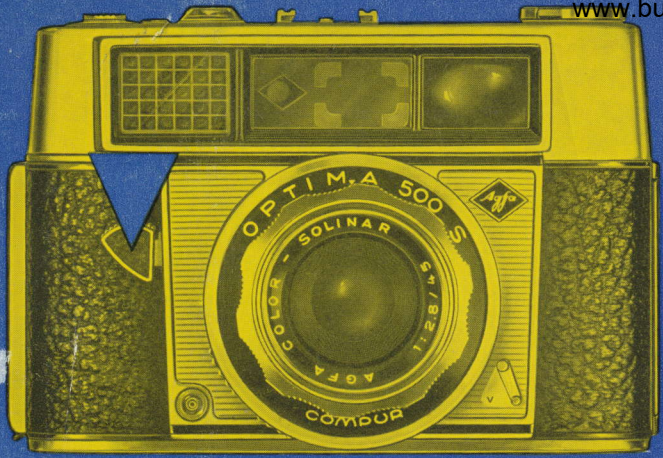
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Agfa

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

OPTIMA 500 S

The lens fitted to your camera is a product of the Agfa Camera Werk and has been computed and manufactured in conformity with the latest 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 black and white or colour 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-GEVAERT AG
Camera-Werk · Muenchen

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EXPLANATION OF ADJACENT ILLUSTRATION

① Catch for camera back
② Rapid transport lever
③ Magic release lever
④ DIN/ASA scale for setting film speed
⑤ Window for green and red signal
⑥ Accessory shoe
⑦ Rewind crank
⑧ Cable release socket
⑨ Setting window for
A = Automatic mechanism
$\frac{1}{4}$ = Flash and
B = Time exposures
⑩ Setting mark for focusing symbols
⑪ Focusing ring
⑫ Delayed action mechanism
⑬ Flash contact
⑭ Window for setting flash guide numbers

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The Optima 500 S is one of the cameras of the successful Agfa Optima series which in recent years has established such a good reputation all over the world.

We congratulate you on choosing this camera
because its optical performance satisfies the highest demands
and its fully automatic operation is unexcelled.

You are holding a small miracle in your hands: the fully automatic mechanism of your camera thinks, calculates and acts for you. This means the dawn of a new era in photography and a genuine advance in technical development.

A green signal appears in the viewfinder and slight pressure on the magic lever produces a successful snap, each exposure gives a good picture and lasting pleasure.

The coupled rangefinder ensures sharp focusing and, if you are in a hurry, you can use the focusing symbols.

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.

Exakt focusing . . .



The built-in coupled rangefinder is very easy to operate and allows exact focusing of your subject in split-seconds.

In the centre of the viewfinder image you will see a diamond shaped portion which is yellow-coloured. At first, this centre image will be separated into two horizontally displaced outlines (upper ill.).

If you move the focusing ring with both index fingers (middle ill.) you will find that the outlines of the double centre image coincide. With the camera held horizontally the image outlines move sideways; when held upright they move vertically. As soon as the two outlines converge measurement is completed and the camera exactly focused (lower ill.).

Exact distances are also indicated on the lower part of the focusing ring. The white mark above the word "Compur" indicates the actual distance setting (from 3¼ ft./1 m. to infinity).

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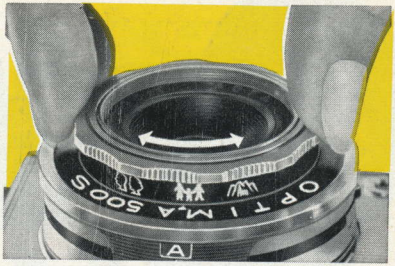
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. . . or symbols for snapshots

There are three focusing symbols on the lens mount of your camera. According to the distance from the subject you set one of the three following symbols against the white mark: (Intermediate settings are also possible.)

