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CONTAX

IIIa

INSTRUCTION BOOK



ZEISS IKON A.G. STUTTGART

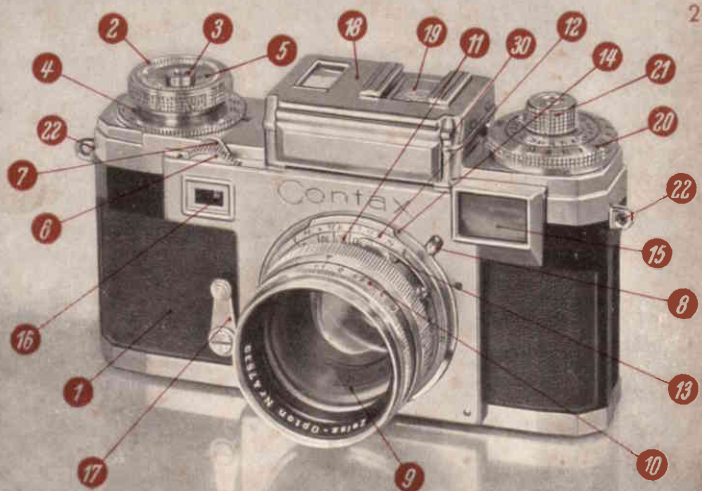


The **CONTAX IIIa** is a precision miniature camera in all-metal construction equipped with photo-electric exposure meter, coupled view and rangefinder, all-metal focal-plane shutter, and interchangeable bayonet-mounted lenses. It will meet every photographic need because of the wide range of attachable photographic accessories. The **CONTAX IIIa** can be loaded with standard cartridges for black and white film or colour film as well as with standard rolls in cassettes. 36 24×36 mm pictures can be made from 1.60 m (5 ft. 3 ins.) of film.

DESCRIPTION OF PARTS

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1 Leather-covered light metal body | 10 Diaphragm setting ring |
| 2 Winding knob | 11 Distance scale |
| 3 Release button | 12 Depth of field scale |
| 4 Setting ring for shutter speeds | 13 Spring catch for lens |
| 5 Frame counter | 14 Outside bayonet mount |
| 6 Focusing wheel | 15 First window of combined view and rangefinder |
| 7 Infinity stop of focusing wheel | 16 Second window of combined view and rangefinder |
| 8 Infinity stop of lens | |
| 9 Lens | |

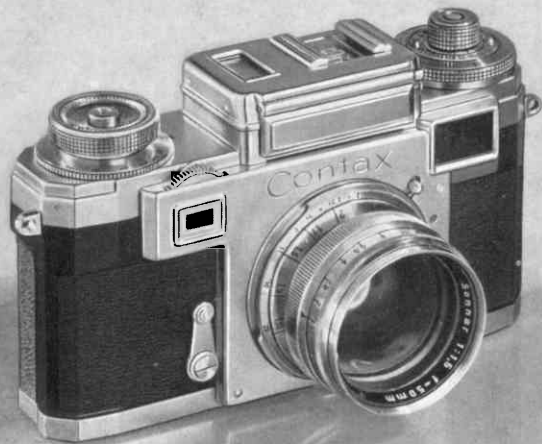
Description of parts continued on page 38



The

CONTAX

manufactured by ZEISS IKON AG. STUTTGART, is a deluxe precision miniature camera enabling its user to solve almost any photographic task. It will be the steady companion of the scientist, the technician, the professional as well as the advanced amateur photographer. The vast experience and knowledge of the ZEISS IKON camera technicians have been fully employed in designing the CONTAX. Its dimensions are somewhat reduced compared with the former model, and its operation has been further simplified. The scientist will use it daily in his painstaking work; the news photographer and reporter will obtain his pictures with it under the most dif-



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difficult conditions; the professional photographer will be delighted with the sharpness and perfection of his **CONTAX** photos and the amateur photographer will be able to record the most unusual situations. Complete information on these subjects is contained in the **CONTAX** literature and handbooks. The booklet is intended to furnish the owner of the **CONTAX** with essential and accurate instructions on how to operate his camera.

