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HOW TO USE  
THE

# *Solida*

I and II

ROLLFILM-  
CAMERA

6 x 6

2 1/4 x 2 1/4 INCHES

*W*e thank you for the confidence you have bestowed on our products by acquiring the "Solida" camera.

For well-nigh 40 years we have been manufacturing cameras, and our experience in camera construction gained over such a long period will not disappoint you.

Furthermore, your dealer will be glad to assist you with his advisory service so that you will achieve beautiful pictures.

Before you begin operating your camera, kindly read carefully the instructions while practising the several manipulations at leisure. This will save you many a disappointment und annoyance. Under no circumstances attempt to correct trouble yourself or by force. Almost invariably matters will thus be aggravated.

**Franka-Werk**  
**Camera-Works establ. 1910**  
**Bayreuth**

## Loading the Camera

The "Solida" is constructed for roll films B II or No. 120. Never use any other films.

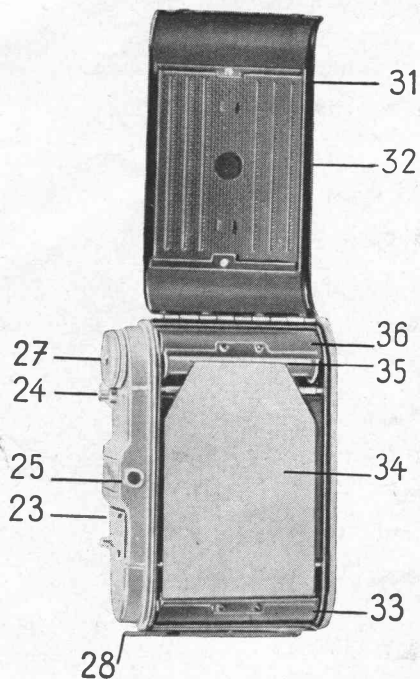
### Opening of Back of Camera:

Push the flanged end of back lock (28) in direction of arrow and fold back (31) up in its hinges.

### Inserting Film:

Pull out the film winding knob (27) and swing upward the film spool carrier (36) that has the shape of a half cylinder. Place an empty spool in the spool carrier (36), hereby inserting the pin on the right of the spool carrier into the round aperture of the spool. The slotted side of the spool must face the film winding knob (27). Swing out the half cylinder of the lower film chamber (33) and place a new film in it in such a way that the pointed end of the protective paper (34) points to the upper spool. The black side of the protective paper must face the lens. Break the adhesive strip of the film, pull out somewhat the beginning of the protective paper and swing the spool carrier back into the spool chamber.

Bring up the pointed end of the protective paper (34) into the wider slot (35) of the upper empty spool so that



Picture 2

it protrudes from the narrower slot. Fold the upper spool carrier (36) with the empty spool back into the spool chamber; for this purpose it is necessary to pull out the film winding knob (27). Turn this film winding knob (27) in the direction of the arrow until its catch clutches the slot of the empty spool, hereby enabling the film winding knob to spring back into its former position.

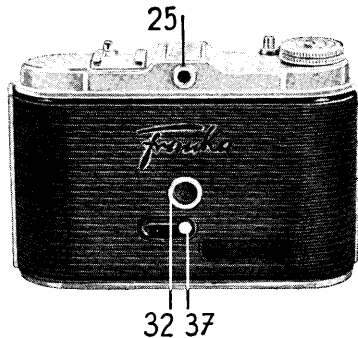
Wind 2—3 layers of the protective paper onto the empty spool (35), and mind that the film paper is running absolutely straight without crumpling at the edges of the spool. Now, fold up the back (31) with the lock (28) catching.

Wind the film farther until dots become visible in the film window (32) and now wind cautiously until the number 1 bis appearing. Then the film is ready for the first exposure.

After taking a picture, it is advisable to move the film at once to the next number.

### Removing the Exposed Film:

After the last exposure turn the film winding knob (27) until no more of the protective paper is visible through the film window. Then open the back (31), wind the film tight upon the spool and close it with the attached adhesive strip. Pull out the film winding knob (27), swing the spool carrier with the full spool upward and take the film out.



