

MINOLTA AL-F

1968



Serial No.882676

Characteristics and functions

In 1968 the AL-F was presented; a compact classic-style camera that embodies remarkable technological updates that facilitate its use. The wording "Easy Flash" straddling the flash of light speaks volumes about the simplicity of using the flash with this device. The upper cap is very "crowded": on the left side there is the foldable knob for film recovery; proceeding to the left you will find the flash-slide with hot contact and engraved serial number in the upper part. Between the flash-slide and the charging lever there is, on two lines, the black word "Minolta" "AL-F". The shutter is in the forward position and has a thread inside it to connect the flexible release (Cable Release) or a separate accessory for the self-timer. The charging lever, all in metal, is placed to the right of the shutter button; it has a rest position completely surmounted by the upper casing and a pre-run position which makes it move about 20 degrees. In addition to the charging lever there is the window of the counter with additive function and automatic zeroing at the back opening; the numbering is black in the silver field and the reference index is given by a small red arrow placed in the center of the right side of the window. On the rear side of the upper shell only the black

plastic frame of the rectangular viewfinder window appears on the left. The front side of the upper cap is occupied in the order, from right to left, from the black wording "Minolta", from the window of the rangefinder and from the viewfinder window. These are located inside a cantilevered frame with colorless glass that also contains the word "easy flash" crossed by the symbol of the red light flash. The body of the lens is made of metal, partly chromed and partly satin-finished. There is a thread for the use of 46mm diameter filters. In the front part there is also the cell of the exposure meter. This camera has the CLC system to compensate for the exposure between the subject and the background when it is occupied by areas as bright as the sky. Along the lower side of the lens is the Asa / Din scale of sensitivities (Asa 25-500; Din 15-25) with the possibility of adjusting the chromed slider to 1/3 of value. The same satin ring that has the sensitivity scale in the lower part, in the upper part bears the shutter speed (500, 250, 125, 60, 30) followed by the lightning symbol. The Minolta AF-L works at time priority: they must be set by collimating them with the red reference and the camera will set a diaphragm between 2.7 and 22 to obtain a correct exposure. The use of the flash is easier: just choose the flash, know the Guide Number, place the time ring on the flash symbol and choose one of the two N.G. (14 or 20 meters / 45 or 65 feet) painted in green, making them collimate with the small green dart at the center of the two distance scales and the exposure with the flash will be correct. Focusing is done by turning the ring closest to the camera body, facilitated by the presence of a white plastic foot. The minimum shooting distance is 0.8 meters / 2.6 feet and the respective scales refer to two small incisions obtained at the base of the upper cap. The camera has a rangefinder so the use of scales is subject to an estimate focus. In the viewfinder is visible the light frame with small reference for shooting at close distances. Along the right side of the light frame is the needle of the galvanometer that moves in a yellow field where the diaphragms are shown (2.7.5.6.11.22). The ends of the galvanometer needle sliding field are red: if the needle enters the upper zone we are overexposed, if it enters the lower zone we are under-exposed. On the left side of the upper casing is the socket for connecting the flash cable and, underneath, there is the release of the back - pull the chrome tab upwards. To close the back, press it down until the closure clicks. The chrome back is asymmetrical in shape as on the left there is a large flare in which the lower part of the back is positioned. This facilitates the insertion of the film spool. On the back there are also the chrome-plated cap of the battery compartment (type PX 625), the thread for the stand and the button for releasing the clutch for film recovery. There are no shoulder strap rings, so the camera can only be carried around the neck if it is in the ready-made camera bag.

Weight 500g. Length 132mm.; height 84mm.; depth 60mm.