

MINOLTA AUTOPAK 600-X

1971



Serial Nr.193658
Minolta Code 0410

Characteristics and functions

The Minolta Autopak 600-X was presented in 1971. The device has a square-shaped body, made entirely of black plastic, uses 126-type cassette films (12 or 20 exposures) which provide 28.5x28.5mm. format images, The blue "600-X" code indicates that the device can use the new "Magicube-X" cube flashes. The shutter button is located along the front edge of the upper side and is formed by a parallelepiped in striped metal. 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 600-X. The loading lever 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, a Rokkor 38mm. f/2.8 with 4 elements in 3 groups, is positioned in the cantilevered part of the nose. The minimum shooting distance is 1 meter.

The CDS exposure meter is located immediately above the lens in a small black plastic frame. The automatic iris is guided by the CdS exposure meter.

The film sensitivity is set at the factory and is compatible for films from 50 ASA to 125 ASA, this means that the sensitivity is fixed at an average value, probably 64 ASA.

These films, normally color negatives or B&W, had a fair exposure latitude and could withstand this technical limitation of the device.

There are only two fixed shutter speeds: 1/90s for ambient light shots, 1/45s for flash light shots with the Magicube on, and insufficient ambient light for proper exposure.

The focus from 1m to infinity is set by estimation by means of the black focus knob, located on the left side of the camera, bearing only 4 symbols ("Mountains", "Groups", "People", "Half-length") . The lightning symbol is also shown in the viewfinder; the bar positioned along the left edge of the bright frame of the viewfinder also acts as an indicator of the area useful for using the flash (minimum distance 1m and maximum 6m).

The flash socket located on the upper side of the Autopak 600-X accepts only the new "Magicube-X" which work without requiring the use of batteries and are totally incompatible with the attachment of the previous cuboflashes.

In the viewfinder, two signals appear along the underside, one red and one green:

The two light signals are turned on by lightly pressing the shutter button.

The red signal warns you if you need the Magicube or if the Magicube has been completely used up and therefore needs to be replaced.

The green light indicates that the Magicube is correctly positioned and ready to shoot. If the light is sufficient, the Magicube does not fire, even if mounted.

The aperture in flash shooting works according to the "Flashmatic" mechanism: the aperture is adjusted using the focus knob according to the Guide Number principle, always within the minimum (1m) and maximum (6m) distance of coverage with flash.

On the bottom of the camera there is the battery compartment door flanked by a small slider in striped black plastic for unlocking the door with the indications: "CLOSE <-> OPEN". There are also indications of the battery to be used: "Use RM-640 HM - N or equivalent", (from 1.35v to mercury). The power supply is used only for the operation of the exposure meter.

Weight 330g.

Dimensions: length 118mm; height 71mm depth 60mm.