It is recommended to make a thorough study of these directions and to practice the various mechanical manipulations before loading the camera.

Before reading on, turn out the inner leaves of the cover for future references!

The technical development may require slight changes on the camera as compared to the description.

THE MAIN FEATURES OF THE

CONTAX III_a

The new CONTAX represents a further development of its preceding models. All the essential advantages of more than 100 000 CONTAX cameras in use have been employed and further developments have been introduced. Here are a few details of the main features of the new CONTAX:

Die-cast body of light alloy guaranteeing the extreme mechanical precision characteristic of ZEISS IKON products.

Built-in photo-electric exposure meter with one measuring range and colour corrected cell.

Combined view and rangefinder permitting sighting and focusing through one eye piece.

Choice of incomparable ZEISS lenses, factory-coated and in light-weight mounts especially designed for the CONTAX. All are interchangeable by means of their bayonet-type mount, insuring rapid use and precision fit.

All scales can be read off at a glance from above.

All-metal focal plane shutter having speeds from 1 sec. to 1/1250 sec., "B" and "T", all of which can be set by means of one dial.

35 mm perforated cine film is used, which is available in various types such as 35 mm cartridges, daylight loading spools, ready-cut lengths of film, etc.

CONTAX cassettes permitting interchange of various kinds of 35 mm negative material in daylight without rewinding.

Detachable camera back, which is advantageous not only during loading and unloading but also when thoroughly cleaning the camera.

A wide range of accessories, extremely well designed and easy to use, enables the CONTAX owner to cover almost any field such as close-up work, photomicrography and tele-photography as well as reproduction and copying work.

Highest possible precision in its mechanical functions and unexcelled quality of its Zeiss lenses as well as the absolute dependability of the built-in exposure meter make the CONTAX a first-class camera for every professional, scientist and technician, as well as for every advanced amateur photographer.





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MANIPULATION OF THE CAMERA

STEP I

PREPARATIONS TO BE MADE BEFORE
TAKING THE PICTURE:

THE LEFT HAND

Take the camera in the left hand in such a way that the thumb rests on the viewfinder shoe (19) and the other fingers grasp it from underneath.

THE RIGHT HAND

Then use the thumb and the index finger of the right hand to set the desired diaphragm and shutter speed as well as to wind the shutter itself.

THE DIAPHRAGM

is set by turning diaphragm ring (10).



THE EXPOSURE METER OF THE CONTAX IIIa

First of all set the sensitivity of the loaded film on the disc within the measuring ring (20). Turn the disc by the two little knobs until the sensitivity, DIN or ASA rating, resp., is opposite the cuneiform setting mark. The lid of the exposure meter will spring open upon slightly pressing the knob (30). When taking a picture, hold the CONTAX with the open exposure meter pointing in the direction of your object. By turning ring (20) adjust the indicator of the instrument to the rhombic mark in the upper aperture of the exposure meter. Then you can read the exposure time required for any given lens aperture from the opposite scale of the ring (20) as

well as from the inner ring. Black engravings on the setting ring indicate fractions of a second (100 for instance, means $\frac{1}{100}$ second), the red engravings indicate full seconds.

Owing to the perfectly corrected measuring angle of incident light and owing to the colour-corrected photo-electric cell, the required exposure times obtained through the exposure meter may under all circumstances and without further corrections be used for the setting of diaphragm and shutter speed.

RE-ADJUSTMENT OF EXPOSURE METER OF THE CONTAX IIIa

Upon closing and covering the lid of the exposure meter and upon turning the setting ring (20) counter-clockwise as far as possible, the needle of the instrument should point to the dot beside the rhombic mark. Any deviations may be corrected with the adjusting screw (29).





