

MINOLTA HI-MATIC 7s

1966



Serial No.976347

Characteristics and functions

The Minolta Hi-Matic 7s is presented in August 1966. This camera is equipped with a new electronically programmed Seiko-LA (317-LA IV) shutter with manual control for exposures with times between 1/500" and 1/4". Setting "B" is also provided. The shutter works from EV 3.7 to EV 18 (from 1.8 and 1/15" to 22 and 1/500"). The M synchronization with bulb flash is 1/30"; X sync with electronic flashes, all the time. 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 chromed and partly satin black. On the upper cap there are: the foldable knob for film recovery, the flash-shoe with hot contact engraved with the serial number, the wording "HI-MATIC 7s", the shutter button - located inside a circular crown - includes the thread for using the flexible release (Cable Release). Continuing to the right we find the charging lever (30° pre-run and 220° for the complete advancement of the film), entirely in 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 cap they are located: the black plastic eyepiece window and the rectangular window where the red signal to regulate the film appears, preceded by the word "FILM" and an arrow pointing to the right. 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 7s. On the back we find: on the left a large flare covered by the door which facilitates the introduction of the film spool; the knurled 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 7s", on two lines 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. 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, the initials of the mounted shutter (SEIKO-LA) are instead printed. Two chromed rings, with the lower part lined, engraved with 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 and then by a square window where the EV values (18, 17, 16, 15, 14, 13, 12, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5 and 3.7); the second ring bears the values of the shutter speeds (500 - 250 - 125 - 60 - **30** - 15 - 8 - 4 - B) where the number **30** is red and indicates the time of the synchro-flash. 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 black satin front (right side of the lens), if pressed, unlocks the ring nuts of the diaphragms and speeds from position **A**. The black front part is engraved with a white reference arrow of the set values, while in the lower part there are the Asa and Din scales (25-800 OFF and 30-15) with the selector positioned in a central rail. Around the first lens there is a black plastic frame with a white engraving for the identification of the lens, followed by a chromed crown with the CdS cells of the exposure meter and the abbreviation CLC (Contrast Light Compensator). There is also the thread for adapting Minolta conversion or compensation filters with 55mm diameter. On the sides of the camera, in symmetrical position, are the two chrome rings for attaching the shoulder strap. On the right side the back the hinge 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 74mm. including the objective.