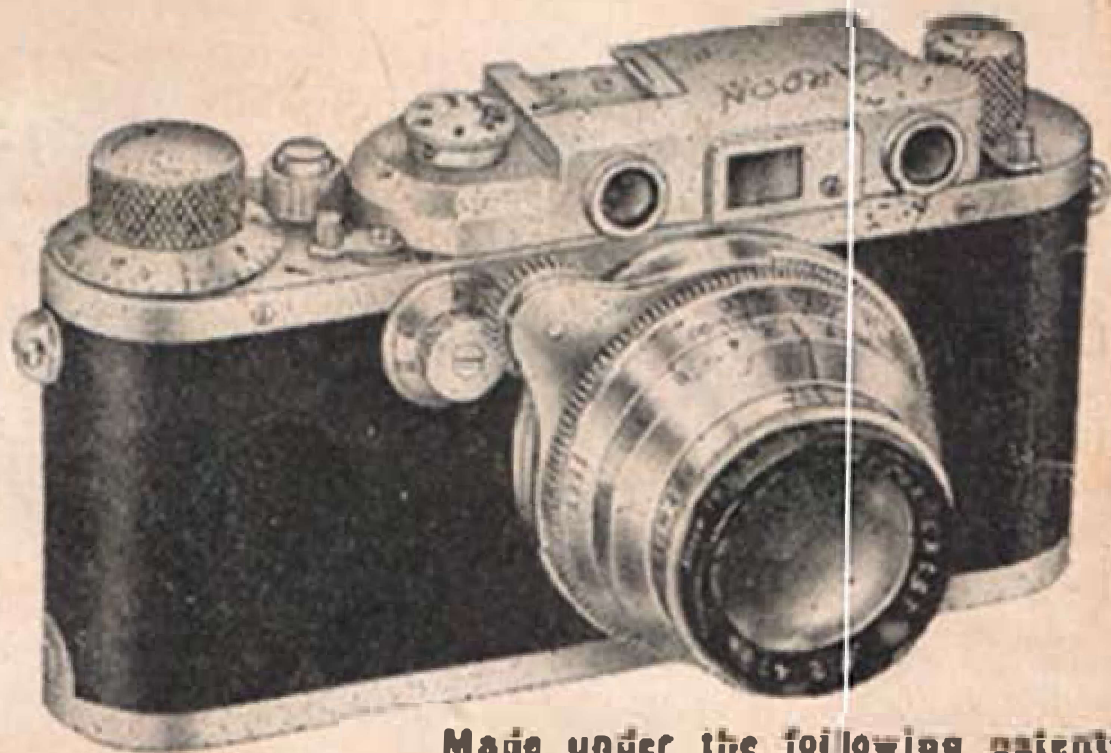


# *Operating Instructions for...*



# **KARDON** U.S.A.

## **THE ALL-AMERICAN MINIATURE**

Made under the following patents:

1,858,385	1,960,044
2,038,261	2,122,671

## NEW AMERICAN MINIATURE IN PRODUCTION

CAMERAWISE, sights on the near horizon disclose a new 35mm camera of considerable interest to miniature camera enthusiasts. The specific news is that the Premier Instrument Corp., of 52 West Houston Street, New York City, has announced its forthcoming Kardon camera, which undoubtedly will arouse considerable discussion.

Behind the news is a significant story that goes back to war days when, in 1944, E. Leitz and Company, original distributors in this country of the German Leica, was awarded a prime contract to make Leica cameras for the U. S. Army Signal Corps. Leitz searched far and wide for subcontractors to undertake the job without success. Manufacturers shied away. Reason? Specifications called for American manufacture of one of Germany's finest and most highly publicized cameras, and everyone said it couldn't be done.

Peter Kardon, adventurous president of the Premier Instrument Company, got wind of the situation and up went his dander. Who said the U.S.A. couldn't make a Leica? Kardon accepted the challenge with the assertion that not only could he make a Leica as good as the German species, but he would make a better one. He took the contract and got to work. By war's end he had completed the first camera.

