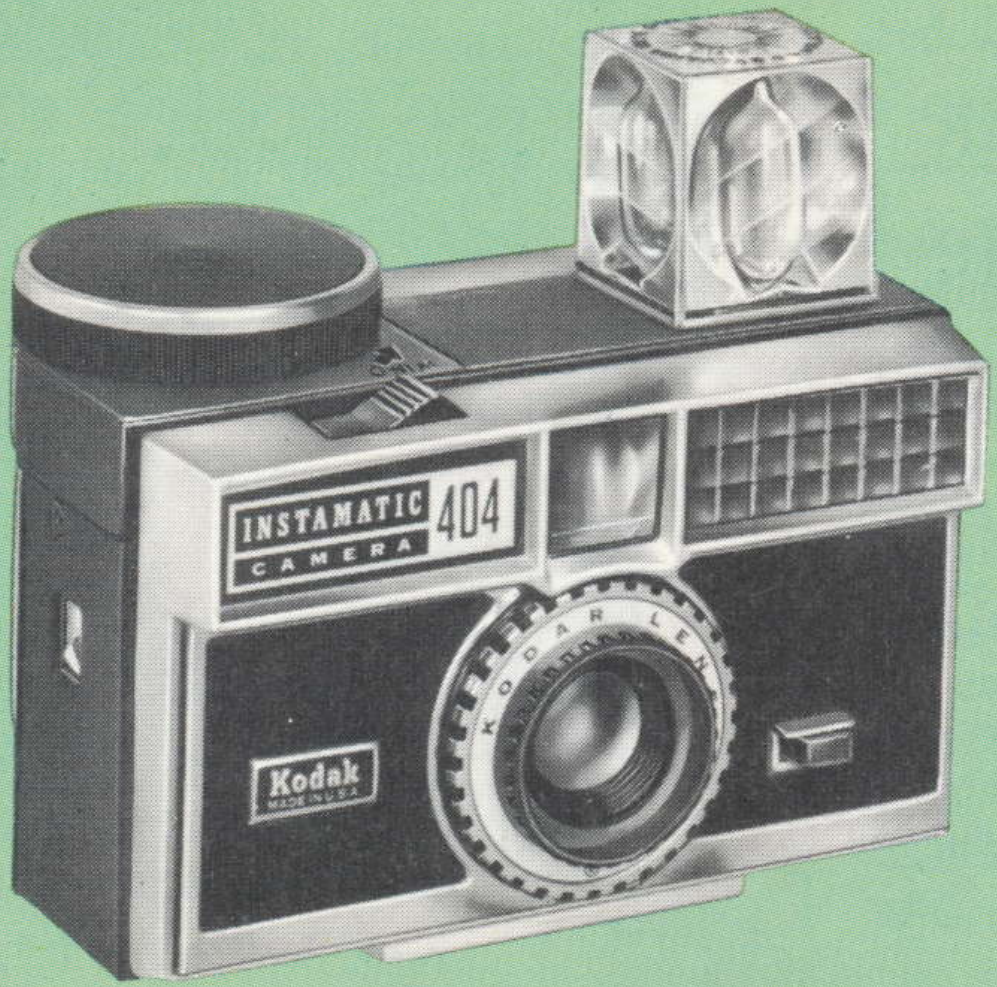
www.butkus.us

KODAK INSTAMATIC® 404 CAMERA



INSTRUCTION MANUAL

KODAK INSTAMATIC 404 CAMERA

• Equipment is subject to minor appearance changes.

Your KODAK INSTAMATIC 404 Camera, with *f*/8 lens, gives you automatic film advance . . . automatic electric-eye exposure . . . automatic flashbulb advance with the new flashcube. These and many other features combine to provide *instant, effortless* picturetaking.

Simply do this . . .

