

MINOLTA AUTOPAK 800

1969



Serial Nr.108377
Minolta Code 0403

Characteristics and functions

The Minolta Autopak 800 is the most sophisticated camera of the entire "Autopak" production. The device has a square-shaped body, made entirely of black plastic with aluminum-colored parts, uses 126-type cassette films (12 or 20 exposures) that provide 28.5x28.5mm. format images. Similar in appearance to the other Autopak 500, 550, 600-X cameras, it has a more elaborate line: the shutter button, with a squared and striped shape, is placed overhanging between the upper side and the front, on the right side a large knob appears circular with wide grooving on the edge that serves to load the spring for the automatic advancement of the film and the simultaneous rotation of the cuboflash, if mounted. With the spring fully charged you can take 12 exposures without flash or 8 exposures with the flash (the spring must also turn the cuboflash and this requires energy). You cannot shoot sequentially but

you must always release and then press the shutter button again to obtain one shot per second, approximately. The wrist strap attachment system for carrying the camera is positioned below the spring knob. There is also the connection for the flexible cable (Cable Release). In addition to the Cable Release, it is possible to adapt an external spring-loaded self-timer, using the same attachment. The viewfinder window is rectangular in shape as it also encloses the rangefinder window. On the left side there is the focus knob with scale in meters (1 - 1.2 - 2 - 5m and infinity) and in feet (3.5 - 4 - 7 - 15 and infinity). 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. Just above the lens is the circular frame that contains the exposure meter to the CdS. 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. If the flash-cube is mounted, the light meter activates it when necessary without the need for intervention by the photographer. A red signal in the viewfinder warns that the flash is not mounted or that it has been fully used. The programmed shutter works with fixed times of 1/90s and 1/45s with insufficient ambient light and flash on. With insufficient ambient light the shutter is set to 1/45s and flash-cube is activated which operates in the focus range indicated in the viewfinder on the left of the frame where an index that indicates the focus distance, the area allowed for the flash is indicated in yellow. Using the flash, the aperture is adjusted by the focus knob via a Flashmatic system that works with the Guide Number principle.

The programmed apertures work from 8 to 22. On the nose of the machine there is the button for the forced ignition of the flash in order to lighten the shadows when the ambient light would be sufficient for a correct exposure. The CdS exposure meter works from EV 8.5 to EV 16. 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 charging lever does not exist. The rear side is almost entirely occupied 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". Not being an "X" model, it does not use the new Magicube but Cuboflash which require batteries for ignition. Even the exposure meter at the CdS works using battery energy. There are, therefore, 2x 1.5v type 825 alkaline button batteries for the use of flash and 1x 1.35v type PX625 mercury battery for the CdS exposure meter contained in the special compartment located on the back.

Also on the back there is the nut screw for the use of the tripod.

Weight 520g.

Dimensions: length 124.5mm; height 78.3mm depth 58.5mm.