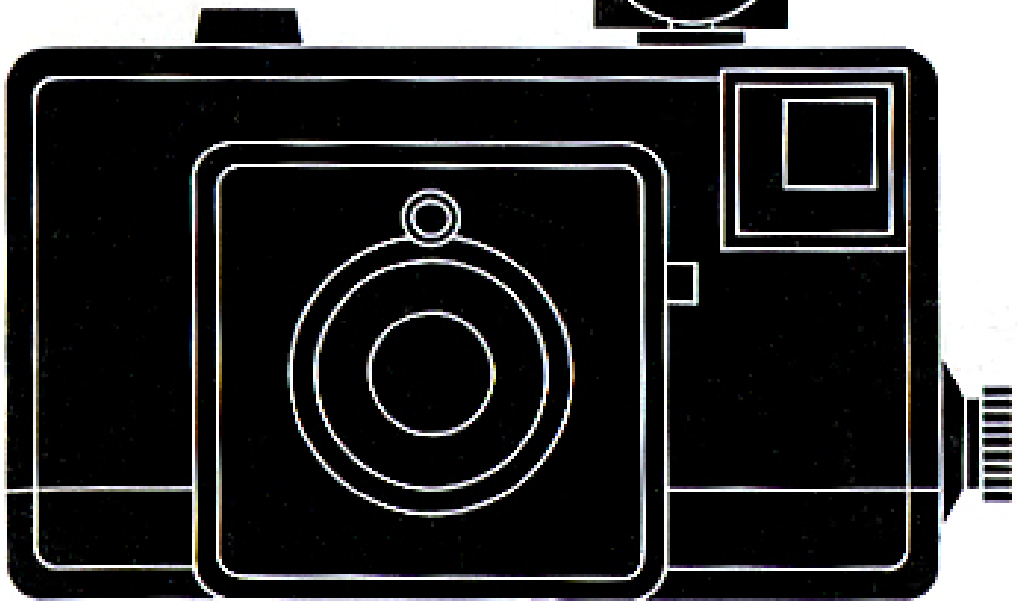
MINOLTA AUTOPAK 550



OWNER'S MANUAL

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WELCOME TO THE MINOLTA FAMILY OF FINE CAMERAS

Your new Minolta Autopak 550 will give you maximum operating speed and outstanding ease of operation. And your pictures will have the sharpness and fidelity that you'd normally expect only from cameras costing many times more.

The Minolta Autopak 550 uses 126-size film cartridges for easy, instant drop-in loading. It uses modern flashcubes for ultra-fast flash photography. The camera's sensitive CdS (electric eye) exposure meter is set automatically to correspond with the film's ASA rating and will choose the correct exposure for regular or flash photography. And will provide you with the convenience and ease of 4-shot flash photography.

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MAJOR FEATURES

PERFECT EXPOSURES EVERY TIME: A fully automatic CdS electric eye sets the camera for you. No worry, nothing to do.

EASY AND FAST: The Autopak 550 was created for fun . . . and with simple drop-in 126-size film cartridges plus 4-shot flashcubes all you have to concentrate on is the fun.

AUTOMATIC SHUTTER SETTINGS: Your camera will select a high speed shutter setting (1/90 sec.) for normal picture-taking . . . a low speed (1/45 sec.) for flash photography. You just snap the shutter.

AUTOMATIC FLASH: The camera decides when to use flash. You can leave a 4-shot flashcube in place at all times . . . the camera will fire it only when the flash is needed. If there's no flashcube in place and one is needed, a red signal tells you to install one.

