

MINOLTA HI-MATIC 7

1963



Serial No.451344

Characteristics and functions

The Minolta Hi-Matic 7 is presented in December 1963. It is the first Japanese camera that has a CdS cell in the lens mount so as to be considered coaxial. This camera is equipped with a new electronically programmed Seikosha-LA shutter (SLV 317) with manual control for exposures between 1/500" and 1/4". Laying is also foreseen. The shutter works from EV 3.7 to EV 18. In automatic the combinations go from 1.8 with 1/15" to 22 with 1/250", while in manual the working range it goes from 1.8 with 1/4" to 22 with 1/500". The flash cable socket with X synchronization with electronic flashes is available on all times. The mechanical self-timer has a delay of 10 seconds. The camera has a traditional appearance with chrome-plated caps and a central part in black imitation leather. The lens mount is partly chrome and partly satin. On the upper cap there are: the foldable knob for film recovery, the flash-slide bearing the serial number, the wording "HI-MATIC 7", the shutter button - located inside a circular crown - includes thread for use with flexible release (Cable Release). Continuing to the right we find the charging lever for the advancement of the film and the simultaneous arming of the shutter which is made entirely of satin-finished metal with a glossy circular part; at the extreme right is the square window of the additive type counter with automatic zeroing when the back is opened. On the back side of the upper shell is the black plastic eyepiece window. In the viewfinder the luminous frame is visible with the telemetric

system in the center, while to the right is the scale of the EVs (5.7 - 17) with the needle of the black exposure meter. The two over-and under-exposure areas are red. The back covered in black imitation leather occupies the entire remaining area of the back side of the Hi-Matic 7. On the bottom we find: on the left a large flare covered by the door that facilitates the introduction of the film spool; the metal cap with central cut that covers the battery compartment (1 PX 675 or similar), the thread for the use of the stand, the JAPAN engraving and the clutch release button for the recovery of the exposed film located in a area slightly depressed. On the front of the upper shell there is a rectangular overhang that contains the word "minolta" and the chrome frame of the window of the rangefinder system and the viewfinder. The large Minolta Rokkor-PF 1:1.8 F = 45mm lens is positioned in the part covered in black imitation leather. In the part closest to the camera body is the distance scale (on the left from 0.9-infinity, in meters and on the right from 3 to infinity, in feet); a white striped plastic foot improves grip when you rotate the satin ring of focus and supports the camera when it is placed on a surface such as in self-timer photographs. Continuing towards the front we find a satin-finished part with the socket for the flash cable on the left and the lever for activating the mechanical self-timer with a delay of about 10 seconds to the right of the body of the lens (move the lever to position "V"). In the lower part, instead, the code of the mounted shutter is printed (SEIKOSHA-LA). Two chrome-plated rings, with the lower part lined, carry engraved: the first, the values of the diaphragms (1.8 - 2.8 - 4 - 5.6 - 8 - 11 - 16 - 22) followed by the A of the automatic exposure function); the second ring bears the values of the shutter speeds (500 - 250 - 125 - 60 - 30 - 15 - 8 - 4 - B) and therefore a square window where the EV values appear (18, 17, 16, 15, 14 , 13, 12, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5 and 3.7 The shutter speed "30" is red and indicates the time of the synchro-flash, and also at the bottom of this scale an A appears for the automatic exposure function: a small chrome-plated lever, located between the second ring and the satin front (right side of the lens), if pressed it unlocks the ring nuts of the diaphragms and speeds from position A. The satin front bears engraved a black reference arrow of the set values, while in the lower part there are the Asa and Din scales (800-25 OFF and 30-15) with the selector placed in a central rail. Around the first lens there is a plastic frame black which bears the incision for the identification of the target in white (Mi once Rokkor-PF 1: 1.8 F = 45mm), followed by a chromed crown with the cell at the CdS of the light meter, located in the upper part. There is also the thread for adapting Minolta conversion or compensation filters with 55mm diameter. On the sides of the camera, in symmetrical position the two chromed triangular rings are arranged for the shoulder strap. On the right side the back zipper is visible, while on the left is the cantilever frame with the back release system itself (raise the small chromed lever).

Weight 720g. battery not included.

Width 140mm.; height 82mm. to the upper shell, 91mm. at the edge of the shutter button; depth 73mm. including the lens.