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Book Descriptions:

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Book Descriptions:

contax t3 manual focus

It's the camera I thought about buying after I felt I achieved so much with the Yashica T5. It's the camera that I thought about before I bought the Contax T2, but couldn't afford. It's also the camera I've been trying to avoid buying through trying to find the perfect inexpensive 35mm lens compact camera. The likes of the Olympus mju:ii and Pentax Espio Mini are cameras that come very close to being the absolute ideal carry everywhere camera for snaps, but for their own unique reasons ultimately they fall short of perfect. So now I've eventually bitten the bullet and forked out for a Contax T3, the question is, does even it scratch the itch I hoped it might. Like a lot of hobbyist photographers I've reached a point in my shooting where I take a camera everywhere I go. I remember a time before, when I looked upon this idea of always having a camera with more than a little bit of scepticism; surely people don't actually take a camera everywhere. Well, now I do. In fact, I've been carrying one everywhere for a number of years now. I take one when I walk the dogs round the block, when I walk to work, when pop into town to do a bit of shopping, when I go to meetings for work etc; literally everywhere. By means of example, around the time I started making notes for this Contax T3 reviews, just after I bought the camera, we went out to the cinema one evening. It is also the cinema, a place not traditionally considered a hot spot for film photography outings, not to mention the fact that it was dark outside. In short, opportunities for taking photos were limited, yet I still took a camera. And I'm glad I did, as I used it to take a shot of my daughter with a cut out pepper pig her idea. The point is I want a camera on me at all times. The problem is, as I'm sure anyone else who is inflicted with this weird habit will tell you, I don't always want the issues associated with carrying a camera.<http://yubesystem.com/yimages/a-link-to-the-past-manual.xml>

- **contax t3 manual focus, contax t3 manual focus, contax t3 manual focus on, contax t3 manual focus review, contax t3 manual focus reviews, contax t3 manual focusing.**

Largely speaking cameras are cumbersome things that hang off you with little regard for your comfort. As you might be able to tell by the content of this site, my preference is definitely for smaller cameras, and that's when I can be bothered to carry them. Small is of course not the only specification for this hypothetical ideal carry everywhere camera, I also want it to be a good camera in many other ways. It needs to be simple, yet have somewhat manipulatable function, it needs to have great lens quality and a useful focal length. And since, when I can't be bothered to carry a camera I'm not usually in the mood for using one, I also want autofocus and autoexposure. It also needs to be good value and since it's going to go everywhere with me, it needs to be robust. All these things and more are important. It's bigger than the Minolta TC1, but not much. Certainly comfortable in a trouser pocket, and disappears into my inside coat pocket. It doesn't feel like it weighs me down in the same way its big brother the Contax T2 did. It was the size and weight that ultimately stopped me carrying T2 around more often, and eventually lead to it's sale. It doesn't quite have the bombproof feeling the T2 has, but it feels pretty robust. Surprisingly I think the Contax T3 handles at least as well as the T2 too. It's small size means the camera doesn't feel as though it needs to be gripped in quite the same way. This means fingers don't feel like they need to stray towards the lens so much as they do with the T2. Of course it doesn't quite match up to the Rioch GR1, which, when it comes to ergonomics is arguably the king. That said, the build quality definitely feels nicer than the Ricoh. The sapphire bits Every review or post I think I've read about the Contax T3 mentions the synthetic sapphire shutter button and viewfinder glass. I assume this is something special. This certainly seems to be the consensus

anyway. <http://ruxthai.com/userfiles/a-little-manual-of-restorative-justice.xml>

The viewfinder is indeed bright, so if that's what that does, great. I'm not sure I care that the shutter button is synthetic sapphire though. I suspect, with due respect to my fellow camera reviewers, this is something taken from some marketing drivel somewhere that has gained weight as something positive. One way or another, it's just a shiny flat black button that looks no different to the one on the T2. It is admittedly quite nice as far as shiny buttons go, I'm just not sure I can get that excited about such a thing, and it's certainly not a selling point of the sort of note it seems to garner.

