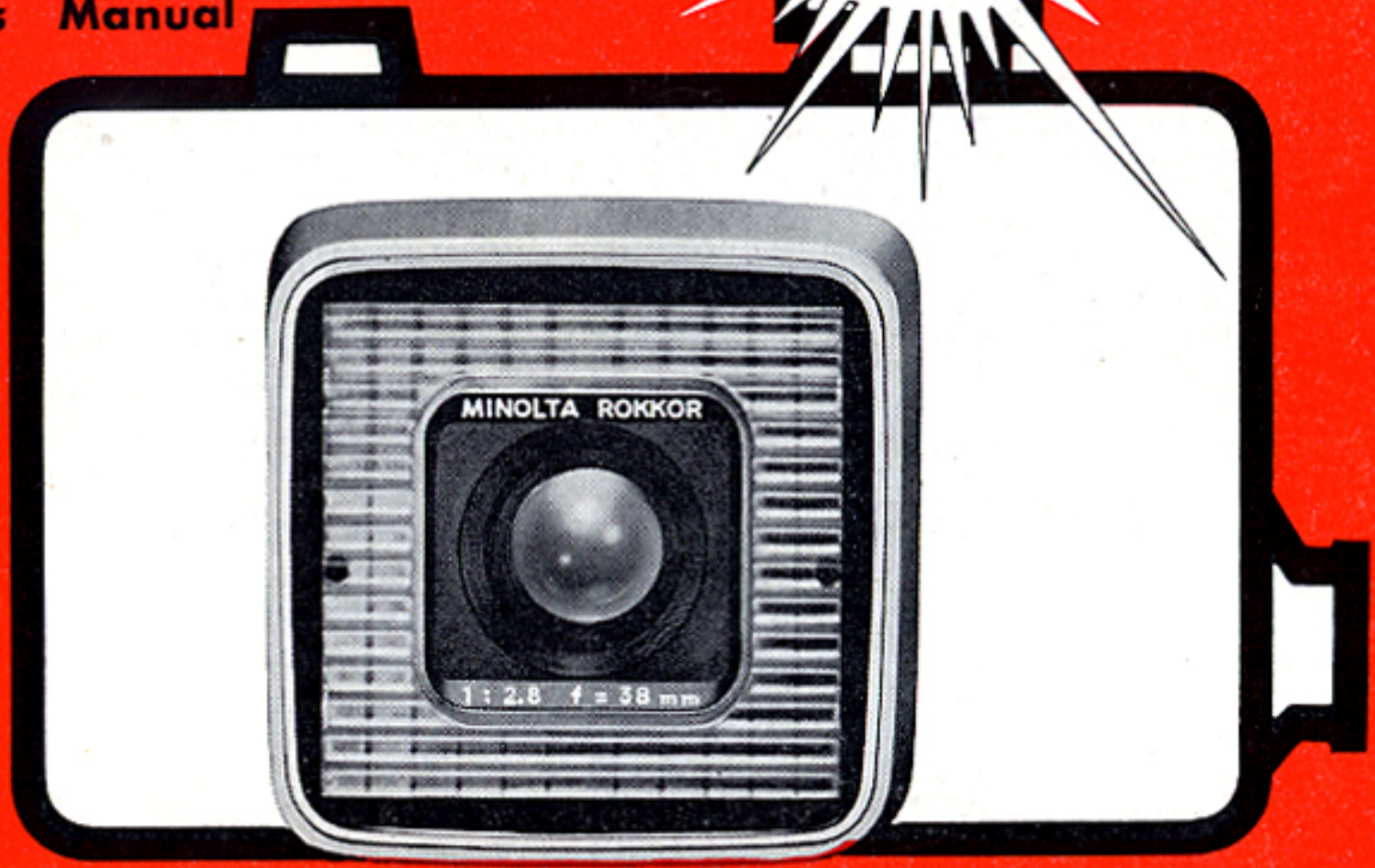
Minolta

AUTOPAK 500

Owner's Manual



E



Minolta

AUTOPAK 500

Your new Minolta Autopak 500 combines maximum operating speed, simplicity, and automation with built-in features to give you pictures equal in sharpness and fidelity to those taken with cameras costing many times more.

The Minolta Autopak 500 uses 126-size film cartridges for drop-in instant loading ..... plus flashcubes for ultra-fast flash photography. You are thus automatically assured of:

1. Instant, foolproof film loading and unloading.
2. Automatic setting of the exposure meter to correspond with the ASA rating of the film.
3. Automatic correct exposures in daylight and flash picture taking.
4. The convenience of 4-shot flash photography.

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MAJOR FEATURES OF THE MINOLTA AUTOPAK 500

Fully Automatic Electric Eye ..... sets camera for perfect exposure even if you never took pictures before.

Easy and Fast ..... the Minolta Autopak 500 is designed for use with drop-in 126-size film cartridges and 4-shot flashcubes.

Automatic Flash.....Camera automatically adjust itself for flash or normal photography. You can leave a 4-shot flashcube in place at all times.....it will fire only when necessary. An illuminated "USE FLASH" signal in viewfinder tells you when to install a flashcube if you have not already done so. After each flash, flashcube rotates automatically.