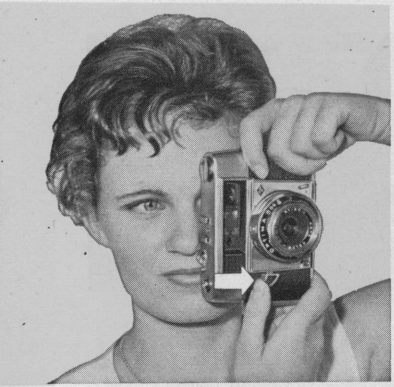
		Subject distance
	Close-ups	6 ft. (1.80 m.)
	Groups	12½ ft. (3.80 m.)
	Distant views	infinity (landscape)

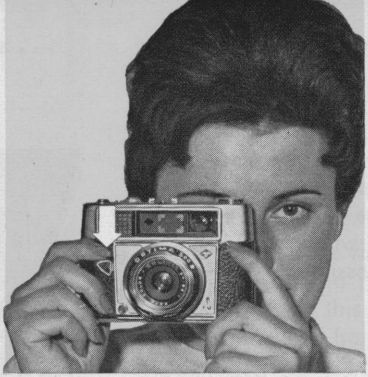
There is no need to set the focusing symbols absolutely exactly because under reasonably good lighting conditions the automatic lens stop and shutter speed control increases the effective focusing range to a much greater extent than indicated by the figures given here.

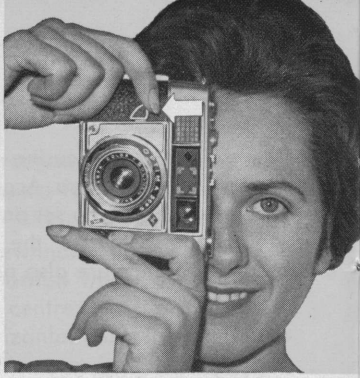




View your subject







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 lightly on the magic release lever. When you look through the viewfinder you will see a luminous frame which surrounds the subject and shows you the exact picture area.

As the luminous frame is coupled with the focusing ring it moves automatically when the focusing ring is turned, and the exact picture area (parallax compensation) will be shown even for close-ups (3¼ ft.). Viewfinder correction lenses (–1.0 to –4.0 dioptres) for persons with defective vision facilitate focusing. To take upright photos, operate the release button with your thumb or index finger as illustrated above. **To ensure correctly exposed photographs it is important to set the correct film speed on the camera (see pages 10/11).**

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Green signal . . . expose

When viewing your subject hold the camera absolutely steady for about one second. When the green signal appears in the viewfinder do not change camera position and release, i. e. press the magic release lever slowly down as far as possible.

If no exposure takes place remove your finger from the lever.

Note! If no signal appears in the viewfinder —operate rapid transport lever first.

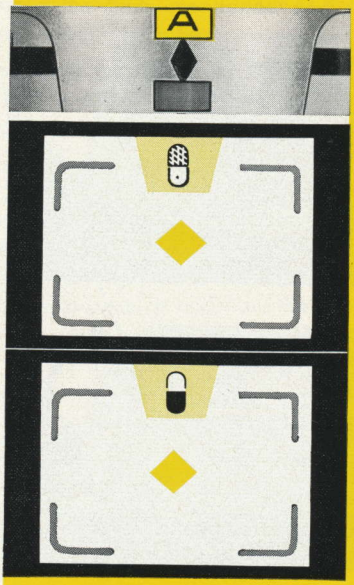
If there is not enough light—shown by the red signal—time exposures or flash will then help you (see pages 12/13).

Note!
The automatic mechanism is connected when the A and the white mark are in line.

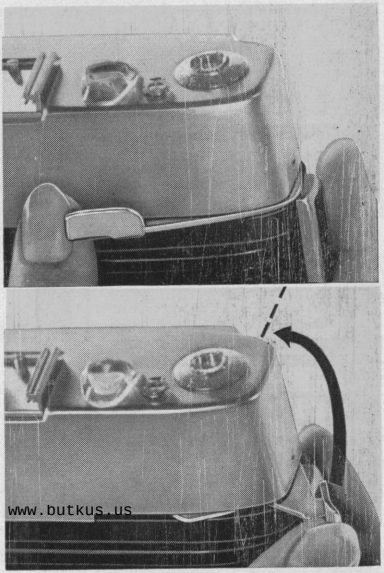
A perceptible click stop ensures the correct setting.

Green signal:
"All clear"
for your photograph.

Red signal:
Stop—
do not photograph.



Instant readiness . . .



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. . . can be obtained with the rapid transport lever of your Optima. Therefore, advance your film immediately after each exposure. Just swing the lever forward to the stop to move the film on one frame. The film counter at the lower rear edge of the camera shows you how many exposures you still have left.

If the rapid transport lever will not move, the camera is already set for the next exposure. The shutter release and film transport are fitted with a lock to prevent blank or double exposures.

If you release the rapid transport lever before completing the full forward stroke it will return to its starting position. In this event you should swing the lever forward again as far as it will go, even if it is only in the half-way position.

