Minox BL

Technical Information

Battery: 2 x 6F22 batteries, 1.5 V each
Film: 35 mm, 24 exposures
CDS meter cell window
Sliding lever for gray filter and battery latch
Shutter speed dial
Viewfinder (front window)
Exposure counter
Distance scale
Lens window

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Technical Information

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Far Projection


Congratulations

With your new Minox EL you are embarking on a wonderful, unlimited kind of photography. You successfully small and precise camera can produce superb pictures of all kinds of scenes. The ease to get good pictures with the Minox EL and with this book will show you the way. The most important possibilities are given, briefly, in this book. If you want to know more, simply read on. And, before making any important pictures - of a trip or some special event - it's always a good idea to check a condition of the exposure meter before your first exposure. Check the settings of the camera operation and provide a check on your outfit. But now - why not get acquainted with the ease and pleasure of photography with your Minox - the camera that never tires at home.

Opening the camera

For pictures taking pull the Minox EL open as far as it will go.

While the camera is closed, the viewfinder and lens windows are protected within the housing, and the shutter release is locked. It is, after opening the camera, pressing through the viewfinder, and pressing the shutter release, that the Minox EL exposes the film. Should the shutter release be released after you have pressed the shutter release button.

Tripod:

Minox Camera Tripod: Attaches the Minox (dry) models to a tripod, such as the Minox pocket tripod.

Minox Pocket Tripod: Solid three-legged stand with adjustable swivel head and optically adjusted mounting plate. Perfectly balanced - slightly larger than a pencil.

Finder Attachment

Minox Right Angle Finder. For candid snapshots "beside the camera". Fitted all Minox camera models.

Further information about the finder can be used on the Minox EL.

The "frame open"

The front of the Minox EL contains large eyelets in the window, which can guide the Minox at the window of the exposure meter, the camera Tripod, and other accessories. These large windows must not be interfered (match your features). Sharpness and brilliance of your pictures depends to an important degree on the size of the clear windows.

If the CDS scale is covered during measuring, you will get a wrong exposure indication.

You can look through the side window firmly if you slide the grey filter (see page 13) into place as a dark background. If necessary, close the window (fully) with a soft (dry) handkerchief or cotton cloth on a glass, illuminated with a lamp. Then the exposure can be accurately measured by the way. The lens window is a UV filter which prevents evaporation caused by fogging ultraviolet rays in the mountains or at the ocean.

Hold "ready"

Hold your Minox firmly, pulled out, with both hands. Keep your thumbs on the underside of the camera, other fingers on top, so that the three windows are actually worked.

These illustrations show the most practical way of holding your Minox for horizontal and vertical shots. However, over the time windows during measuring, your picture will show a partial or complete shadow. If you close the windows of the CDS scale during measuring, the measurement will be wrong. Remember to open the lens when both hands are working against your face and you let your fingers away from the camera and close against the shutter, as to hold the camera. Your Minox EL, each, of course, retains its properly close for photography. Simply hold the network so that the focus will run the way up against the network. (See page 13)
Minox Accessories

Films
Minox film is available in many different types for every purpose. Your Minox dealer will be glad to suggest the proper film for specific purposes.

Flash units
Minox C 220 Flash (In): Self- contained electronic flash unit which automatically adjusts flash duration to the film speed, and to the brightness and distance of the subject. Automatic adaptation may be achieved on film (see page 55). Taking the picture
When you have trained your picture in the viewfinder eyepiece of the camera, keep the viewfinder eyepiece steady and depress the shutter release button partly.

The shutter release mechanism requires only very light pressure in order to proceed. As soon as the shutter is released, the bulb is pushed out of the flash unit, even before taking the picture and "clic" it snaps the button when you are ready to shoot, while holding your breath.

Take the camera from your eye after you've fired the soft shining of the shutter.

Twinmatic rapid wind
After you have taken a picture, return the camera. Then, for the next picture, you pull it open again. With this "Twinmatic" the film is advanced for the next picture, the shutter is released and the exposure counter moved to the next number automatically. You can so continue till you reach the last number of the film and then wind the film forward to take your negative. Clean the lens very carefully above the shutter release button and in the viewfinder eyepiece. Do not change the lens during exposure by touching the shutter release button.

Caution: Take the picture slowly. Then, for the next picture you pull it open again. With this "Twinmatic" the film is advanced for the next picture, the shutter is released and the exposure counter moved to the next number automatically. You can so continue till you reach the last number of the film and then wind the film forward to take your negative. Clean the lens very carefully above the shutter release button and in the viewfinder eyepiece. Do not change the lens during exposure by touching the shutter release button.

The small circle in the lens window tells you that the camera is ready for the next picture. The circle disappears after you have released the shutter. Your sign that you must pull it open again.