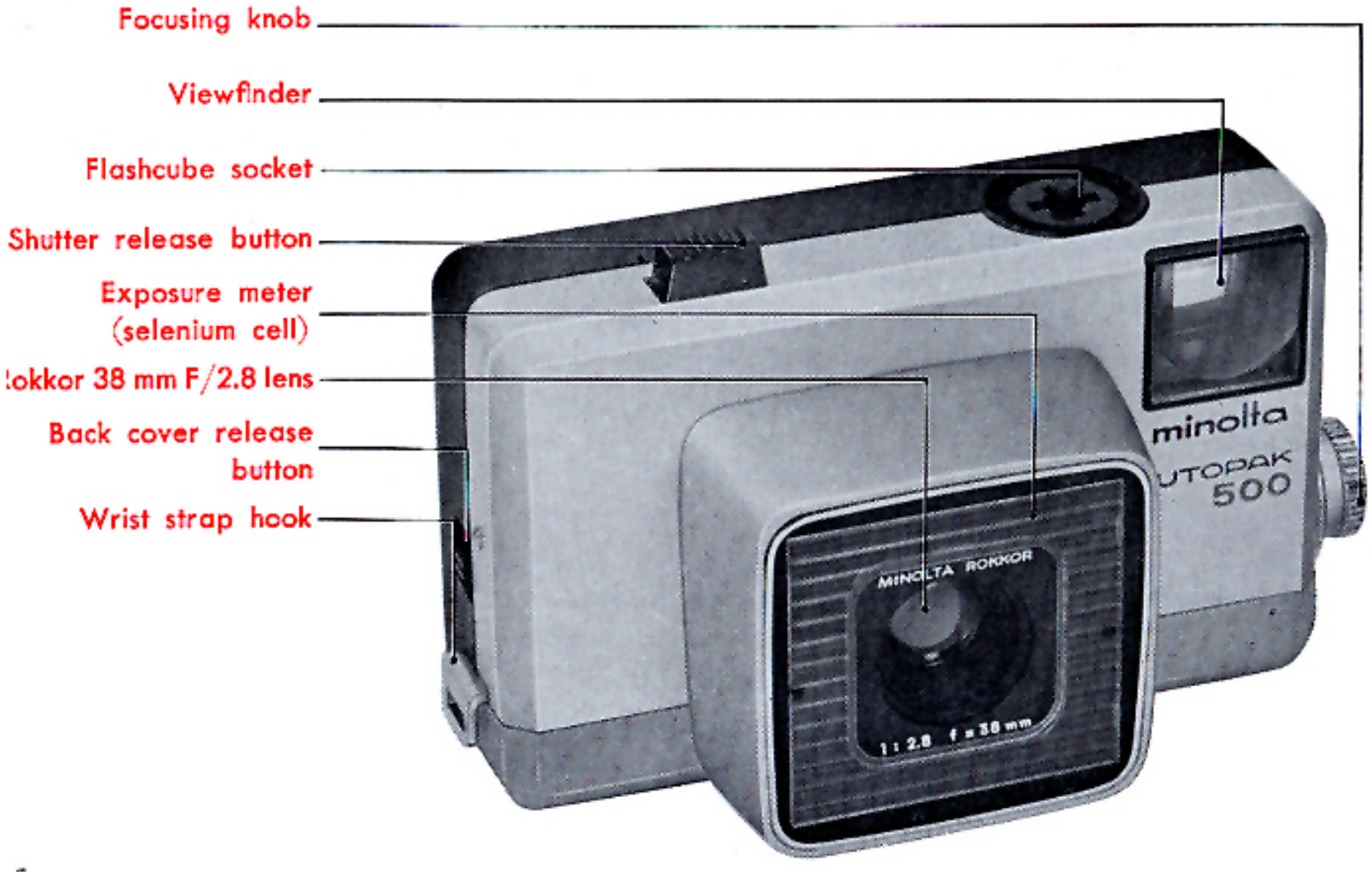
Automatic Shutter Settings ..... the Minolta Autopak 500 sets itself at high speed (1/45, 1/90 sec.) for normal shooting ..... at low speed (1/45 sec.) for flash photography.

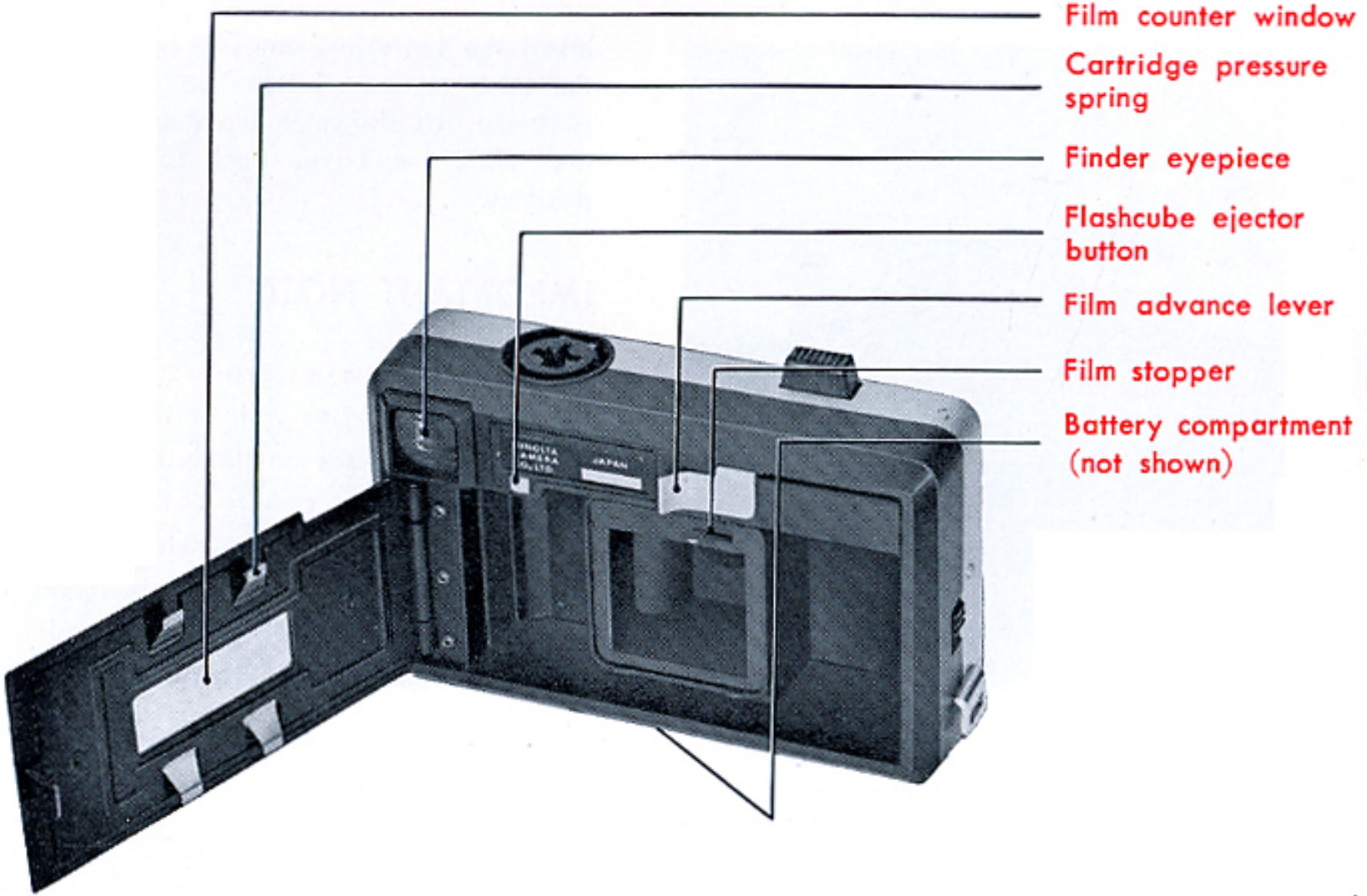
Simplified Focusing.....just 3 focusing symbols visible in viewfinder keep your picture sharp regardless of subject.