VJ Day terminated Premier's sub-contract with Leitz, leaving the company with a big investment in dies and machinery. Pete Kardon had accepted a challenge. He had made an American Leica, which he believed to be a better camera in many respects than the German original. Whether he has or not time and experience will tell. In

all respects he has duplicated the Leica IIIA features and incorporated some changes, such as a heavier and stronger die-stamped duraluminum body. As a result of American production methods the camera's parts are made to tolerances sufficiently close to allow complete interchangeability for easy replacement. With the Eastman 47mm, f 2 Ektar lens Kardon felt that he had a camera good enough to manufacture. He christened it the Kardon (E. Leitz owns the rights to the Leica name), and began to manufacture it. The Kardon has a built-in coupled rangefinder, slow shutter speeds of 1 second,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{8}$  as well as normal speeds (from 1/20 to 1/1000), T for long time exposures, and B for short time exposures. A magnifying system is built into the rangefinder giving 1.5 x magnification. All metal parts are satin-chrome finished.

The Eastman lens barrel permits use of the full line of Eastman accessories, such as lens-shades, filters, and other lens attachments.

*From Popular Photography*

"... It is the first really post-war camera."—Norris Harkness, New York Sun.

"... if you want a top-grade 35mm (camera) I would be the first to urge getting an American job."—Mabel Scacheri, New York World-Telegram.

"... an answer to the charge America could not match the precision of Germany's camera makers."—Jacob Deschin, New York Times.

**These quick instructions will enable you to operate your Kardon in only 11 reading minutes — 16 minutes if you practice as you read. Detailed operating manual will be sent without charge to all Kardon owners who return the registration card.**

