Minolta A5 (F2.8)
Five steps to Taking Perfect pictures

1. Load the film
2. Set the shutter and lens aperture.
3. Advance the film using the rapid film advance lever.
4. Focus...and compose your picture.
5. Press the shutter release.
1. Loading films

1. Pull cut-back locking tab and swing camera back wide open.
2. Pull up rewind knob as far as it goes.
3. Insert a roll of film, then push back rewind knob.
4. Pull out enough film to insert it in slot.
5. Advance film lever 2 complete turns (Depressing shutter release each time). Make sure sprockets project through film slits.
6. Close back cover, then push back locking tab to take your next picture start with step 3 advancing the film.
7. Set the exposure counter to the red dot. (It can be turned to clock wise way.)
8. Advance film lever three times pressing shutter release each time. You will see, picture counter is set to No. 1.
Film Speed Indicator

**Setting Film Speed (ASA or DIN ratings)**

Set the film speed indicator on the camera back to the film speed of the film you have just loaded in your A5. For example, if the film speed is ASA 100 (DIN 21), you simply set the indicator to the figure 100. In case the film speed is ASA 80, which is not listed on the dial, you set the indicator pointer to a spot between 100 and 50.

**What are Film Speeds and ASA or DIN Ratings?**

Film speeds or ASA (American Standards Association) or DIN ratings are a means of classifying film according to their light sensitivity. The higher the numerical rating, the more sensitive the film is to light. A film with an ASA of 100 is more sensitive to light than a film rated ASA 80. You need less light to take a picture with a film rated at 100 than you would with a film rated at 80.

**Where to find the ASA or DIN rating of the film you’re using**

Inside every box of film you buy is a sheet giving information about the film. On this sheet, you'll find the ASA or DIN rating.

Photo by Minolta A5
A word about exposure.

Ordinarily, whenever you take a picture, you must set the exposure. Exposure is based primarily on 2 factors: The size of the lens opening (F stop) and the shutter speed. Both are determined by existing lighting conditions.

If it is very bright out, you will require less light and, therefore, use a smaller lens opening. If it is cloudy, you will need more light and use a wider lens opening.

The smaller the "F" number, the larger the opening. F2.8 means a larger opening and more light than f/4, f/5.6, f/8, f/11, f/16, etc. Size of lens opening doubles with each successive stop.

The shutter speed determines the length of time you will let light through the lens. The AS shutter is timed from 1 to 1/500 sec. There is also a B (Bulb) setting which will keep the shutter open while the shutter release button is depressed. The shutter speed numbers are not shown in fractions. 30 represents 1/30 of a second; 125 is 1/125 of a second, etc.

2. Set the shutter speed and the lens aperture.

The lens aperture ring is turned to control the amount of light passing through the lens. Small numbered openings are used for dim light and slow films. Large numbered openings for bright light and fast films. As per your light meter readings, use suggested lens openings on the information sheet included with each roll of film.

The shutter speed ring controls the length of time the shutter is open to pass light through the lens.

High speed settings are used to stop action. Lower speeds are for ass and dim light pictures.
When you own a light value exposure meter

Setting exposure is this simple: you read the light value on the meter and set it to the light value indicator line. That’s all. You can get a correct light value by turning either the shutter speed setting ring or the lens aperture setting ring separately until the selected light value appears on the line. If you turn the shutter speed setting ring, the figures on the light value scale move, while the pointer line moves as the lens aperture setting ring is turned.

Once you have got the correct exposure, you simply turn both the shutter speed setting ring and the lens aperture setting ring at the same time to select the shutter speed F-stop combination you want to use.

3. Advancing film

This single stroke film advance action automatically advances the film, cocks the shutter and counts the exposure, all at the same time.

You can turn the lever either at one full stroke (right) or in several strokes (left). You may if you wish advance the film before setting the exposure. You will not experience any hard turning when setting the shutter at high speeds after the shutter is cocked.
In the center of the frame is a rectangular color area. You will notice the part of your subject which appears in this color area is double. As you turn the focusing lever you will notice the double image will become one and then double again. When your subject becomes one in this color area, you are properly focused.

Out of focus In focus

As you look through the single window rangefinder you will notice a white bright frame near the outer edge. The actual picture you take will be inside this frame. Make sure your picture is composed inside the bright frame.

When taking a close-up picture, because of parallax (the difference between what the viewfinder 'sees' and what the lens 'sees') you have to compose your picture inside of the line.

This Should be "Depth of Field"

Take a glance at the depth of field scale when you have focused on your subject. The indicating line in the center of the scale shows the camera-to-subject distance. Then read the F stop lines for the F stop you are using on each side of the indicating line and they will show you on the distance scale, the distance in front and behind your object which is in sharp focus. The U28 indicates that you can get sharp pictures in the distance which is shown or formed by U28.
### Depth of Field Table

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Notice: upper of each column shows front and below shows behind.

### 5. Pressing Shutter Release

There are basically two ways to hold your As while taking pictures: Vertical and horizontal. As long as you

1. Align the camera to your forehead and suppress the trigger, not jerk it. You can use whichever grip or format is most comfortable for you. It's always a good idea to brace your camera if you can. Even when you are shooting at slower than 1/30 of a second, you can safely hold a camera, make use of any stability support. It is advisable that you use a tripod when you shoot with the shutter speed less than 1/30 of a second. At such slow speeds there is almost always some camera movement while the shutter is open which blurs your picture.
After you have taken your last picture, the film exposure counter will point to 50 or 25 depending on whether you are using a 36 or 35 exposure roll.

Depress the rewind release button. Keep depressing it until you have completely rewound the film.

Lift the crank on the rewind knob and turn crank clockwise until you feel all resistance gone and it turns freely. Open the camera back and take the film magazine out the camera.

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Using the self-timer, you can take your own picture. First push the self-timer lever toward the V mark, and you will be able to delay the shutter operation approximately 8 seconds from the time you press the shutter release to the time the shutter is tripped. You can also arrange the length of delay according to the position that you position the lever.
Taking flash pictures

Your Minolta A5 is internally synchronized for use with electronic flash and flash bulbs.

1. For Class M (full filled) flash bulbs, slide the selector to the "M". For electronic flash, slide the selector to the "X".
2. Insert a Minolta BC flash gun or electronic flash unit in the accessory shoe.
3. Insert the plug of the flash gun's cord in the terminal.

Accessories

Minolta B.C. Flash
An extremely compact, pocket size unit with collapsible aluminum reflector. Folds neatly into a small vinyl-covered case for easy portability. Also features a BC capacitor that stores energy to greatly extend the life of your batteries. Works on regular flash light batteries.

Minolta Lens Shade
This is a particularly useful device to prevent extraneous light from entering the lens during exposure. Such extraneous light from the sun or flash bulbs can cause glare spots or "light flares" and ruin your picture.

Minolta Filters
Filters are used to control color and have to make sure you get the picture you actually see outdoor color film to indoor use.

Yellow Filter: Increases outdoor scene contrast. Reduces "whites" slightly darkens blue skies, water, clouds.

Other Filter: Face filter for haze cut.

Minolta Mini 35
For color slide projection (25 mm, 16 mm)