Even if you want to make a picture after opening, you must pull it open again, or the film is impossible to wind up.

If, in spite of this, you cannot take pictures in quick succession: One times, Two times, Three times. Go ahead... your Minox can take it.

CARE OF THE MINOX 8C
Fast window: When rewinding, drew the lens for stronger or stronger wind, if necessary, close carefully.

Cleaning: Clean the outside of the camera housing accordingly with a soft rubber eraser - no liquid!

Film compartment: When rewinding, close and move the empty film compartment. Dust particles may scratch the film.

Should salt water ever get into the camera, it can damage the mechanism. You may perhaps bounce the camera with this radical treatment: Open the camera and the camera body, and place it in more water. Wash the film as usual. The camera body is protected against salt water. Do not use a cleaning agent once water has gotten into a header and the lens compartment. (See body compartment on the next window sheet of your care, nor in other places where the film may be affected by moisture)

Camera case
The fast spring clip of the camera snaps into the bottom of the lens. Before inserting the camera, turn the lens to the side of the camera to attach the lens to the fast spring clip. The lens is then fixed in the camera. Close the lens at a distance with a screwdriver, turn the lens shutter and quarter turn to the right while holding the camera firmly against the bottom of the lens. With the camera locked in, the lens shutter is closed and the shutter release button is turned to its position. When you want to take pictures, turn the lens to the quarter turn to the left. Attach the fastening ring of the reversing chain to the button, pull up or pull it out horizontally to protect your Minox 8C against loss.

Bell case (not illustrated)
A precision bell case, made of black leather, is included as an accessory. It holds the camera without chain and is supplied with your Minox bell case, keeping all your parts safe for other important things.
Flash pictures
The flash contact of the Minolta is of the standard PC type, and you may use almost any kind of flash unit with your Minolta BL. Just remember to set the shutter speed dial correctly.

Set the film speed
Turn the dial on the underside of the camera to the ASA number of the film which you wish to use. This sets the shutter speed meter for the sensitivity of the film. The ASA number is shown on the film package or on the film instructions. Film speeds are shown in the display on the right.

Indicating setting of ASA number and shutter speed
Note: If you have a film speed meter, you can use it as well.

Coupled CDS exposure meter and shutter
The built-in CDS exposure meter of your Minolta BL is coupled to the shutter speed dial. Thus, selecting the correct exposure is a simple matter. Look at the scene through the viewfinder and, at the same time, hold down the shutter button for about a second. The meter will show you the correct exposure. (If the meter window overlaps the CDS cell window) Follow the meter dial as you bring it into view. This is a quick and easy way of determining the correct exposure. The meter shows the shutter speed and the aperture combination that will give you the correct exposure. The exposure meter is a coupled meter; the shutter speed and the aperture combination are indicated in the display on the right.

Battery replacement
To remove continuous operation of the CDS exposure meter, make it a practice to replace the battery annually. You can test the condition of the battery by any of the following methods. (See page 12.)

Un-leashing
Watch the exposure counter after the flash exposure, pause and remove the shutter locks. (The exposure counter then stands at the end dot between 0 and C.)

Un-leashing
Open the camera back. With slight squeezing of the camera, the cartridge will drop into your hand, or it may be lifted out by the bridge.

Un-leashing
All the exposure counter now stands at the dot (L) or dot (L) position for 30 to 60 seconds. For a proper exposure, you can insert a fresh Summeprogress film without the problem of fogging the film.

Un-leashing
If the meter is in a 30-micron cartridge, set the shutter speed dial to the red line between 2D and 1D before inserting the film (see page 25). Place the exposed cartridge in a film box or wrap it in dark paper until it is developed.

Un-leashing
The CDS meter in your Minolta BL gives you exposure measurements over a wide range of picture-taking conditions. Please remember to keep the cell window unobstructed by a finger, hair, etc., for best meter readings. Otherwise you will get faulty measurements.

Un-leashing
Exposure should always be adjusted to the most important point of a scene. The CDS cell of the BL exposure meter is designed for “center-weighted” metering with more attention to the major portion of the picture. Therefore, during exposure measurement (turns to hold the meter button down and move the meter to the shutter speed to the shutter speed to the shutter speed to the shutter speed to the shutter speed) the meter is not always directly on the shutter speed to measure the picture when you make the actual exposure.

Un-leashing
If you want to use a flash or slow shutter speed for fast moving objects, you have to use the shutter speed to indicate the speed of your flash, let’s say, 1/15 or 1/30 or whatever you have. Set the black shade on the indicator needle to the maximum speed of the flash. The red needle on the indicator will move to point to the speed of the flash, and the shutter speed dial will stop at the correct speed for your flash.

