

MINOLTA A5

1960



Serial No.466044

Characteristics and function

In 1959 the "Minolta A 5" is presented, a rangefinder camera with self-timer. There are 3 versions of this device: two differ only in the maximum brightness of the lens which can be a Rokkor 45mm. f.1/2.8 or a Rokkor 45mm. f.1/2.0.

The third variant, produced expressly for the American market, differs in the maximum shutter speed limited to 1/500". The mounted shutters are Optimer-Citizen MLT (M-12) with time 1/1000" max and Citizen MVL (M-8) with time 1/500" max.

This device is the version for the American market with a maximum shutter speed of 1/500" and it can be seen by looking at the speed dial (B; 1"; 1/2"; 1/4"; 1/8"; 1/15"; 1/30"; 1/60"; 1/125"; 1/250"; 1/500") which is the outermost on the lens and where the numbers are shown with black characters on a chromed strip. Another fact that highlights the version is the lack of the 1000 figure under the word "Minolta" on the black upside-down trapezoid label that is on the front immediately to the right of the lens. On the objective there are also, in order, the following scales: a double scale for the references of the hyperfocal calculation (black numbers on a metallic background); on the focusing ring there are two distance scales: on the right of the objective the scale in meters (0.9-infinity)

and on the left the scale in feet (3-infinity) with metallic numbers shown on the black plastic ring which is shaped with a protuberance that makes it easier to grip during rotation; the diaphragm scale (2.8-22) is placed on a black plastic ferrule and refers to a large triangular symbol painted on a fixed black part of the lens body. To the right of this symbol is the selector "X" or "M" for flash sync, on the left is the selector for activating the self-timer. The socket for the flash cable is placed on the lens from the left side, in the lower part. On the speed dial there is, on the opposite side to the times, the LV scale (3-18) where the numbers are painted in red. On the upper chrome-plated carter there is a shutter release, where the thread for housing the Cable Release is located (flexible release); on its right, in a slightly rearward position, is the charging lever, while between the charge lever and the accessory-holder slide is placed the counter with automatic advancement simultaneously with the shutter, but with manual insertion - in the sense that it is necessary to prepare it by matching the small red dot with the arrow engraved and painted in black. At the left end of the casing is the foldable knob, for recovering the exposed film. In a fairly central and advanced position towards the front is the writing "Minolta A 5", while the red reference of the film plane is placed in a rear position at the viewfinder window. The upper cap shows at its base on the sides two rings of rectangular shape, in metal, for hooking the shoulder strap, in the front there is the viewfinder window and, on the right, the rangefinder window both collected within a cantilever frame and under a glass. On the right side of this frame is applied the letter "M" symbol of Minolta. On the rear side of the upper shell is the rectangular plastic viewfinder window. The light frame is visible in the viewfinder to determine the correct framing; there are also the reference notches of the field framed in close-up shots. At the center of the back is the Asa / Din conversion table (10-1600 / 11-33) which allows, by turning it and making it coincide with the reference symbol, to remember the sensitivity of the introduced film. The back opening is obtained by lowering by about 6mm. the lever positioned in the lower part of the left side of the appliance, the back is thus freed from the block; to close it again, move it back in and raise the chromed lever previously lowered to the end of its travel. On the back are present: the attack for the easel, on the left; the release button for the clutch to recover the film and two small conical-shaped feet designed to compensate for the protrusion of the tripod coupling on the right.

Weight 702g., Length 141.5mm., Height 85mm., Depth 71mm.