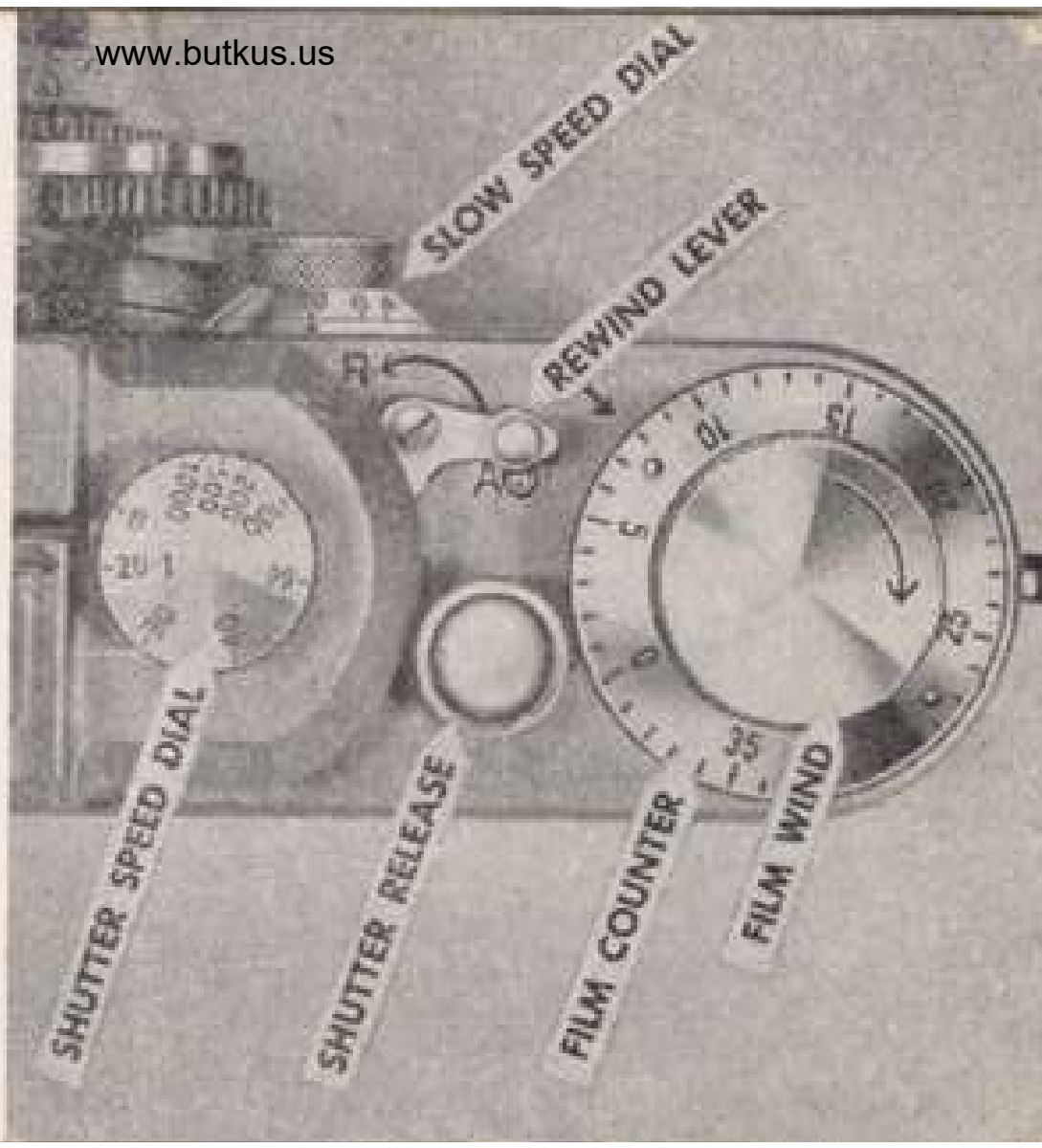
**PREMIER INSTRUMENT CORPORATION**

**52 W. Houston St.**

**New York 12, N. Y.**

The winding knob winds both shutter and film in one operation. Set the shutter speed after winding by lifting the shutter speed dial and setting the desired speed opposite the arrow.

