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**Voigtländer**



**BESSAMATIC**

24 x 36  
35 mm

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE**

## Right Here

is the most important piece of advice of this instruction booklet. We have prepared it with a great deal of care to show everything in the clearest possible way. So please read this booklet carefully before you load your first film and begin to take pictures.

First of all make yourself thoroughly familiar with the camera. When studying the instructions, open up the four folded cover pages to the top and bottom. You will find there a clear view of all the controls. Look at these pages while you practise the various operations with the empty camera.

Remember also that the BESSAMATIC is very robust, but nevertheless an optical and mechanical precision instrument. It therefore requires gentle and sensible treatment. The camera will repay careful handling with beautifully clear and sharp pictures for many years to come.

VOIGTLÄNDER A. G. BRAUNSCHWEIG

# BESSAMATIC

24 x 36 · 35 mm

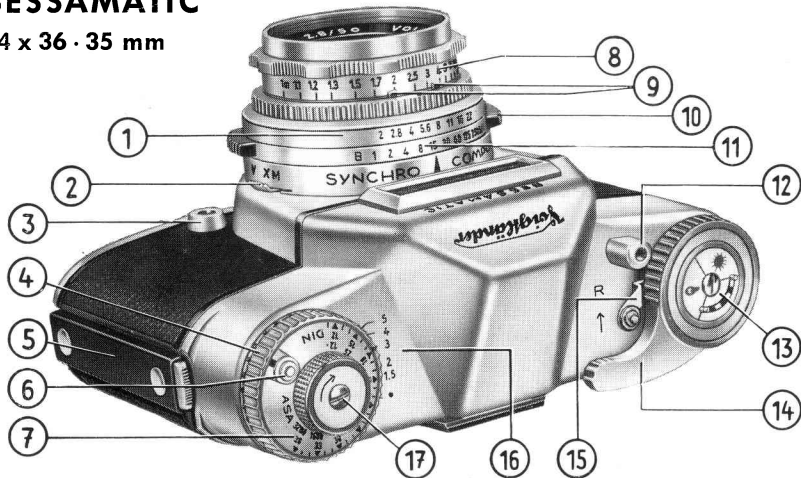


Illustration I

- 1 Aperture ring**
- 2 Synchronizing lever**  
for M or X synchronization and  
self-timer (V)
- 3 Flash socket**
- 4 Setting knob**  
for exposure meter readings
- 5 Locking device for camera back**
- 6 Interlocking lever** for disc 7
- 7 Setting disc** for film speed
- 8 Distance scale**
- 9 Depth of field indicator**
- 10 Rotating handles for shutter ring 11**
- 11 Shutter ring**
- 12 Release button**  
with cable release socket
- 13 Film type indicator**
- 14 Rapid winding lever**  
for tensioning the shutter and  
advancing the film
- 15 Reversing lever**
- 16 Divisions**  
for filter factors
- 17 Film rewind knob**
- 18 Locking catch**  
for the synchronizing lever
- 19 Lens changing catch**
- 20 Honeycomb cell window**  
of the photo-electric exposure meter



Illustration II

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### And a few hints

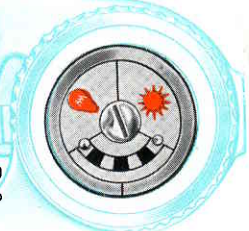
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## Setting the Film Speed

Make it a rule: Always set the film speed before inserting the film, because the function of the automatic exposure control depends on that.

On the setting knob (4) you will find the film speed values according to DIN and ASA, as indicated on the film package. To set the speed, pull out the rewind knob (17) completely (illustration III on off-folded cover page), pull the interlocking device (6) outwards and turn setting disc (7) to the left or right to bring the required film speed value opposite the red index mark on the milled rim of the knob.

Special setting marks are provided for ASA value 10 and 32: The point before figure 12 corresponds to 10 ASA, the point behind figure 25 to 32 ASA.





## The Film Type Indicator

serves to remind you of the type of film you have loaded in your camera. It has no effect on the exposure itself.

To set it, turn disc (13) till the sector with the corresponding film symbol is situated opposite the black mark.

