with your auto 383S in front of you. The more you know about your new electronic flash, the better you can use it for maximum creativity in your pictures.

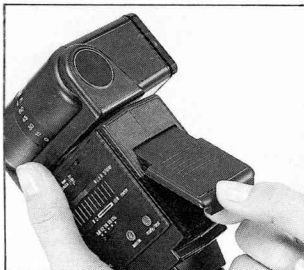
# Description of Parts



1. Flashtube Housing
2. Accessory (optional) Mounting Guide
3. Bounce Flash Control Base
4. Battery Compartment Cover
5. Auto Sensor
6. Knurled Lock Ring
7. Dedicated/Hot Shoe Contact

8. Auto/Manual Mode Window
9. Auto/Manual Selector Switch
10. Socket
11. Battery/AC.HV Selector (On/Off) Switch
12. Bounce Flash Head
13. Vertical Bounce Control Scale
14. Bounce Angle Indicator
15. Film Speed Selector
16. Film Speed Indicator Window (ISO)
17. F/Stop Scale
18. Distance Scale
19. Feet/Meter Selector Hole
20. Power Ratio Control Scale
21. Power Ratio Control Selector
22. Ready Light/Test (Open Flash) Button
23. Auto OK Indicator

## To Install Batteries:



1. Slide the battery compartment cover toward the bottom of the unit. Now gently fold up the cover in direction shown.



2. Insert four AA size batteries (alkaline or nickel-cadmium) as shown. The battery compartment has a guide showing the correct positioning of the batteries for proper polarity (+, - contacts).

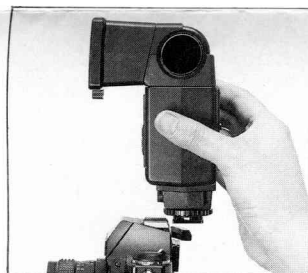
## Selecting Alkaline or Nickel-Cadmium Batteries:

The major advantage of alkaline batteries is that they provide more flashes per set. While nickel-cadmium batteries

will provide fewer flashes per set, they will recycle your auto 383S slightly faster and can be recharged hun-

dreds of times for more economical operation over the long run.

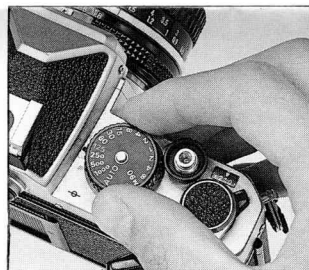
## Mounting the Flash to the Camera:



1. Slip the unit onto the camera's hot shoe. Turn the knurled lock ring clockwise to insure secure mounting to your camera's shoe.

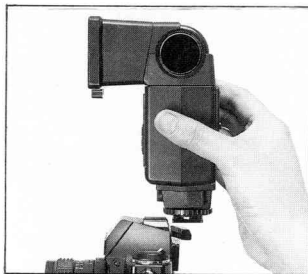
2. If your camera does not have a hot shoe contact, use a Flash Synch Cord.

- A. Insert the male end of the synch cord into the socket on the base of auto 383S.
  - B. Connect the female end to the flash Synch socket on your camera (usually marked 'X'). In case your camera has no 'Accessory Shoe', use the optional Sunpak Basic Grip.
3. Set the Camera shutter to the fastest shutter speed synchronized for electronic flash. For SLR cameras, the highest usable speed is



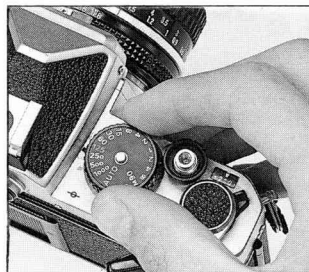
generally 1/60th second; however, some permit flash synchronization of up to 1/125th second. To be sure, refer to your camera's instruction manual. (4)

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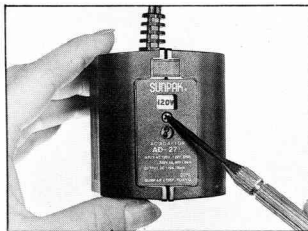
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generally 1/60th second; however, some permit flash synchronization of upto 1/125th second. To be sure, refer to your camera's instruction manual. (4)