4



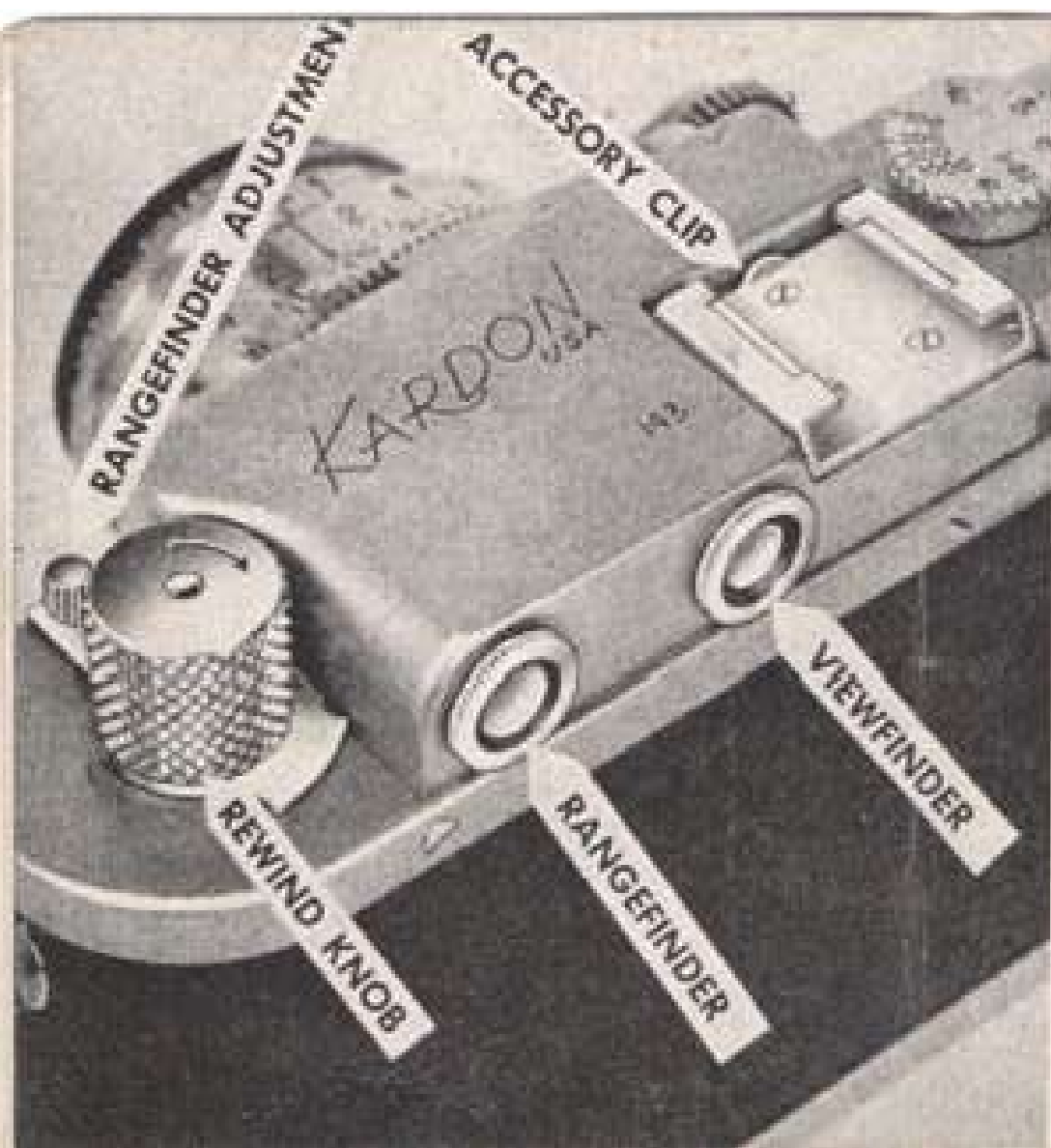