- Drop in film cartridge—camera is loaded
- Wind Spring-power Motor . . . first exposure is ready
- Aim through Eye-level Finder—you see a bright, clear image of your subject
- Press the Shutter Release—you've snapped the picture. Film will advance automatically to next frame

. . . read on for the important details

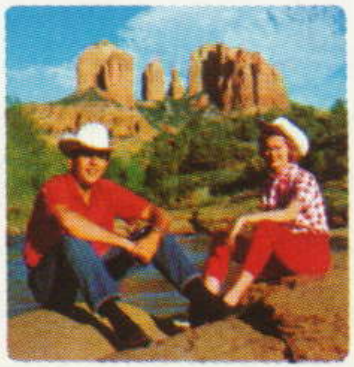
www.butkus.us



1

2

3



Kodachrome
TRANSPARENCY

PROCESSED BY **Kodak**

Your camera takes all three

1 Black-and-white snapshots

2 Color snapshots

3 Color slides

Before you take any important pictures, try a test cartridge of film to check the camera and your operation of it. Expose pictures outdoors and also indoors with flash. If time is pressing, a cartridge of black-and-white film can be processed very quickly.

(Pictures, approx. 2/3 actual size)

This manual is for reference and historical purposes, all rights reserved.
This page is copyright© by M. Butkus, NJ.
This page may not be sold or distributed without the expressed permission of the producer
I have no connection with any camera company

On-line camera manual library

This is the full text and images from the manual. This may take 3 full minutes for the PDF file to download.

If you find this manual useful, how about a donation of $3 to: M. Butkus, 29 Lake Ave., High Bridge, NJ 08829-1701 and send your e-mail address so I can thank you. Most other places would charge you $7.50 for a electronic copy or $18.00 for a hard to read Xerox copy.

This will allow me to continue to buy new manuals and pay their shipping costs. It'll make you feel better, won't it?
If you use Pay Pal or wish to use your credit card, click on the secure site on my main page.

Donate: www.PayPal.me/butkus venmo: @mike-butkus-camera Ph. 2083

FILM

Your camera accepts KODAK Film in the 126 cartridge for instant loading and unloading.

KODAK VERICHROME Pan Film—For 12 black-and-white snapshots. You can order standard 3½ x 3½-inch black-and-white prints or enlargements from your film negatives through your photo dealer.

KODACOLOR-X Film—For 12 or 20 color snapshots. Standard 3½ x 3½-inch color prints or enlargements from your film negatives are available from your photo dealer.

KODACHROME-X Film—For 20 color slides. This film produces color slides which can

www.butkus.us

be obtained, mounted in standard 2 x 2-inch cardboard mounts for projection or viewing, through your photo dealer.

KODAK EKTACHROME-X Film—For 20 color slides. This film produces color slides which can be obtained, mounted in standard 2 x 2-inch cardboard mounts for projection or viewing, through your photo dealer.

KODAK High Speed EKTACHROME Film—For 20 color slides. This extremely fast film is ideal for taking daylight pictures of dimly lighted subjects. It produces color slides which can be obtained, mounted in standard 2 x 2-inch cardboard mounts for projection or viewing, through your photo dealer.

NOTE:

You obtain color negatives from KODACOLOR-X Film. These negatives are primarily for enlarged color prints, but you can also obtain color slides from the negatives. From KODACHROME-X, KODAK High Speed EKTACHROME, or KODAK EKTACHROME-X, you obtain color slides, ready for projection. You can also have duplicate slides or enlarged color prints made from the original slides.

LOADING



1

Open the back of the camera by sliding up the LOCK button and swinging out the hinged cover.



2

Place a film cartridge in the camera with the larger cylindrical end down and toward the lock button, as illustrated.

Mike Butkus

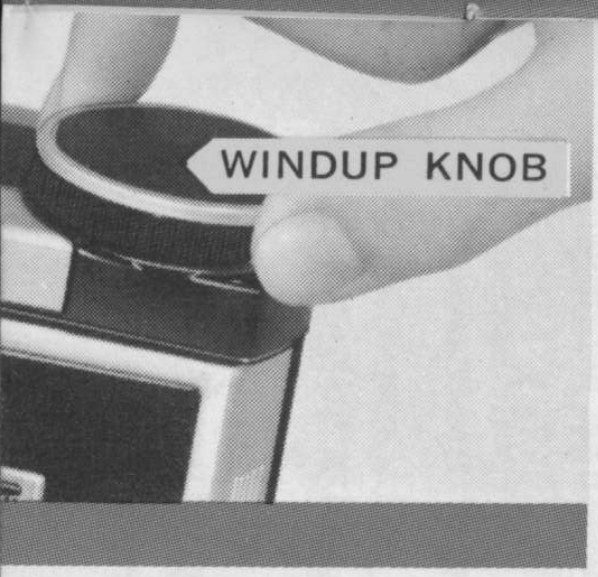
Digitally signed by Mike Butkus
DN: cn=Mike Butkus, o=Butkus camera manuals, ou=butkus.org, email=mike@butkus.org, c=US
Date: 2022.07.20 22:15:51 -04'00'