SPECIFICATIONS OF THE MINOLTA AUTOPAK 500

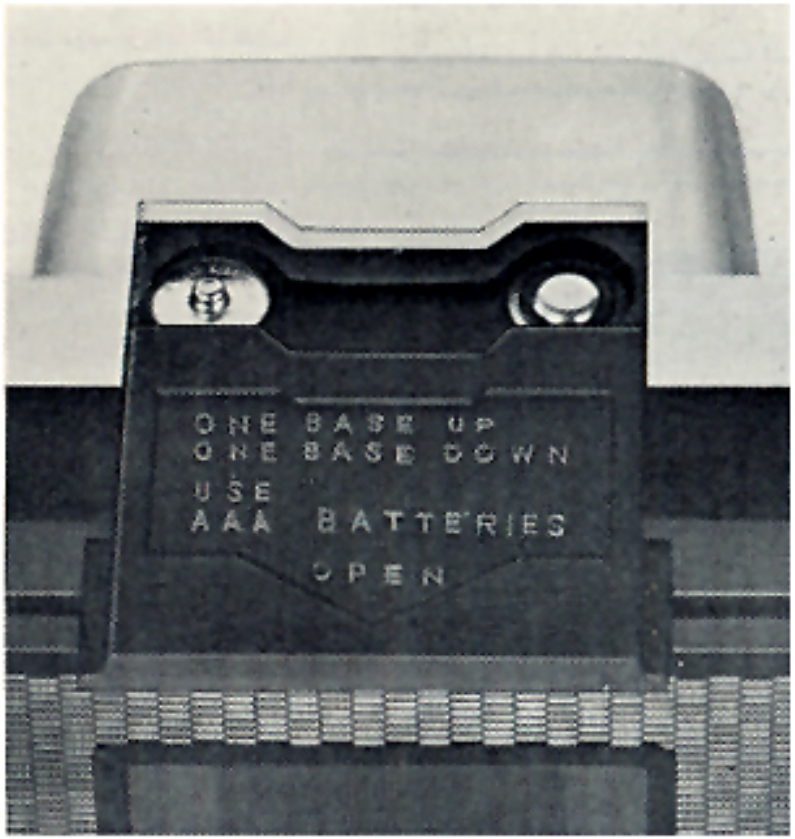
Type:	Automatic electric eye camera for use with 126-size instant-loading cartridges.
Picture Size:	28.5 × 28.5 mm with 12 or 20 exposure cartridges.
Lens:	Rokkor 38 mm F/2.8
Lens Construction:	4 elements in 3 optical groups.
Shutter Speeds:	1/45, 1/90 sec. for normal photography. Lens aperture is set automatically. 1/45 sec. for flash photography. When the subject to be photographed is insufficient light for proper exposure the shutter speed sets auto- matically.
Viewfinder:	Tinted bright frame viewfinder with parallax correction guides. Zone focus and flash range mark. Illuminated "USE FLASH" signal.
Focusing:	Zone focusing with 3 click-stops equivalent to 3.3 feet to infinity.
Exposure Meter:	Built-in selenium cell surrounds lens ..... coupled to lens aperture.
ASA Setting:	Automatic setting of film speed by cartridge.
Film Advance:	2 stroke winding mechanism.
Flash:	Built-in socket for flashcube with "auto-turn" mechanism.
Size:	4-5/8", 118 mm (wide) × 2-3/4", 71 mm (high) × 2-1/4", 57 mm (front to back).
Weight	12 oz. 339.6 g (including batteries and wrist strap)

PARTS NAME


Focusing knob
Viewfinder
Flashcube socket
Shutter release button
Exposure meter (selenium cell)
Rokkor 38 mm F/2.8 lens
Back cover release button
Wrist strap hook
minolta
UTOPAK
500
MINOLTA ROKKOR
1:2.8 f=38mm


Film counter window
Cartridge pressure spring
Finder eyepiece
Flashcube ejector button
Film advance lever
Film stopper
Battery compartment (not shown)

HOW TO INSERT BATTERIES



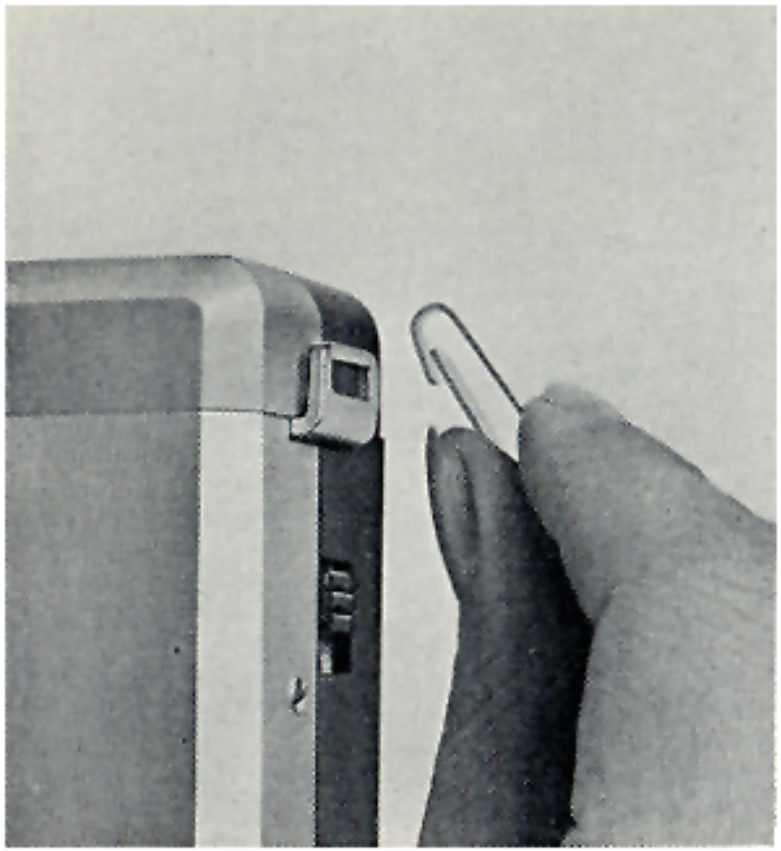
Your Minolta Autopak 500 uses two long life AAA, Alkaline 1.5 volt batteries.
(Mallory MN-2400 or equivalent)
To install them in the camera, simply slide the battery cover on the bottom of the camera in the direction of the arrow.

Insert the batteries, one plus side (+) "up" the other minus (−) side "up" in the compartment (as shown in the illustration) and then slide the cover back to its original position.

