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eliotflex

Directions
for use

ferrania

Foreword

Before attempting to use the camera, read the following instructions carefully and then go over every operation illustrated several times with the unloaded camera. Though the Elio-flex is easy to use it is equipped with all the most up-to-date devices, some of which are of novel design and should therefore be studied carefully.

We find that nearly all the damage done to the mechanism of cameras and most initial failures are due to lack of experience. With a little patience good results can be obtained from the start.

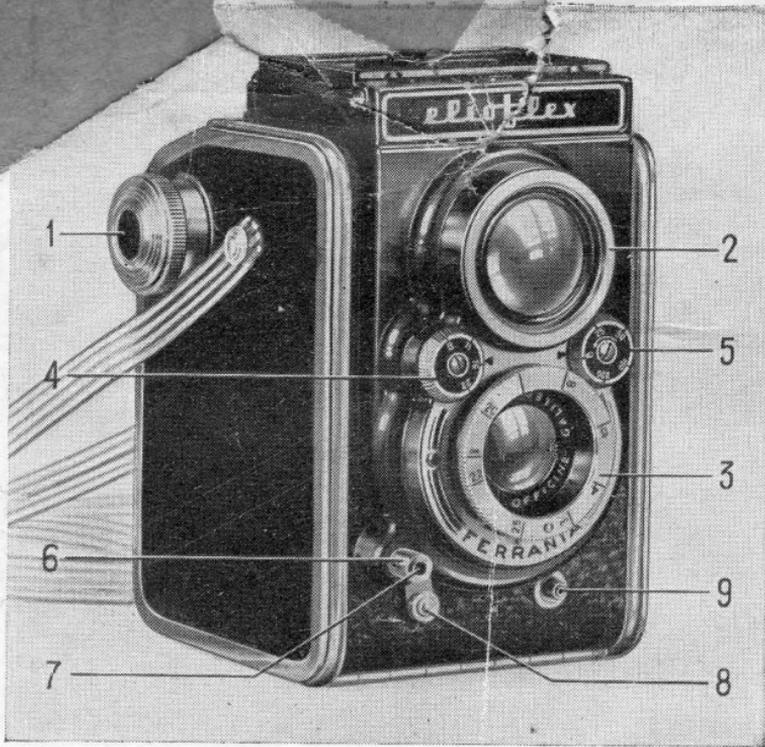


Fig. 1
Front View of camera

1. Film Winder
2. Lens of Mirror Viewfinder
3. Lens Focussing Ring
4. Adjustable Diaphragm Control
5. Shutter Speed Control
6. Body Shutter Release
7. Cable Release Socket
- Safety Lever



Fig. 2
Back View of camera

9. Synchro Flash Socket
10. Neck Strap Button
11. Sports Viewfinder (collapsed)
12. Button of Mirror Viewfinder Hood
13. Locking Button for Back Cover
14. Exposure Calculator
15. Sliding cover for the Red Window
16. Tripod Bush (on the base)

1 - How to open the camera

Hold the camera with your left hand as shown in fig. 3. Then press the locking button (13) slightly outwards with your right thumb. The back will then open easily, as shown in fig. 4.