3

Close the back of the camera by pressing the back against the body until it locks. The film speed is now automatically set. The film name and number of exposures per cartridge appear in the WINDOW on the back of the camera. (When motor is fully wound, first exposure positions itself immediately.)

www.butkus.us



Turn the WINDUP KNOB **counterclockwise** (or back and forth like a watch) until the spring motor is fully wound. This windup positions the first exposure and provides power to advance the film automatically. The appearance of an arrow in the window indicates that the first exposure has not been reached, thus indicating insufficient windup.

The number that appears in the window on the back of the camera (the same number may appear in duplicate) serves as your exposure counter.

UNLOADING

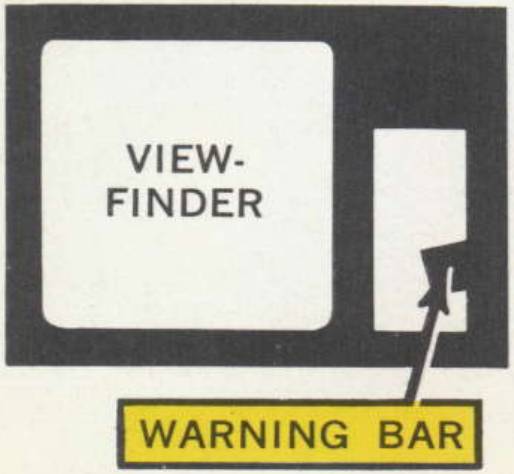
1 After the last picture, the yellow paper will automatically move past the window, provided sufficient power remains in the motor. If not, and an "X" shows in the center of the window, **before opening the back of the camera,** turn the windup knob a few turns counterclockwise to restore power for advancing the yellow paper beyond the window.

2 Slide up the lock button and open the camera.

3 Lift out the cartridge and close the camera. **Do not open the cartridge**—your pictures may be ruined.

NOTE: Do not remove the cartridge from the camera until all the yellow paper, with the "Xs," has been moved past the window; otherwise several exposures will be "light-fogged." Removing and replacing partially-exposed cartridges, even under darkroom conditions, may result in loss of one or more exposures due to possible loss of tension on the cartridge take-up spool.





OUTDOOR PICTURES

- The size of the lens opening is automatically controlled by the amount of light reflected to the electric eye by the subject. *Make sure that the* ELECTRIC EYE *is not obstructed, during picturetaking, by the fingers or any other object,* and *that the camera is not pointed toward the sun or other bright light-source.*

  NOTE: Look through the viewfinder window. If there is not sufficient light to take a properly exposed picture, a WARNING BAR will appear in the light rectangle to the right of the viewfinder. Also, see note, page 11.

- Keep at least 5 feet from your subject for sharp pictures.

- View the subject by bringing the rear opening of the viewfinder close enough to your

www.butkus.us

eye to see the entire outline of the front frame; then move head and camera as a unit.

- Hold the camera steady and take the picture by *slowly* pressing down the SHUTTER RELEASE all the way.*
- With the motor wound, film advances automatically to the next frame when pressure is removed from the shutter release.

FLASH PICTURES

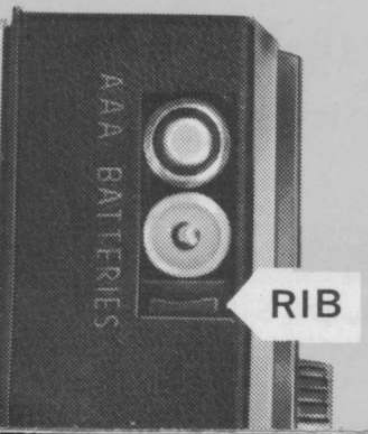
Your camera features easy, rapid flash picturetaking with the new flashcube which incorporates 4 blue bulbs, reflectors and flash-guards. As pressure is removed from the shutter release, after taking a flash shot, the flashcube rotates one quarter turn counter-clockwise to bring another flashbulb into firing position.