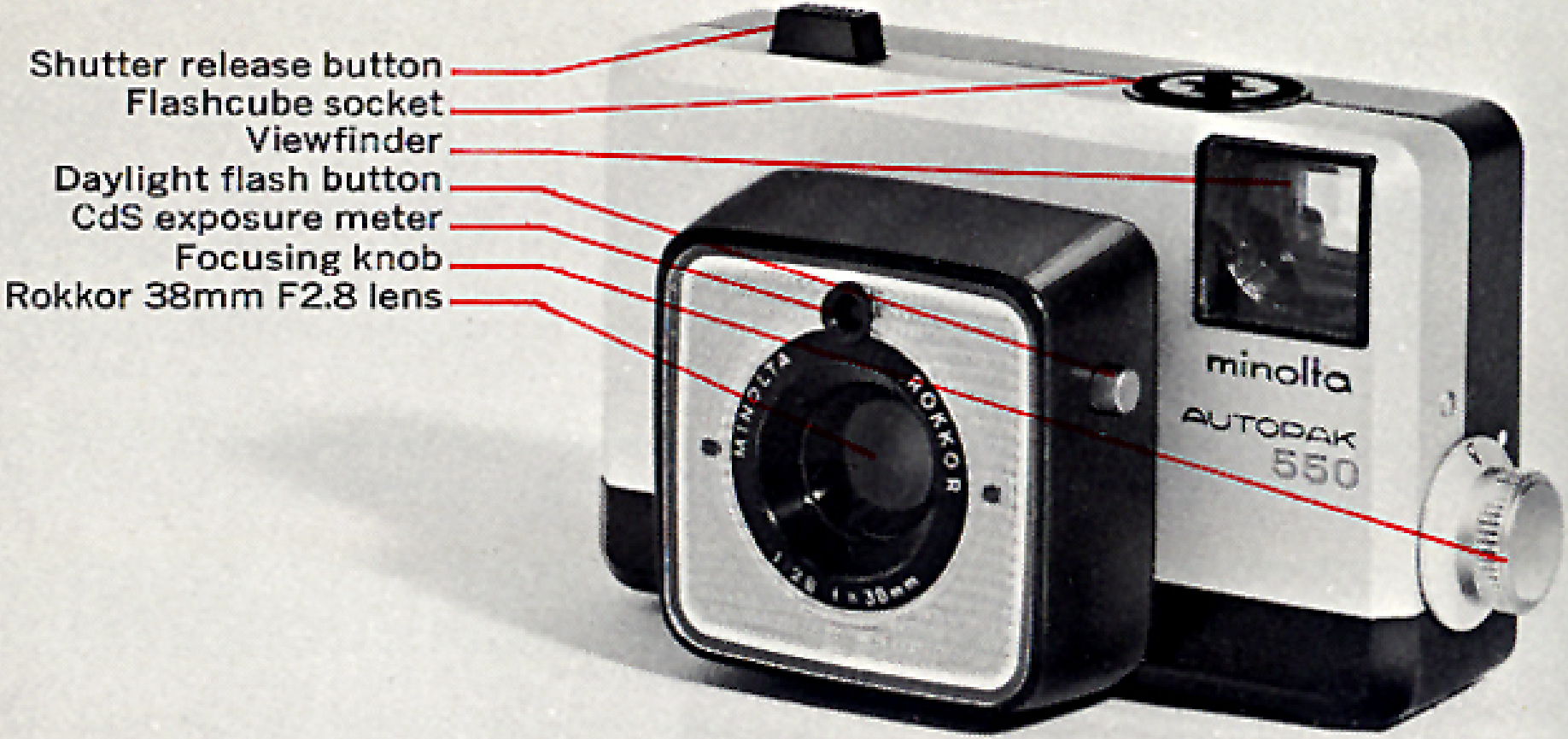
SIMPLE AND EASY FOCUSING: For sharp, wonderful pictures, no matter the conditions, focusing is so easy: just turn a little knob to match one of three symbols in the viewfinder—the camera does the rest.