Picture 3

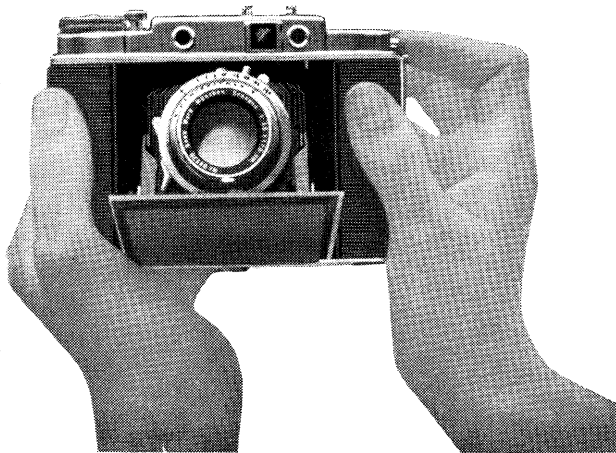
**Changing the Empty Spool:** Take the empty spool out of the lower film chamber and insert it into the upper filmchamber as described above.

### **Protective Lid for Panchromatic Films**

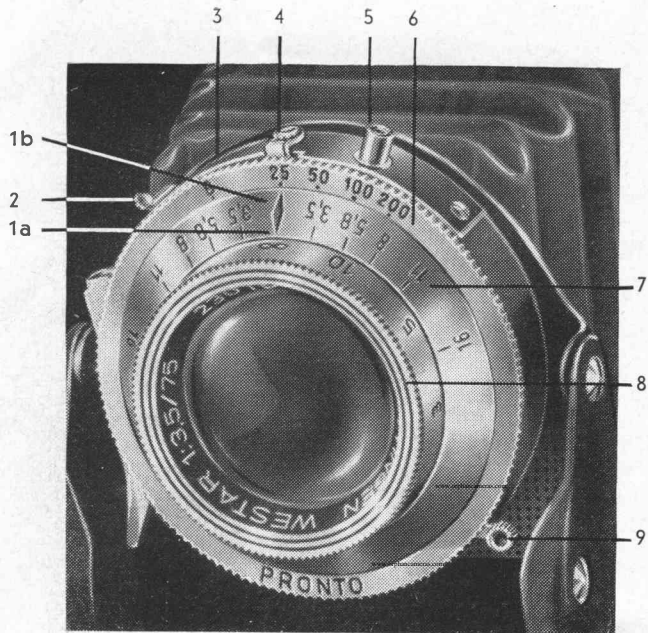
The sensitiveness of the panchromatic film is so great that the intrusion of light for hours or days through the red film window might possibly make the film hazy. Therefore the camera is equipped with a device to cover the film window. This cover ought to be kept shut all the time and should be opened merely in order to control the numbers while moving the film by pushing upward the small button (37) on the back of the camera.

### **Opening of camera**

After pressing the button (26) the base-board (22) will fly



Picture 4



Picture 5

open. Pull down the base-board (22) until both struts click audibly into the notch, or else the base-board will not be fast and the lens is not in the correct distance from the film. This may cause unsharp pictures.

## The Lenses

### Focussing the lens:

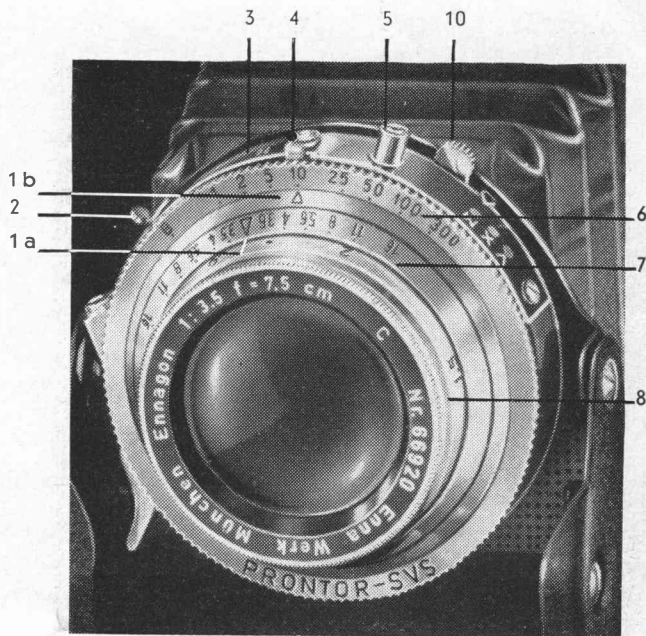
Turn the lens mount so that the stop hand (1a) points to  $\infty$ ; thus the camera is focussed for "infinity", that is for distances beyond 50 feet. For objects of a lesser distance the adjustment is effected by setting the mount of the front lens on the desired number of feet.