Un-leashing
On very slow automatic film cartridges, you may drop film into the camera so that the film cover cannot be closed. (This is not your fault if the film cartridge was made after 1978.) Make sure the take-up core of the film cartridge happens, perhaps 2 to 3 inches on the hand of the transport wheel. In the film case, you can see the film cartridge, set it on the transport wheel, and then open the film cover. Close the film cover. Then you can re-see the film and close the camera back cover.
Loading with film

Always load (or unload) the Minolta in subdued light, or in the shade. If there is no other shade, set your hand outside the lens (through the viewfinder) to prevent light reflections.

Set camera to "loading" position. While holding down the shutter release button, "push up" the camera until the exposure counter is set for loading position.

For 25-exposure cartridges: set to red dot between 0 and 10 (illustration at left).

For 15-exposure cartridges: set to red line between 0 and 15 (illustration at left).

Open camera back. Pull camera out. Please do an uncutt-shaped emulsion or emulsion of camera and slide open the back cover all the way until both film compartments are free.

Insert cartridge. Drop the cartridge into film compartments and close the back cover until it clicks. The cartridge will be "pushed out" and release shutter to camera.

Battery test

With corded side, the battery supplied with your Minolta SL to power the C-EH exposure meter, look more than 1 year. It is advisable, however, to check the condition of the battery from time to time, as follows: Turn the shutter speed dial to adjust the needle to the exposure counter scale on the meter back. Then push the angled sliding cover along the viewfinder to the position of the meter red window where you hold down the meter button. During the battery test, the needle should move into the black check area (or to the right of it). Otherwise, replace the battery with a new one (see page 50) and replace it with a brush-free.

Gray (neutral density) filter

For very bright scenes - beaches in bright sun, snow, light-colored buildings, etc. - and for faster films, the meter indicator needle of your Minolta SL may move in the zone of the "neutral density", especially in a very bright light, which means no exposure. To adjust the exposure under such conditions, simply push the angled sliding lever above the viewfinder all the way towards the base in which to move the gray filter against the base. You can move the slider speed dial to match the brightness of the red filter with the black indicator needle.

The gray filter increases the required exposure for about 4 times and the C-EH meter takes this into consideration in the internal measurement. Then, a possible 1000 sec. for example, - which is beyond the film's shutter speed scale - automatically increases exposure.

Exposure counter

The surface and scale lines of the Minolta SL exposure counter indicate how many more exposures one can still make on the film. Before you insert a new film cartridge, the counter must be set to 0. This position is loading position. (See p. 18.)

All films, 20 exposures are available in 3-exposure cartridges, some also in 10-exposure cartridges. 15-exposure cartridges are used only within the dark counter scale with white numbers.

Viewfinder

The bright luminous frame within the viewfinder shows you the most important area that will appear on your film.

The viewfinder image is automatically corrected, at all distances, in accordance with the film's image. (Parallax Compensation.) At extremely close distances (3 ft), the view image is slightly smaller than the viewfinder image - about one hundredth width on all sides within the luminous rectangle.

Distance setting

The distance scale is calibrated from infinity (+) to 1 meter. By eye, measure the distance until the meter needle is at the black dot in the middle of the viewfinder. The lens can be focused for close-ups. The scale includes the range of sharpness at each setting. Example: With the films at the red dot (12) you have the choice of a near range setting with sharpness from infinity (+) to 9 ft.

For landscapes with no important foreground closer than 15 ft, use the infinity (+) setting. The following "standard" settings are also adequate: 12 ft. (12), 4 feet (4), 2.5 feet (2.5) and 1 foot (1). With much red midway between 4 ft. to 15 ft., with a large area of green between 0.5 ft. to 3 ft., or at great distances, you should have a range of 8 to 3 ft. for medium close-ups of people. For subjects closer than 2 ft. always use the measuring chain (see following page).

Extreme close-ups - Measuring Chain

At distances of 8 feet or less, the range of sharpness becomes small, close distances must be set correctly on the distance scale. Your Minolta camera has a chain for measuring. With the shutter held back and all glasses on camera to adjust the needle, the black dot indicates distance of 1, 2, 3 and 4 meters. The red area: the chain length chain resembles all scales.

After measuring, set the distance on the distance scale of the camera. To be sure the picture, hold the camera to the eye and extend it to the subject to reproduce the chain (and look through the chain and release the shutter). When using a measuring chain or not instead of the chain, measure the distance from the front of the camera.

After measuring, when you may need to use your Minolta SL without electricity, you can reproduce the chain measuring by which zeros directly are the corresponding bracket of your camera.

No x-stop setting

The exposure change of the highly corrected Minolta 50 mm f/1.7 lens, in automated time always remain always "wide open" - there is no x-stop scale.

This is an other great Minolta advantage. The lens of your Minolta SL has a great x-stop setting and always works at its real f/1.7 opening. Exposure is controlled exactly by the aperture speeds which - because of the large lens opening - are always relatively short.