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PENTAX Announces Exclusive HD Coating Technology

PENTAX develops multi-layer lens coating process for new HD PENTAX lenses

DENVER, CO (September 10, 2012) — <u>PENTAX RICOH IMAGING AMERICAS CORPORATION</u> (PENTAX), introduces today its newly developed HD Coating technology – a multi-layer lens coating process – for all new HD (High Definition) PENTAX lenses for PENTAX K-Mount cameras.

Compared with conventional multi-layer coatings, the new multi-layer HD Coating,* exclusively developed by PENTAX, offers much improved light transmittance and a much lower refractive index. Because this advanced coating minimizes reflections, the lens delivers sharp, clear images free of flare and ghosting, even under demanding lighting conditions such as backlight. This coating assures optical performance almost equal to Aero Bright Coating, another PENTAX-exclusive lens coating process made possible by advanced nanotechnology and applied to higher-class lenses.

"Our 37 year heritage of offering interchangeable photographic lenses demonstrates that PENTAX continues to be fully committed to producing the finest optics for our faithful PENTAX customers," explains John Carlson, Sr. Manager of Sales and Marketing, PENTAX. "PENTAX is always looking for ways to improve upon our lens offerings by continuously improving the important behind-the-scenes coating technologies that help create crystal clear and colorful images that our customers can be proud of."

Also introduced today is the new K-Mount HD PENTAX DA 560mm F5.6 ED AW interchangeable super-telephoto lens and the new HD PENTAX D FA 645 Macro 90mm F2.8 ED AW SR interchangeable lens for the medium format 645D – the first lenses to feature this exclusive PENTAX HD Coating. All future interchangeable lenses for PENTAX digital cameras that feature this new coating will bear the "HD PENTAX" name.

Features include:

50 percent reduction of reflections in visible spectrum

The coating reduces reflections by more than 50 percent over the entire visible spectrum, compared to conventional multi-layer coating.

High rigidity coating layer

Since the HD Coating has a stronger bond among its coating materials and a higher packing density, this coating layer ensures exceptional high rigidity for extra durability.

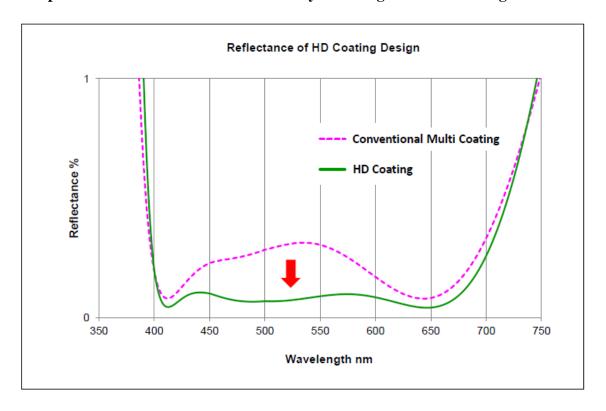
Accurate reflection of design concept to actual coating layer

In conventional multi-layer processes, the coating layer is produced by the vacuum evaporation method, in which coating materials are dissolved and deposited in a vacuum. This method, however, sometimes causes coating unevenness great enough to affect image quality.

The HD Coating* effectively solves this problem by employing a PENTAX-exclusive manufacturing process, while optimizing the density of its coating layer and controlling the thickness with the accuracy

of one nanometer (one millionth of a millimeter). As the result, the original design parameters for the lens coating are accurately applied to the coating layer to optimize anti-reflection performance of a lens.

Comparison between conventional multi-layer coatings and HD Coating:



The coating reduces reflections by more than 50% over the entire visible spectrum, compared to conventional multi-layer coating. The new coating allows an ideal control of color balance thanks to stable Reflection at Wavelength.

♦ Designs and specifications are subjects to change without notice.

About PENTAX

PENTAX is a leader in the production of a variety of adventure ready digital cameras including weather-resistant digital SLRs and stylish, compact, waterproof cameras, as well as lenses, flash units, binoculars, scopes, and eyepieces. For more than 90 years, PENTAX has developed durable, reliable products that meet the needs of adventurous consumers and businesses. With new headquarters in Denver, Colorado, PENTAX RICOH IMAGING AMERICAS CORPORATION is a subsidiary of PENTAX RICOH IMAGING COMPANY, LTD. effective October 1, 2011. Additional details may be found here: www.pentaximaging.com/news

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^{*} HD stands for High Definition, and signifies the lens's capacity to reproduce images that excel in transparency, definition, resolution and rendition.

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