THE EXPOSURE TIME

is set on ring (4). This can be done before or after the shutter is wound. The disc (4) is lifted and turned until the desired exposure time is opposite the setting mark. At this point it is dropped into position.

The fact that one ring is used to set all shutter speeds makes the operation of the **CONTAX** convenient, easy and sure. Setting the shutter speeds and verifying them is at all times possible either before or after winding the shutter.

The engraved numbers on the speed setting ring indicate fractions of a second. Example: 100 means $\frac{1}{100}$ sec. exposure time.

The **CONTAX** shutter has a range of speeds from 1 second to $\frac{1}{1250}$ second in addition to "B" and "T". At "B" the shutter is opened by pressing the release but-

ton down and is closed by relaxing the pressure upon the release button (3). At the setting "T" the shutter is opened by pressing the release button down, and by turning the shutter speed setting ring slightly in the direction towards "B" it is closed again. For this, it is not necessary to lift the setting ring.

The film and shutter winding mechanism are coupled in order to be able to wind the film and cock the shutter simultaneously, thereby eliminating the danger of double exposures. The shutter winding knob (2) is turned clockwise until a definitive stop is felt.

NOTE: It is not suggested that thumb and index finger of the right hand wind the shutter in the manner of turning a screw. It is advisable to turn the camera in such a way as to divide the movement between the right and left hand for greater convenience.





STEP II

MAKING THE EXPOSURE

The shape of the **CONTAX** and the arrangement of its controls are adapted to the human hand and are designed to hold the camera securely. The following description of the manipulation guarantees utmost safety when taking pictures.

THE LEFT HAND

holds the **CONTAX** from below with the thumb and the index finger.

THE RIGHT HAND

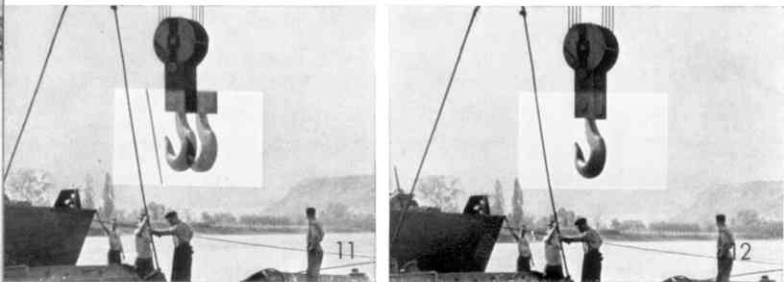
grasps the **CONTAX** from the side. The middle finger is placed on the focusing wheel (6) and the index finger on the shutter release button (3). The thumb rests on the back of the camera and the other fingers on the front. The right lower corner of the **CONTAX** rests in the palm of the right hand.

THE ELBOWS

are held at the side of the body for better support.

FOCUSING

By looking through the eyepiece (23) of the combined view and rangefinder one will see the viewfinder field for the standard 2 inch lens. In the center of the viewfinder field there is a somewhat lighter and yellowish field in which the object to be photographed usually appears with double contours. By turning the focusing wheel (6) with the middle finger of the right hand these contours will coincide, which means that the lens is accurately focused at the distance of the object seen in the



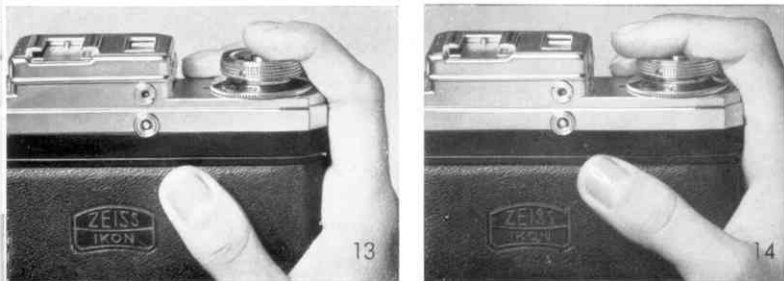
Double contours in combined view and rangefinder field

Coincidence of contours in combined view and rangefinder field

rangefinder portion of the combined view and rangefinder. The focusing wheel operates the rangefinder and the lens focusing mechanism for 2 inch lenses simultaneously. The combined view and rangefinder of the **CON-TAX** permits the control of composition and the accurate checking of the focus at a glance. The other **CON-TAX** lenses which are provided with outside bayonet mount are focused by turning the lens mount. They are also coupled to the rangefinder with the exception of the long focal length lenses.