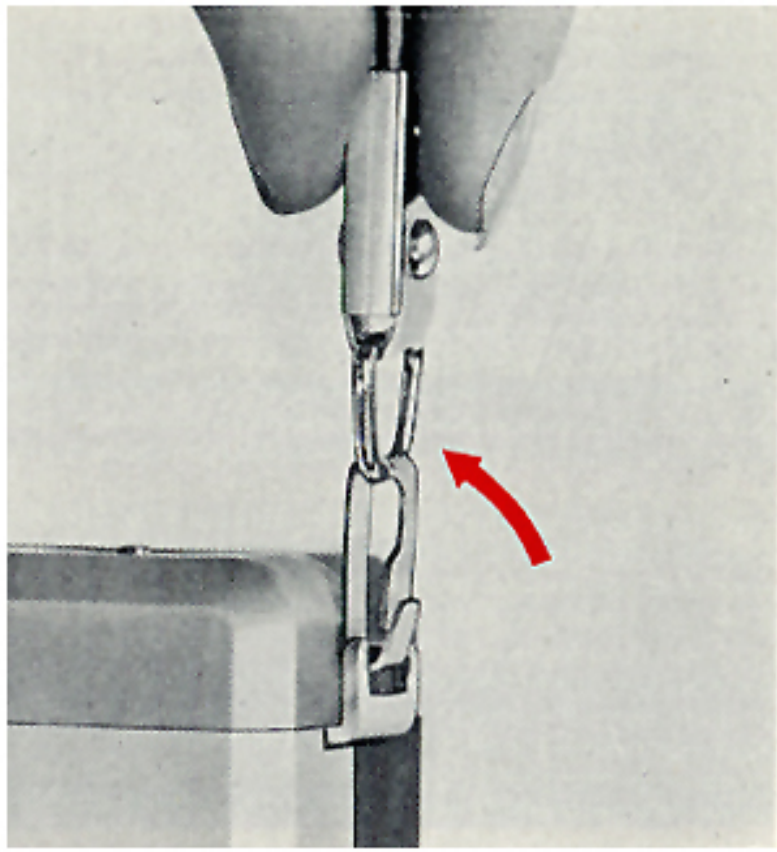
IMPORTANT NOTE

Remove all batteries from cameras when not in use. Batteries will, at times, give off a gas which causes an insulating corrosion to build up on the camera battery contacts. Such corrosion may be invisible and, to make sure, it is recommended batteries be cleaned with a soft cloth prior to placing them inside the camera body.

HOW TO ATTACH THE WRIST STRAP



a) Hold the camera up side down.
b) Attach the wrist strap downward as illustrated.



c) Turn over the hook in the direction of the arrow.

A QUICK GUIDE TO USING THE MINOLTA AUTOPAK 500



A. Loading the Camera

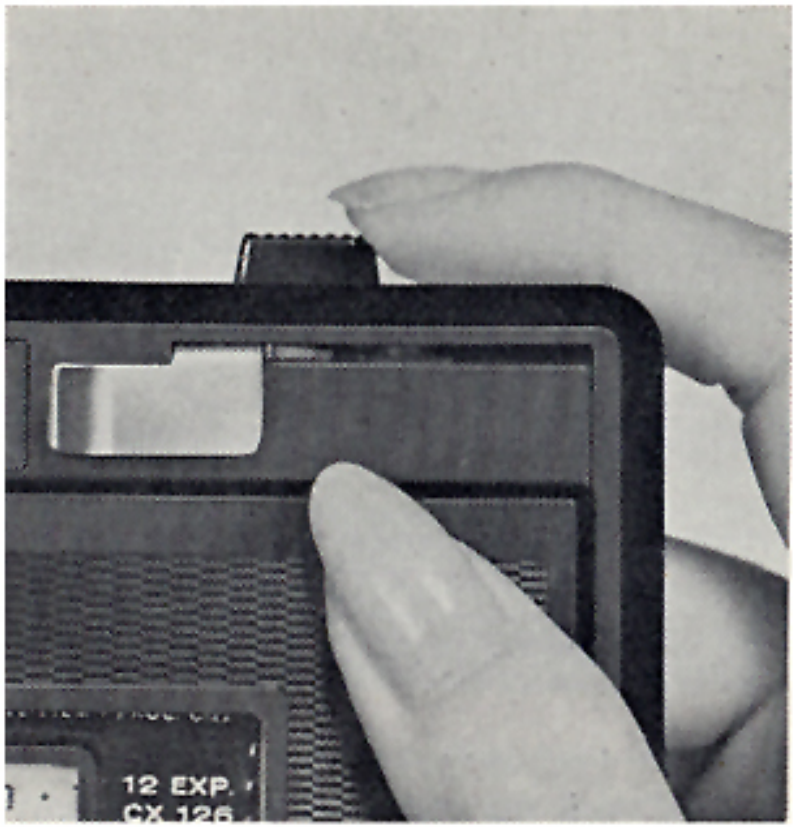
1. Open the camera back
2. Drop-in the cartridge
3. Close the camera back