Judge, or better measure, the distance between the object and the camera, and make the actual number of feet tally with the stop hand (1a) on the lens. If the ascertained distance, for instance

7 feet, is not indicated on the mount, then set the front lens in such a way that the hand (1a) rests between 6 and 8 feet; or, if possible, change the distance of the object to some such distance as indicated on the front lens (6 resp. 8 feet). After the exposure, and before closing the camera, always put the front lens back to  $\infty$  otherwise the protruding lens cannot be housed in the case. The strong pressure of the closed base-board on the lens would cause the bending of the lens carrier and unsharp pictures would be the result.

## Depth of focus

In setting a definite distance, say 4 feet not only exactly this point is sharp, but also a certain range before and behind the 4 feet mark. This is the so-called depth of focus. The smaller the diaphragm opening, the greater the depth of focus.



Picture 6



## Depth of focus adjustment ring

On the front of the shutter there is the ring (7) for adjusting the depth of focus by means of which the effective depth of focus may be ascertained:

To LEFT and RIGHT of the indicator (1a) are the diaphragm values in the same order from 3.5 resp. 4.5 through 22.

Underneath it is the distance-setting ring (8) with numbers in feet. The depth of focus is thus limited by the indicated feet under the diaphragm value on the left and the feet indicated under the equal diaphragm value on the right.

Obviously the values of depth of focus will change with any alteration in the setting of the lens.

## Shutters

Generally, the following shutters are being used in the „Solida“ cameras:

**Vario:** Speeds: B — 1/25 — 1/50 — 1/200 sec, with flash synchronization

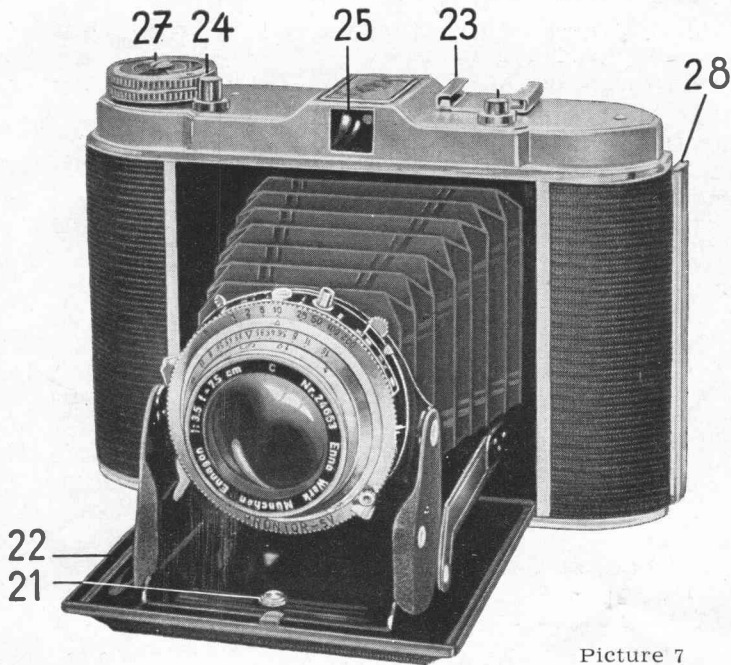
**Pronto:** Speeds: B — 1/25 — 1/50 — 1/100 — 1/200 sec, with built-in self-timer and flash synchronization

**Prontor SVS:** Speeds: B — 1 — 1/2 — 1/5 — 1/10 — 1/25 — 1/50 — 1/100 — 1/300 sec, with built in self-timer and flash synchronization. See special instruction.

## Setting of shutter speeds

The setting of the shutter speeds is effected by turning the rimmed adjustment ring (6) until the indicator (1b) shows the desired speed.