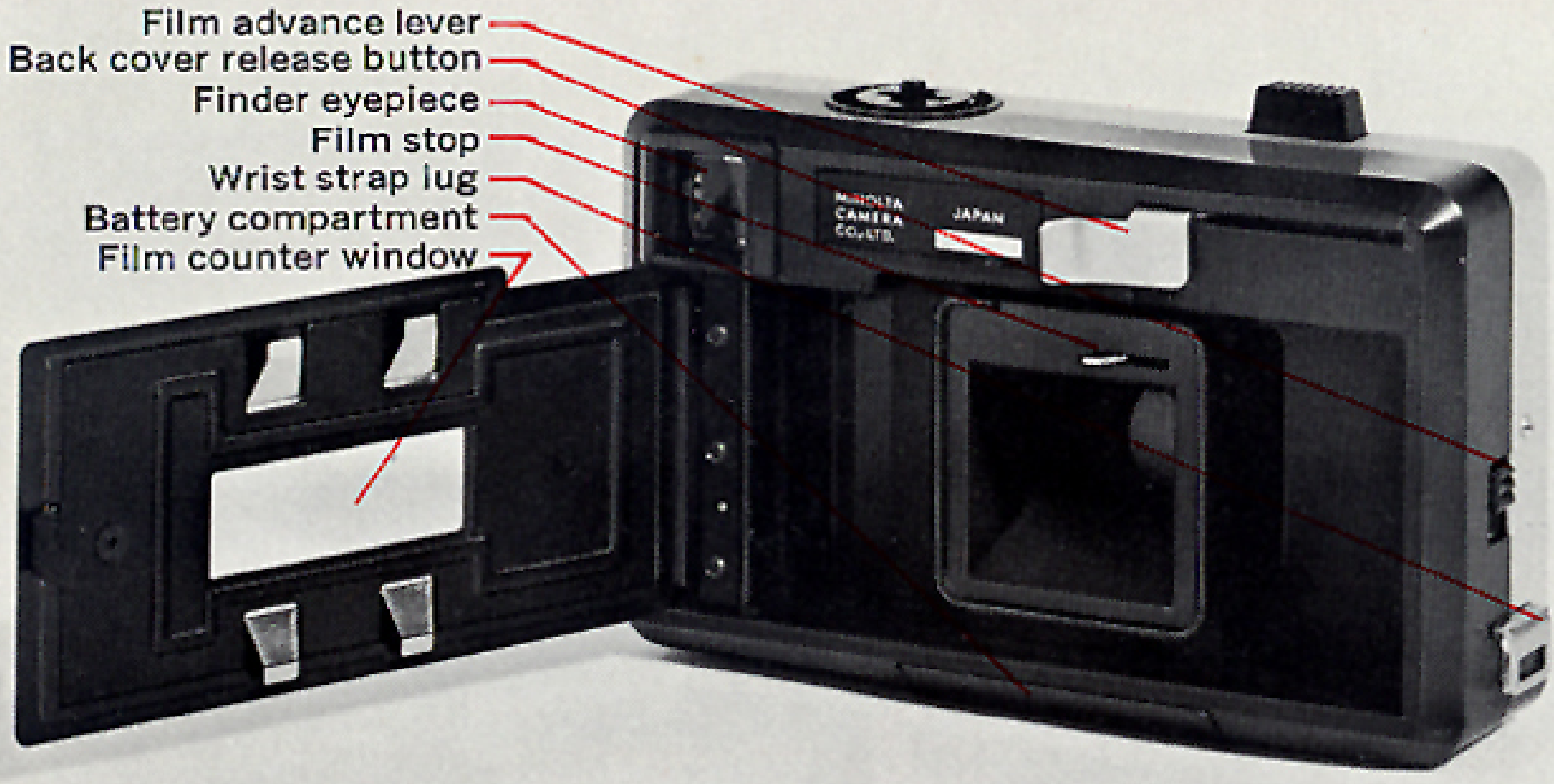


SPECIFICATIONS

Type:	Automatic electric eye camera using 126-size instant-loading film cartridges.
Picture size:	28.5×28.5mm with 12- or 20-exposure cartridge.
Lens:	Rokkor 38mm F2.8, 4 elements in 3 groups.
Shutter speed:	1/90 sec. for normal photography; lens aperture is set automatically. When subject is insufficiently lighted for EE exposure, shutter speed is automatically reduced to 1/45 sec. for flash.
Viewfinder:	Tinted bright-frame viewfinder with parallax correction guides, zone focus, flash range marks and illuminated red use-flash signal.
Focusing:	3 zone-focusing click stops from 3.3 feet to infinity.
Exposure meter:	Built-in CdS cell above lens, coupled to 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:	4⅝″ (118mm) wide, 2¾″ (71mm) high, 2¼″ (57mm) thick.
Weight:	12 oz. (339.6 gr.) including batteries and wrist strap.

THE PARTS OF YOUR NEW MINOLTA AUTOPAK 550




Film advance lever
Back cover release button
Finder eyepiece
Film stop
Wrist strap lug
Battery compartment
Film counter window
JAPAN

HOW TO INSTALL THE BATTERIES

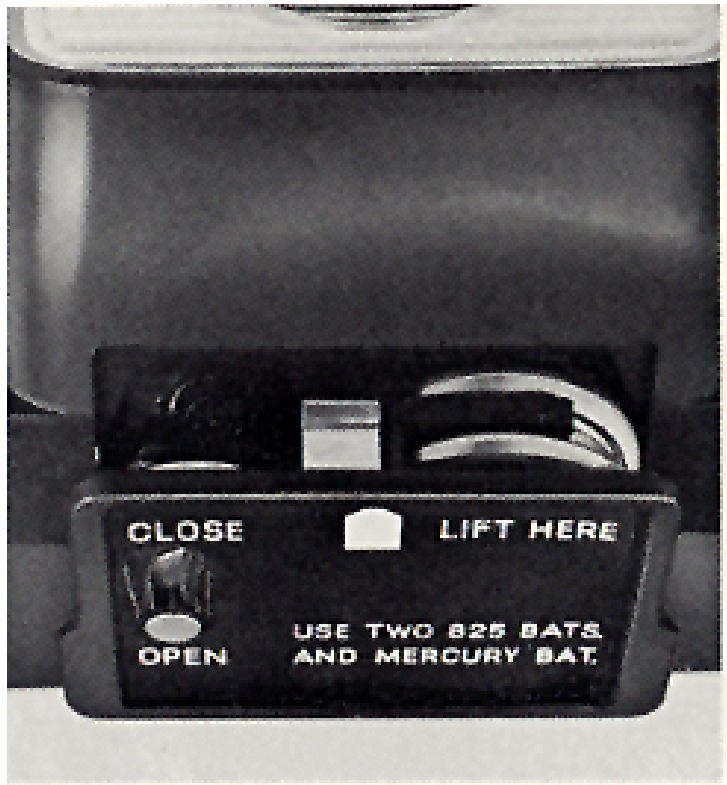
Your Minolta Autopak 550 uses two 1.5 volt button-type 825 batteries plus one 1.3 volt RM625R mercury battery. Your camera comes equipped with one set of these.

Before installing batteries, always use a rough cloth to clean the battery surfaces.

The battery compartment is on the bottom of the camera. Move the button to the "OPEN" position and remove the cover entirely.

