

MINOLTA INTRODUCES TWO NEW AUTOFOCUS (AF) ZOOM LENSES

*New AF ZOOM 28-80mm and AF ZOOM 75-300mm lenses
add versatility to Minolta's Maxxum cameras*

Ramsey, NJ (July 17, 2001) – Minolta Corporation introduces two new autofocus zoom lenses designed to enhance Minolta's line of compact 35mm Single-Lens Reflex (SLR) cameras, including the new Maxxum 5. The new Minolta AF ZOOM 28-80mm f/3.5-5.6(D) lens, the world's smallest and lightest* standard 35mm AF zoom lens, and the new AF ZOOM 75-300mm f/4.5-5.6(D), an affordably priced and versatile 4x telephoto zoom model, are ideal lenses for entry-level and advanced photo hobbyists who care about quality and value.

“Minolta once again sets the standard in SLR photography with the introduction of the new AF ZOOM 28-80mm and 75-300mm lenses,” said Jon Sienkiewicz, vice president, imaging products, Minolta Corporation's Consumer Products Group. “It is especially significant to note that Minolta continues to recognize the importance of serious photo enthusiasts. These new lenses were designed to enhance performance and comfortable camera handling, especially when used with the new Maxxum 5.”

Minolta AF ZOOM 28-80mm Lens

Featuring a compact design and high quality optics, the Minolta AF ZOOM 28-80mm lens incorporates three double-sided aspheric elements – the first time such sophisticated optics have been used in this class of standard AF 28-80mm zoom lenses. This wide angle to telephoto zoom lens is ideal for photographing landscapes, portraits, and close-ups. The AF ZOOM 28-80mm lens can focus as close as 1.3 feet from the subject with its macro capability – a maximum magnification of 0.24x or a quarter life size is available.

Minolta AF ZOOM 75-300mm Lens

The 4x-zoom capability of the new AF ZOOM 75-300mm lens easily covers a range of photographic opportunities such as portraiture, sports/action and nature photography. The focal lengths allow the compression of the foreground and background for photographs of dramatic landscapes and the maximum zoom range is ideal for capturing wildlife as well as detailed close-up photographs. The lens has a maximum magnification of 0.25x or a quarter life size. And with a minimum focusing distance of 5 feet from the subject, there is plenty of space to set up reflectors and lighting, or to prevent an elusive butterfly from being startled.

The circular aperture in both of these lenses ensures that even defocused areas appear naturally in photographs. And, the distance encoder built into these lenses support Minolta's accurate ADI (Advanced Distance Integration) flash metering when used with the Maxxum 7, the new Maxxum 5 and dedicated flash units.

Minolta Corporation

Minolta Corporation, headquartered in Ramsey, New Jersey, is the largest subsidiary of Minolta Co. Ltd. of Osaka, Japan, a leading manufacturer of cameras, business equipment, radiometric instruments and planetariums. Minolta Corporation's Consumer Products Group (CPG) markets 35mm film and Advanced Photo System cameras, digital cameras, binoculars, accessory lenses, photographic light meters, 35mm and Advanced Photo System film scanners and other consumer products. Minolta is the exclusive distributor of *Cokin* filters.

The corporation's Business Products Group (BPG) markets digital and analog office equipment. Products include black-and-white copiers, digital black and white printer/copiers, plain-paper laser facsimile machines, digital color printer/copiers, micrographic systems, document management software, and related office equipment.

For more information, visit Minolta's Web site located at www.minoltausa.com or access Minolta's PHOTOFAX at 800-528-4767.

** As of June 2001*

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