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OPTIMA.I

EXPLANATIONS  
OF ADJACENT  
ILLUSTRATION

**Operation, pages 2-6**

- ② Rapid film transport lever
- ③ Magic release button
- ⑥ Setting mark  
for automatic mechanism
- ⑦ Setting mark  
for focusing symbols

**Technical section, pages 7-16**

- ① Catch for camera back
- ④ Accessory shoe
- ⑤ Rewind knob
- ⑧ Flash contact

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## GUARANTEE

*The lens fitted to your camera is a product of the Agfa Camera Werk and has been computed and manufactured in conformity with the most up-to-date scientific methods.*

*This lens reaches a standard of performance never previously attained in lenses of equal speed having the same number of elements. Its chief advantages lie in its great depth of field, extremely high resolving power, excellent definition and outstanding reproduction of detail.*

*The total of these characteristics makes this the ideal lens for miniature photography with colour or black and white film.*

*In addition, every lens is thoroughly tested before leaving our factory by the most up-to-date methods and is guaranteed by us for its quality and performance.*

AGFA AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT  
Camera Werk Muenchen



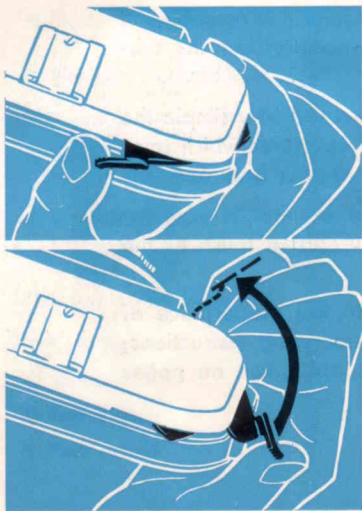
You are now the proud owner of a technically perfect camera—the fully automatic Agfa Optima I which does not require any complicated manual operations and so leaves you free to concentrate on the subject. What a source of boundless joy that is!

From your photographic dealer you will have learned how simple the Agfa Optima I is to handle. Shutter speeds and apertures which once had to be worked out, measured or set are now at your beck and call.

The fully automatic mechanism is something of a miracle, your invisible slave to calculate, think and act for you—just a touch of the “magic release button” suffices.

You will probably wish to get familiarized with this masterpiece of precision. On pages 2 to 6 you will find brief operating instructions; technical advice and useful photographic hints are given on pages 7 to 16.

## Instant readiness



... is a feature of your camera, thanks to the rapid transport lever. Move the lever forward **as far as it will go** and then release it. If the lever is blocked, that particular frame of film (which now is behind the lens) has not been exposed.

**Note!** Should the rapid transport lever not have been swung forward as far as it will go, it will have to be actuated again; in such cases the lever will sometimes block half way round. In this event, release the lever even if it is only in the half-way position.

In case you did not load the first film yourself, the necessary instructions on how to do this are given on pages 8 and 9.

## How far away is your subject?

Three symbols make focusing an easy matter. You just set one of the following symbols against the black mark, according to the subject:



Close-ups  
(about 6 ft. = 1.80 m. away)



Groups  
(about 12 ft. = 3.80 m. away)

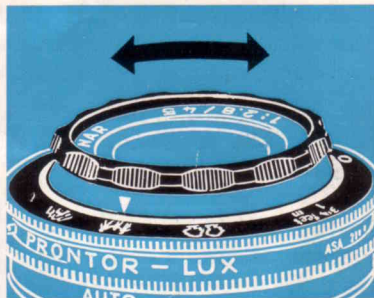


Distant views, landscapes  
(about 16 ft. = 5 m. to infinity)

Intermediate settings are also possible, if required. If you wish to focus the camera on objects only  $3\frac{1}{4}$  ft. away, turn the lens mount until the  $3\frac{1}{4}$  ft. (1 m.) setting is in line with the black mark.

**To ensure correctly exposed photographs it is important to set the correct film speed on the camera (see page 11).**

With your Agfa Optima you can photograph at all distances between  $3\frac{1}{4}$  ft. (1 m.) and infinity.



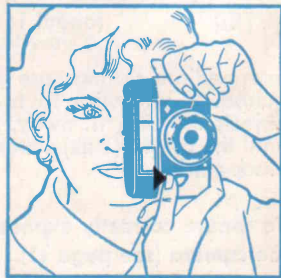


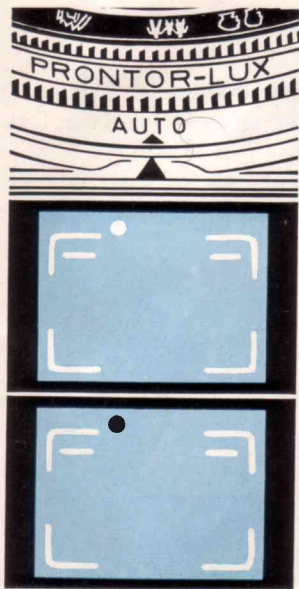
## Take the first pressure . . .