- **For color slides,** use KODAK EKTACHROME-X, KODACHROME-X, or KODAK High Speed EKTACHROME Film.
- **For color prints,** use KODACOLOR-X Film.
- **For black-and-white prints,** use KODAK VERICHROME Pan Film.

*Make sure that the lens is clean and unobstructed by fingers, case, or strap.

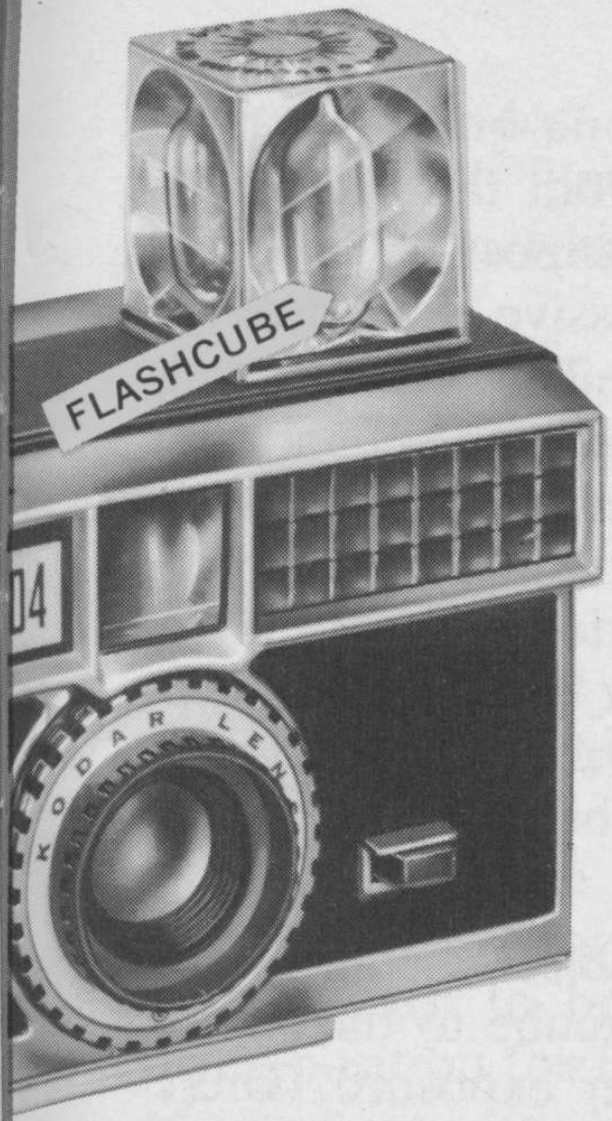
- The camera-to-subject distance must be between 4 and 9 feet for all films except High Speed EKTACHROME; the distance range for this faster film is 8 to 13 feet.

Batteries: Two size AAA batteries* (alkaline-type recommended) are required. Before installing, clean battery contacts with a rough cloth. To install batteries, first open the battery compartment on the bottom of the camera, as shown below, by sliding the raised RIB of the battery cover to the opposite end of the recess. Insert the batteries—one base *down;* the other base *up*—as illustrated. Press down slightly against the batteries while sliding the cover back to close the compartment. *The cover must be entirely closed to complete the electrical circuit.*



Important: Flash failure usually results from tarnish (often invisible) on battery and camera contacts. (1) Clean battery contacts often with a rough cloth. (2) Clean deep contacts in battery compartment often by rotating a pencil eraser several times on the contacts. (3) Clean contacts inside battery cover by sliding cover back-and-forth across battery contacts. If flash failure persists, install fresh batteries.

www.butkus.us



Important: Do not obstruct rotation of flashcube.

Taking Flash Pictures

1. Insert the Flashcube—Insert the base of the FLASHCUBE into the socket on the top of the camera; then press down the flashcube until it snap-locks in place with one of its four sides facing forward. Flash exposure is not controlled by the electric eye, but depends on the distance from the flashbulb to the subject. Disregard the appearance of the warning bar.

NOTE: If in **outdoor** picturetaking, the warning bar (in viewfinder window) indicates insufficient light for proper exposure because of heavy overcast or shaded light conditions, take a flash picture. Acceptable exposures of subjects in the 4- to 9-foot range can be made with all films except High Speed EKTACHROME, which extends the range to 8 to 13 feet.