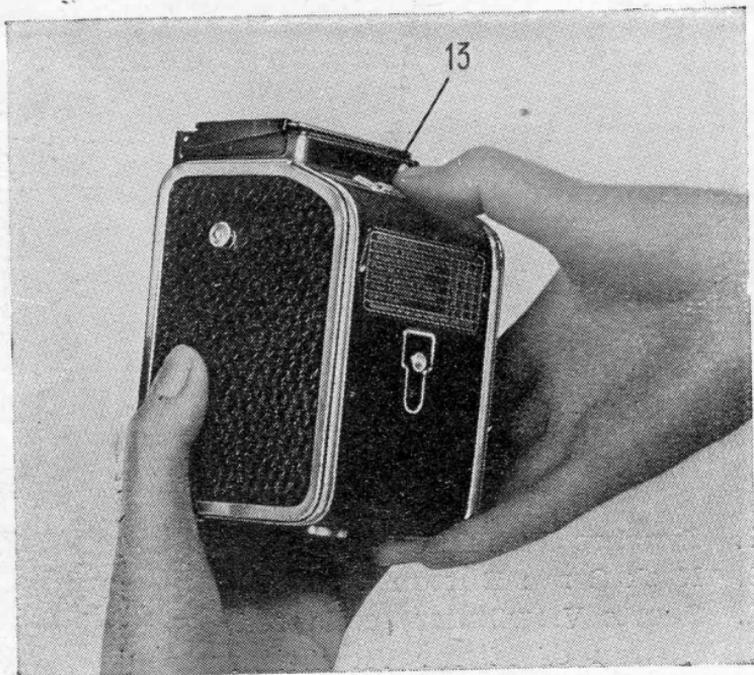


Fig. 3
How to open the camera

11 - How to insert the film

The Elio-flex will take any 6 x 9 cm. (2,1/4 x 3,1/4 ins) rollfilm (F.20 or 120), but not 620 or 520.

Important. The unexposed rollfilm is protected by the light-proof backing paper, but it is advisable not to load the film in direct



Fig. 4
The opened camera

sunlight. If there is no shade, protect the film by standing with your back to the sun. First of all make sure that there is an empty spool in the upper spool chamber. Then draw out the hinged lower spool carrier (17), as shown in fig. 5.

The unexposed film, still with its safety label, is now inserted in the spool carrier on the



Fig. 5
How to pull out the lower spool carrier.

two spindles which fit into the holes on the film spool. For this purpose the spring clips 18 (fig. 6) should be pressed gently outwards. Make sure that the slotted end of the spool is to the right when looking at the back of the camera. Push the carrier and the film back into the film chamber, break the safety label, unroll the red (or green) backing paper and

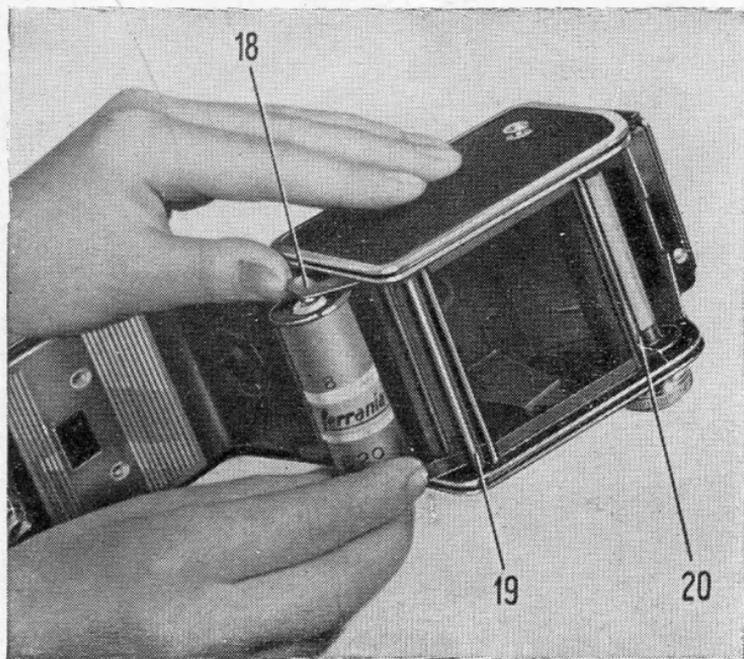


Fig. 6
How the unexposed rollfilm is inserted.

pass it over rollers 19 and 20 taking care that it runs true and does not climb out of its proper channel. When the take-up spool is reached, insert the pointed end of the paper into the larger slot of the spool using your right hand (fig. 7), whilst with your left hand you keep the roll in place and the paper