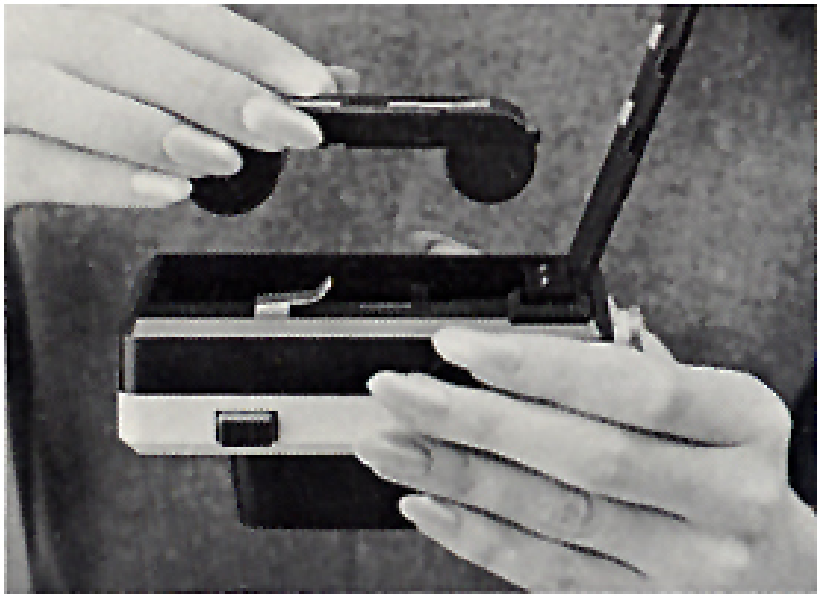
Insert the two 825 batteries as shown in the larger locations and the RM625R battery in the smaller holder. Make sure the positive (+) sides are showing.

Replace the battery compartment cover and move the button to the "CLOSE" position. If it doesn't close easily, don't force it—check first to see if the batteries are in proper position.



FINE PICTURE-TAKING: AS EASY AS 1-2-3-4

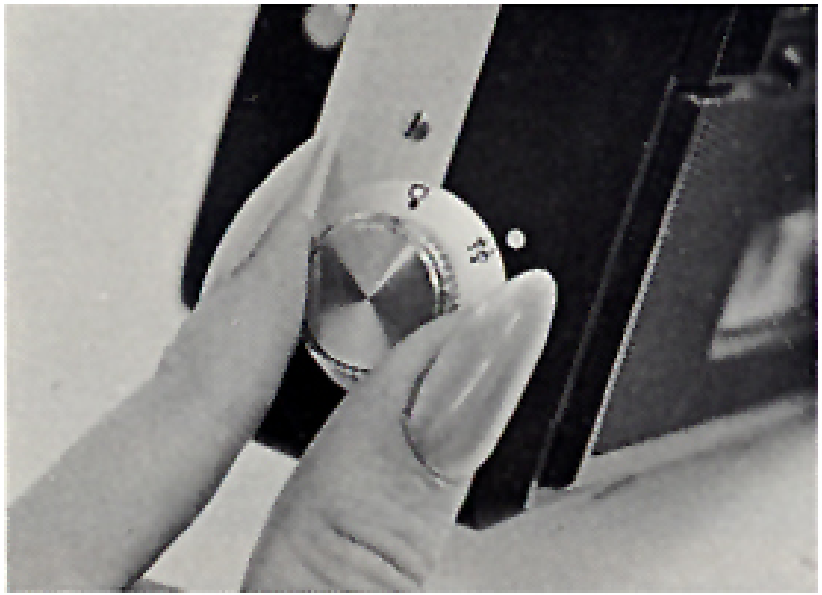
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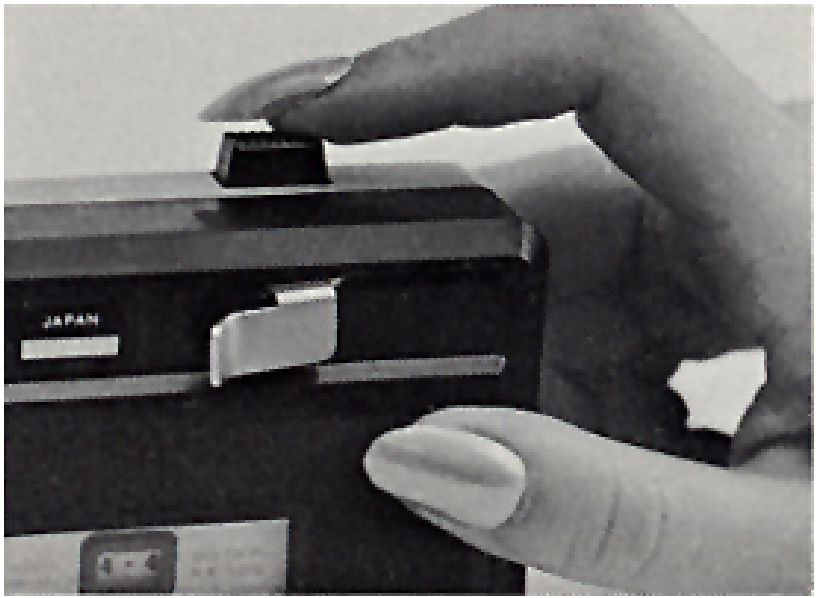
Load the camera—snap open the camera's back . . . drop in a film cartridge . . . snap the back closed.



Compose your picture in the viewfinder.