## Using the Multi-Voltage AC Adapter or the Sunpak Powerpak for 510-Volt Batteries (Both Optional):

For AC operation, be sure to check that the voltage selector on your AC Adapter is set to the appropriate voltage. Your AC Adapter has been factory set for 220 V. For use in other countries where 117 V, 127 V and 240 V are standard, you may adjust the setting as illustrated. Remove the small



Phillips head screw located next to voltage window and rotate the selector switch with a screw driver to the proper voltage setting. After the voltage setting has been made, the screw must be reinstalled to prevent accidental movement of the selector switch.



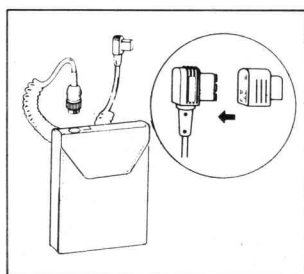
**When using Multi-Voltage AC Adapter or Sunpak Powerpak for 510-Volt Batteries, always set Battery/AC HV Selector Switch to AC/HV position.**

## Automatic Operation:

The sensitive Silicon Photo Transistor of your auto 383S Sensor measures the light re-

Plug into the AC/High Voltage socket on the flash and into a standard wall outlet as illustrated. The AC Adapter will supply virtually unlimited flashes and is ideal for indoor use.

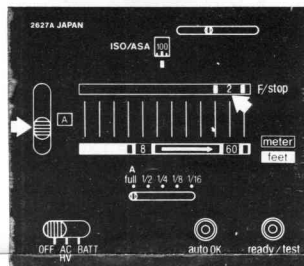
When you use the optional accessory Sunpak Powerpak for 510-Volt Battery, first attach the supplied plug adapter to the end of Powerpak cord and plug it into the auto 383S in the same manner as you would with the Multi-Voltage



AC Adapter. The Sunpak Powerpak for 510-Volt Battery allows extremely rapid recycle times and the greatest number of flashes.

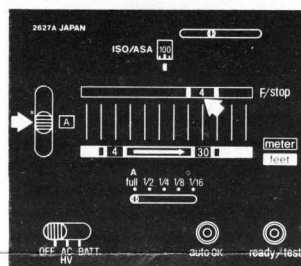
flected by your subject and automatically controls the flash duration to assure cor-

rect exposure within a wide range of distances. It's easy to use:



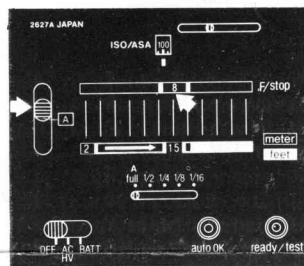
**A.** Slide the ISO Film Speed Scale till the ISO of film in use is visible in the ISO speed window. (Example: ISO 100)

**B.** For the maximum distance range in automatic operation, move the Auto/Manual Selector Switch to the green "A" position so that the green "A" is visible in the Auto/Manual Mode Window and f/2 will appear. Then set your camera lens opening (for ISO 100 film, the lens opening is f/2). Your



flash and lens are now set for correct exposure at any distance between 8 feet and 60 feet (2.3 m and 18 m).

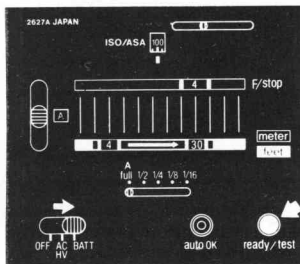
**C.** For an Intermediate distance range in automatic operation, move the Selector Switch to the yellow "A" position so that the yellow line and f/4 appear. Then set the same aperture on your camera (for ISO 100 film, the lens opening is f/4). Your flash and lens are now set for correct exposure at any distance



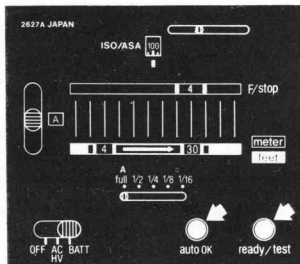
between 4 feet and 30 feet (1.2 m and 9 m).