B. Compose your picture in the viewfinder

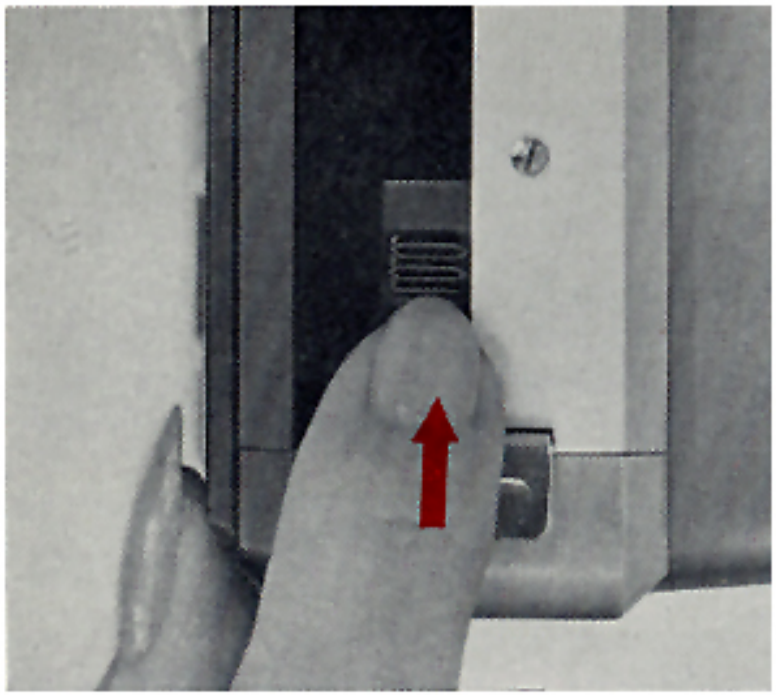


C. Set the distance
Turn the focusing knob for close-up, medium or long distance

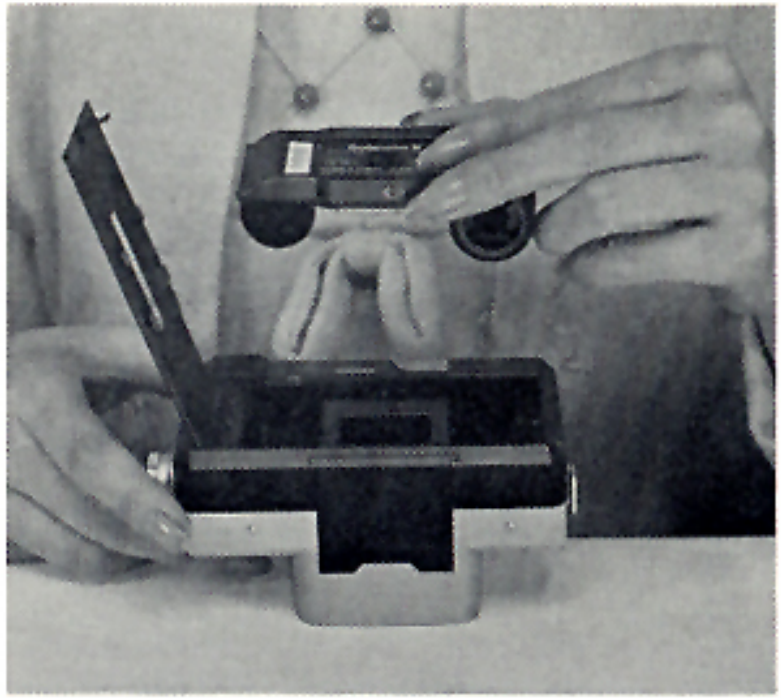


D. Press the shutter release

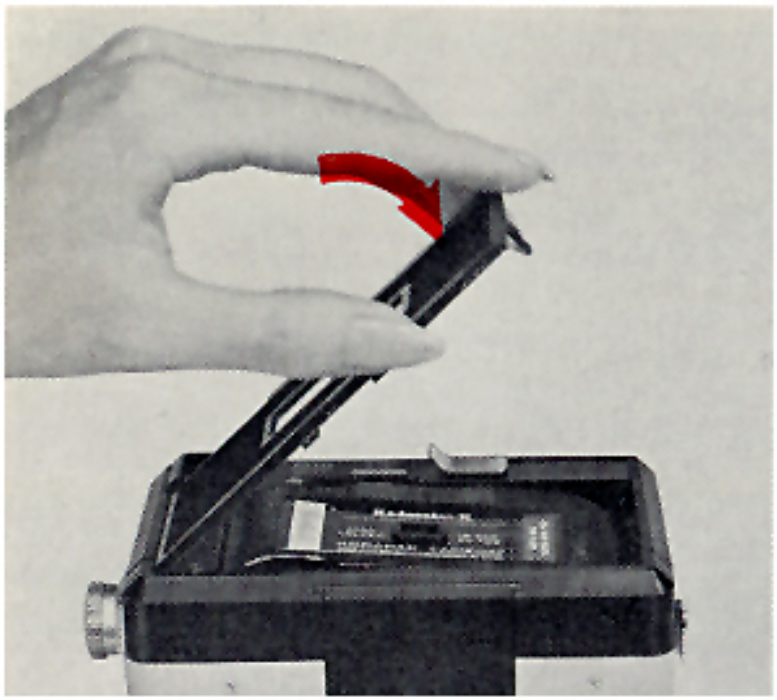
LOADING YOUR MINOLTA AUTOPAK 500



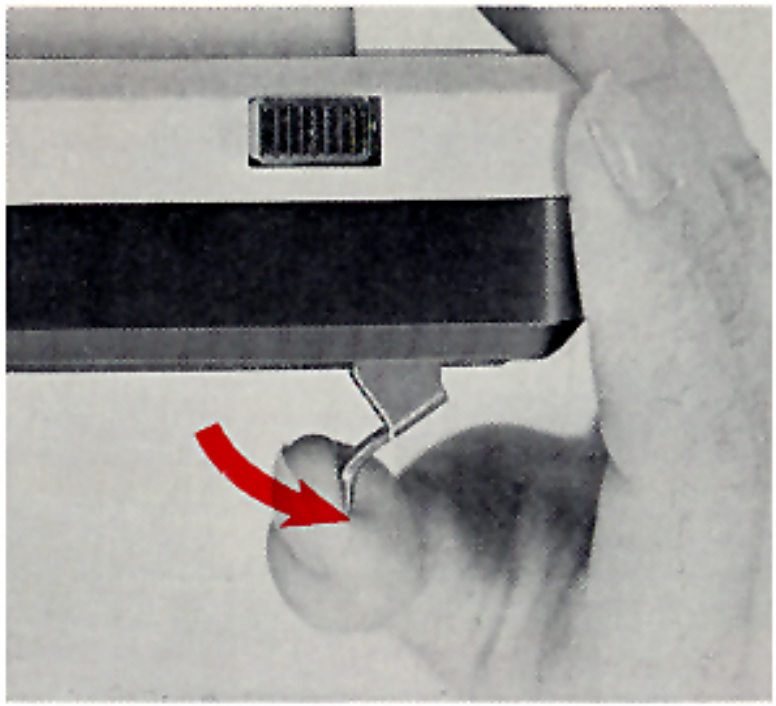
A. Slide the back cover release button "up" (on the right side of the camera) and the cover will automatically "pop" open.