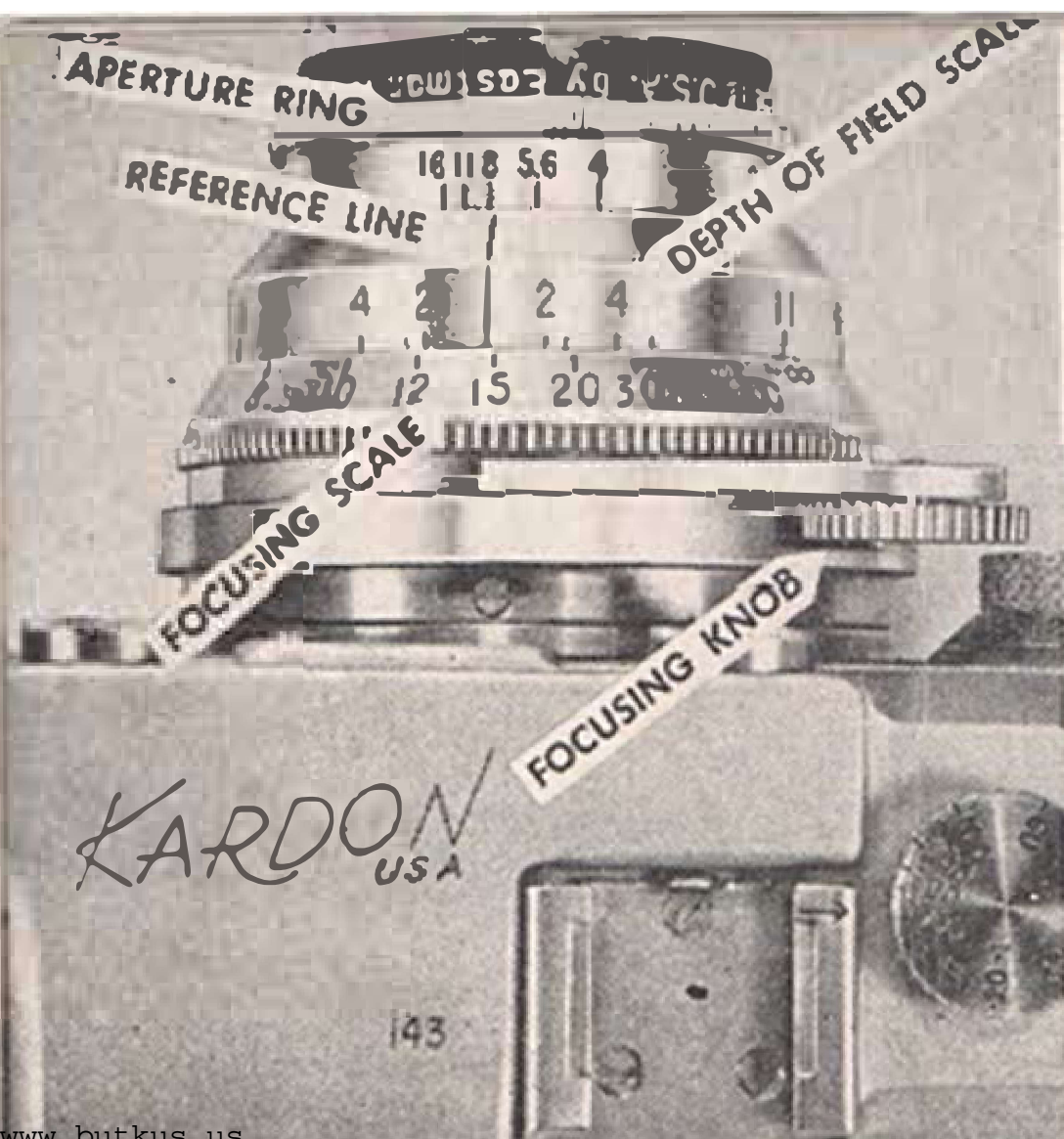


