

MINOLTA HI-MATIC F

1972



Serial Nr.1154259
Minolta Code: 0168

Characteristics and functions

The Minolta Hi-Matic F was introduced in 1972 and was produced in Silver and Black versions. The Hi-Matic F is the direct descendant of the Hi-Matic E, but much more compact in size. The Hi-Matic F has automatic exposure control by means of the programmed electronic shutter, Seiko-ESL (705), with a working range from EV 0.9 (4 seconds and f.2.7) to EV 17 (1/724" and f.13) for 100 Asa films. The sensitivity of the admitted films ranges from 25 Asa (15 Din) to 500 Asa (28 Din). The lens is a Rokkor 38mm. f.2.7 with 4 lenses in 3 groups and is coupled to the rangefinder. On the upper cap, in satin-finish aluminum, we find: the foldable knob for the recovery of the film which also acts as a release for the opening of the back, if pulled to the end of the stroke; the hot shoe-flash, which bears the serial number engraved, a square-shaped red LED as a signal to regulate battery efficiency, placed in the immediate vicinity of the shutter button; the chrome shutter button is placed in the forward position and has the internal thread for the use of the flexible release (Cable Release II); continuing to the right we meet the satin metal charging lever with a black plastic end part which in rest position completely surmounts the upper casing, while it has a pre-stroke

position of about 30°. The progress of the film also causes the shutter to be cocked at the same time. Next to the loading lever, on the far right of the upper cap, is the square window of the frame counter, an additive with automatic resetting at the opening of the back, where the white numbers on a black field and a red reference arrow are visible. On the back side of the upper cap we find on the left the black plastic frame of the eyepiece window, then, continuing to the right, we find the red button for checking the status of the batteries, contained in a black plastic frame (pressing it causes the lighting of the red led placed on top, if the batteries are efficient). Lastly, on the far right, we find the window that indicates the smooth running of the film (you can see a red signal scrolling from right to left on a black field). The rear side of the camera is entirely occupied by the back covered with black faux leather and hinged along the right side. The front side of the top shell is occupied by the viewfinder window, on the left, followed by the window of the rangefinder, followed in turn by the black inscriptions "Minolta" and "HI-Matic F" placed on two lines. The bright frame with parallax indications in close-up shots is visible in the viewfinder. A red led on the right side lights up to indicate slow shutter speeds. The flash symbol, which is highlighted on the right side, indicates the presence of the flash. At the center of the viewfinder is the rangefinder collimation system. In the central part in black faux leather there is the lens mount with a plate on its right indicating that the device has an electronically controlled programmed shutter. The lens mount is oversized compared to the front lens in order to contain the cell at the top of the exposure meter CdS; while at the bottom there is the window of the admitted film sensitivity (25-50-100-200-400), expressed in Asa. To adjust the sensitivity, you need to rotate the black striped plastic ring around the lens. All around are white writings: "Rokkor 1:2.7 f=38mm" and "Minolta Camera Co., Ltd.". To the right of the sensitivity window is marked in white "ASA". The lens mount is threaded with a diameter of 46 mm for the use of Minolta filters. On the lens body we find a first black plastic band with the Guide Number values in meters (7 - 56) and in feet (22 - 180) for the use of the flash. A chrome ring with a black dot is used to select the desired NG. Going towards the outside of the body of the lens we find another black plastic ring with ribbed focus distances in feet (from 2.6 to infinity) and in meters (from 0.8 to infinity), this is the focus ring which is easily maneuvered using the black plastic foot located at the bottom. The distances shown on the black band refer to a red dot placed on the extreme part of the chromed frame of the lens. The socket for the flash cable is located on the left side of the shell. Two chrome rings placed along the front corners are the attachment points of the shoulder strap. On the bottom there are: the large black plastic door of the battery compartment, which must be slid to the left and then raised. A transparent plastic tab helps in the extraction of the batteries (2 PX-640 1.4v, mercury); the thread for use with the stand and the small chrome button to release the clutch for the recovery of the film. Weight 350g. batteries excluded. Length 113mm. Height 73mm. Depth 54mm.