Pentax K-3 Mark III (Firmware 1.01) and Android Image Sync App (Ver 2.1.6)
Instructions, Observations, and Use Cases – 5/21/21

Table of Contents

Image Sync Functions and Limitations

Requires WiFi to view or download files from camera (i.e., using the 'Cam images' button)

- Cannot connect Bluetooth and WiFi simultaneously; will switch back and forth depending on functions/options selected
- Geotagging works with Bluetooth or WiFi, although WiFi geotagging requires the phone be awake and Image Sync to be the active app
- WiFi is required to view scene in control mode live view; Bluetooth will control camera, but cannot use live view
- When connected with Bluetooth, can turn on WiFi connection in camera for full control
- For Bluetooth geotagging, Image Sync must me running, but need not be the active app, if background transmission is enabled

First Time Pairing/Connecting

⊘ Caution

- Use the Image Sync app to make the Bluetooth and WiFi handshakes; this seems to result in better reconnections. If already paired/connected, just 'unpair' and/or 'forget' the connections in the phone's settings. Up to six devices can be paired to the camera.

On the camera, turn on geotagging:
1. Menu button
2. Setup
3. Communication Settings [4]
4. Smartphone Link
5. Store Location Info.
6. On
7. OK

On the camera, enter pairing mode:
1. Menu button
2. Setup
3. Communication Settings [4]
4. Bluetooth Setting
5. Action Mode
6. On
7. OK
8. Pairing
9. Execute Pairing

On the phone, connect the camera:
1. Start Image Sync
2. Select 'Cam images'

3. Select 'PENTAX K-3 Mark III'
4. Select 'Connect over Bluetooth'
5. Enter 'XXXXXX' from the camera info screen
6. Select 'Next'
7. Wait for popup, enter '######' Authentication code from the camera info screen
8. Select 'Pair', if the phone popup asks to Connect to Device, select 'Connect'
9. The camera and phone automatically attempt to connect via WiFi. No need to enter the WiFi password. The phone may popup a confirmation message.

On the phone, configure Image Sync:
1. Confirm 'Automatic Bluetooth connection' is enabled in 'Settings'.
2. Turn on geotagging: select 'Settings' and enable 'Store location information'.
3. Turn on background use: Select 'Settings', then 'Background location information transmission' and enable it for 'No time limit'.

You have now paired (Bluetooth) the camera and phone, and connected the camera and phone via WiFi, which allows viewing and downloading files. It also allows controlling the shutter, etc. with live view.

⊘ Caution

- Since Image Sync will always require WiFi to reconnect, turn off 'Auto reconnect' in the phone's settings under Advanced, when not WiFi connected. For Android 11: Settings | Connections | WiFi | 3dotmenu | Advanced | Manage networks | select the WiFi name from the camera info | unselect Auto reconnect

⊘ Memo

- See Power Off and Auto Off (Sleep) Behavior below.

After First Time Pairing/Connecting

If the camera Bluetooth is on (and camera WiFi is off) you can connect by using the saved pairing information and the camera will turn on WiFi and connect with full control, then disconnect Bluetooth.

Normal:
1. Turn on the camera and ensure Bluetooth is enabled (gray Bluetooth icon)
2. Start Image Sync
3. Select 'Cam images'

Bluetooth is connected and WiFi is activated on the camera and connects to the phone (may get confirmation popup), then Bluetooth is disconnected. If the camera and phone are already connected via WiFi, Image Sync will disconnect and reconnect via WiFi (may get confirmation popup).

Abnormal:
If Image Sync does not automatically find the Camera, it may ask for the camera model. In which case, after selecting 'Cam images' above:
4. Select 'PENTAX K-3 Mark III'
5. Select 'Connect to PENTAX_XXXXXX' if using Bluetooth or select 'Connect over Wi-Fi' if WiFi is already connected (white WiFi icon)

Either way, Image Sync will try to find the camera and reconnect via WiFi (may get confirmation popup).