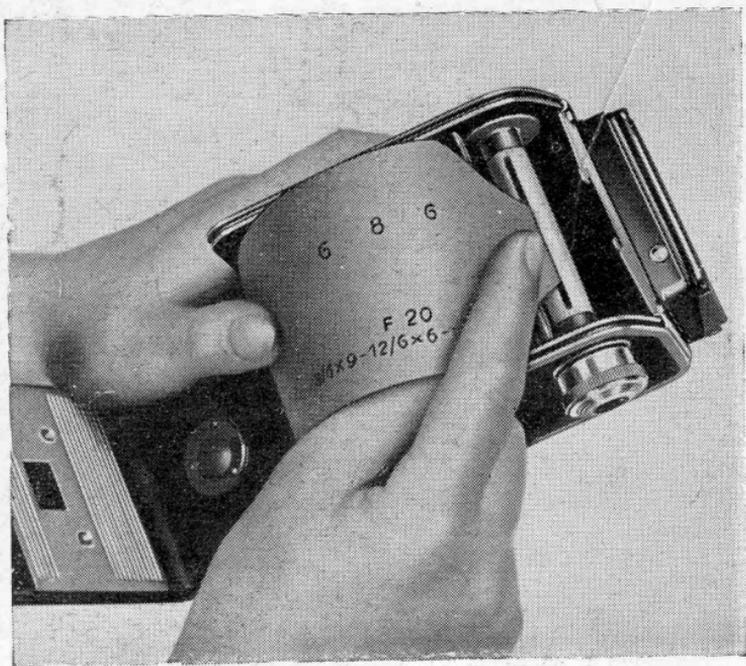


Fig. 7
How the light-proof backing paper is tucked into the take-up spool.

pressed against the guides to prevent the film unwinding.

Turn knob 1 as shown in fig. 8, making two or three turns only to make quite sure that film is properly attached to the take-up spool and unwinds freely from the lower spool. Do not worry about the repeated release clicks

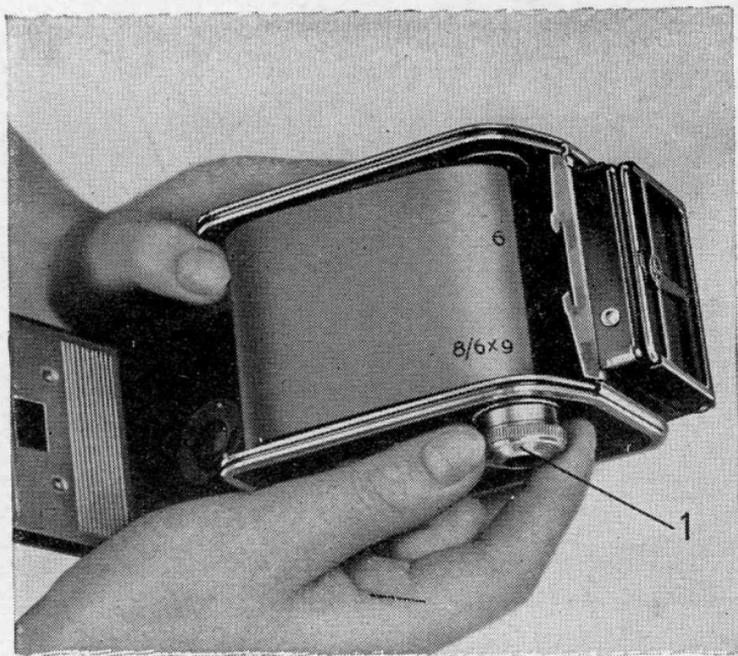


Fig. 8

How to start winding the light-proof backing paper on the take-up spool

which are produced by the mechanism which cocks the shutter when the film is wound. Important. The backing paper should be properly centred on the spool so that it does not rub against the flanges. If it does, slack it off a little and adjust. Now close the back of the camera and make