The cube revolves one quarter turn as pressure is removed from the shutter release after making an exposure, thus providing flash for 4 successive exposures *if a fresh cube is in place*. To use a partially used cube, insert a cube with a fresh bulb forward, keeping in mind the *counter-clockwise rotation* of the cube to bring succeeding fresh bulbs to the frontal firing position. The cube can also be rotated by hand to position a bulb for firing.

To release a flashcube, press the EJECTOR bar.

2. Check Camera-to-Subject Distance—The distance from the flashcube to the subject is important for proper exposure. Therefore, *make sure* that the subject is *no*

www.butkus.us

*closer than 4 feet or farther away than 9 feet** for all films except High Speed EKTACHROME, which has a range of 8 to 13 feet.

3. Flash the Picture—View the subject by bringing the rear opening of the viewfinder just close enough to your eye to see the entire outline of the front viewfinder frame; move head and camera as a unit when adjusting the field of view—then, slowly press the shutter release to flash the bulb and take the picture.

When pressure is removed from the shutter release, the cube will revolve one quarter turn to bring another bulb into firing position for the next exposure.

*For handy reference, this distance range is shown on the flash socket on the top of the camera.

PHOTO AIDS

You can extend your picturetaking scope and enjoyment with the photo aids described below. See your Kodak dealer for these and others.

KODAK INSTAMATIC Field Case, Model E—This attractively lined, molded field case will provide maximum protection for your camera. The special drop-front design permits instant picturetaking, loading, and unloading without removing the camera from its case.

Lens Attachments—For extra-close pictures of people, flowers, etc., merely slip a close-up attachment over the lens. The subject can then be as close to the camera as 2½ ft., or as far away as 4 ft.

KODAK Flashcube Extender—Increases the distance between the lens and the flashcube to produce more pleasing modeling and shadow effects in close-ups.

KODAK Projectors—A Kodak projector or viewer will show your color slides big, bright and sharp on the screen. Ask your dealer to see the low-cost, compact KODAK READY-MATIC Viewer or the popular KODAK CAROUSEL Projectors.

KODAK Publications—The keys to snapshot fun and success are to be found in "How to Make Good Pictures"—perhaps the most popular picturetaking book of all time. Your Kodak dealer will be glad to show you this and other inexpensive books on photography.

www.butkus.us

SERVICE FACILITIES

If your KODAK camera should require attention, complete service facilities are provided at Rochester and in KODAK Regional Sales Divisions at the addresses, opposite. Also, service, covered under the guarantee, is available through independent service shops in many cities. For such local, guarantee-covered service, please see your KODAK dealer or refer to the yellow pages of your telephone directory under Photographic Equipment and Supplies—Factory Approved Warranty Service.

Eastman Kodak Company
Apparatus Service
800 Lee Road
Rochester, New York 14650

Eastman Kodak Company
Apparatus Service
1901 West 22nd Street
Oak Brook, Illinois 60523

Eastman Kodak Company
Apparatus Service
6300 Cedar Springs Road
Dallas, Texas 75235

Eastman Kodak Company
Apparatus Service
5315 Peachtree
Industrial Blvd.
Chamblee, Georgia 30005

Eastman Kodak Company
Apparatus Service
3250 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, California 94119

Eastman Kodak Company
Apparatus Service
1334 York Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Eastman Kodak Company
Apparatus Service
808 Rivera Road
Whittier, California 90606

Eastman Kodak Company
Apparatus Service
1065 Kapiolani Blvd.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96807

GUARANTEE

Within a year after purchase, any repairs necessary to this KODAK INSTAMATIC Camera due to a defect in materials or workmanship will be made or, at our option, the camera will be replaced without charge. No other warranty or guarantee, express or implied, shall be applicable to this equipment. Nor are we responsible for loss of film, for other expenses or inconveniences, or for any consequential damages occasioned by the equipment.

In case of a defect, the camera should be sent directly or through a Kodak dealer to Eastman Kodak Company or a repair firm authorized by us to make such repairs. It should be accompanied by a description of the trouble encountered and other available information regarding the camera, including the date and place of purchase.

EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY, Rochester, N. Y. 14650

Pt. No. 633040
9-66-CH-BEX

Printed in the United States of America