

ILFORD MONARCH

(Made in Japan by Minolta)
1967



Serial No.103923

Characteristics and functions

In 1966, Minolta presented the 126 Autopak 500 film camera. In 1967 Minolta produced on behalf of Ilford, a camera identical to the Autopak 500 called Monarch and marketed in Great Britain. The fixture comes with a square-shaped body, made entirely of plastic, it uses type 126 cassette films (12 or 20 poses) that provide 28.5 x 28.5mm format images. The shutter button is located along the front edge of the upper side and is formed by a parallelepiped in black ribbed plastic.

The slider for unlocking the film compartment door is located along the right side, above the rectangular ring for inserting the wrist strap for transporting the camera.

The charging lever, made of metal, works in a slot located on the extreme right, at the top on the rear side. Side occupied almost entirely by the large door of the film compartment whose transparent window allows you to view the type of film introduced and observe the "count" which is given by the printing of the numbers on the outside of the black paper that covers the film.

It is good to remember that after making the last useful shot, the film must be advanced until the black paper completely covers the film, which is completely settled on the right side, receiving, of the cassette loader. For this purpose, the transparent part can read: "Wind film to stop". Between the charge lever and the viewfinder we find the words "ILFORD LTD ILFORD ESSEX" "Made in Japan" and the serial number engraved in a silver space.

The lens, Ilford Hifinar 38mm f / 2.8 with 4 elements in 3 groups, is positioned in the cantilevered part of the nose. The minimum shooting distance is 1 meter.

The automatic diaphragm is guided by the selenium meter placed around the lens.

The adjustment of the sensitivity of the film used is automatic: the camera reads the ASA values directly from the film loader, by means of a mechanical selector compatible with reference notches on the charger.

The flash socket on the left of the upper side allows the use of the new "Cuboflash" which provide 4 consecutive flashes and are used for the use of batteries.

The Galilean type viewfinder located to the left of the lens has a light frame with parallax correction. Along the left side of the frame are the symbols (mountains, groups, half-length) for adjusting the shooting distance with a sliding signal coupled with the distance knob on which the same three focus symbols referring to a white dot engraved along the left, black part of the plastic body of Ilford Monarch. In the viewfinder there is also the symbol of the flash positioned to the left between the symbol of the "Groups" and the "Half-length": this indicates the coverage range of the flash itself.

A red light located on the lower side of the viewfinder indicates if the flash is needed. The signal is turned on by pressing the shutter release button for 1/4 of its complete movement.

The camera has two fixed shutter speeds: 1 / 90s for shots in ambient light, 1 / 40s for shots with flash-light in the presence of insufficient ambient light. If the ambient light is sufficient for correct exposure, the cuboflash does not trip even if mounted on the camera, the time remains at 1 / 90s and the diaphragm is controlled by the exposure meter. The time is switched to 1 / 40s only if the flash is actually needed.

With the cuboflash inserted and the time set at 1 / 40s (insufficient ambient light) the diaphragm is controlled by the focusing knob with the "Flashmatic" mechanism according to the Guide Number principle, always within the minimum and maximum possible distance with flash.

The red button located on the back side of the camera, in the immediate vicinity of the viewfinder, serves for the ejector of the completely used cuboflash.

On the underside there is a large sliding door that allows access to the two compartments for the introduction of the batteries. There is an inscription in relief: "One base up - One base down - Use AAA batteries - Open". Power is supplied by 2 AAA batteries type MN-2400 alkaline for the use of the cuboflash. The camera, completely mechanical, and the selenium meter do not need any power supply. The weight of the camera is 330g strap and batteries excluded. Dimensions: length 118mm; width 71 depth 57mm.