

# FERRANIA CONDOR I

## 1948



Serial Nr.006721  
Lens Serial Nr.0103879

### Characteristics and functions

La Ferrania **Condor I** is the first camera model produced by collaboration between Ferrania and Officine Galileo in Florence.

This is the first real attempt by Italy to enter the professional photographic market offering for the first time a complete and performed camera. At the time it was a great competitor of Leica in the field of advanced professionals and amateurs: "The Italian Leica", as the editorial staff of the "Il Progresso Fotografico" in 1948 wrote, on the occasion of the launch of the new camera.

The words "Condor I" (this last part of the abbreviation is painted in red) and "Ferrania" are engraved and painted in black in the center of the upper cap. The other indications present on the shell are: "A" and arrow of the rotary direction on the pawl for the advancement of the film; "R" and rotational direction arrow on the pawl for rewinding the exposed film; letters "A" and "R", which are highlighted by moving the central cursor (position to be used respectively in the **A**dvancement of the film or during the **R**ecovery of the exposed film). On the back of the upper cap there are the eyepieces of the viewfinder (on the right) and the one of the rangefinder (on the left). There is also the symbol of the "Officine Galileo" engraved and painted in black.

The shutter button is located to the right in the forward position and has no thread for using the flexible shutter. The shutter release is only active with the film inserted in the camera.

The back occupies the entire rear part of the camera, is covered in black leather with the engraving "**Ferrania**" placed in the center of the same. In the front there are the two round portholes of the rangefinder with the viewfinder window in the center and the small knurled wheel for focusing the rangefinder (at the extreme left); below in the part covered with black leather, we find the retractable mount of the lens with the focusing system and distance scale (for an estimate focus in case of situation where the use of the rangefinder is impossible) surmounted from the diaphragm scale useful for the hyperfocal calculation. On the bottom cover there is the thread for the use of the stand, the counter (manual adjustment) and the inscription engraved on two lines, painted in black: "MADE IN ITALY - PATENT", surmounted by the serial number of the camera. The body of the lens, in chromed steel, carries the engraving of an arrow and a black line that indicate the movement to be performed to extract the lens and position it correctly for use (turn the barrel until the "clak" of the block. To retract the lens, rotate it in reverse to free it from the block and push it into the camera. The front lens has a black frame and white painted indications: "Officine Galileo Eliog 1: 3.5f = 5cm N° 0103879". On the shutter frame we find the signs engraved and painted in black "Officine Galileo" - "Iscus" - "Rapid". There are also the diaphragm scale with the arrow-shaped frame for setting the working diaphragm, the reference for setting the shutter speeds that are engraved on the mobile circular crown. On the external body of the shutter frame there are the lever which, when lowered, allows you to arm the shutter and, higher up to the right, the small lever that allows the shutter to be released.

### Technical specifications

Shutter (central with 6 blades – Officine Galileo): Icsus Rapid from 1" to 1/500" and bulb "B" (B, 1", 1/2", 1/5", 1/10", 1/25", 1/50", 1/100", 1/250", 1/500")

Syncro-X: with all speeds

Lens (retractile): Eliog 5cm f/3.5 (Officine Galileo)

Focusing system: coupled rangefinder, separate from the viewfinder

Viewfinder: Galilean type

Film: type 135 (Images of 15/16 x 1" 13/32 - 24x36mm.)

Exposure meter: no

Self-timer: no

Colors: silver body (satin brass) and black leather

Weight and size: 18.342oz. Length 0.50", height 0.30", depth 0.20" / 0.25" (with lens in working position)