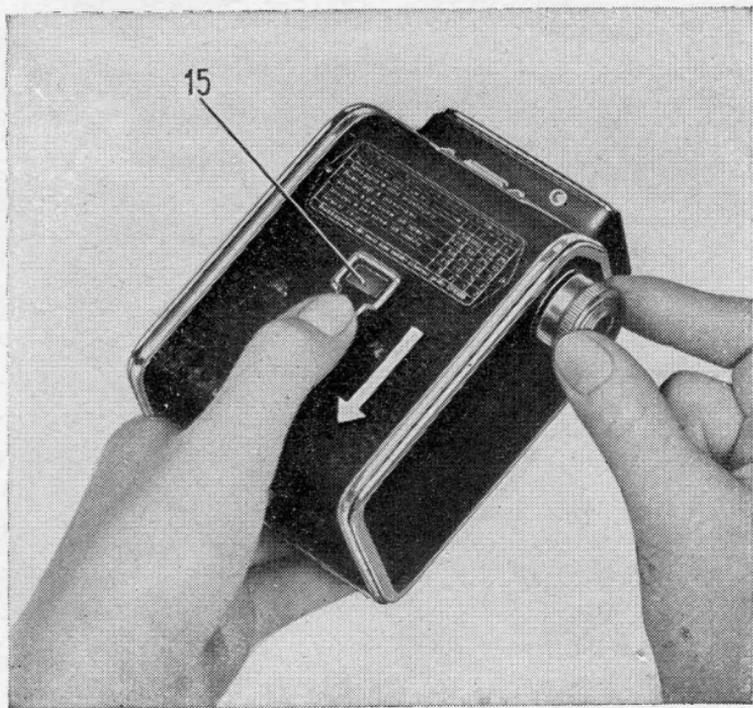


Fig. 9
How to wind on the film when an exposure has been made.

sure that the locking button has snapped into position so as to keep the back firmly closed. Hold the camera as shown in fig. 9 and using your left thumb, slide downwards the sliding cover of the red window 15 so that the figures printed on the backing paper can be read. With your right hand turn button 1, watching the paper pass under the red window 15.

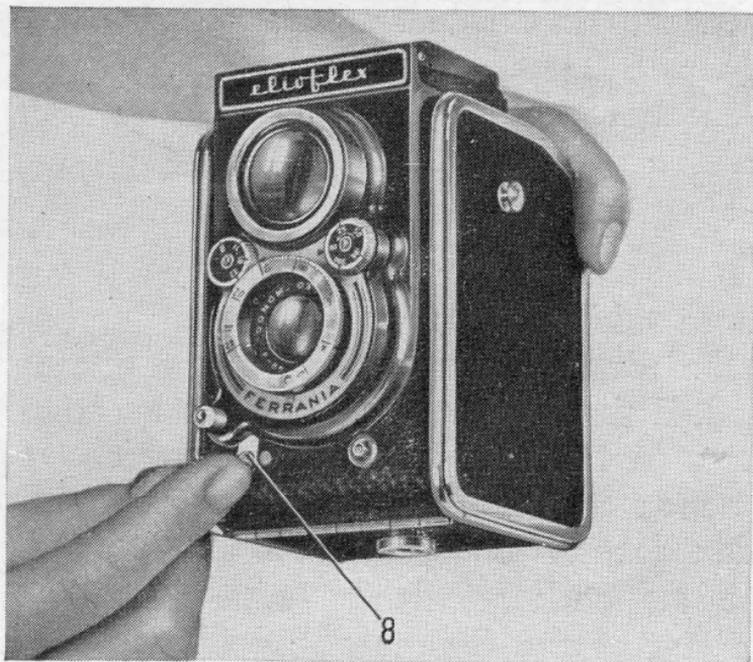


Fig. 10
How the shutter release is set to the
safety position

After several turns a warning hand appears, then a line which becomes thinner and thinner and finally the figure 1. The camera is now ready for the first exposure. When this has been made, the film is wound on to "2" and so on until "12". Once again, do not worry about the clicking of the shutter cocking device but *remember that the shutter is actually cocked*, i.e. it is ready for release, so do not by mistake press release button 6. To safeguard against this, turn lever 8 (fig. 10) downwards until the red mark is visible. In this position the release is locked.

III - How to focus the lens

Before taking a picture the lens must be set to the distance of the object to be photographed. Estimate that distance and turn knurled ring 3 (fig. 11) until the number which corresponds to the distance coincides with the index dot 21 engraved on the shutter plate. The ∞ mark stands for «infinity» and is the last of the figures engraved on the lens focussing ring 3. It is used whenever the distance between the camera and the subject exceeds 150 feet (50 metres). If the distance

required is between the figures engraved, the focussing ring must be set accordingly. For instance if the distance is 14 feet the focussing ring should be set midway between 12 and 16. The distance is calculated from the subject to the back of the camera, but it is only important to work as accurately as this when close-ups are being taken.