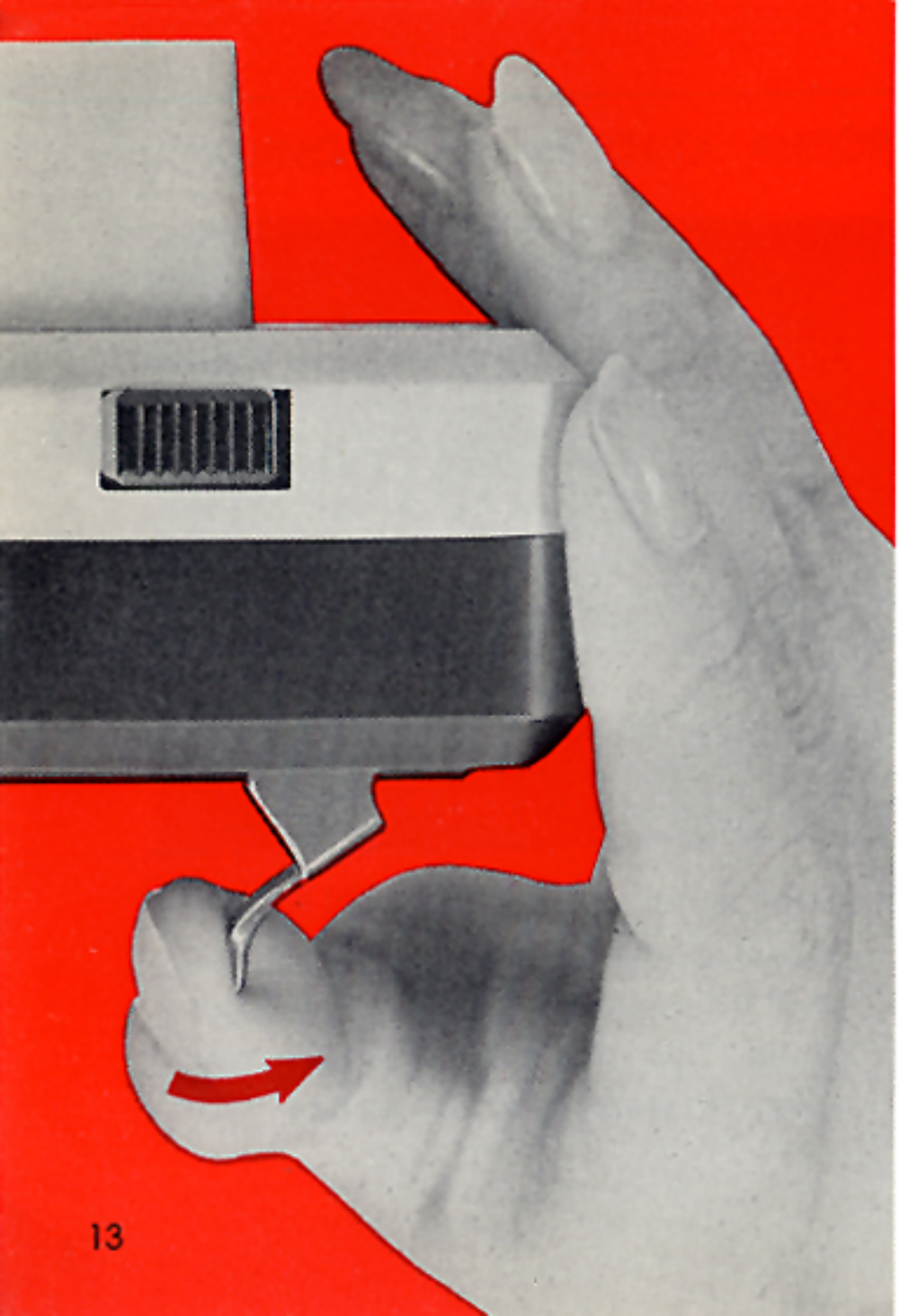
B. Place a film cartridge into the film chamber, as illustrated.



C. Close the back cover (it will lock automatically). The type of film and exposure number are visible in the "film window" on the back cover. (the film speed is now automatically set.)



D. Turn the film advance lever until it stops. Repeat this action until the lever locks. At this time exposure "1" will appear in the "film window". You are now ready to shoot your first picture.



FILM WINDING

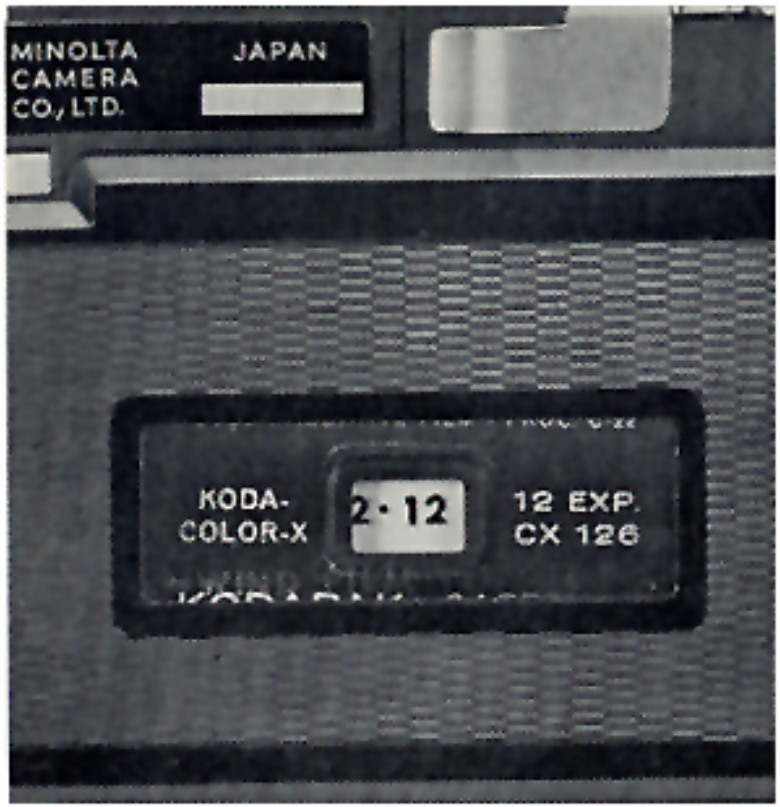
By turning the film advance lever the film is advanced inside its cartridge.

NOTE

Two strokes are required to advance the film fully. This action also automatically cocks the shutter.

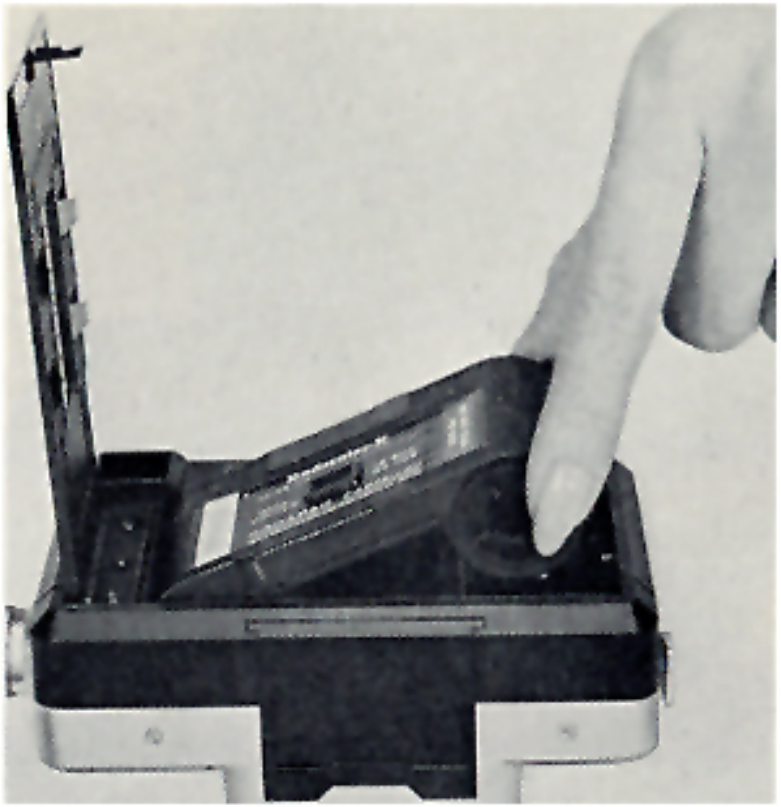
If the film advance lever stops half-way, when opening camera back, you can turn it by pressing down the film stopper.