**These are the symbols for the three film types:**

-  = **Black-and-white film**
-  = **Colour film for daylight**
-  = **Colour film for artificial light**



## Loading the Camera

You may use in your BESSAMATIC camera all types of films commercially available – wherever you buy it.

The daylight cassettes with the perforated 35 mm black-and-white, colour negative, or colour reversal film supply 36 or 20 exposures sized 24 x 36 mm.

Although the cassettes are light-tight, it is advisable not to expose them to strong light. Make a point therefore of always loading and unloading the camera in the shade – even the shadow of your own body will do.



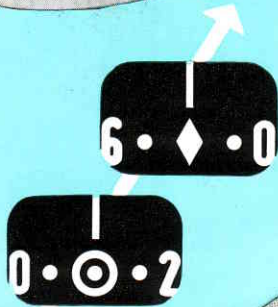
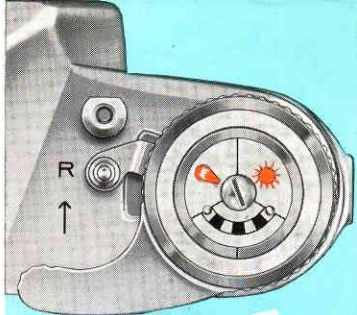
## Opening the Camera Back

Press together both spring catches (5) and swing open the back.

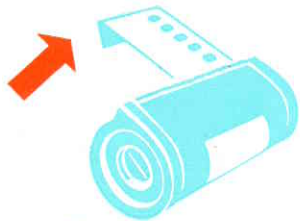
## Setting the Film Counter

The film counter automatically shows the number of exposures still available at any time. It therefore runs backwards from No. 36 or No. 20 (in other words the first exposure) to No. 1. Always set the film counter before loading the camera.

Move the reversing lever (15) in the direction of the arrow towards "R". This permits the transport shaft (26) to turn freely in either direction. Now turn the shaft to the left or to the right by the milled centre until the  $\blacklozenge$  mark (36-exposure cassettes) appears in the window (24) below the white index line. With 20-exposure cassettes set the  $\odot$  mark to the white line.



## Inserting the Cassette . . .



Fully pull out the rewind knob (17) as shown in illustration III of the open cover, and turn the take-up spool (25) so that the long slit is on top.

Sharply fold back about  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch of the beginning of the film, and push it into the slot up to the fold. The film edge must lie close against the spool flange (see illustration).

Draw the filmcassette across the film track (23) and insert it in the cassette chamber (22). Push back the rewind knob (17), turning it slightly if necessary to make the shaft (28) engage the cassette core.

The film should now lie flat in the film track as shown in illustration IV. Make sure that the lower sprocket of the transport shaft (30) engages the perforation holes of the film. Finally close the camera back – both catches must engage firmly.

## ... getting Ready for the First Exposure

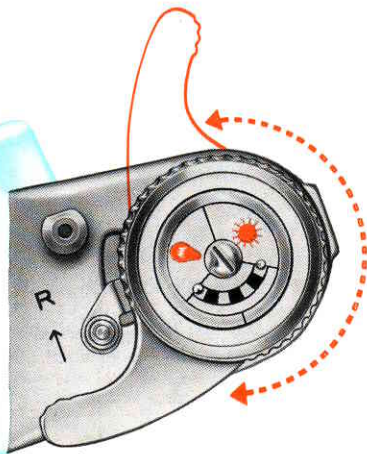
Swing the rapid winder (14) **as far as it will go**. At the same time the reversing lever (15) at "R" is pushed back into its original position. Then alternately operate the release (12) and the rapid winder until No. 36 or No. 20 respectively appears in the film counter window.

## The Rapid Winder

must always be pulled **right through** – it will then fly back automatically. This movement tensions the shutter, brings down the mirror into the optical path of the finder, advances the film by one frame, and also advances the film counter.

An interlocking mechanism prevents a second operation of the rapid winder before making an exposure. Similarly the finder image re-appears – and the shutter can be released – only after operating the rapid winder. You will find a hint on "double exposure at will" (trick shots on page 27).

If the rapid winder is locked to start with, (in other words the shutter is still tensioned), first press the release.