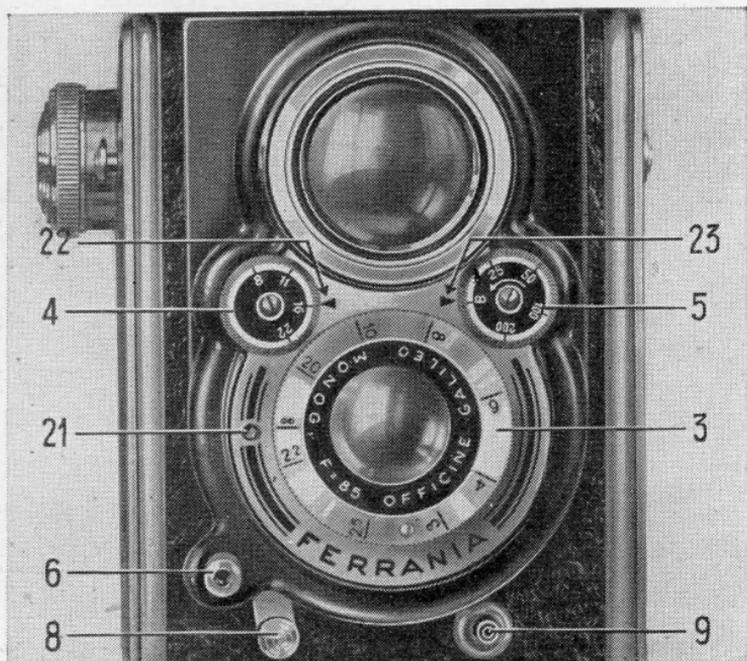


Fig. 11
The shutter and lens mounting

sharp picture is obtained. Unfortunately the optical laws governing the performance of all camera lenses are such that depth of field is reduced as the lens aperture increases. For example, at $f/22$, if the lens is focussed at 25 ft. everything is sharp from 11 ft. 4 ins. to infinity, but at $f/8$ only objects between 17 ft. 5 ins, and 43 ft. 6 ins. are sharp.

We now come to deciding the actual exposure in relation to the amount of light, and to help in this matter an exposure calculator is built on to the back of the camera. The exposure times given are for the most favourable lighting conditions prevailing during the summer, from May to August in clear sunlight and using a film with a speed of 30° Scheiner ($21/10$ DIN) such as Ferrania Ultracromatica 30. For other times of year, or if the sun is obscured, or a yellow filter is used, or if a less sensitive film is used such as 28° Scheiner ($17/10$ DIN), exposure times must be doubled as indicated on the exposure calculator. For example, instead of $1/100$ of a second the exposure should be $1/50$ of a second, and so on. The calculator gives exposure times for standard subjects such as seascapes, high

mountains, open landscapes, groups of people, etc. In the case of a picture taken at the sea side, for instance, all lens apertures can be used provided that the exposure time is set accordingly: with lens aperture $f/8$ (the largest) the shutter speed should be $1/200$; but with lens aperture $f/22$ the shutter speed should be $1/25$. Where the subject is not in motion the smallest lens aperture is preferable (with the slowest shutter speed) because as explained above greatest all over sharpness is obtained owing to the greater depth of field. For action pictures a higher shutter speed is required with a correspondingly large aperture. It is usually safe to choose a medium aperture such as $f/16$ with a speed of $1/50$. If, however, the sun is obscured or a filter is used the aperture should be $f/11$ with a shutter speed of $1/50$.

V - Safety device against double exposures

The Elio-flex is equipped with a device which guards against the very common error of double exposure when two pictures are wasted

because the film is not wound on after an exposure has been made. This device ensures that the release (button 6) remains locked after each exposure until the film has been wound on to the next number. Should, therefore, the winding on of the film have been forgotten and the release button be pressed, no harm is done. When winding the film a slight click will be heard which indicates the unlocking of the safety device. A red diaphragm is visible through the lens when the release is locked. As soon as it is freed the said diaphragm appears black. *The camera is ready to take a picture only when both the red signs have disappeared.* The presence of one of the other of these indicates that the release is locked.