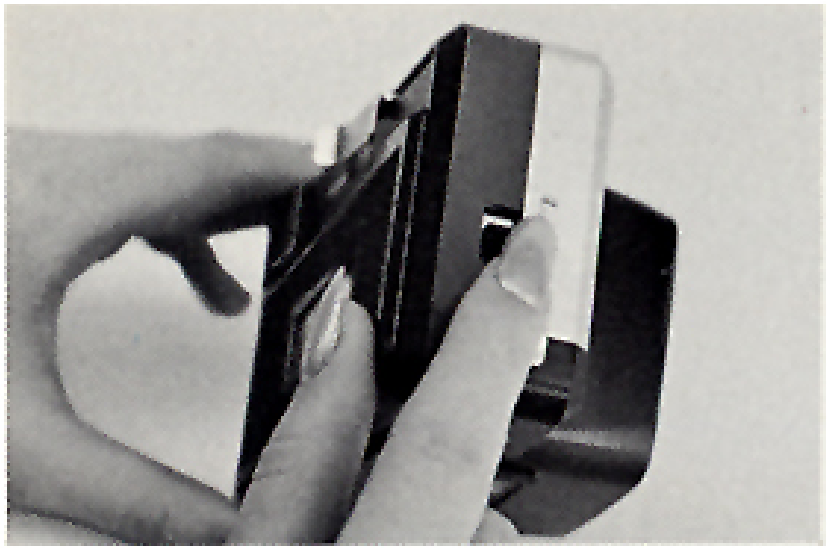
Focus by turning the focusing knob until the needle matches the symbol for the kind of photograph you're taking: close-up, medium-range or distant.



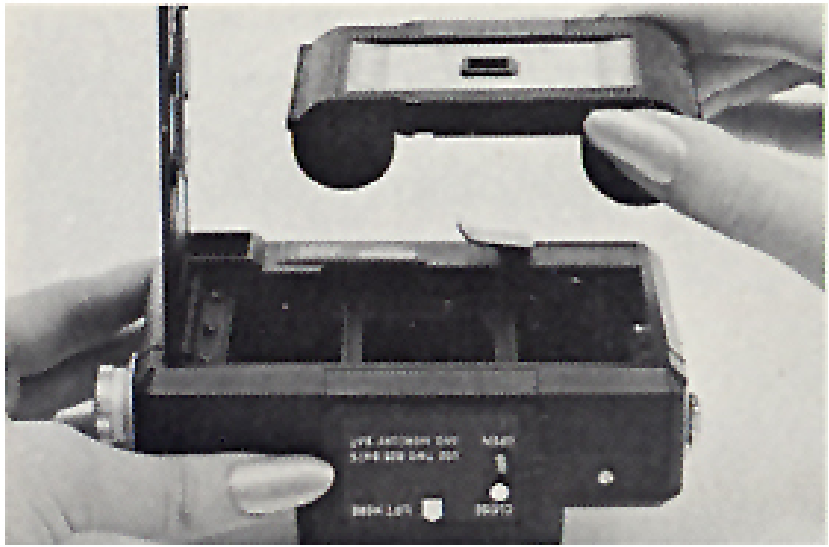
Press the shutter release. That's it—you've taken a fine picture!

LOADING YOUR CAMERA: FOUR SIMPLE STEPS

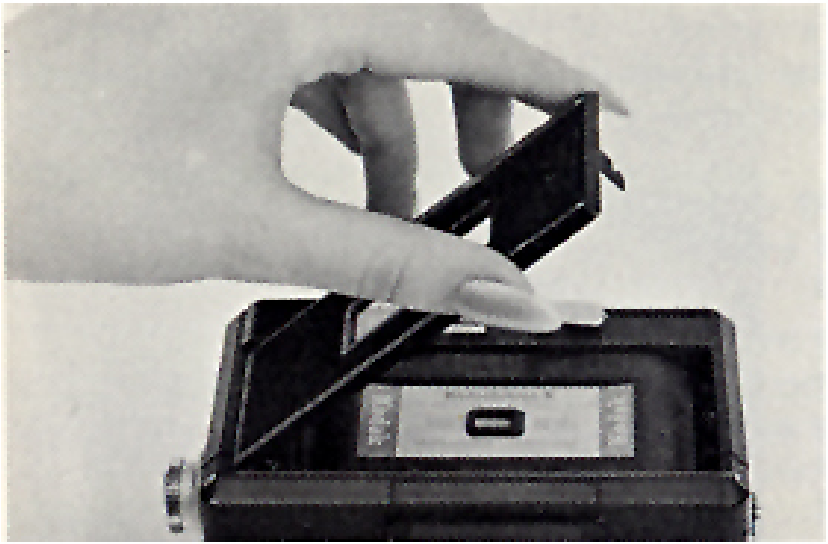
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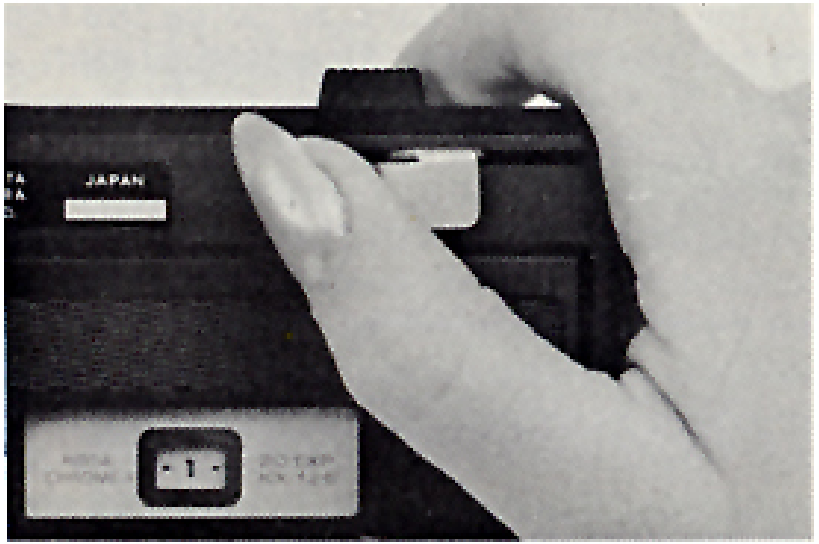
1. Slide the back cover release button up . . . the cover opens automatically.