The Contax T3 viewfinder Since I've just mentioned the very nice bright sapphire viewfinder, I might as well point out its shortcoming. What's important is how it functions. I must admit, coming from both the Contax T2 and Minolta TC1 I felt a little concerned that I wouldn't gel as well with the Contax T3. The control layout and button driven menu the camera has on face value didn't feel as appealing as what these other cameras had to offer. Reading about the camera prior to purchase it just didn't sound as though it would be as natural to use. Unfortunately those apprehensions have proved true to a greater extent than I might have hoped. I think perhaps the Minolta TC1 has spoiled me somewhat in this regard; its mode wheel and forefinger driven mode value selector just seems so logical and quick to use. I don't suppose it's a major issue really, it's no doubt deep set into the body of the camera to stop it from getting knocked, but since it doesn't do anything until another button is pressed first, this precaution seems a little over the top. A small relief, even for those who might use it more than me, is that the content of the main menu is limited to only 4 functions. Flash modes are accessed by their own button and there's a second hidden menu for custom functions.

I shall come to all these modes throughout the rest of the post, but for the sake of understanding I will just touch on accessing the custom function now. The Contax T3 custom function menu To access custom functions, the camera needs to be switched off. Whilst off, press and hold the flash and mode button simultaneously. As I say, I'll get to what all these modes all are throughout the course of this review. Manual aperture Having an aperture priority mode is as welcome as it is on any other advanced compact, but it too is a touch of a fiddle to access. To switch to aperture priority mode the little button in the middle of the dial has to be depressed. It also has to be depressed to switch back to program mode. This catches me out every single time. It's not a big deal really, lots of cameras have locking mode wheels like this, it just feels unnecessary. I think ultimately I ever so slightly prefer the lensmounted aperture setting that the Minolta TC1 and Contax T2 offer. Whilst I am more than use to this limitation with my rangefinders, in the end it somehow felt a little more of a frustration with a compact camera. The Contax T3 deals with this frustration by halving the minimum focusing distance to 35cm, which really is quite an improvement. Like the Fuji Klasse, the point in operation that the camera focuses can be changed to be either before or after full press of the button. Due to the movement of the lens, having it move after full press does slightly increase the impression of shutter lag. But, this might be outweighed by the benefit of the camera feeling quieter to use. At the moment of writing this I have it set to after full press. Sometimes I find myself half pressing a few times before I am comfortable I've focused correctly, so the repeated movement of the lens can become an attention grabbing sound that I prefer to remove from the equation.

Saying that, sometimes I might like to have the camera feel a touch quicker, so being able to switch for preference is definitely a bonus. And ultimately for snaps it makes little or no difference when the lens moves, it still has to move and that still takes time. Fortunately the amount of time it does take isn't particularly long, it certainly feels faster than the Fuji Klasse, and is arguably up there with the fastest of my compacts. To change when the camera focuses it is custom function 2. 2a focuses after full press, 2b at the point of half press. Manual Focusing with the Contax T3 Again like the Fuji Klasse, the Contax T3 has a menu driven and fairly fiddly to use manual focus. Not something you would want to use on a shot by shot basis of course, but for prefocusing it's ok. Depending on how frequently you shoot like this, the Contax T3 can also be set up to your

preference. If you shoot like this a lot, or want to spend a day out shooting this way, the chosen manual focus distance can be locked in. Set custom function 7a and it'll forget manual focus settings when it is powered off. But setting it 7b means that focusing has to be reset to auto manually. Even powering off and on again it will remember the set focused distance. Locked lens position The final, and quite compelling function of the manual focus is the locked lens position. When in manual focus mode, the lens is moved to the selected focus distance and is locked there. This means that the lens doesn't have to move to shot, which in turn reduces shutter lag a little. In short, if you can find a comfortable distance to lock the lens in manual focus it can be a very fast camera to shoot with. At least until you have to change the focused distance, which of course means delving back into the fiddly menu. Fortunately, returning to autofocus is as simple as tapping the AFL button. Exposure and metering with the Contax T3 One of my favourite features of the Contax T2 was the light meter.