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

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TECHNICAL SECTION

when you have mastered the hints 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.** It is a fine-grain black-and-white film of good contour sharpness and consistent quality.

For sports photography the rapid **Agfa Isopan ISS** film is just right.

With **Agfacolor** films you can explore the world of colour. These films have been firm favourites for more than twenty-five 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.

From your mounted transparencies it is now possible to have CT colour prints made on paper.

For wonderful album colour prints:

Agfacolor Negative Film CN 17.

Loading the camera . . .

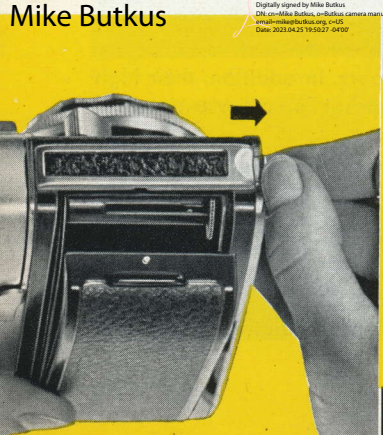
The film can be loaded in daylight, but always in the shade —making use of body shadow. First open the camera back by sliding catch in direction of arrow until camera back opens up. Draw out rewind crank by inserting your finger nail underneath the crank, raising it and drawing it out firmly as far as possible.

Insert new film cassette with hole towards rewind crank. Push back rewind crank, if necessary, turning slightly backwards and forwards until the recessed portion engages in the hole of the cassette. Turn take up spool by its milled disc until one of the three slits and its film perforation lug are uppermost (ringed in illustration D).

It is best to press in the locking button on the base of the camera to ensure that the transport wheel moves freely.

A

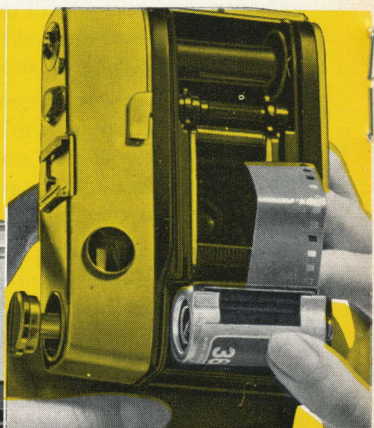
Mike Butkus
Digitally signed by Mike Butkus
DN: cn=Mike Butkus, o=Butkus camera manuals, ou=butkus.org, email=mike@butkus.org, c=US
Date: 2023.04.25 19:50:27 -04'00'



B



C



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Draw out the film from the cassette in the direction of the arrow. Insert the end of the film in the slit of the take-up spool so that the lug engages in the second film perforation.

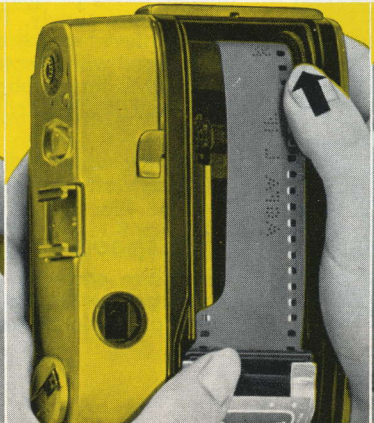
Now turn the take-up spool slightly on.

When just under half an inch of the full film width projects from the cassette, close the camera back by pressing it home firmly. After closing the camera set the film counter at the lower edge of the camera back.

D



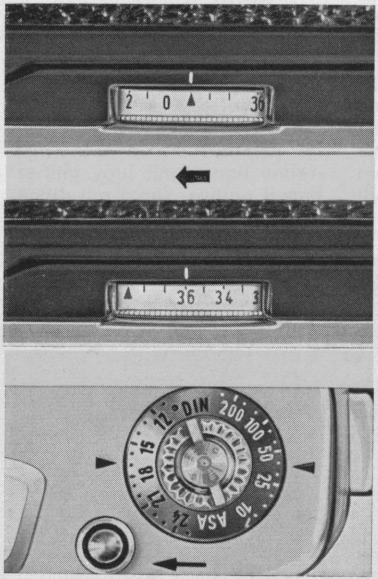
E



F



Film transport
Film speed



Turn the disc of the film counter until the tip of the triangle just before the number 36, 20 or 12 (depending on the length of film) is in line with the fixed mark.

When loading the camera, the start of the film is wasted by exposure to light and so you must first make two blank exposures before starting to photograph.