Important. The shutter release button should be pressed gently to avoid camera shake. The speed of the shutter is determined by the shutter mechanism and is not affected by the way in which the button is pressed.

VI - Photoflash

The Elio-flex camera is fitted to take a Syn-

chro-Flash unit with which good snapshots can be taken at night or under the most unfavourable lighting conditions. Ferrania manufacture an inexpensive flash unit which is specially designed for the ElioFlex. The base



Fig. 12
The flash unit

plate of the flash unit can be fitted to the tripod bush of the camera (fig. 12). This unit, which can be taken down and is very compact, takes any photoflash bulb with standard bayonet cap (A.S.C.C.). Directions for use are supplied with the flash outfit.

VII - How to frame the subject

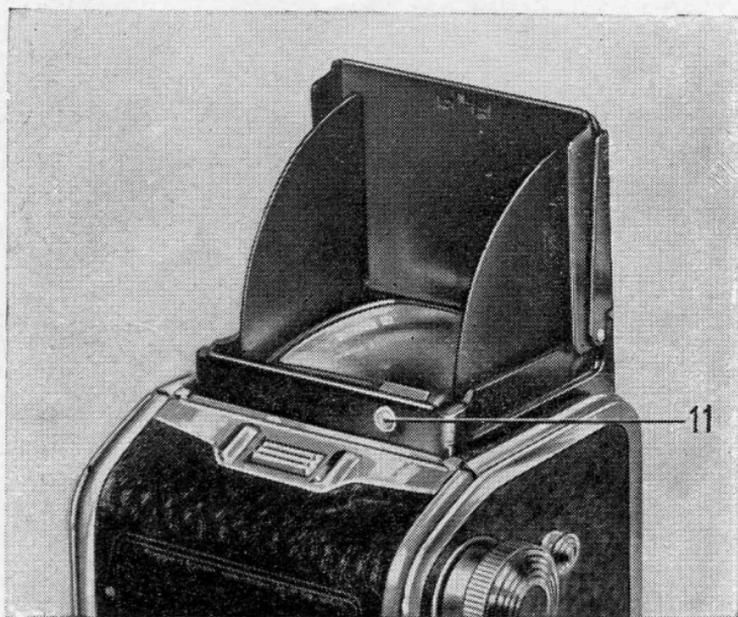


Fig. 13
The mirror viewfinder

Like reflex cameras, the Elioflex is equipped with a large and very efficient mirror viewfinder. To open the viewfinder cover, press button 11 (fig. 13). The image appears upright and very clear and corresponds exactly to the one which should appear in the photograph. For pictures taken at eye level, which is usual for action shots, there is a sports viewfinder

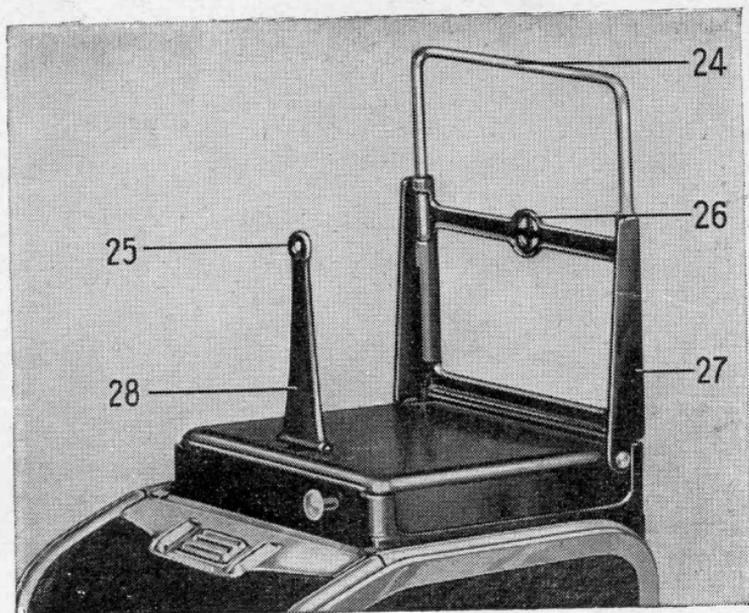


Fig. 14
The sports viewfinder

fitted to the top of the camera. When using this, frame 24 (fig. 14) should be pulled out. This will cause the viewfinder to open up automatically. Raise the camera so that hole 25 is at eye level. Sight in such a way that this hole covers the small cross 26 in the viewfinder frame. The picture thus framed by the viewfinders is that which will appear in