📀 Memo
- Getting a stable Bluetooth link seems to be difficult. It takes three or four attempts before it works properly. Sometimes cycling the phone's Bluetooth, the camera's Bluetooth, or re-pairing is required to make a reliable link.
- Camera WiFi will remain on until manually turned off, the camera is turned off, or switching to the Bluetooth connection, see below

Switching between Bluetooth and WiFi:
If you want to use only the Bluetooth connection (e.g., for geotagging, but use the phone's WiFi for Internet), then in Image Sync:
1. Select 'Settings'
2. Select 'Wireless LAN setting for Camera'
3. Choose 'Disable Wireless LAN on camera'

📀 Memo
- Sometimes switching takes multiple tries. When successful, the 'Connection' will change from 'Wi-Fi' to 'Bluetooth'.

ⓧ Caution
- When connected via WiFi (full control), turning off WiFi manually on the camera, disables geotagging even if Bluetooth is indicating active. Manually turning WiFi back on and selecting 'Connect over Wi-Fi' in Image Sync, reenables geotagging and indicates both Bluetooth and WiFi active (a bug, I suspect).
- Any previously connected WiFi network will not automatically reconnect. You can manually connect or cycle your phone's WiFi off and on to automatically reconnect to your normal network, assuming that feature is enabled.

If you want to go back to the full control (WiFi) connection, select 'Cam Images' and it will reconnect as above.

Power Off and Auto Off (Sleep) Behavior:
If the camera is turned **off** or **sleeps** with **Bluetooth active**, then turned back **on** or **awoken**:
- With Image Sync open, Bluetooth reconnects* (white icon) with geotagging enabled.
- With Image Sync closed, Bluetooth reconnects (white icon) and geotagging is disabled. When Image Sync is restarted, geotagging is enabled.

ⓧ Caution
- Frequently will not reconnect (icon will momentarily turn white, then go gray). Sometimes waiting a minute or cycling Bluetooth on the Phone works. Cycling the camera Bluetooth or power does not work.

If the camera is turned **off** with **WiFi active**, then turned back **on**:
- With Image Sync open, Bluetooth reconnects (white icon) with geotagging enabled; WiFi is off.
- With Image Sync closed, Bluetooth reconnects (white icon) and geotagging is disabled. When Image Sync is restarted, Bluetooth geotagging is enabled.

If the **Image Sync** is **not active** with **WiFi active**, then:
- With Image Sync open, WiFi indicates connected (white icon) but geotagging is disabled. When 'Connect over Wi-Fi' is selected, geotagging is enabled.

- With Image Sync closed, WiFi indicates connected (white icon) but geotagging is disabled. When Image Sync is restarted and 'Connect over Wi-Fi' is selected, geotagging is enabled.

If the phone **sleeps** (or Image Sync is not active) with **Bluetooth active**:
- With the camera awake, geotagging remains enabled when 'Background location information transmission' is enabled.
- With the camera asleep, geotagging is **disabled**. When both are awoken, geotagging is enabled. If 'Background location information transmission' is not enabled, Image Sync needs to be the active App.

If the phone **sleeps** with **WiFi active**:
- WiFi indicates connected (white icon) but geotagging is disabled. When the phone is awoken, geotagging is still disabled. Select 'Connect over Wi-Fi' in Image Sync to restore geotagging and full control.

📀 Memo
- A Keep-Awake app can help with reestablishing the connection when the camera is awoken, but the phone battery life may be compromised. Alternatively, the camera auto-off can be set to 'Off' so the connection remains active (seems to be the most reliable). However, the camera battery may drain faster.

ⓧ Caution
- Geotag status icon takes about two minutes to refresh.
- If the WiFi connection is successful and active, the camera does not sleep (auto off) and the top LCD stays active, even when Image Sync is not active or closed.

Unexpected Disconnection:
Many times Image Sync will ask to reconnect when switching screens, requiring selecting the camera type again and choosing either the saved Bluetooth or WiFi option, depending on which mode is active or desired. This might be only an issue in WiFi mode.

Auto Image Transfer Notes

- WiFi connection must be established.
- Only works for non-resized images (full size). When Auto Resize is set to 'On', the Auto Image Transfer only copies a few images and then disconnects.
- When the camera sleeps (auto off) the WiFi connection must be reestablished before Auto Image Transfer will work again.

ⓧ Caution
- Limited testing with Firmware 1.00 only.