Image in rangefinder is adjusted by focussing lens. Viewfinder shows slightly more than exact field with the standard Kardon 47mm Ektar lens. Rangefinder adjustment lever, normally at infinity position shown, for average scenes, average eyes. Rangefinder image can be sharpened through entire focussing range of camera lens by rangefinder adjustment lever, which can also be used to compensate for your eyesight.

Set the shutter speed dial (page 4) to "20-1" and slow speed dial becomes operative. Dial may be set between indicated speeds for other fractions of second. For time exposures, set on "T", open shutter by pressing release button; close shutter by moving slow speed dial towards "1".





Three scales on lens show aperture setting, distance and depth. Reference line is used for both scales. Lens is set on f:8 and 15 feet. Depth scale is read against footage scale. Setting shows depth of field at f:8 from a little more than 8 feet to about 75 feet. Focussing may be by knob or by knurled ring next to footage scale.

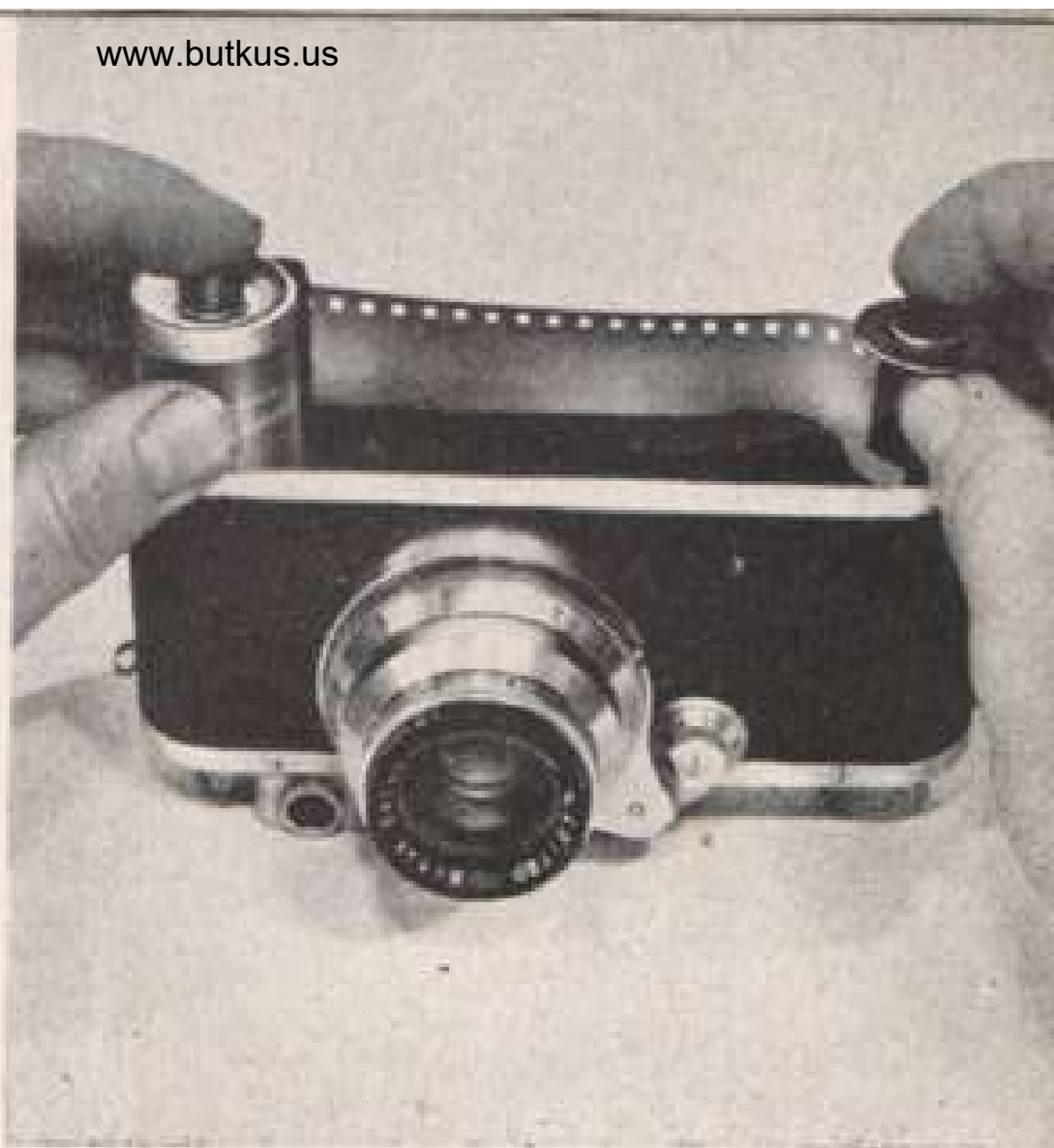
To load and unload, lift base lock key, turn in direction shown by arrow on base, pull firmly away from camera, disengage base from pin on opposite end of camera. When replacing base make sure pin is engaged before pressing base on camera.





Don't pull film from cartridge at this stage! Be sure edge of film is tight against flange and end is fully under tab on spool. (If you spool your own film, trim leader to standard shape.)

Slide cartridge and spool in together, first pulling them apart far enough to withdraw film. Seat each end firmly in chamber, twisting spool knobs slightly if needed until they drop all the way in. Replace base, lock it, then ...