**D.** For maximum depth-of-field (area of sharpness in front of and in back of the subject), move the Selector Switch to the red "A" position so that the red "A," red line and f/8 appear. Then set your camera lens opening (for ISO 100 film the lens opening is f/8). Your flash and lens are now adjusted for correct exposure at any distance between 2 feet and 15 feet (0.6 m and 4.5 m).

# Taking the Picture:



1. Move the Batt/AC HV Switch to the appropriate position for your power source.



2. In a few seconds, the Ready/Test Button on the back of the flash unit will glow. This confirms that your flash is ready to fire.

## 3. Take the picture!

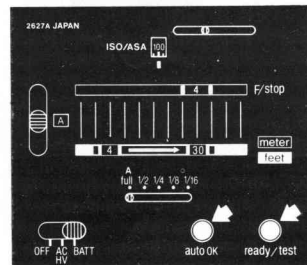
Your flash will automatically provide the correct amount of light for proper exposure within the distance range indicated.

**For succeeding exposures...**  
Wait until the Ready/Test light glows again. Make sure, you are within the indicated auto distance range for the lens opening in use and... Shoot!

## To Verify Correct Auto Exposure:

To verify the correct automatic exposure, just aim your flash directly towards your subject and press the Ready/Test Button. This will cause the flash to fire without actually exposing any film. If the automatic exposure is correct for your subject, the green "Auto OK" lamp will glow immediately after the "test" exposure.

If the lamp does not glow, move closer to your subject for, if you are shooting in yellow or red auto mode, switch to green and adjust the aperture accordingly). The "Auto OK" provides positive verification in automatic operation that your picture will be correctly exposed.

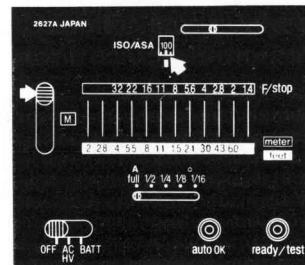


## Power Ratio Control (Manual):

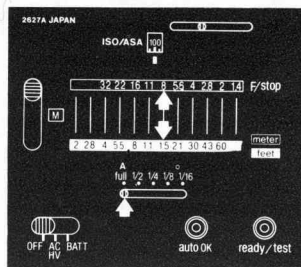
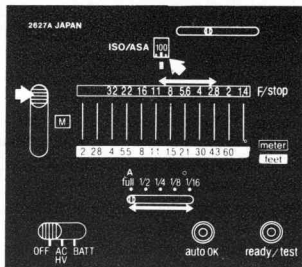
With Sunpak's unique Power Ratio Control you can adjust the light output over a five stop range (from full to 1/16 power). This feature gives you greater depth-of-field control, the ability to control battery life and recycle times, precise fill-flash capability, macro/close-up capability and the ability to control flash duration.

1. Set the Auto/Manual Selector Switch (on the back of the flash body) to the top so that the white "M" appears.
2. Set the Film Speed ISO setting.  
(Example: ISO 100)
3. Adjust the Power Ratio Control to full power by sliding the Selector Switch to "Full."

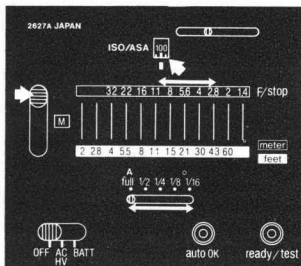
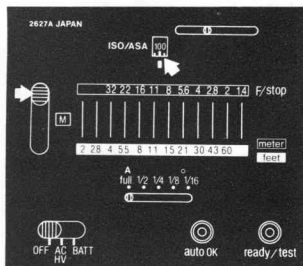
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- The scales for distance and f/stop now show the exposure combination. Find flash-to-subject (not camera-to-subject) distance. (Example: 15'/4.5 m)
- Set your lens to the lens opening shown for this distance. (Example: with ISO 100 film, the correct lens opening at 15'/4.5 m is f/8)