UNLOADING



A. After the last exposure either 12 or 20, depending on the type of film your are using, advance the film lever several times until the remaining film and paper backing are transported through the film window into the cartridge.

B. Open the back cover.



C. Remove the film cartridge and close the camera back. The cartridge falls easily into your hand when the camera is turned over.

CAUTION :

Do not remove the film from its cartridge!
Do not break the film cartridge !

NOTE :

The number that appears in the film counter window on the camera's back cover shows the exposure number. (The same number may appear in duplicote).

After each picture is taken, operate the film advance lever until it locks (two strokes). Disregard the exposure number which appears in the film counter window.

Do not remove the film cartridge from the camera until all the film and backing paper has been transported into the film cartridge and is no longer visible in the film window.

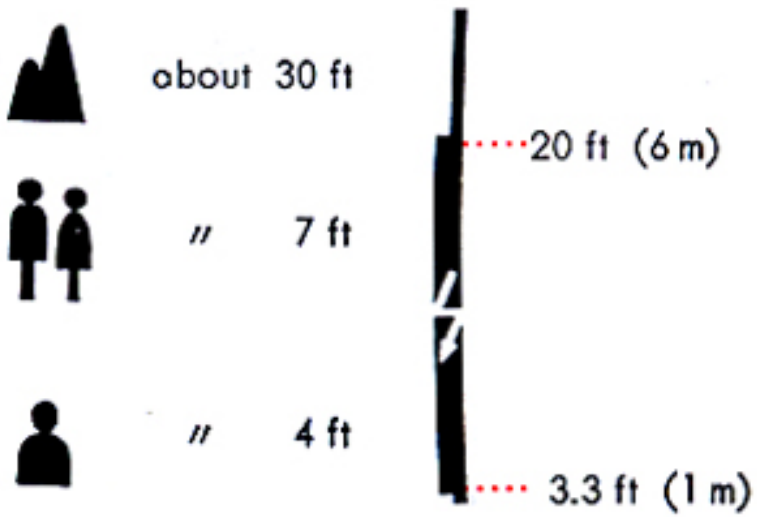
HOLDING YOUR MINOLTA AUTOPAK 500

A good picture depends on many factors ..... one of which is the proper holding of the camera. If your grip is unsteady or if you press the shutter release button too quickly, the movement of the camera can ruin your photograph.

It is best to hold the camera horizontally. This position assures you of a better, firmer grip. It is also advisable to hold the camera firmly against your face and to release the shutter gently. Be sure your fingers do not obscure the exposure meter window or the lens.







COMPOSING YOUR PICTURE

Viewfinder ..... as you look through the viewfinder you will see a bright, yellow frame surrounding its outer edge. What you see within this frame is the actual image you will get on film.

When taking a close-up picture, parallax (the difference between what the viewfinder "sees" and what the lens "sees") will require that you compose your picture inside the lumi-marks provided. Use the hook mark seen in the upper left corner and the short lines in the upper right and lower left corners as guides to the edge of your picture.

Simplified Focus and Flash Range Mark

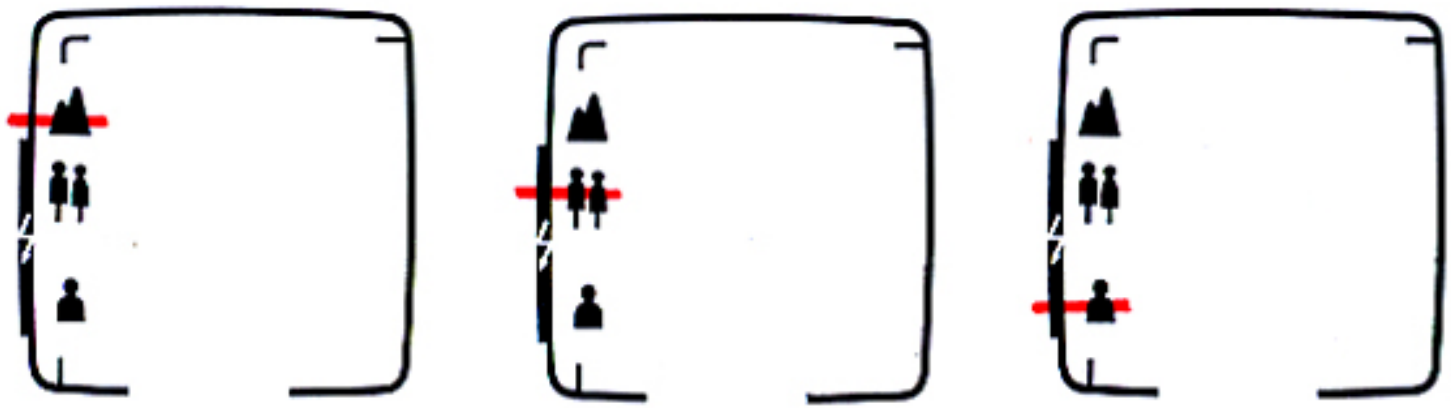
You will also see symbols in the viewfinder for distance/focus settings which are made by turning the knob on the left side of the camera until the needle in the viewfinder is aligned with the proper symbol.

Flash picture taking is possible within the range of "Flash working range mark".

PICTURE TAKING

A. **Electric Eye Photography** The size of the lens opening is automatically controlled by the amount of light reflected by the subject to the electric eye.

1. Compose your picture in the viewfinder.

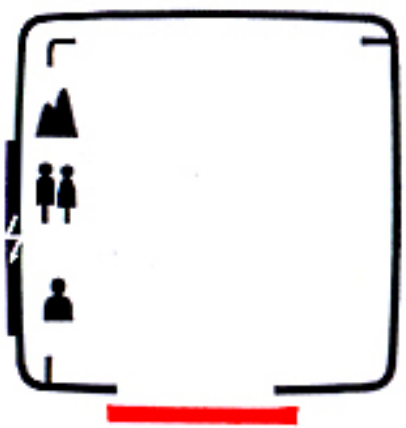


2. Three focus settings can be used: Close-up, medium or long distance. For the close-up setting (single figure symbol), the subject should fully fill the viewfinder from about the waist-up.
The medium setting should be used when you are able to sight a full standing figure with only a small, clear area at the top and bottom of the viewfinder. (two-figure symbol). The long distance setting (mountain symbol) should be used in shooting scenic pictures.
After you decide which setting should be used simply turn the focusing knob until the indicator needle in the viewfinder is aligned with the correct symbol.