Operate the rapid transport lever with your thumb, swing it forward as far as it will go and let it return slowly. Then press down the magic release lever as far as possible and repeat this procedure with the transport lever and release lever until the number 36, 20 or 12 is opposite the fixed mark, according to the length of the film.

The film counter indicates the number of exposures still left on the film.

Film speed

To ensure correctly exposed photographs it is important to set the correct film speed on the camera. This is marked on the film package and

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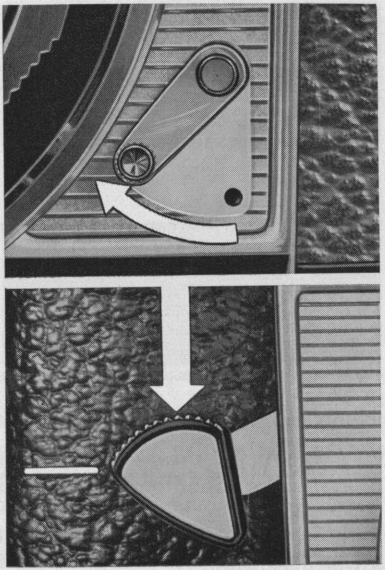
should be set on the camera immediately after loading with film.

This is done by pushing the small arresting knob in the direction of the arrow. The milled disc can then be turned in either direction with a coin. A setting of 40 ASA is shown in the lower illustration on page 10.

Delayed action photographs

are possible with all automatic and flash exposures, but not with time exposures (B setting).

Place the camera on a firm support, preferably on a tripod. Set the delayed action lever to V and press down the magic release lever **as far as it will go.** It will then be arrested in this position. A buzzing noise indicates that the delayed action mechanism is working; it will release the shutter automatically after about 8 seconds. After taking the photograph **press the release button down again,** and the lever will then return to its original position. **Then transport the film.**



Time exposures



If the signal in the viewfinder stays red when viewing the subject, this means that there is not enough light. In such cases time exposures or flash will help you.

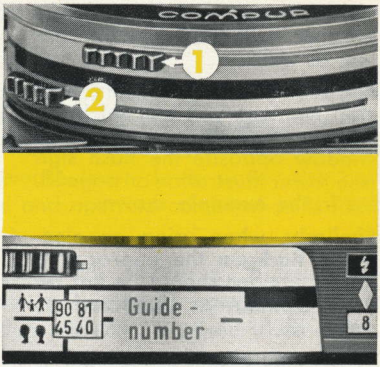
For time exposures longer shutter speeds are used which cannot be controlled automatically; these are mainly used in poor light, for portrait work or reproductions of pictures in artificial light, and for night photography etc.

By means of the setting key (1 in upper illustration) the automatic mechanism is disconnected and the key is moved until the letter B appears in the small window (lower illustration). The shutter then remains open as long as the release lever is pressed down; the photograph cannot be taken with the camera held in your hands, and a tripod and cable release (8, main illustration) must therefore be used.

By moving the setting key ② the required lens stop can be set, e. g. f/11, as shown in the lower illustration.

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Flash made very easy



1. A flashgun such as the Agfalux, Agfa Isi K or Agfa Tully K is attached by its foot to the accessory shoe on top of the camera and the lead connected to the flash contact of the camera (13, main illustration).
2. Disconnect the automatic mechanism by moving the setting key (1, upper illustration) until the flash symbol appears in the small window (see lower illustration). This gives a shutter speed of $^1/_{30}$ sec.
3. Determine guide number from the flash bulb package, taking into account the speed of the film loaded.
4. Set guide number. The window for setting the black guide numbers is on the ring to the right of the window for the flash symbol, looking at the camera from above. By means of setting key ② the guide number on the flash bulb carton is now set next to the symbol corresponding to that set on the lens. The vertical lines represent the setting mark. If, for instance, the guide number 90 is chosen for the group symbol the window opposite the flash sign shows the lens stop 8, which is the exact lens aperture required for the particular film speed and subject distance.

Exposure hints

Do not forget to set the correct distance from the subject on the lens as well.

If you wish to work only with stop numbers you can set these by means of the key ② in the window opposite the flash sign (see lower illustration on page 13, f. 8 in the example shown).

Similarly, when using an **electronic flashgun** the appropriate guide number should be set on your Optima—as described on page 13.

When returning the setting key ① to the A (= automatic) position the setting key ② also springs back automatically to its original position.