## Using Power Ratio:

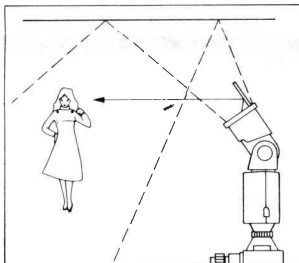


- When using the Power Ratio at full power, set the Film Speed Scale to the appropriate ISO setting and be sure the Auto/Manual Selector is at "M."
- Determine the distance of the subject from the flash. When the auto 383S is mounted to the camera, you can easily do so by focusing the lens and reading the distance indicated by the distance scale on the lens barrel.
- Slide the Power Ratio Control Switch until the desired f/stop appears opposite this distance. ALWAYS SLIDE THE POWER RATIO CONTROL SWITCH TO EACH MARKED POSITION. DO NOT SET THE POWER RATIO BETWEEN MARKED POSITION OR THE UNIT WILL NOT OPERATE PROPERLY. (Example: 11 feet/3.2 m with ISO 100 film, you may choose f/11, 8, 5.6, 4 and 2.8)
- Be sure the distance scale indicates proper f/stop for the correct exposure of your subject. If not, increase or decrease the power as needed.
- You are now ready to take a picture. Remember to adjust the aperture on the lens to match the aperture indicated on the calculator scale.

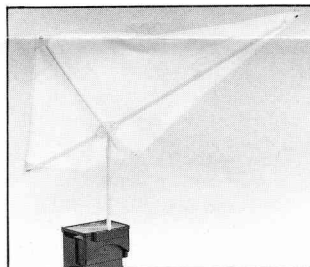


## Total Bounce Control System:

In addition to its bounce flash head, your auto 383S has other unique optional accessories for better bounce lighting.



**Bounce Flap:** The bounce flap provides multiple lighting effects. A predetermined portion of light directly illuminates the subject while the rest of the light goes to the ceiling for bounce illumination. (The optional accessory, Sunpak Tele-Fil Kit TL-8 Cat. No. 651-842).



**Bounce Lighting Kit:** For more extensive bounce lighting effects, Sunpak Bounce Reflector (to be attached to the Sunpak Tele-Fil Kit TL-8 or Filter Holder) is an available option.

## Optional Accessories for the Sunpak Auto 383S:

For maximum creativity and ease of operation, many optional accessories are available for your auto 383S. Just like today's system cameras, you can customize your auto 383S to suit your exact photographic requirements.

1. Sunpak Filter Kit FK-1 (Cat. No. 1-738)
2. Sunpak Bounce Lighting Kit (Cat. No. 1-795)
3. Tele-Fil Kit TL-8 (Cat. No. 1-842)
4. Sunpak Basic Grip (Cat. No. 1-772)
5. Sunpak QBC-3 Nicad 3-Hour Charger (Cat. No. 1-731)
6. Sunpak Multi-Voltage AC Adapter (Cat. No. 1-740)
7. Sunpak Powerpak for 510 V Battery (Cat. No. 1-723)
8. Sunpak NC510 Rechargeable Battery for Sunpak Powerpak (Cat. No. 1-727)
9. Sunpak QBC-5 Charger (Cat. No. 1-809)
10. Sunpak TR-PAK II W/Charger (Cat. No. 1620)



## Using Power Ratio Control at Full Power:

- The effectiveness of the bounce flash feature depends on the condition of reflecting surface. The angle of the flash must be set properly to achieve best lighting effect. When the flash is bounced against an wall, it usually loses 2~3 aperture worth of light even if it is a white wall. Therefore, when the picture is taken in TTL light adjustment mode or in external light mode, is recommended that the smallest possible aperture is used.
- The relationship between the aperture of automatic flash adjusted pictures and the adjustable distance range changes according to the reflecting surface. It is impossible to calculate these relationships from the exposure calculation panel. Therefore, it is recommended that you confirm the amount of light by pressing the test button in external automatic light mode.
- Use as white a surface as possible for best reflecting rate.  
In color photography, a colored surface will reflect its color on the subject.

## Care of Your Auto 383S:

Your Sunpak electronic flash has been engineered to require almost no "maintenance." Still to insure best performance year-in and year-out, follow these basic pointers:

**1. Storage:** If you don't use your auto 383S for several weeks, or if you plan to take it on a trip, the accessory compartment case is recommended. This case will not only hold your auto 383S but its many accessories. Also be sure to remove the batteries before storage to prevent possible damage due to battery leakage.