2. Drop in a film cartridge as shown.



3. Close the back cover firmly . . . it will lock with a "click". Film type and exposure number can be seen through the little window.



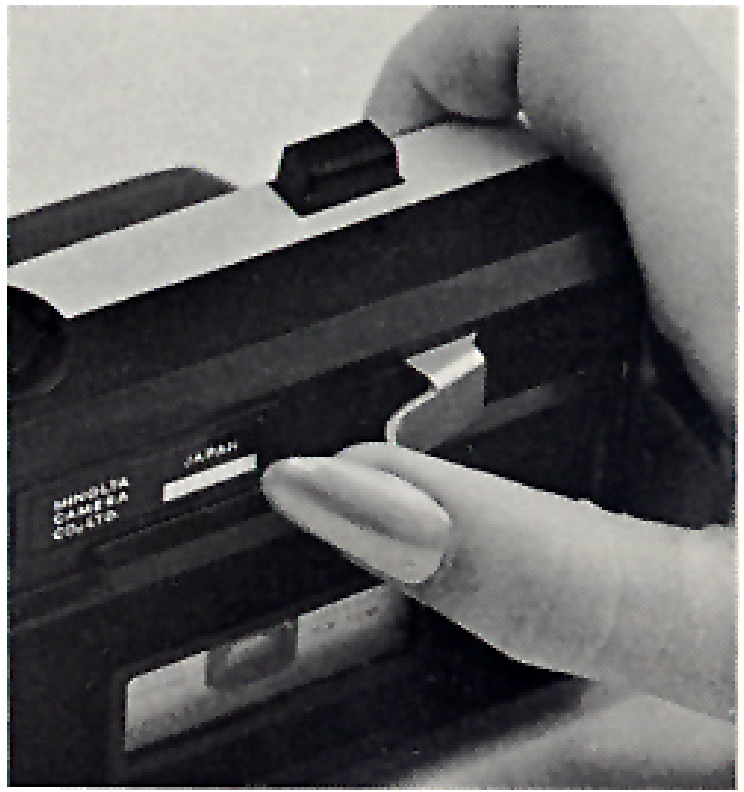
4. Advance the film lever as many times as necessary until exposure No. 1 appears in the window. Once the lever stops, do not force it. You're ready to take your first picture!

WINDING THE FILM

14 After taking a picture, advance the film lever *two full strokes* in the direction shown until it locks. This action advances the film and cocks the shutter for the next exposure.

The picture frame number appears in the window on the back of the camera. The same number will appear several times in a row, and the exact placement in the window is unimportant. After each exposure, you must operate the film advance lever twice until it locks.

At the end of a film cartridge, the advance lever may lock part way through a stroke. If this happens, open the camera, push down the film stop button inside and continue to turn the film advance lever.

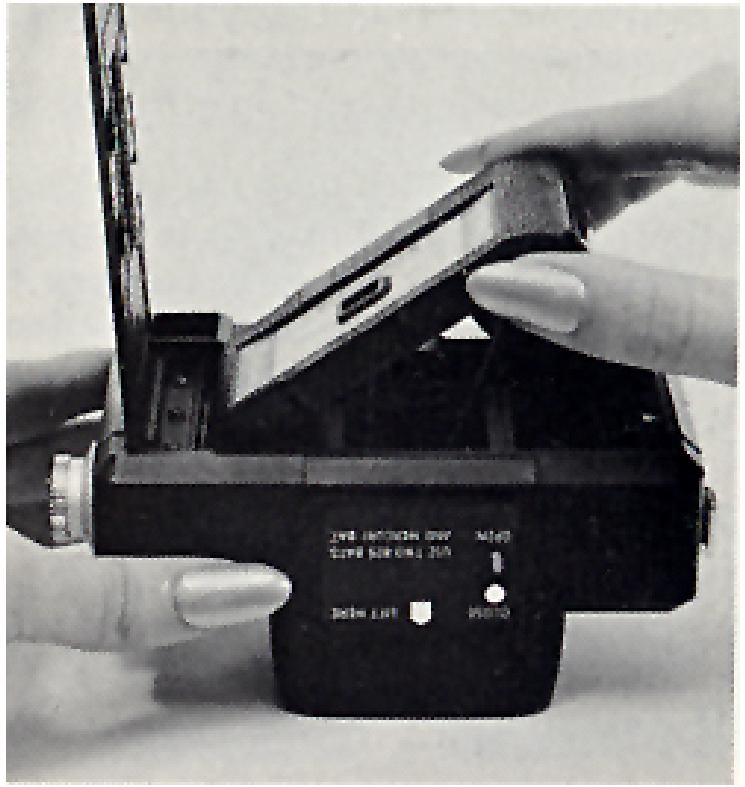


UNLOADING YOUR CAMERA

When you've taken the last exposure (No. 12 or No. 20), advance the film lever repeatedly until you can no longer see the film or its paper backing in the window.