RELEASING THE SHUTTER

By pressing down the shutter release button (3) with the index finger of the right hand, the shutter will be operated and the picture taken. This can either be done with the tip or top joint of the index finger (illustrations Nos. 13 and 14). It has been found by experience that the greatest security in holding the camera steady during the exposure is given when the uppermost joint of the index finger is pressed downward. (See illustration No. 14.)



If the winding knob (2) has not been turned until a definitive stop is felt, it follows that the shutter is not completely wound and the film not advanced for a full frame; in this position it will be impossible to release the **CON-TAX** focal-plane shutter. Under no circumstances is it possible to make overlaps and double-exposures.

There are no external rotating shutter parts on the **CON-TAX** which might, if inadvertently touched, interfere with the normal operation of the camera.



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If the left eye is used for focusing, the right eye can remain open. If the right eye is employed for focusing, the left eye should be closed.

The various ways of sighting and holding the camera are shown in the illustrations. The user of the **CONTAX** should select the method which suits him best.

HOLDING THE CONTAX CAMERA

When taking vertical pictures, manipulate as described under Step II. (Page 15). The right hand grasps the camera above and is suitably curved for this purpose. The left hand is used as a support. The same procedure is followed with the right hand below, and the left hand above, if found more convenient.

STEP III

LOADING AND UNLOADING

THE OPENING

The lens of the **CONTAX** is held between middle and ring fingers of the left hand. The top of the camera is next to the chest. The thumb is placed on the back of the camera (ill. 21).

With thumb and index finger of the right hand, turn locks (26) on the bottom, right and left respectively. The left thumb can now lift the back off (ill. 22).

Then the right hand lifts the back from the housing of the camera (ill. 23).

As a first step, attach the beginning of the film to the

THE LOADING

take-up spool by hooking it to nose underneath the triangular lip of the spool (ill. 24). 35 mm cartridges are supplied by the manufacturer with the beginning of the film ready-cut to proper shape. No special cutting is required on a standard roll of 35 mm film (ill. 25). The cartridge is then placed into the feeding spool chamber in such a way that the rewind prong engages with the hollow end of the cartridge (cassette). The empty spool is fitted into the take-up spool chamber (ill. 26). Now the

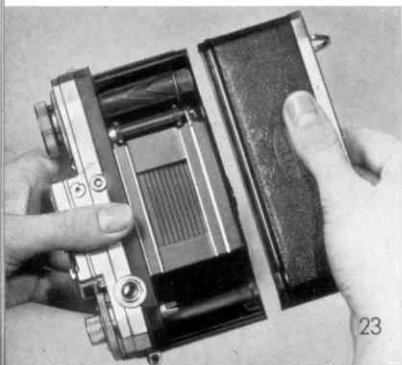
The open **CONTAX** shows the all-metal focal plane shutter, a famous technical achievement.



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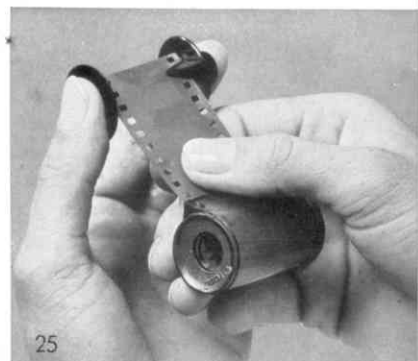
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