

MINOLTA A5

1966



Serial Nr.: 401691
Minolta code: 0163

Characteristics and functions

In 1959 the "Minolta A5" was 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 45mm Rokkor. f. 1 / 2.0. The third variant, produced expressly for the American market, is equipped with a f.2.8 / 45mm lens. and the maximum shutter speed limited to 1/500 ".

The shutters mounted are Optimer-Citizen MLT (M-12) with a maximum time of 1/1000 "and Citizen MVL (M-8) with a maximum time of 1/500".

In 1966, the Minolta A5 undergoes aesthetic and functional changes: the body becomes more compact, similar to the contemporary Minolta AL-s, the mechanical frame counter with manual reset becomes mechanical with automatic reset when the back is opened, the flash shoe is added the hot shoe and the flash sync socket is moved from the lens mount on the front of the camera to the left of the lens. The charging lever is moved immediately under the upper cap and slides into a compartment dedicated to it.

On the front, at the top, to the right of the lens, the 'M' of Minolta are placed in relief, and the 'minolta' engraving painted in black.

The shutter speed adjustments (B; 1 " ; 1/2" ; 1/4 " ; 1/8" ; 1/15 " ; 1/30" ; 1/60 " ; 1/125" ; 1/25 " ; 1/500") are set by turning the outermost black ring on the lens. The working apertures are set using the second black ring on the lens barrel (2.8 - 4 - 5.6 - 8 - 11 - 16). For both scales, the reference is the black painted vertical line on the chrome part between the two black rings. The focus ring is the one closest to the camera body. A black ring with a gray protrusion allows easier adjustment of the focus distance and is coupled to the rangefinder, whose front window is located right above the lens. On the left, on the body of the lens, there are two focus scales: the one expressed in feet: 2.6 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 7 - 10 - 15 - 20 and infinity) and the one expressed in meters: 0, 8 - 1 - 1.2 - 1.5 - 2 - 3 - 5 and infinity). The mechanical self-timer is instead placed on the right of the lens body, has a delay of about 10 seconds and is activated by moving the small chrome lever. The LV scale present on previous versions has been abolished. The shutter button fitted with the thread for housing the Cable Release (flexible release) is placed on the upper shell. At the right edge of the upper carter there is the window of the frame counter. The inscription "Minolta A5" engraved and painted in black is positioned next to the frame counter. At the left end of the upper cap there is instead the foldable crank for the recovery of the exposed film. The red reference of the film plane has disappeared

The camera lacks the rings for attaching the shoulder strap; for its transport it is necessary to use the black leather case adapted with the shoulder strap.

In the front part of the upper shell there is the viewfinder window and, on the right, the rangefinder window; while the eyepiece frame of the viewfinder is placed on the far left, on the rear side.

The opening of the back - hinged to the right - is obtained by raising it by about 3mm. the lever positioned in the upper part of the left side of the device, the back is thus freed from the block; to close it again it is necessary to bring it back together and exert a slight pressure to the end of the stroke.

On the bottom case there are: the nut screw for the tripod attachment, on the left, the clutch release button for the recovery of the film and, in the forward position, the 'Japan' engraving.

Weight 480g., Length 128mm., Height 74mm., Depth 60mm.