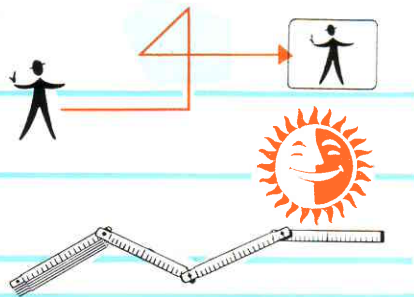
## Unloading the Camera

Push the reversing lever (15) to R, and pull up the rewind knob (17) **to its first stop only** (see illustration). Then turn the rewind knob in the direction of the arrow until the diamond  $\blacklozenge$  mark (with a 36-exposure film) or the  $\odot$  mark (with a 20-exposure film) appears again in the film counter window. Now you can open the camera back. Fully pull out the rewind knob and remove the cassette with the exposed film from the film chamber.

When trying to obtain more than 36 or 20 exposures from your film, it may happen that the rapid winder cannot be swung completely and that it blocks. In this case do not apply force, otherwise you will tear the perforation or make the film slip out of the cassette. Proceed as follows: Push rewind knob towards R (it may move a bit harder), swing rapid winder completely and let it return to its original position. Unload the camera as described above.

## Changing Partly Exposed Films

Rewind the partly exposed film as described above. Remember also to make a note of the number of the last exposed frame, and to re-set the DIN-ASA disc and the film type indicator if necessary. When re-loading the original film, first of all put the black lens cap over the front lens mount. Then insert the film in the usual way and alternately work the rapid winder and press the release until the number of the frame you originally noted appears in the film counter window. Advance the film once more, and you can carry on shooting.



The finder image is only visible when you have operated the rapid winder, thus advancing the film and tensioning the shutter. You therefore see immediately whether the camera is ready to shoot.

## With one Look through the Viewfinder

– through the large and bright double system view- and rangefinder of the BESSAMATIC

- you see the subject upright, right-way-round, and free from parallax, with the precise field of view covered by the film –
- you control the exposure by means of the exposure automatic,
- you accurately focus all interchangeable lenses either with the optical split-image rangefinder or with the ground glass screen.

The spring-loaded pre-selecting diaphragm ensures that you view and focus always at the full lens aperture. The diaphragm automatically closes down to the pre-set value when you release the shutter.

## Setting the correct Exposure . . . quick and simple

### ① Presetting the exposure time

Turn setting knob (4) till the speed figure required is opposite mark ▲.

### ② Superimposing the two pointers

With a short turn of the setting knob you superimpose the two pointers in the viewfinder (see illustration on the right) – and right away you set the correct exposure by means of the automatic control. The illustration shows: preselected speed  $1/60$  sec. – pointers superimposed at aperture 5.6.

#### To point 1:

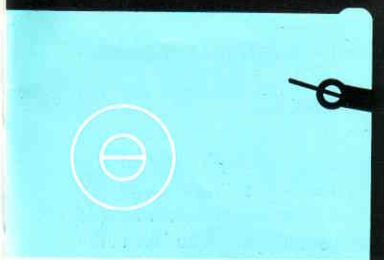
The **black figures** ( $1/500$ – $1/60$  sec.) are exposure times which you can safely use for hand-held shots.

With the **red figures** ( $1/30$ – $1$  sec.) it is advisable to support the camera during the exposure (e. g. on a table, trunk of a tree or tripod).

At "B" the shutter opens on pressing the release and remains open as long as you keep the button pressed down. In this case – as well as in connection with the long speeds (red figures) – always use a tripod and a cable release; the latter can be screwed into the release button.







### **To point 2:**

when superimposing the setting mark with the lightmeter needle, the setting knob first moves only the aperture ring. However, if superimposing cannot be done this way (i. e. aperture  $f/2.8$  or  $f/22$  on Color-Skopar lens has been reached) turn the setting knob beyond a little resistance until mark and needle are aligned. Now the shutter speed has also been altered.