When photographing it is important to hold the camera steady. You should therefore take your Optima in both hands and brace your arms against your body. Place the index finger of your right hand on the magic release button. When you look through the viewfinder you will see a luminous frame which surrounds the subject and shows you the exact picture area. ▶

For close-ups (3¼ ft. setting), the two lines below the top margin of this frame indicate the upper edge of the picture area.

To take upright photos, operate the release button with your thumb or index finger, as illustrated.





Note!

The automatic mechanism is connected when both triangular marks are in line.

Green signal:  
"All clear" for  
your photograph

Red signal:  
Stop—  
do not photograph

What you should know:

When you press down the release button you will feel when the first pressure point has been reached. If there is sufficient light the green signal will now appear in the viewfinder. Then **keep the camera in the same position** and release. If the signal stays red there is too little light, the photograph cannot be taken and you should remove your finger from the button.

In case you change the direction of your camera before releasing the shutter, release the magic button and take again the first pressure. This can be done as often as you wish.

## Three points

which you can quickly master suffice to obtain perfect pictures

1. Set the focusing symbol.
2. Line up your subject and take the first pressure.
3. Green signal in viewfinder: Press release button right down.

Afterwards prepare the camera for the next photograph by operating the rapid transport lever, so as not to miss an action shot.

That's just how easy photography is with the Agfa Optima I. But you will probably want to know more... so take the camera in your hands



... and read the following pages

## **TECHNICAL SECTION**

when you have mastered the three points mentioned and are thoroughly familiar with your camera too.

First of all, something about films and how to choose them:

First use Agfa Isopan F, 17° DIN (40 ASA). It is a fine-grain black and white film of good contour sharpness and consistent quality.

For sport photography the rapid Agfa Isopan ISS film, 21° DIN (100 ASA), is just right.

With Agfacolor films you can explore the world of colour. These films have been firm favourites for more than twenty years, because of their natural reproduction of both pastel and brilliant colours. In addition, their high speed has made the living snapshot in colour a practical reality.

For sharp, brilliant colour transparencies:

Agfacolor Reversal Film CT 18.

For wonderful album colour prints:

Agfacolor Negative Film CN 17 or CN 14.

## Loading the film . . .

The film can be loaded in daylight, but always in the shade—making use of body shadow.

First open the camera back by sliding catch in direction of arrow.

Push locking button of rewind knob in direction of arrow and

draw out rewind knob **firmly** with right hand as far as possible.

Now set the film type indicator by turning the milled edge protruding at the bottom of the rewind knob until the desired setting appears in the window:

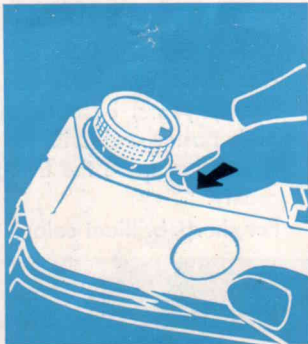
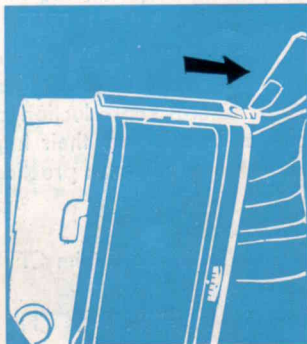
Black and white checks  
= Black and white film

CN = Colour negative film

CT = Colour reversal film,  
DAY daylight type

CK = Colour reversal film, artificial  
A light type (incandescent  
lamps of 3400° Kelvin)

CF = Colour reversal film, artificial  
F flashlight type (3800° Kelvin)



Insert new film cassette with hole towards rewind knob.

Push back rewind knob, if necessary turning slightly backwards and forwards.

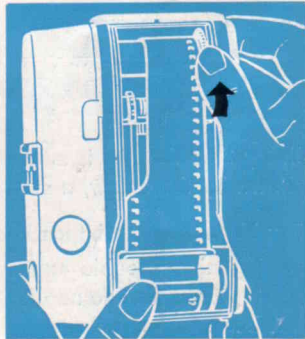
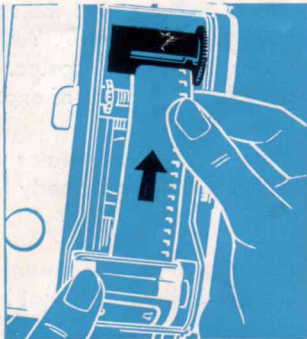
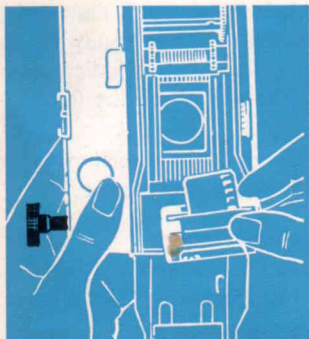
Turn take-up spool by its milled disk until the broad slit and film perforation lug are uppermost.