3. Release shutter

After you have composed the picture in the viewfinder and set the focusing distance, you are ready to shoot. Be sure to press the shutter release slowly (to avoid camera movement) until the button is flush with the camera body.

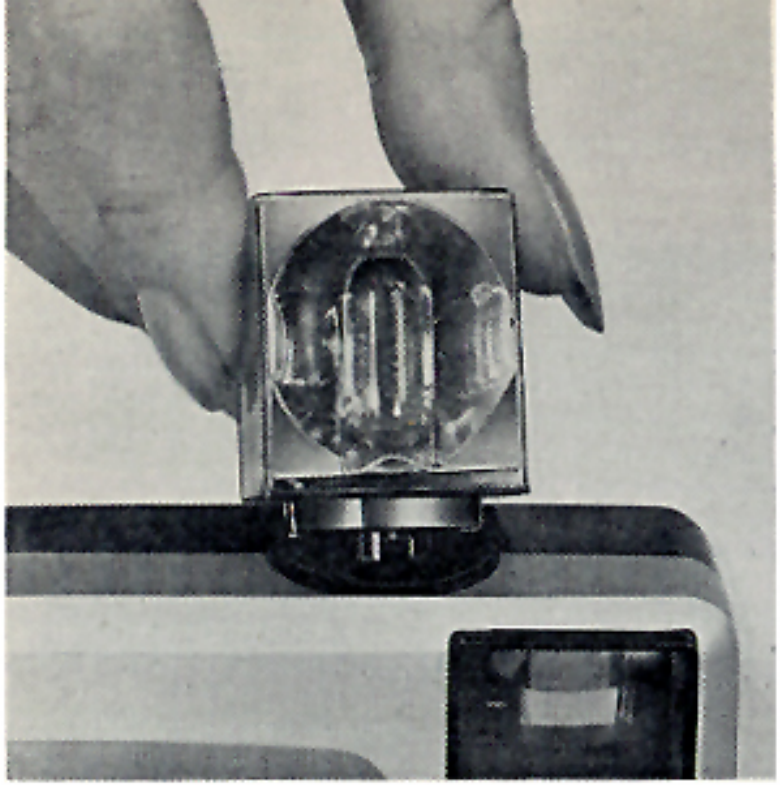




4. Illuminated "USE FLASH" Signal

When light is insufficient for a proper exposure without flash, the "USE FLASH" signal in the viewfinder will light up.

This is an indication for you to use a flashcube. You can check to make sure there is sufficient light by depressing the shutter release button about 1/4 of its total distance.



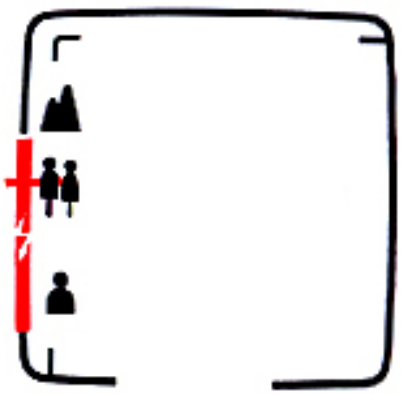
B. **Flash Photography**

Flash pictures are as easy to take as outdoor picture.

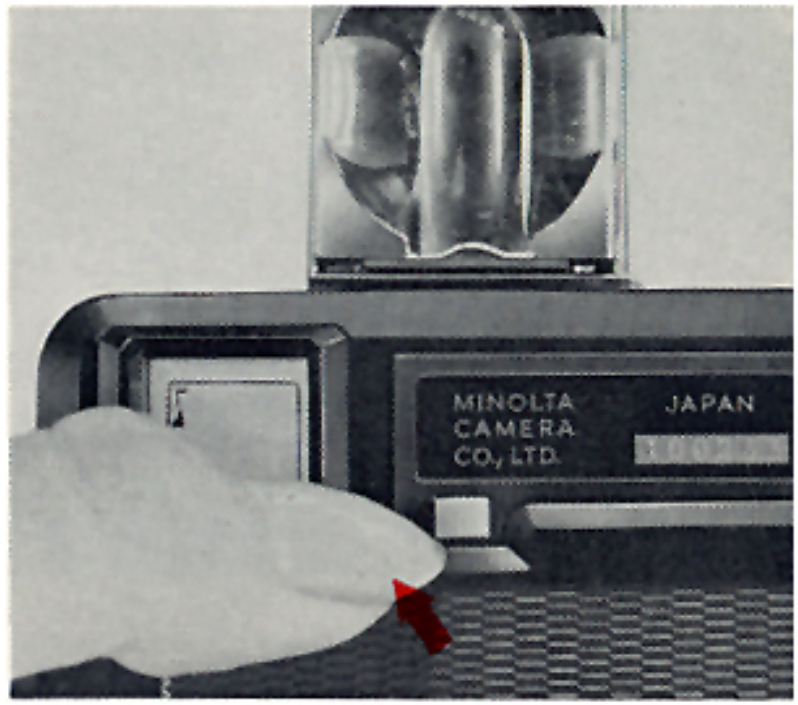
When lighting conditions are insufficient for proper exposure the electric eye exposure control is automatically changed for flash photography. At the same time, the "USE FLASH" warning lamp lights up and the shutter speed is automatically changed to 1/45 sec.

1. Attach the flashcube by placing it in the flashcube socket and pressing down until it "clicks".

2. Set the focus by turning the focusing knob, the proper lens opening is set automaticolly for flash photography by setting the focus (flashmatic mechanism) and as long as the needle is within the flash working range mark, the proper exposed flash picture can be obtained.
The camera to subject distance must be between 3.3 ft. (1 m) and 20 ft. (6 m) for proper flash exposure.







3. Shutter release.....you are now ready to shoot your picture. After each flash, a new bulb automatically rotates into the taking position.

NOTE: If the subject to be photographed has enough reflected brightness, the flashcube will not fire. Instead, the automatic mechanism and shutter will operate at 1/45, 1/90 sec. at to optimum aperture. This feature is exclusive in your Minolta Autopak 500 and prevents wast-ing flashcube.

4. To remove a used flashcube, press the red ejector button on the camera back.

MAINTENANCE AND CARE OF YOUR MINOLTA AUTOPAK 500

Be sure not to touch the camera lens. If this is accidentally done, wipe it gently with a clean, soft cloth.

If the camera is not to be used for an extended period of time, be sure to remove the batteries.

When storing the camera, keep it where temperature and humidity are relatively low. Also, do not store the camera near chemicals which contain salt. It is advisable to keep the camera in an air-tight container together silica-gel (drying agent).

Minolta

MINOLTA CAMERA CO., LTD

P50-806 IE

Printed in Japan