**2. Inspect Batteries Frequently:** Check for reasonable recycling time (the length of time it takes the ready light to come on between flashes): if it's more than 20 or 30 seconds, a fresh set of alkaline batteries should be obtained (or if nickel cadmium batteries are used, they must be recharged).

It's also wise to check your batteries for appearance: Sometimes even the best of batteries discharge or leak some chemical material through the jacket... and leave a whitish-powder on the battery which passes onto your Sunpak flash unit's electrical contacts. (If this has happened, replace the batteries after cleaning the Sunpak's internal battery contacts with an eraser).

Finally, it's a good idea to remove the batteries once in a while and wipe them with a handkerchief. The cleaner the battery surface, the easier it is for the energy to pass through your flashgun's electrical system.

**3. Remove Batteries:** If for some reason you do not intend to use your flash unit for a period of several weeks or more, remove the batteries and store them separately. Inside a plastic bag is one good way.

**4. Maintenance:** If your auto 383S's reflector window becomes dirty, use one drop of lens cleaner on a lens cleaning tissue. A small amount of lens cleaner and lens tissue or a slightly moist cloth can be used to clean the rest of the unit. **BE SURE TO THOROUGHLY DRY THE UNIT IMMEDIATELY AFTER CLEANING.**

**5. Service:** In the unlikely even that your Sunpak electronic flash requires service, return it to your dealer or the address shown on Sunpak world wide network. Do not, under any conditions, attempt to disassemble and/or adjust it by yourself: electronic flash operates on high voltage, and should not be taken apart. However, keep in mind that flash failure is more likely to result from weak batteries than any other single cause: if the flash doesn't fire, check batteries and contacts carefully.

# Specifications

## Guide Numbers:

With ISO 100 film 120 (in feet),  
36 (in meter)

With ISO 25 film 60 (in feet),  
18 (in meter)

## Angle of Illumination

### in Direct Flash:

60° Horizontal by 45° Vertical;  
35 mm lenses on 35 mm cameras  
f/2, f/4, f/8 (ISO 100 film)

### Automatic Aperture Setting:

(with standard 35 mm camera)

## Automatic Distance Range:

6.6' - 60'/2 - 18 m  
(at maximum aperture)

3.3' - 30'/1 - 9 m

(at medium aperture)

1.6' - 15'/0.5 - 4.5 m

(at minimum aperture)

## Variable Power Ratio Range:

16:1 (5-stop range)

## Sensor Acceptance Angle:

15°

## Bounce Flash:

Adjustable Bounce Flash Head at  
330 degree rotation and 90 degree  
elevation. (automatic operation)

## Flash Speed:

1/700th - 1/20000th second  
depending on Auto distance,  
1/700th - 1/10000th second  
depending on Manual Power Ratio  
setting in use.

## Number of Flashes and Recycling Time:

**Maximum  
Power**

**Minimum  
Power**

### With 4 x AA Nicad Batteries:

Number of Flashes

55

400

Recycling Time

5.5 sec.

0.3 sec.

### With 4 x AA Alkaline Batteries:

Number of Flashes

135

1400

Recycling Time

8.5 sec.

0.3 sec.

## With Sunpak Multi-Voltage AC Adapter (AD-27):

Recycling Time at 100 V

19 sec.

0.3 sec.

120 V

17 sec.

0.3 sec.

220 V

13 sec.

0.3 sec.

240 V

13 sec.

0.3 sec.

## With Sunpak Powerpak for 510 V Battery:

### (with Everyday #497 or equivalent):

Number of Flashes

500

4500

Recycling Time

1 sec.

0.3 sec.

### (with Sunpak NC510

### Rechargeable Battery):

Number of Flashes

80

350

Recycling Time

1.5 sec.

0.3 sec.

## Color Temperature:

Most suitable for daylight color films.

## Dimensions (H x W x D):

4.4" x 3" x 2.8"/113 x 75 x 72 mm  
(without shoe)

## Weight:

11 oz./310 g (less batteries)

Features and specifications are subject to  
change without prior notice.