#### **General rules for setting the exposure:**

**Hold camera horizontal when setting the correct exposure, even when you want to shoot with the camera held upright. This way the exposure meter will render most accurate results. Special hints for determining the exposure: See page 24 and 25.**

In case the depth of field or the shutter speed are insufficient for the type of picture you wish to take proceed as follows:

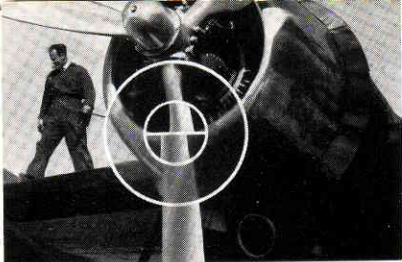
Turn the shutter ring until the required aperture-speed-combination is opposite index ▲. This does not effect the correct exposure prior determined in the finder. Make sure that you stop turning the shutter ring when having reached one of the extremes of the aperture ring of the respective lens.

## Setting the Distance

You can do this in two ways:

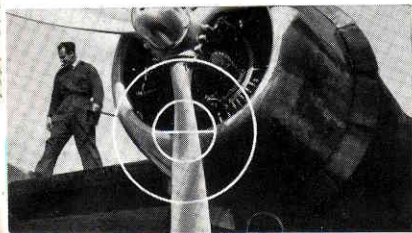
- **In the split-image rangefinder** vertical lines of the subject are displaced to the left or right (with the camera held horizontal) or upwards and downwards (with the camera held upright) as you turn the distance scale (example I). When the lens is accurately focused the two parts of the image register accurately across the split circle (example II).
- **The ground-glass screen** is most suitable for focusing subjects without prominent vertical or horizontal lines. In this case rotate the distance scale until the subject appears sharp on the ground-glass screen.

The two red pointers (9) which move over the distance scale show you at the same time the exact depth of field (see also page 15).



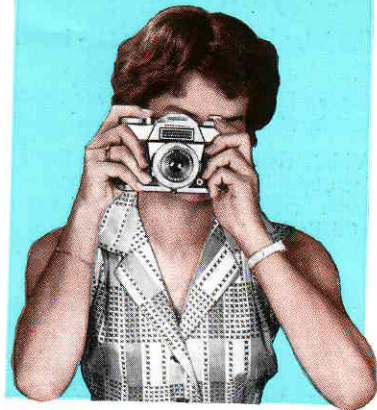
Example I

Example II



## Holding the Camera and Releasing

For the exposure we suggest that you hold the BESSAMATIC as shown in the illustrations. You can of course also hold it in any other way, provided you have a sound grip on the camera with both hands and you can comfortably press the release button.

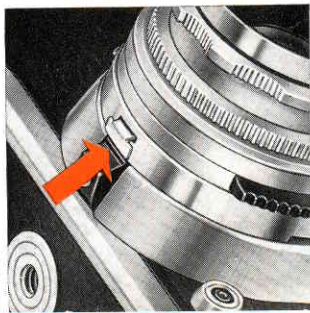
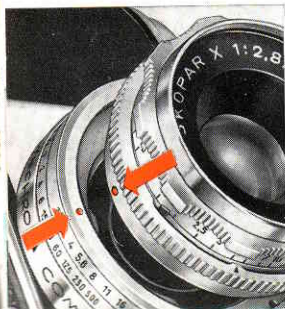


To make the exposure, smoothly depress the release button – never jerk it! The finder image disappears at the instant of the exposure and reappears again when you have operated the rapid winder.

## The interchangeable Lenses – inserting and removing

For the BESSAMATIC you may choose amongst interchangeable lenses of different speeds and focal lengths, for the most effective rendering of any subject.

All interchangeable lenses are fitted in a quick changing bayonet mount and are accurately focused with the two-way rangefinder. As the taking lens of the BESSAMATIC is at the same time also the finder lens you always see the correct view in the finder irrespective of the subject distance or the focal length of the lens used. Special instructions are available for the Voigtländer-Zoomar f/2.8 (36–82 mm).



When you insert the lens in the shutter opening make sure that the red dot on the lens mount is opposite the red dot on the aperture ring (see illustration). Then turn the lens slightly to the right **until it engages** – it is now firmly mounted in the camera.

To remove the lens, depress the catch (19), turn the lens to the left, and lift it out of the shutter (see illustration).

All lenses can automatically be set to their maximum aperture only.