<http://atamusavirlik.com/images/canon-hdv1080i-manual.pdf>

The constantly updating exposure information in the viewfinder is much more akin to a bigger camera. The Contax T3 thankfully retains this function. Switching the camera on or halfpressing the shutter button if it's gone to sleep activates the meter which takes a constantly updated reading visible through a rudimentary shutter speed readout in the viewfinder. Exactly like its older brother, it only gives an idea of shutter speed by displaying one of four readings, either individually or in combination. With LT, standing for Long Time. With these numbers not necessarily representing the exact shutter speeds as seen on the chart below, I've come to the same conclusion in use as I did with the T2. What these numbers mean really is as follows. The area it meters from is plenty small enough to be pointed around the frame to get an idea of best exposure before taking the shot. To be fair when I'm shooting a compact quite often there isn't an issue as the subject tends to be the thing I want to meter from and focus on. But for those occasions the rule doesn't apply, when I might use the camera as something more than a glorified point and shoot, not having the ability can be quite a frustration with a fully automatic camera. I had a feeling that the odd light might throw the meter. I locked focus on Connie, took a reading off the sofa behind her, outside of the frame, locked it in with a half press, reframed and shot. The way the Contax T3 solves the problem is effectively the opposite way the Minolta TC1 does. With the TC1 there is a spot meter that allows exposure to be locked at a value independently from the action of half press to focus. With the Contax, focus is the thing that is locked independently with the AFL button. So, if you want to choose exposure independently of focus, you can lock focus on the subject by holding the AFL button for a few seconds whilst pointing at said subject.

<http://asyasunger.com/images/canon-hdv-1080i-manual.pdf>

Once focus is locked, you can then point the camera at whatever you want to meter from, half press the shutter to lock the meter reading in, reframe and shoot. It's a little like how I used to shoot with my Nikon digital SLR's with their AFon button on the back. The shortfall of the Contax T3 by comparison is that the AFL button is on the top of the camera and has to be pressed and held for a second to use it. This means the process is a little slower than it could be if it were under a thumb on the back. Interestingly this style of shooting is expanded upon with a custom function. Setting CF6a will cancel the focused upon distance after the shot is taken, CF6b maintains the distance focused to until it is reset with another press of the AFL button or the camera is switched off. I'm sure others can say how this feature works well of them in one way or another. But for me, I like the idea that it effectively brings the manual focus function out of the clumsy menu. It's quicker in use to point the camera at something a desired distance away to lock the focus for a series of shots than it is to go delving into the menu. This is especially helped by the fact the screen on the top shows the distance the camera is locked too. A minor frustration with AFL way of manual focusing is that upon pressing it doesn't move then lens to the point of focus prior to taking the shot. Not having this on the AFL function is a minor quibble, but I do think it would round off the manual focus functionality of the

camera nicely. Whilst on the subject of the AFL button, using custom function 5 it is possible to set it to lock both auto exposure and auto focus. CF5a sets it to just lock focus, 5b sets it to lock both. I don't find this a particularly useful option. Access to exposure compensation is through the menu button. Thankfully, since it's the mode I found myself using the most, it's the first mode so in the menu.

I've found myself using it more than I might because, since the camera doesn't have a manual ISO override, I've been using the exposure compensation for this function instead. Unfortunately, this is all a bit limiting. Of course I could stop being so damned lazy and recode my Portra's DX code, but that often takes forethought. Last time I was out and about and needed to load it I didn't have my black tape and little knife with me. Firstly, and this is especially useful for me at the moment, the exposure compensation is lockable. CF3a will mean exposure compensation is set for one shot, 3b will retain exposure compensation until the camera is turned off, 3c retains the settings permanently until they are changed again manually. As you might have guessed, I have mine set to lock permanently. The two I haven't mentioned sit next to each other via 2 and 3 presses of the button. It is just as you would find on the TC1 and Fuji Klasse, a slow speed or "LT" long time shutter speed selector. I mention this in the same paragraph as the self timer as without any means of remotely triggering the shutter, the self timer is ideally used in conjunction with the LT shutter modes. If this is a feature you think you might use a lot, then the Fuji Klasse is probably a better choice since it has the advantage of a threaded hole for a shutter release. But if, like me, you'll probably use it infrequently, it's just a nice feature for emergencies. The Contax T3 self timer can also be set between 2 and 10 second modes. The former being more useful for LT shooting and the latter I suppose better suited to the old trick of setting the camera on a tripod and jumping into the photo. It's funny, I have so many memories of my dad and other family members doing that when I was a kid; you don't see it so much these days. The Contax T3 Flash Then there's the flash button and it's modes.