Where clear detail is required in photographs taken against the light it is advisable, when using the automatic mechanism, to set the scale to a film speed of about 3 DIN or its ASA equivalent less than that marked on the film package.

When photographing with **reversal film,** such as Agfacolor CT 18, with an overcast sky the setting on the DIN/ASA disc should be reduced by 2 DIN, in dull weather even by 3—4 DIN, e. g. instead of 18 DIN / 50 ASA, 16 DIN / 32 ASA or 14 DIN / 20 ASA should be set. Do not forget to re-set the original film speed after the exposure has been made.

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 a close-up measurement. 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 lever gently to the first pressure point. Hold the lever in this position and return to your original standpoint to take the photograph.

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

Filters for your Optima 500 S

in screw mounts S of 35.5 mm. diam.

for black and white photography

		Reduce DIN scale setting by
light yellow	1	DIN
medium yellow	2	DIN
yellow-green	2	DIN
UV filter (ultra-violet)		no change

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

For special photographs with colour reversal film

Agfa Color Filter R 1.5 **no change**

NATARIX (Type 6713/355) FOR CLOSE-UPS

You can also make close-ups (below 3¼ ft./1 m.) with the Optima 500 S if you own the Agfa Natarix close-up attachment. The Natarix viewfinder attachment compensates for parallax when lining up your subject.

of your Optima 500 S in brief:

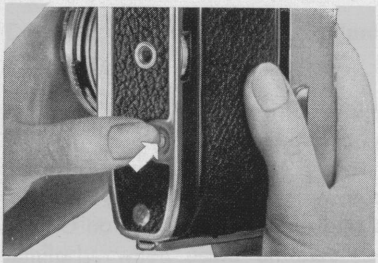
The special shutter of your Optima 500 S covers speeds of $^1/_{30}$ sec. to a fast $^1/_{500}$ sec., the lens stops range from f. 2.8 to 22. When you press the magic release lever down slowly the best shutter speed and aperture combination is fixed and set.

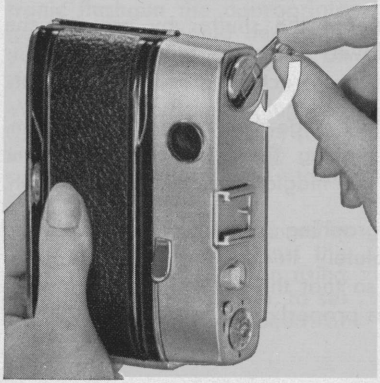
Then you release the shutter by pressing the lever right down. This single operation is your guarantee of a correctly exposed photograph.

If you have to change the direction of the camera before making the exposure, take your finger from the magic lever and start afresh.

When photographing it is important to hold the camera absolutely steady during measurement and release so that the fully automatic mechanism operates properly.

Rewinding the film





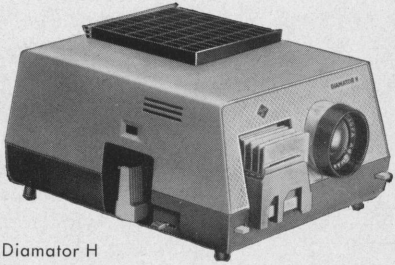
After 36, 20 or 12 exposures (according to the length of film) the dot on the counter will be in line with the dash before the "0". The film is now finished and has to be rewound into its light-tight cassette.

First press in the locking button on the base of the camera, lift the crank with your finger nail and turn it so that the handle points outwards.

Now turn the crank in the direction of the arrow. Rewinding is complete when the rewind crank turns freely. You can now open the back of the camera by pushing the locking lever to the right (see illustration A on page 8). Then pull out the rewind crank as far as it will go and remove the cassette from the camera, place it in its light-tight packing and mark it as exposed. On operating the rapid transport lever the locking button will spring out again.

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We recommend the Agfa Projector CP 35/44 or the attractively styled Agfa Diamator H magazine projector for showing your own colour slides. The fully automatic Agfa Diamator m and Diamator N 12 projectors incorporate genuine technical advances. If you own one of these models you can sit back in your easy chair during projection and provide the necessary commentary, changing the slides and focusing the projector by remote-control. The finishing touch to your brilliant colour transparencies is provided by the Agfa Lumenta bright silk screen.



Agfa Diamator H

YOUR PHOTOGRAPHIC DEALER WILL BE GLAD TO ADVISE YOU

We reserve the right to make alterations to the Agfa Optima 500 S arising from further development.

AGFA-GEVAERT AG · CAMERA-WERK · MUENCHEN

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