For “B“ (= indicating time exposures =) the shutter stays open as long as the release is being pressed. “B“ is used for any exposure greater than those marked on the shutter.



### **Cocking the Shutter:**

Before any exposure the shutter must be cocked by turning the tension-lever (4) to the left.

### **Blockage of Shutter**

All shutters have a blocking device against double exposure; that is, the release will work only if the shutter is cocked.

### **Setting of Diaphragm**

As a rule, the shutter boasts the following diaphragm apertures.

f: 32 — 22 — 16 — 11 — 8 —  
5.6 — 4 — 3.5.

f: 32 is the smallest, f: 3.5 the largest opening. If the diaphragm is wide open at the moment of exposure, there is more light falling on the film, therefore little time only may be used for exposing.

Picture 7

With a small opening, however, correspondingly less light can penetrate, therefore we need more time for the exposure.

But, the greater the diaphragm aperture the less is the depth of focus, whereas the smaller diaphragms achieve greater depths of focus.

The adjusting of the diaphragm is effected by moving the diaphragm indicator (2) onto the desired diaphragm values (3).

### **Self-Timer (Delayed Action Device)** (Picture 5)

The built-in self-timer permits you to take your own portrait without outside help, even when taking group pictures the photographer may join the group.

### **Pronto**

**Mode of Use:** After setting the speed (6) and cocking the shutter (4) the lever (9) on the lower side of the shutter is turned to the left until it stops. The release of the shutter is effected in the customary manner when the delayed-action device will begin to work, releasing the shutter after about 10 seconds. The self-timer can be used for any momentary speed from 1—1/250 seconds, but never for "B".

### **Prontor SVS.** (Picture 6)

Set the desired speed (6). Cock shutter (4) and set lever (10) to V. The setting can be done before the cocking or viceversa. Furthermore the speed can be modified after cocking and the retarder (selftimer) can be turned off as well.

Release see above.

## Body Release

The release of the shutter is effected by easily and evenly pressing upon the body release (24).

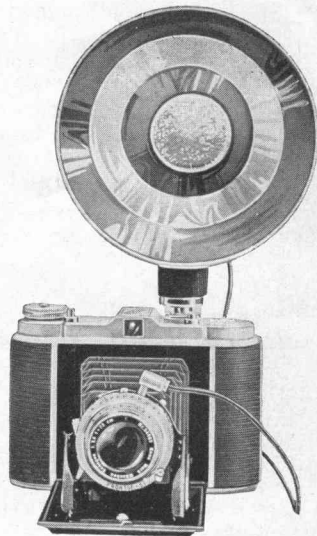
## "T" Time Exposures

For long exposures, when taking pictures at night, of interiors, with insufficient illumination, or operating with flashlight powder etc., a wire release with adjusting screw is used, which is mounted in the wire release socket of the shutter. Set shutter on "B", press wire release and tighten adjusting screw.

The shutter will stay open as long as the adjusting screw is not loosened again. These long exposures can be made only with a tripod or some other firm and steady support.

## Flash Synchronizing

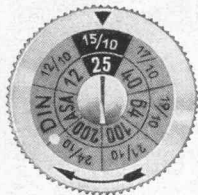
The flash synchronizer respect; the connecting nipple (5) is on the right upper part of the shutter. In order to use them it is essential to insert the cable of the flashlight device into the connecting nipple (5) and to screw the flash bulb into the tripod socket of the camera, or to push it into the holder (23) (see picture). When the shutter is released the synchronized flash bulb is automatically ignited.



Picture 3

## Holder for Supplementary Equipment

On the top of the camera there is a holder for supplementary equipment (23), such as a flash bulb, range finder etc. These parts have standards guide plates to be pushed into the holder.



## View-Finder

The camera is supplied with the well-tried optical telescop finder (25). When using this finder, bring the small aperture in its rear close to your eye. The view through the front lens gives the picture area.

## Film recording disk (Solida II only)

As a further novelty we have introduced a film recording disk. Inserted into the film transport button, it is to show you which film is in the camera. On the film wrappers you find the values for sensitivity and other standards valuations.

The adjustment is effected by turning the recording disk until the index marker points to the sensitivity value resp. other standardized values of the film in use. A small button is added to facilitate operation.

For color films square color K for artificial light respectively color T for daylight is to be used.