The usual suspects of flash off, flash on fill auto flash, auto flash with red eye and night portrait flash can be found. I've only used the flash once or twice, the results are predictably ok, but look like a flash has been used. What stands out about the flash modes on this camera is not the modes themselves, it is actually the one thing lacking from the likes of the Olympus mjuii; the ability to set the default flash mode. This is done simply by holding the flash button until the mode starts blinking, pressing it again until the mode you want as default is selected, then leaving it for a few seconds until it stops blinking. Now next time the camera is turned off then on again, that will be the mode that remains. In the case of my Contax T3, that default is, and will always be, flash off. If you store your exposed film in the same box as your unexposed film, CF1a is for you as it winds the leader all the way into the canister. The Contax T3 lens and photos No review would be complete without an assessment of the Contax T3's lens and the photos it produces. It has possibly slightly less character than the lens of its predecessor the T2, in as much as it doesn't vignette to quite the same degree. That's not to say it doesn't vignette at all, it definitely does, especially when shot wide open. The T2's propensity to vignette just seemed a little more consistent throughout the aperture range. What it does share with the Contax T2 is stunning levels of resolution and contrast. The reality is, just like the lens on the TC1, this lens is not just as good as many of the lenses in my bigger kit bag, it's arguably better, at least objectively speaking. I've also read people saying the T2 is a better camera with better features and that the Contax T3 was more aimed at rich people who wanted an expensive toy. It is definitely my choice for a carry everywhere camera. In fact, since I've had it, I feel like my search for that perfect carry everywhere camera is over.

The problem is, the thing that gives me the sense of empathy with the naysayers is that it feels like it can be so dumbed down that I can treat it like I don't really have any skill at all. And that could quite easily make the 500 I paid for it feel like a lot of money to spend on what basically amounts to a

pocket happy snapper. Because of this, largely speaking, my emotional response to the Contax T3 has been quite flat. But, what's important is that I have taken it nearly everywhere I've been since I bought it. When I go out I pick up my wallet, phone and keys and Contax T3; it's become part of my pocket furniture. Take the cost out of the equation, and actually it fits my specifications for a carry everywhere camera perfectly. It's perfectly pocketable, it's seemingly hard wearing, it's got a great lens and it's simple to use. But the real beauty is that for most part it is a set and forget type camera. With the seven custom functions I can set it to work just how I like it for day to day shooting. But, and this is the big one for me, when carrying it everywhere, I know that I have a little tool that I can manipulate into doing all sort of other useful things if and when I might need them. Yes it might fall short on some of the finer details of those little things, but who cares, I'm only going to use them in emergency anyway, and I can get around them all. If I want to be, I can be, but largely, I don't need to be. It is a combination of all the above that differentiates it from every other camera I've owned. With cheaper cameras like the mjuiv I have to think about switching off the flash. None separate focus from metering for a start. But it also doesn't need a bit of mental commitment to use in the way the TC1 feels like it does, and it doesn't feel like it might fail at any minute like the GR1v. It's also not slow in the way I find the Fuji Klasse W. Not to mention the fact that actually, the focal length is wrong with all of those.

