

MINOLTA HI-MATIC

1962



Serial No.131524

Characteristics and functions

The Minolta Hi-Matic is introduced in 1962. The Minolta Hi-Matic is a very important device for Minolta as it is the first in a long and successful series of cameras called Hi-Matic, which will end only twenty years later, in 1982, with the introduction on the market of the Hi-Matic GF. There are two different versions of the Hi-Matic, one with a Minolta Rokkor 45mm lens. f.1:2,8 and Citizen UNI.E (M-EC) shutter and a second with Minolta Rokkor 45mm lens. f.1:2 and Citizen UNI.E (M-11 EB) shutter. The camera #131524 is equipped with a 45mm lens. f.1:2.8 and Citizen UNI.E shutter active from 1/45" to 1/500" with working range from EV 8 to EV 17 (from f.1:2.8 and 1/45" to f.1:16 and 1/500"). The synchro-flash is at 1/30". The sensitivities of the allowed films go from 6 to 1600 Asa (9-33 Din). This camera has a traditional appearance with chrome caps and a faux leather central part of an unusual but elegant gray color. On the upper cap there are: the foldable crank for film recovery, the flash-slide bearing the serial number, the word "HI-MATIC", the thread for using the flexible release (Cable Release), the charge lever (30° pre-run and 220° for the complete advancement of the film), entirely in satin-finish metal and, on the far right, the window of the additive type counter with automatic zeroing at the back. On the back side of the upper cap are located: the small gray striped plastic window of the eyepiece and the large wheel for setting the sensitivity of the film used which shows the Din scale in black field and the Asa scale in silver field. To set the sensitivity you need to raise and rotate the outer ring where a

small reference can be placed on the integer or even intermediate values. The rest of the back is entirely occupied by the door of the film compartment, hinged to the right. In the viewfinder the luminous frame is visible with the telemetric system in the center, while on the right is located the black needle of the galvanometer that moves in a field with extreme painted red that highlight over and under exposure. Previously we find the viewfinder window, the rangefinder window and the large window of the selenium exposure meter. Under the viewfinder window is the word "minolta" with shiny characters on a satin background. All this is contained in a large cantilevered frame that ends with the two triangular rings for the use of the shoulder strap positioned on the vertical edges. The lens is contained in a satin-finished metal frame with black parts and a large part in black ribbed plastic that is used to adjust the focus. In the immediate vicinity of the machine body the distance scales are positioned in feet (on the right: 3-30 plus infinity) and in meters (on the left: 0.9-10 plus infinity). The most external satin-finish ring nut is used to adjust the diaphragms (2.8 - 4 - 5.6 - 8 - 11 - 16), to the setting of the laying B and also to the activation of the Auto function. The Auto position refers to a red arrow facing the camera that must coincide with the white arrow on the fixed ring. Along this last ring is the lever for activating the mechanical self-timer with a delay of about 10 seconds. In the front part immediately outside the first lens we find the indications: "Minolta Rokkor 1: 2.8 f = 45mm". To the right of the lens, in an unusual position, is the shutter button consisting of a large inverted metal L covered with a small piece of gray leather. To the left of the lens is the socket for the flash sync cable that allows for 'M' and 'X' synchronizations. Along the left side of the camera is the large hinge with the back opening system: raise the small chrome lever. Instead, for closing it is sufficient to bring the parts closer by applying light pressure until it clicks. On the lower side there are: the thread for the use of the stand, the release button for the clutch for film recovery, the "Japan" engraving and, on the far left a recess covered by the lower part of the door of the film compartment which serves to facilitate the introduction of the loader since the recovery knob is not liftable.

Weight 740g.

Width 138mm; height 84mm .; depth 67mm. lens included.