## **Double Exposure Blocking Device**

The Solida is furnished with a catch preventing double exposure. After each exposure the shutter release is locked, therefore do not use force. The catch is opened only by winding the film to the next number. The red signal beside the shutter release indicates that the catch is removed and the camera ready for the next picture.

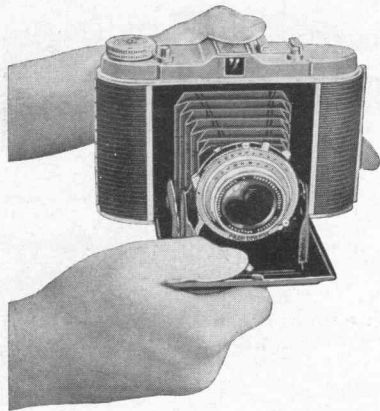
**Attention!** When handling the camera without a film, mind that after the appearance of the red signal you must give the film winding knob one more turn. This is not the case with the film installed, for then you always wind as far as the next number.

## **Taking Pictures**

In order to achieve perfect pictures it is essential to hold your camera right. Picture 9 shows the correct way how to hold your camera while taking pictures. Hold



Picture 9



Picture 10

camera fast with both hands, bring finder close to eye, and focus your object into the center of the picture area. Then press the body-release (24) slowly and gently right through. For pictures of longer exposure than  $1/25$  second always use your tripod or something else for a steady support.

### **Snapshot Adjustment**

Usually you do not find the time for a correct adjustment of distance and diaphragm when you want to take pictures of a quickly changing scene, or scenes whose distance varies all the time, as f. i. playing children or sport events.

To this end you use the so-called snapshot adjustment. On the diaphragm scale, between 8 and 11, there is a red point, and the distance scale is provided with red points and red figures respectively, between 2.5 and 3 meters for close ups, between 6 and 10 meters for long distance pictures.

Diaphragm and distance are adjusted to these red marks and the values are valid for all possible cases. Exposure time, according to light conditions, between  $1/50$  and  $1/100$  sec.

## **Closing the Camera**

Always set the front lens (8) back to  $\infty$  (infinite) before closing the camera. Avoid the possibility to have shutter or release cocked. By pressing the light button (21) on the black cross bar of the base board under the shutter the arresting of the struts is released, and the base board folds upwards. The lens bearer automatically collapses into the camera.

## **Rangefinder**

Not everybody is able to estimate camera-to-subject distances accurately. A separate rangefinder, however, might become a nuisance.

We have therefore developed a rangefinder incorporated in our models which will enable you to find the accurate distances.

On purpose we have not chosen the combination finder — metering device, the so-called metering finder, this to have the largest possible picture for the metering process. When pictures are too small, it might be difficult to recognize the contours and the metering process would be handicapped by false results.

**Metering:** To the left of the finder is the rangefinder window.

Upon looking through it you will see a picture section and within it a light circle, showing part of the same picture section.

By turning the rimmed adjusting disc at the upper finder body edge the picture moves to the bluish circle.

Direct rangefinder to the desired subject and turn adjusting disc until contours cover each other in such a way that only one picture remains visible.



In the window on the top of finder body the nose shows the found metered number of feet. This distance is adjusted at frontlens.

## **Advices on Better Pictures**

Always keep the lens clean, wiping it with the lenscloth only. Never use ordinary cloths for they might scratch the lens.

Do not try to take pictures at distances under 3 feet, as they will be unsharp.

For speeds longer than 1/25 second always use your tripod or some other means of steady support. The camera boasts sockets.

Under normal light conditions the most favourable camera-setting is  $f : 11$  and 1/50 second. For fast moving objects take 1/100 second. For very fast movements as in sports etc. 1/200 resp. 1/250 sec. hereby of course the wider diaphragm 4.5 or 3.5.

On dull days open the diaphragm to  $f : 8$  or  $f : 5.6$ .

On very bright days with sunshine on water or snow, reduce the diaphragm to  $f : 22$  or  $f : 32$ . Of very good aid are the optical exposure meters as supplied by your dealer.

If stress is laid on particular exact exposures, or if you must operate under difficult conditions regarding light and surroundings, the employment of an electrical exposure meter is deemed advisable.