That just leaves the Contax T2, and I suppose maybe the Nikon 35ti and various Leica advanced compacts, well short of listing all their comparative faults, they're all too big. The Contax T2, which I loved, I just didn't carry, ever, and that was just because of its size. I don't look at my Mac every day of my life thinking how lucky I am to have a retina screen, one piece aluminium chassis, or enough computing power to get me to Mars and back. I turn it on in the morning, I do my job on it for 812hrs a day in the same way as I have been since the day I got it out of the box. Same goes for my iPhone. They both function at the thing I need them to function at for extended periods of time, every day. And all be it largely in activity, that is exactly what the Contax T3 does too. I might not be the ultimate "photographers" camera, but I for one am pleased it's not. Cheers for reading Hamish

An update Since publishing this article, the value of the Contax T3 has skyrocketed. I personally wouldn't buy one for the price they now go for, but that's not to say you shouldn't. I would just suggest you read this article first. Alternatively, please feel free to chuck a few pennies in the tip jar via Kofi Become a Patron. Learn about where your money goes here. Would like to write for 35mmc. Great timing with the review also as my T3 turned up yesterday in the mail. I had been wanting a T3 for ages but the bad Aussie dollar kept me from getting it until a mint condition model turned up locally for a great price. However the custom functions of the T3 like on my G2 I used to own provide the level of customisability that takes it to a step above with the control over the exposure and flash etc. Anyway it's way too early for me to make a judgement but I somehow feel that I may let it go and stick with the GR1v just purely for its size and function even though I much prefer 35mm. I was thinking the Contax T rangefinder may be what I want so the search may continue.

Anyway thanks for a great review, I really liked the part about metering and focussing separately as I do that alot so will be testing that out. I'd be interested to hear how you get on longer term.

Hamish Reply Stefano June 19, 2015 at 750 am Nice review, I didn't know about the whole AFlock, expose, recompose, shoot trick you never stop to learn. As for me, I'm in the same boat. I actually prefer the form factor and the operability of my Ricoh GR1s, but ever since I got my T3 it's the T3 that I keep carrying around wherever I go. It's just that small. You don't really need a bag for it, just slide it into your jeans front pocket and you're ready to go. The IQ is just astonishing, when I look at some of my wellexposed, perfectly focused photos, scanned with a Nikon Coolscan at full resolution, sometimes I get the feeling that they are, well, too perfect. So perfect that my GR1s and Leica are collecting dusts on my shelf. If you have any photos you would like to share taken with it, feel free to add a link. Thanks for getting in touch. Reply Stefano June 19, 2015 at 912 am Thanks Hamish, I got plenty of photos on my blog For me, it's the perfect travel companion. Reply nubizus June 19, 2015

at 1020 am Thanks for depth of information that you share. For me this confirms that combination of Olympus Mju for color and Rollei 35 se for black and white in my pockets is more than enough. Reply Hamish Gill June 19, 2015 at 1145 am That sounds like a superb two camera set up. Reply Mikael Siirila June 19, 2015 at 210 pm That shot of Connie on the couch is beautiful. Reply Cody Priebe August 30, 2015 at 942 pm I am sitting reading this article with my Contax T3 in hand. I failed to find the user manual and was only using a partial amount of the functions. After reading this and now having the manual I expect to be exhibiting my artwork shortly. At least on my walls Thanks Hamish for laying out the camera so well. This will be giving my Ricoh GR1s a run for my time.

After some deliberation I decided to sell it and move to the Contax T3. A great resource on the T3. I bought mine after reading this, and have to say I'm actually very attached to mine. Such a great little camera. Nothing but joy in each roll. Your autoexposure lock suggestion is a good one I'm looking forward to trying out more. Reply Hamish Gill September 20, 2016 at 237 pm Always good to hear!! Thanks Adam! Reply Barry Reid October 22, 2017 at 727 am Thanks for a very informative and useful article. I just got a T3 a couple of days ago. No manual but at relatively sensible price. I have a roll of film in there to test it with and your article is so indepth it's going to be a massive help. Reply Hamish Gill October 22, 2017 at 1132 am No problem, good luck with it. With the current secondhand prices, I could pick up two and a half Contax Ts for a decent T3. I am using my Contax T3 since years, now that I have started to nearly only take BW film I noticed an overexposure in my pictures. The second thing I noticed is that flash photos at night are overall correctly exposed. So I wondered about the built in light meter, maybe you have any recommendations so that it doesn't kick my pictures out. E.g. I took a picture measuring in a rather dark room at a bright light bulb. The bulb is totally overexposed and the rest of the room is slightly overexposed. So is it really a center weighted meter. I feel quite depressed because it is my favorite camera and I feel that I don't trust my T3 anymore. OR MAYBE, I am just doing something very very wrong. And another question setting an 100ISO film to push it to 400ISO I would need to set the EV at 2, did I get that right. I would be very thankful for your help. Greetings from Germany. Reply Hamish Gill August 22, 2018 at 1017 pm Hi Patricia, It's quite hard to diagnose the issue from this far. Do you know anyone near by who could run a roll through it to test.

