

MINOLTA HI-MATIC CSII

1978



Serial Nr.106288
Minolta Code 0454-800

Characteristics and functions

The Minolta Hi-Matic CSII, set up for export to the U.S.A., was presented in October 1978 and is the direct descendant of the Hi-Matic S marketed in June of the same year and the first camera in the series to have a built-in electronic flash. The Hi-Matic CSII exists in only one version: chrome without self-timer. The device is equipped with a Seiko-ESF programmed electronic shutter, which works from EV 5 (1/4" with f.2.7) to EV 17 (1/450" with f.17). The lens is a Rokkor 38mm. f.2.7 with 4 lenses in 3 groups. The Minolta Hi-Matic CSII comes with a satin aluminum color of the lower caseback and the upper shell, while the central part is covered in black faux leather. Black are also the charging lever, the shutter button and the electronic flash mount. The upper shell is occupied

by the cover of the insert flash by means of a slider that brings it out by 1.5cm. from its seat, on the left in an advanced position; while on the right we find the shutter button with thread for the use of the flexible release (Cable Release II) and the charging lever with a pre-stroke of about 30 °. To the right of the loading lever there is instead the window of the additive frame counter with automatic reset when the back is opened; the figures are white on a black background.

A circular window with a machined glass is the signaling system that the flash capacitor is fully charged (Pronto-Flash). When the red light appears, you can shoot with the use of the flash. The exposure is calculated automatically by the camera according to the shooting distance set. The square frame of the eyepiece window is positioned on the back side of the upper cap, on the left; while at the far right is the window for viewing the correct insertion of the film (an orange signal flows from right to left). The back is divided into two parts: a smaller one on the left which has the slider for releasing the back; the other, much larger, is the real door and is hinged along the right side. In the center of the back there is a handy reference table of the flash coverage according to the sensitivity of the film used (expressed in meters and feet). Below this table appear the words "Minolta Camera Co., Ltd. Japan" and the stamped serial number. On the front of the camera we find on the left the writing "Hi Matic CSII" on two lines. Still below there is the writing "Flash On" followed by a white arrow and the black striped cursor that must be moved to the right to free the flash which, rising by 1.5cm. beyond the upper cap, it moves into the working position. To the right of the wording "Hi-Matic CSII" we find the window of the viewfinder, then the window that illuminates the frame of the viewfinder with all the references present and, finally, proceeding still to the right, we find the black writing "Minolta". The bright frame in the viewfinder has on the left the 5 focus symbols (dot, closed portrait, half-length, groups, mountains) with an index that surmounts the symbol linked to the distance set on the lens; there are signals for parallax compensation in close-up shots. In the lower part, a large red LED lights up to signal "insufficient light" and request the use of the flash. On the front side there is the lens mount, oversized so as to contain the CdS cell at the top; the sensitivity window at the bottom where the Asa values (25-400) scroll in white, which can be set by turning the black squared plastic ring around the first lens. There are also the white writing "ASA" next to the sensitivity window and "1: 2.7 f = 38mm - Minolta Rokkor" around the lens. The lens mount is threaded with a 46mm diameter. for the use of Minolta filters. A single striped black plastic ring runs around the lens with the distances in meters (0.8 - infinity) and in feet (2.6 - infinity) reported in white characters, and the 5 focus symbols in yellow. All these data refer to a white mark engraved on the lens body. The shoulder strap attachment system consists of two metal rings placed along the front edges. On the bottom there is on the left the black door of the battery compartment (2 AA 1.5v) which are used to operate both the meter and the flash. The folding pawl for the recovery of the film, on the left, is contained in a protrusion of the bottom; while on the right there are the nut screw for using the stand and the small chrome button for releasing the clutch for recovering the film. Weight 320g. batteries excluded.

Length 130mm. Height 72mm. Depth 59mm.