Draw out the film from the cassette towards the take-up spool.

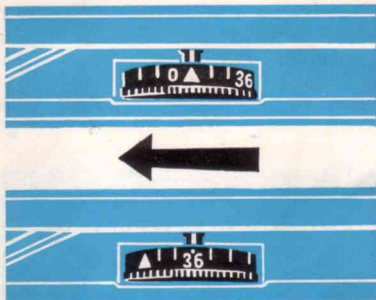
Insert the end of the film in the slit, holding the take-up spool

firmly, so that the lug engages in the second film perforation.

Now turn the take-up spool on slightly in the direction of the arrow, as shown in figure F, until just under half an inch of the full film width projects from the cassette. ▶



## for the first exposure



After loading the film, the film counter at the lower edge of the camera back must be set. Turn the disk of the film counter until the tip of the green triangle just before the number 36 or 20 (depending on the length of the film) is in line with the fixed mark. Then operate the rapid transport lever as far as it will go and press down the magic button. Repeat this process until the mark is in line with the number 36 (or 20). Your camera is then ready for the first exposure. The film counter indicates the number of exposures still left on the film.

Every time the film is moved on the rewind knob rotates in the opposite direction to that shown by the arrow, a sure sign that the film is properly loaded and transported.

### **Double exposures impossible**

An ingenious double exposure prevention mechanism ensures that you do not take two photographs on one negative. In addition the film cannot be transported until an exposure has been made.

### Important:

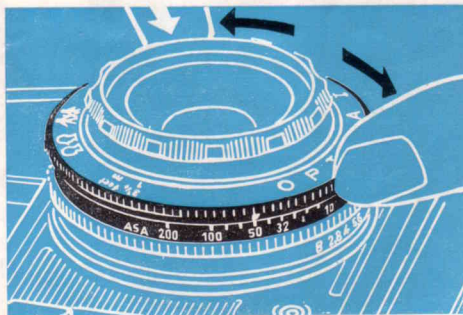
Remember to set the speed of the film loaded on the camera to be sure of correctly exposed photographs.

To do this, push in the small arresting knob and turn the milled front ring with the other hand until the required DIN or ASA speed is opposite the setting mark.

When setting the film speed on the camera you simultaneously set the shutter speed which, to give only two examples, is  $1/125$  sec. at  $18^\circ$  DIN (50 ASA) or  $1/250$  sec. at  $21^\circ$  DIN (100 ASA).

### for all films

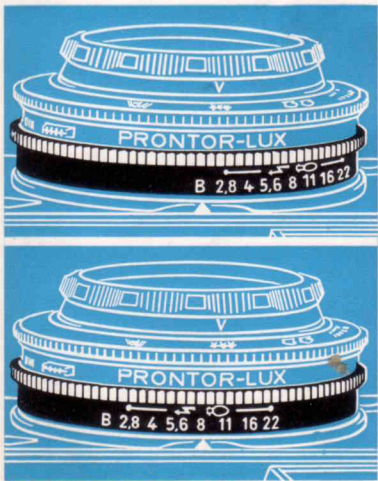
from  $12-24^\circ$  DIN (10-200 ASA)





## Without the automatic mechanism

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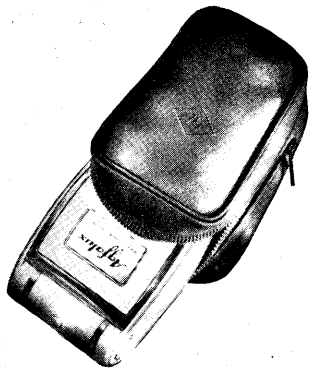
**You probably recall** what was said about the **red** stop signal in the viewfinder. When it appears you cannot photograph with the Optima using the automatic mechanism, but if it is disconnected you can still obtain good results.

### Time exposures

Turn the rear milled ring on the lens mount to the left until "B" is in line with the mark, as shown in the top illustration. When on this setting the shutter stays open as long as the release button is depressed, and all photographs are taken at full lens aperture. The use of a tripod is advisable in such cases.

### No flashlight problems

For flash work turn the rear milled ring on the lens mount until the aperture scale is opposite the triangular setting mark (lower illustration). The instructions accompanying each packet of flash bulbs show the required apertures (in the column for "X" synchronization).



**The handy Agfalux flashgun  
in zip case**

A constant shutter speed of  $\frac{1}{30}$  sec. is used for flash work, regardless of the lens aperture.

