

# MINOLTA AF-Z

## 1986



Serial Nr.73310683  
Minolta Code 0479-100

### Characteristics and function

The Minolta AF-Z was introduced to the market in 1986. The AF-Z is Minolta's first compact camera to have a full information LCD display. It should be remembered that in 1985 Minolta introduced the world's first autofocus SLR, which had an LCD display and buttons instead of dials! The Minolta AF-Z is a high-end compact camera with excellent performance. The lens is a very bright 35mm Minolta. f./2.8. (63° angle of view) with 4 lenses in 4 groups. The minimum focusing distance is 65cm. The focus is active infrared with lock of the same focus that can be canceled using the shutter button. The electronically programmed shutter works from EV 8.4 (1/40" with f.2.8) to EV 18 (1/800" with f.18) with 100 ISO films. The admitted film sensitivities range from 25 to 1600 ISO. The setting is done automatically through the DX code of the loaders, while for loaders without a DX code the sensitivity set will always be 100 ISO. The built-in electronic flash with automatic intervention is very powerful: with 100 Iso films the flash coverage ranges from 0.65 to 4 meters; with 1600 Iso films the range is even 16 meters! The device is of considerable size, but with a very low thickness. The upper side is crossed for its entire length by a central

gray band; in this range we find: the white silk-screened writing "AFZ", the LCD display; on the right of the display there is a gray rectangular button used to set the adjustments that are highlighted on the display, on the far right there is the shutter button, gray rectangular in horizontal orientation, with double function: in the first part of its stroke locks exposure (AE) and focus (AF) while if pressed fully it releases the shutter. As for the information on the LCD we have: the icon with the person in front of the mountain in normal use, the self-timer symbol when the "Self Timer" function is activated, the icon with the half sun surmounted by lightning for the use of the flash in daylight, an icon with a person in front of the mountain superimposed on two other images, is instead the symbol for photographic sequences with a cadence of about one shot per second. On the lower line of the display there is the symbol of the inserted magazine next to the symbol of the attached film (horizontal black dash to the right of the magazine) and the 4 direction arrows of the film scrolling (to the right for film advancement to the left for recovery). The automatic additive frame counter with countdown during film recovery is positioned in a red frame permanently visible in the lower right corner of the display. This last function also allows you to keep under control the state of charge of the batteries: if, while the film is being recovered, the motor stops running but the frame counter has not yet reset, it means that the batteries are exhausted, and must therefore be replaced so that the camera can continue full movie recovery. The left side of the camera is smooth, the right side is formed by a rubber mount with support for the shoulder strap that is used to firmly grip the camera with the right hand only and to contain the batteries (1 Duracell DL233 6v. Or similar, or 4 AAA 1.5v batteries.). On the back side we find, at the top center, the black plastic frame of the eyepiece window, on the left an adhesive label remembers the meaning of the symbols seen before in the display ("Normal mode", "Self-timer mode", "Fill-flash mode" and "Sequential mode"). The lower part is completely occupied by the back (with a window for viewing the inserted magazine and a grooved part to improve its grip). On the far left is the release mechanism to be moved upwards by about 4 mm. Inside there is a transparent plastic mechanism for easy attachment of the film. At the front we find: the electronic flash at the top left and, just below, the stylized red silk-screened writing "AF" which indicates that the device is autofocus. In the center, a cantilevered frame with a sliding part to the right that protects the viewfinder (horizontal sliding shutter) and the lens, while the door of the cell to the CdS is always visible. By moving the moving part to the right by about 20mm. you discover the lens surrounded by a red line, and the words: "Auto Focus" above; "Minolta Lens" and  $f = 35\text{mm } 1:2.8$  under the lens. Underneath there is also a red plastic part that lights up for 10" when shooting with the Self-timer function set. The retraction of the shutter leaves the autofocus windows and the central one of the viewfinder uncovered. The underside of the AF-Z is occupied by the writing "Japan" and just below, by the serial number engraved in white; continuing to the right we find the thread for the use of the tripod and the square cursor with a hole in the center which serves, by pushing it along its obligatory seat, for the intentional recovery of the film that is not completely exposed. When the film is fully exposed, the motorized recovery takes place automatically after the last useful shot. On the far right we find the battery compartment cap with sliding release.

Weight 295g. batteries excluded.

Length 135mm. Height 72mm. Thickness 40mm.