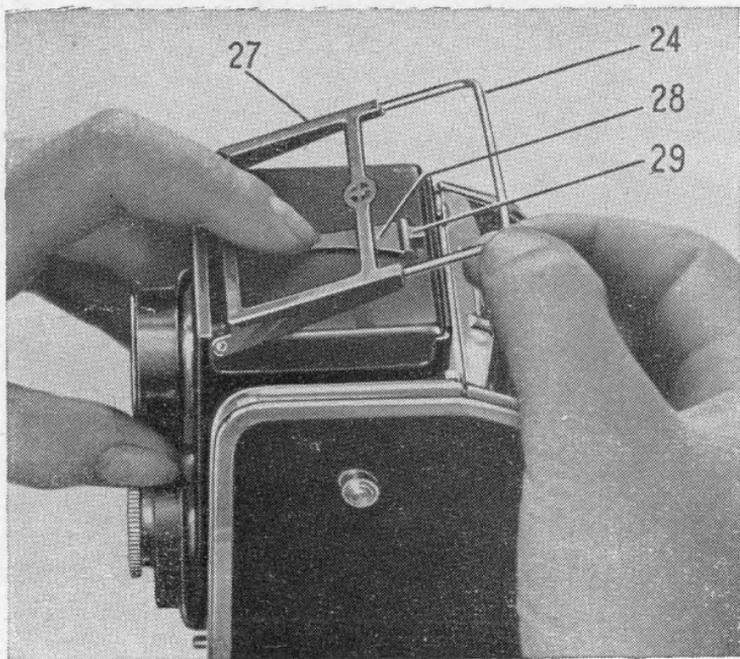


Fig. 15
How to close the sports viewfinder

the photograph. To close the sports viewfinder (see fig. 15) fold down back sight 28 and bring down frame 27 on top of it. Frame 24 is then pushed back into its original position and secured under clip 29.



Fig. 16
**How to hold the camera when using the mirror
viewfinder**



Fig. 17

How to hold the camera when using the sports
viewfinder

VIII - How to hold the camera

When using the mirror viewfinder the camera should be firmly held as shown in fig. 16. When the sports viewfinder is used, the camera should be held as shown in fig. 17.

For time exposures the camera should be placed on a solid support and held firmly with the left hand whilst the other hand operates the release button. Better still would be the

use of a tripod with a Congress (3/8" Whitworth) thread. If your tripod has an English (1/4" Whitworth) thread, any dealer can supply you with a suitable adaptor. For time exposures the use of a cable release is advisable to avoid camera shake. A socket for the cable release is provided in the ElioFlex camera on the button release. The end of the cable is screwed into this socket (fig. 18).