The flashgun (e.g. Agfalux or Agfa KM Flashgun) should be attached to the accessory shoe (4) shown in the main illustration and the lead connected to the flash contact (8).

Electronic flashguns can also be used, in which case the aperture is calculated from the guide number of the flashgun.

E.g. guide number of electronic flashgun 96 divided by a distance of 12 feet = aperture f/8.

## Against the light

Where clear detail is required in photographs taken against the light or in deep shadows, the automatic mechanism of the camera can still be used with the setting on the DIN/ASA scale reduced. It is advisable to set a film speed of about 3° DIN or its ASA equivalent less than that marked on the film package. If, for example, the film in the camera has a speed of 17° DIN = 40 ASA, the setting should be reduced to 14° DIN = 20 ASA.

When a very contrasty subject has to be photographed and it is wished to obtain the correct exposure for an object which is small in comparison with its surroundings, it is advisable to take what is known as a close-up measurement with the built-in exposure meter of the camera. If this is not done, a person in a light dress in front of a dark wood (to give an example) could easily produce an incorrect reading.

In such cases approach with the camera to a short distance from the subject and press down the release button to the first pressure point. Hold the button in this position and return to your original position to take the photograph.



A leather case designed to take a lens hood and two filters is available.

Filters for your Optima for black and white photography

	Reduce DIN scale setting by	
light yellow	2	} degrees } DIN
medium yellow	3	
yellow-green	3	
UV filter		no change
for special photographs with colour reversal film		
Agfa Color Filter R 1,5		no change

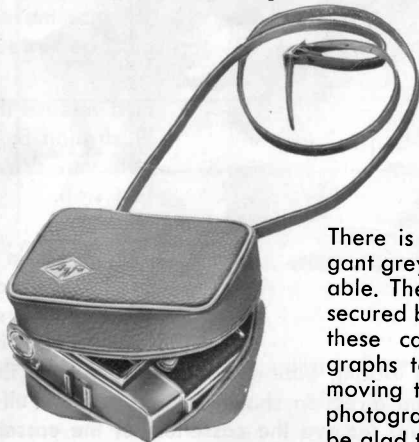
### Filters

There is a variety of filters for **black and white film** available for use with the Agfa Optima I in screw mounts of 35.5 mm. diam. As soon as a filter is used on the camera you will have to reduce the setting on the film speed scale accordingly.

A filter having a factor of 2 will require a reduction in the speed setting of 3° DIN or its ASA equivalent. If you have a film of 17° DIN = 40 ASA this means that you will have to reduce the figure to 14° DIN = 20 ASA. A factor of 1.5 would require a reduction of 1-2 degrees DIN.

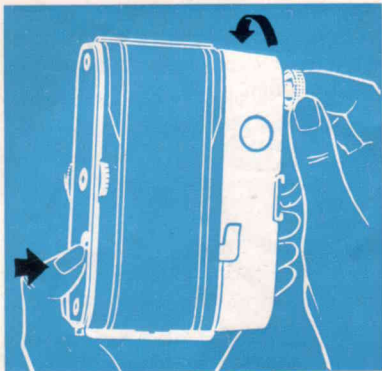
When removing the filter from the camera do not forget to reset the original DIN/ASA figure for the film in question.

A practical ever-ready case is supplied to guard your camera against knocks and blows. You should place your Optima in its ever-ready case immediately after loading the film.



There is also a very elegant grey zip pouch available. The Optima can be secured by a screw in both these cases and photographs taken without removing the camera. Your photographic dealer will be glad to show you both cases.

## Rewinding the film



### The film is now finished ...

After 36 or 20 exposures, according to the length of the film, the rapid transport lever will not move. The film is now finished and must be rewound into its cassette.



First release the lock of the rewind knob (see illustration B, page 8) to allow this to spring out, and draw it out only a fraction to its first stop.

Then press in the locking button in the base of the camera and turn the rewind knob in the direction shown by the arrow. Rewinding is complete when the rewind knob turns freely

after releasing the locking button. You can now open the back of the camera by pushing the catch in the direction shown by the arrow. Pull out the rewind knob firmly as far as it will go and remove the cassette. Put the cassette in its light-tight packing and mark it as exposed.

## APERTURE TABLE FOR FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY

With lightning symbol set, shutter speed will automatically be  $\frac{1}{30}$  sec.

Symbol	Dis- tance  feet	Clear bulbs Black and white film Negative colour film (CN 17)	Blue bulbs Daylight colour reversal film (CT 18)
		17° DIN = 40 ASA  XM 1 - PF 1	18° DIN = 50 ASA  XM 1 BS - PF 1/97
	5	f. 22	f. 16
	7	f. 16	f. 11
	9¼	f. 11	f. 8
	15	f. 8	f. 5.6

We reserve the right to make alterations to the Agfa Optima arising from further development.

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