

MINOLTA AUTOPAK 500

1966



Serial Nr.141108
Minolta Code 0180

Characteristics and functions

The Minolta Autopak 500 was presented in 1966. The device has a square-shaped body, made entirely of plastic, using 126-type cassette films (12 or 20 exposures) which provide 28.5x28.5mm. format images. The shutter button is located along the front edge of the upper side and is formed by a parallelepiped in striped black plastic. The slider for unlocking the film compartment door is located along the right side, above the rectangular ring for inserting the wrist strap for transporting the Autopak 500. The charging lever, in metal, works in a slot located on the far right, at the top of the rear side. Side occupied almost entirely by the large door of the film compartment whose transparent window allows you to view the type of film introduced and observe the "frame counter" which is given by the printing of the numbers on the outer side of

the black paper that covers the film. It is good to remember that after taking the last useful shot, the film must be advanced until the black paper completely covers the film, which has all settled on the right-hand side, receiving, of the cassette loader. For this purpose, on the transparent part you can read: "Wind film to stop". Between the winding lever and the viewfinder we find the inscriptions "Minolta Camera Co, LTD" "Japan" and the serial number engraved in a silver space.

The lens, Rokkor 38mm f/2.8 with 4 elements in 3 groups, is positioned in the front cantilever part. The minimum shooting distance is 1 meter.

The automatic diaphragm is guided by the selenium meter placed around the lens.

The adjustment of the sensitivity of the film used is automatic: the camera reads the ASA values directly from the film loader, by means of a mechanical selector compatible with reference marks placed on the loader.

The flash socket on the left of the upper side allows you to use the new flash cubes which provide 4 consecutive flashes and are used for the use of batteries.

The Galilean-type viewfinder located to the left of the lens has a bright frame with parallax correction. Along the left side of the frame are the symbols (mountains, groups, half-length) for adjusting the shooting distance with sliding signal coupled to the distance knob (1m, 1.5m, 3m, 10m and infinity - 3.5ft, 7ft, 15ft and infinity) also placed along the left side of the Autopack 500. In the viewfinder there is also the flash symbol positioned on the left between the "Groups" symbol and the "Half-length": this indicates the coverage range of the flash and refers to the red line lightning symbol on the distance pawl. Also in this case the red line indicates the lightning coverage ranging from 1 to 5 meters.

A red light positioned on the underside of the viewfinder indicates if the flash is needed. The signal is turned on by pressing the shutter button 1/4 of its stroke.

The camera has two fixed shutter speeds: 1/90s for shots in ambient light, 1/40s for shots with flash light in the presence of insufficient ambient light. If the ambient light is sufficient for a correct exposure, the cuboflash does not shoot even if mounted on the camera, the time remains at 1/90s and the aperture is controlled by the exposure meter. The time is switched to 1/40s only if the flash is actually needed.

With the cuboflash inserted and the time set to 1/40s (insufficient ambient light) the diaphragm is controlled by the focus knob with the "Flashmatic" mechanism according to the Guide Number principle, always within the minimum and maximum possible distance with flash.

The red button located on the rear of the camera, in the immediate vicinity of the viewfinder, is used to eject the fully used flashcube.

On the underside there is a large sliding door with a stroke limiter that allows access to the two compartments for inserting the batteries. There is an inscription in relief: "One base up - One base down - Use AAA batteries - Open". Power is supplied by 2 AAA type MN-2400 alkaline batteries for use with the flashcube. The fully mechanical camera and the selenium light meter do not require any power supply.

The weight of the camera is 320g excluding batteries.

Dimensions: length 118mm; width 71 depth 57mm.