

MINOLTA 24 RAPID

1965



Serial No.117855

Characteristics and functions

The Minolta 24 Rapid, presented in 1965, is the first and only device produced by Minolta that can use 16-place films with a 24x24mm negative format, contained in Agfa-Rapid type loaders. The lens is a Rokkor 32mm. f.1/2.8 and the programmed shutter is a Seikoshu-LA that works from 8 to 17 EV. with maximum shutter speed of 1/250".

The camera has a classic shape. The chromed upper casing is very linear: at the left end there is a flash-slide which has a hot contact for the use of the flash both with light bulbs and electronic; at the right end there is the window of the additive counter with automatic zeroing at the back opening. A large white arrow in a black field is the reference on the progress of the numbering. The shutter button is located near the counter in an advanced position; inside a thread allows the adaptation of a separate accessory for the use of the self-timer or flexible release (Cable Release). On the front, in the chrome part of the shell, the words "24 Rapid" and "Minolta" appear on the right, on two lines, while at the left end there are the viewfinder window and the rangefinder window, both containing a cantilevered frame. On the front of the chrome back, the word "Minolta Camera Co.Ltd." appears to the right of the lens. The objective is contained in a metallic frame of oversized appearance so that in the front part the cell of the exposure meter is set to the CdS. and there is also the thread for

the 55mm diameter filter attachment. so as to be able to use the whole series of compensation and conversion filters produced by Minolta. At the bottom of the lens there is a rail in which the black plastic foot connected to the focus adjustment slides. This occurs by means of the rangefinder, but it is also possible to focus by estimation by moving the cursor at the scale in meters/feet. The minimum shooting distance is 0.8m / 2.6 feet. The central ring of the lens is the only one that can rotate: you need to press the small chromed lever located in the lower left part to unlock the ring nut from position "A" and set the desired shutter speed (B, 1/30", 1/60", 1/125", 1/250", 1/500"). Also the selector for the choice of the diaphragms can be unlocked, using the same chromed lever seen before, so that it can be moved from the "A" position to the correspondence of the chosen diaphragm value (2.8; 4; 5.6; 8; 11; 16; 22) . In a small window on the left side of the lens, the EV values scroll when the dials for adjusting time and aperture are moved from positions "A". A small cylindrical ratchet, in black plastic, located on the right side of the lens helps the camera grip without the index finger of the right hand interfering with the dials of time and diaphragms. The charging lever is located on the rear side of the upper cap and, on the far left, the black plastic frame of the viewfinder window. In the viewfinder is visible the luminous frame for the evaluation of the framed field, complete with reference notches for close-up shots; in the center there is the telemeter collimation system and on the right there is a yellow field with red ends where the galvanometer needle marks the EVs set in the automatic exposure. On the left side of the upper cover is the socket for the flash cable. At the lower end there is a chromed lever for opening the back, while the closure is obtained simply by pressing the back on the hinge. Two chrome rings on the sides are used to attach the shoulder strap. The caseback is smooth: on the far left a recess allows you to lower the release lever of the back; nearby the registration number is engraved; proceeding to the right you will find the thread for the tripod, the engraved "Japan" and the large black cap with a central groove that contains the PX 625 battery for the operation of the exposure meter.

Weight 460g. battery not included.

Length 134mm .; height 87mm .; depth 59.5mm.