

# MINOLTA HI-MATIC S

## 1978



Setup without self-timer

Serial Nr.715258  
Minolta Code 0454

### Characteristics and functions

The Minolta Hi-Matic S was presented in 1978 in 4 versions, all with a strictly Black finish. There are two "S" and "SD" versions: the latter with a date back. Both versions can be found in versions with self-timer or without self-timer. The SD version can be recognized by the writing "SD" in orange instead of yellow (S) and by the presence of a raised part on the cap, which contains the 3 wheels for adjusting the data to be recorded on the negative. This is the first Hi-Matic series camera to have a built-in electronic flash. 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 S is completely black with a central part in faux leather and an electronic flash that can be inserted by means of a slider that brings it out by 1.5cm. from its seat. The upper cap is occupied by the flash cover, on the left in the forward position; while on the right we find the chrome 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°. On the right side 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 support 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 on the far right there is the window for viewing the correct insertion of the film (an orange tab slides 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). On the front of the camera we find on the left the writing "Hi Matic" in white, with a yellow "S" underneath. 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 casing, it moves to the working position. To the right of the wording "Hi-Matic S" 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 white 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 in close-up shots and a large red LED lights up in the lower part to signal "insufficient light" and request the use of the flash. The word "Date" appears at the bottom right only in the SD model and only when the date back is enabled for writing on the negative. 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 ring runs around the lens with the distances in meters (0.8 - infinity) and in feet (2.6 - infinity) 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 battery compartment door (2 AA 1.5v) which are used to operate both the exposure 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 threads 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. The data refers to the "S" version without self-timer.