Open the camera and lift out the film cartridge. *Do not try to remove the film from its cartridge.*

Never open the camera or remove the film cartridge until the film has been completely wound up, and you can no longer see the film or backing paper through the window.



HOLDING YOUR CAMERA PROPERLY

16 A little care in holding your camera correctly will assure better pictures.

The camera should not move while you're taking a picture.

Make sure that you are standing perfectly still . . . and that your grip is steady.

It is best to hold your camera horizontally bringing it firmly against your face to steady it. Press the shutter gently with a slow, steady squeeze.

Make sure that your fingers don't cover the exposure meter or the lens.



FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE HINTS FOR FINE PICTURES EVERY TIME

COMPOSE YOUR PICTURE: Look through the viewfinder. You'll see a bright, yellow frame. What you see inside this frame is what you'll get on film. Because of parallex—the difference between what the viewfinder "sees" and what the lens "sees"—take care that your subject (especially on close-ups) is entirely within the frame.

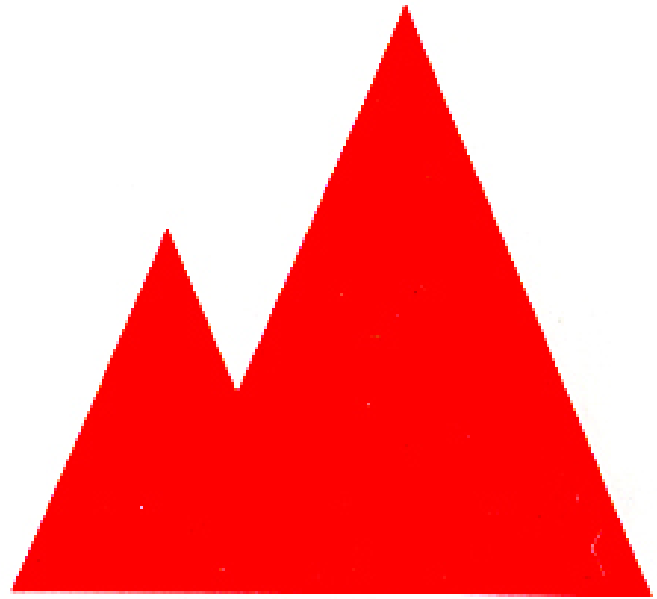
Use the curved line in the upper left corner and the short straight lines in the upper right and lower left corners as guides for the edges of your picture.



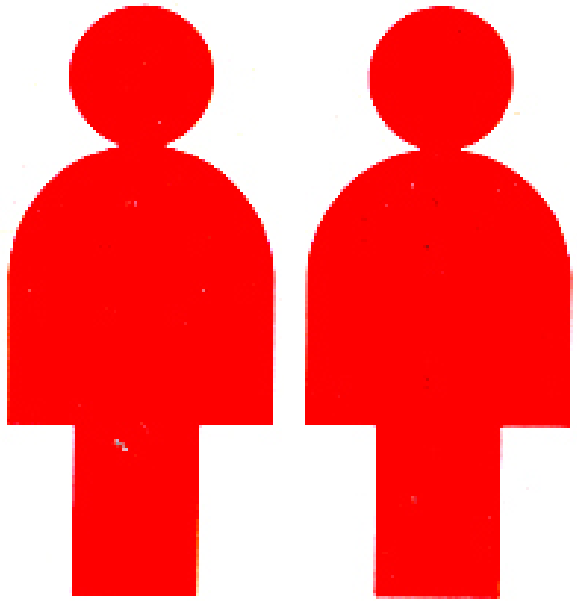
ELECTRIC EYE PHOTOGRAPHY: The size of the lens opening is automatically controlled by the amount of light available, the precision electric eye (CdS) of your camera does this for you. You just select the right distance for the proper focus.

FOCUS SELECTION: Focusing your camera is as easy as can be. Simply turn the focusing knob on the side of the camera until the needle in the viewfinder matches the type of picture you're taking.

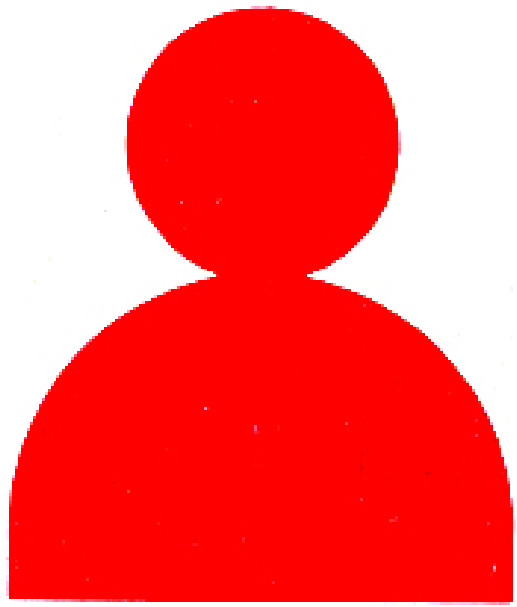
SNAPPING THE SHUTTER: Press the shutter release button all the way down, taking care not to move the camera as you do so.