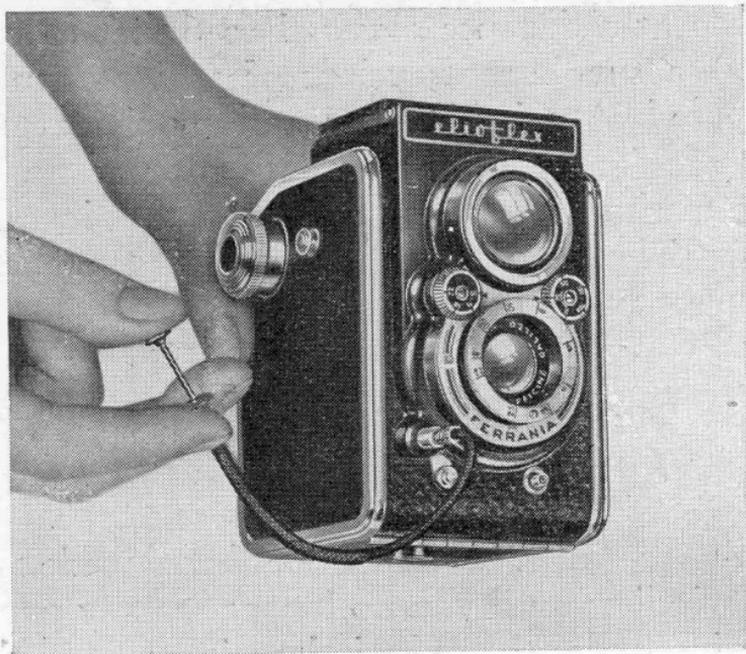


Fig. 18
How to use the cable release

IX - Yellow filter and supplementary lens

A yellow filter should be fitted to the lens in very bright light, for sea or mountain pictures or when photographing open landscapes and to obtain cloud effects. If a 2X filter is used, that is a filter with a factor of 2, the exposure time has to be doubled. If a picture is to be taken at a distance closer than 6 feet (2 metres), a supplementary lens of 1 diopter must be used. A suitable filter and supplementary lens for use with the Elio-flex camera are on the market and are supplied with full instructions. The diameter of the Elio-flex lens barrel is 34/mm.

X - How to remove the exposed film from the camera

After the 12th exposure has been made, go on winding until you no longer see any paper passing under the red window. Then open the back of the camera, pull out the winding knob 1 (fig. 19) and remove the exposed film.

Detach the gummed safety label at the end of the roll and stick it over the free end of the paper backing. Then wrap it in black or lightproof paper or better still, in the tin foil and cardboard box the film was packed in. After removing the exposed film, the empty spool should be taken from the lower film chamber and placed in the upper film cham-

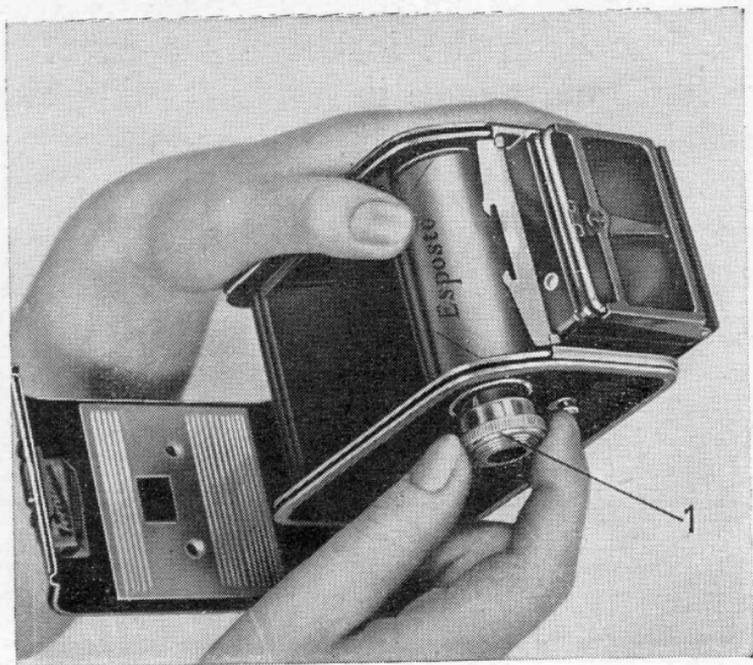


Fig. 19
How to draw out the winding button

ber so that it is ready to take the next film. The slotted end of the spool should be on the right, looking at the camera from the back, so that it can be engaged by the key of the winding knob when this is pushed in.

XI - Upkeep

The Elio-flex camera requires no special attention. Just clean the inside of the cover and the film guides once in a while, using either a soft brush or a piece of cloth so as to remove grit and dust which might either scratch the film or show up as black dots on the picture. Remember that the lens surface is comparatively soft and marks easily owing to the special "blooming" or coating given to it in manufacture to increase its speed and reduce « light scatter ». Therefore, avoid touching it and just dust it now and again with a piece of soft linen cloth moistened with methylated spirit.

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