If you want to underexpose a film by 2ev, yes you need to set the meter 2. Pushing it is what you do with the chemicals after by overdeveloping it Reply Henry August 18, 2018 at 939 pm Hi Hamish, I am wondering if the T3 is still your regular companion or if it has been replaced by something else. I have a T3 as well, love it a lot and consider it my regular companion but I am always worried that it will stop working. So I am wondering whether I should sell it before it does as long as there is an alternative. Im in the same boat. I just bought a t3 to replace my t5 that ive found a little underwhelming. Do you think the sharpness and quality with the t3 is better then the yashica. Thanks for the read. Notify me of followup comments by email. Notify me of new posts by email. This site uses Akismet to reduce spam. Learn how your comment data is processed. Learn about where your money goes here. Would you like to write for 35mmc. Considering getting one for my pocket, but I want to be able to zone focus without any shutter delay. Nice little camera. It doesnt have a lag, shutter runs instantly. Dont use it that much the AF is precise and very fast. Cheers! Enzo The lens remains at the selected manual focus distance for all the following exposures unless the camera remains unused for 10 minutes, where upon it will retract the lens. If you half press the shutter it will return to your preselected manual focus distance and remain there for another 10 minutes if unused. When you turn the camera off, the selected MF distance is reestablished when the camera is turned back on. The AFL button provides spot focus and can over ride the MF selected distance if you need to change focus on the fly. Check the custom functions table on page 47. The menu drove me nuts so I sold it and went back to my Rollei35. But the T3s lens is incredibly sharp. Enjoy! The AFL button provides spot focus and can over ride the MF selected distance if you need to change

focus on the fly.

Check the custom functions table on page 47. I recently got mine back from repair, and didn't know this about the AFL button either forgotten, or never knew. Thanks very much. The lens offers excellent The double between the lens shutter system offers top Housing in a The superior Carl Zeiss Sonnar The photographer may choose from the following custom It was followed in 1990 by the Contax The Contax T2 turned out Ease of use This deluxe compact This system divides the area to which the distance It consists of two unit The highperformance shutter allows the Such long shutter speed settings make possible a new The aperture priority auto mode This permits the user to express him or Finally, the exposure Alternately, the AF lock button can The viewfinder employs highgrade hard These are just two of the wide range of. Josh Solomon January 14, 2019 11 Which Contax T Series Camera Should You Buy 2800 1575 Josh Solomon Josh Solomon January 14, 2019 June 4, 2020 In 1984, Zeiss' Contax brand partnered with Yashica to make the Contax T cameras, a series of luxury compact cameras aimed at moneyed enthusiasts. The cameras were small jewels of photographic design and technology, and quickly gained a reputation as the finest compact cameras money could buy. They've become the late 2010s cameras du jour, the Yeezy Boosts of film photography, the favorite camera of influencers and the social media savvy. Through endorsements by popular socialites, steady representation on Instagram, and a reputation for delivering high quality images with almost zero effort, the Contax T series have for better or worse become status symbols. The Contax T series is one of the most expensive lines of cameras out there today, with prices regularly cracking four figures. The prohibitive price point presents an issue; which Contax T series camera is the right one to buy. Of course, none of them are the right cameras to buy if you don't have the money, so us plebeians are out of the running.