DISTANT: For taking scenic pictures, at a distance of 30 feet or more.



MEDIUM: This setting should be used when you can sight a full standing figure with only a small, clear area at the top and bottom of the viewfinder. About 7 feet from your subject.



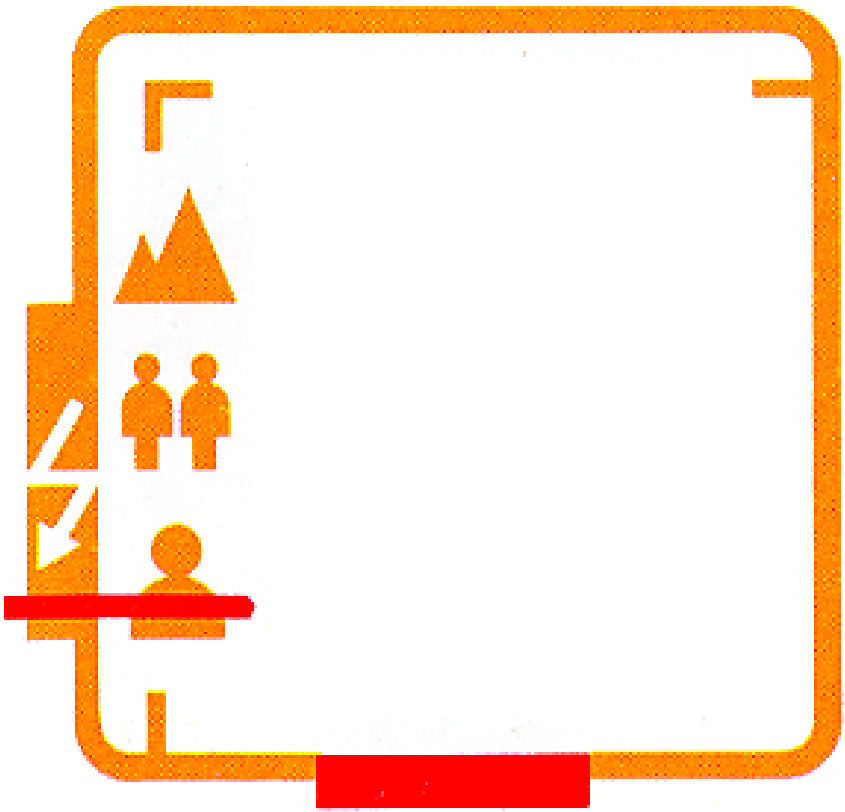
CLOSE-UP: Your subject should be at a distance of about 4 feet, and fully fill the viewfinder frame from about the waist up.

FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY

Flash pictures are easy to take. Your camera will tell you when you don't have enough light for your picture without using flash: A red line appears at the bottom of the viewfinder. When this signal appears, your camera is automatically set for flash photography, if a flashcube is in place. All you have to do is set the proper focus and snap the shutter.

1: Put a flashcube into the socket, push down until it clicks. The cube will rotate automatically after each flash.

2: In the left side of the viewfinder is a heavy line with a crooked arrow symbol in it, this indicates the range of settings for flash photography. The lower portion sets the camera for flash shots at about 3.3 feet, the top part of the line is the outer range of effective flash use, or about 20 feet. The camera-to-subject distance should be within this range.



3: You can keep a flashcube in place at all times. If light is sufficient for proper exposure without flash, the cube will not fire. This is an exclusive feature of your Minolta Autopak 550. To check if you need flash, depress the shutter button *slighty* and look for the red signal in the viewfinder.

4: To remove a flashcube, take it out of the socket by pulling directly up.

22 **NOTE:** There may be times when you'll want to use a flash even though the viewfinder signal says it is not necessary. To do that, press the daylight flash button located on the left side of the lens barrel. This cuts off the light striking the electric eye and connects the flash circuit. Continue holding this button in, set the proper focus distance and take the picture.



CARE AND STORAGE OF YOUR MINOLTA AUTOPAK 550

Your Minolta is made for long, care-free service. But there are a few things that you should do.

Never touch the camera lens. Should the lens become dirty, clean it with a soft, lint-free cloth, using a gentle motion.

If you don't plan on using your camera for a long period of time, it is best to remove the batteries from the camera.

Store your camera in a cool, dry place away from dust or chemicals. An airtight container that has a drying agent like silicagel in it would be ideal.

We hope that you'll enjoy your Minolta camera.

If you have any questions, ask your Minolta dealer. He's well-trained in all aspects of photography. And he can help you with all of your photographic needs.

If you ever want another camera, we hope you'll take a look at the wide range of Minolta products—there's a Minolta for every amateur and professional use... all famed for their precision workmanship and the craftmanship of Minolta-made Rokkor lenses.

Should you ever have any comments or suggestions, we would be happy to hear from you.

Minolta Camera Co., Ltd. 18, 4-chome, Shiomachidori, Minami-ku, Osaka, Japan



Minolta

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