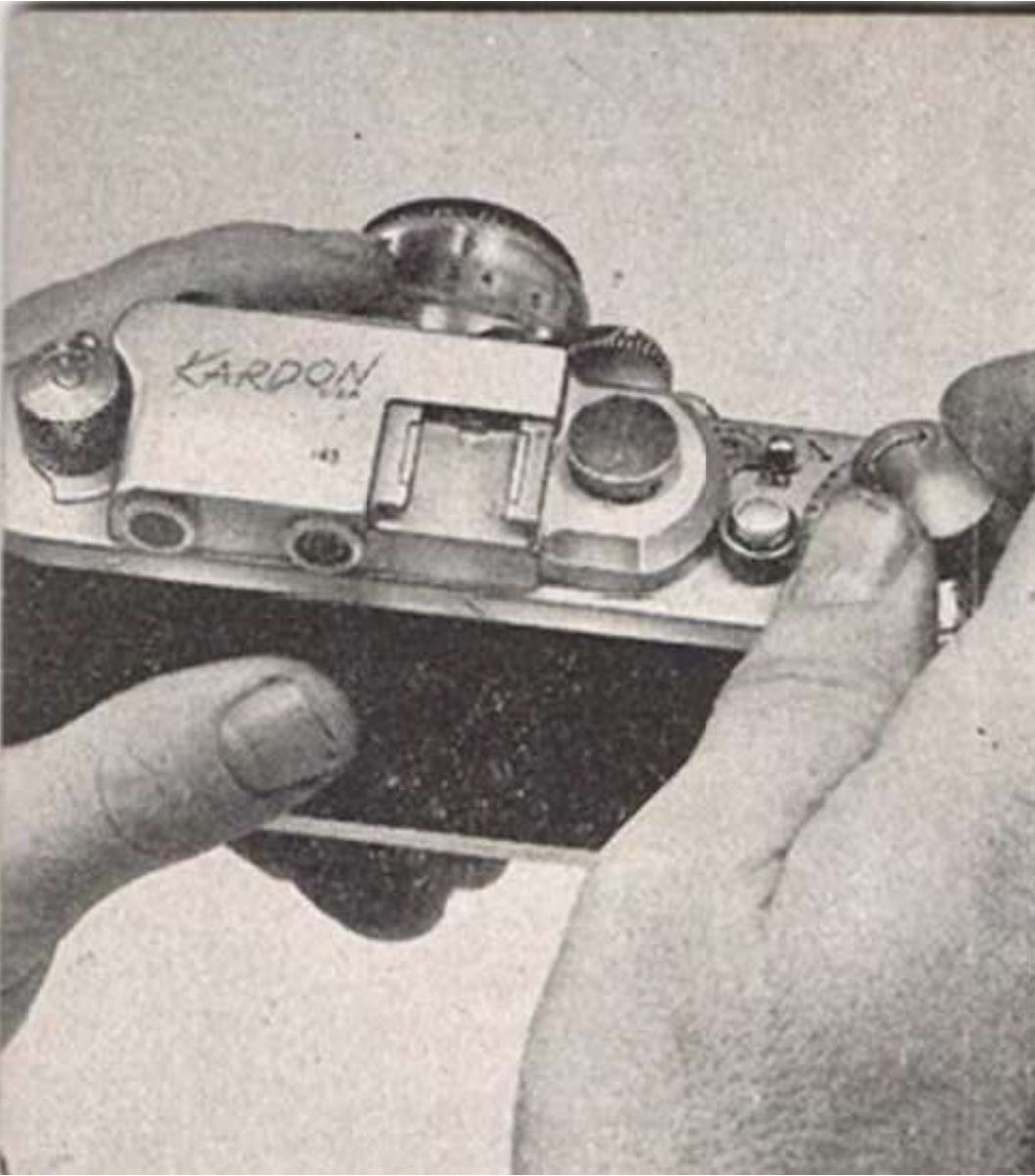




Wind knob until it stops, then trip shutter. Wind knob again, but before tripping shutter set film counter dial on "0" by turning counter dial, using lugs. Then trip shutter and leader film has been wound on take-up spool, fresh film is ready to be wound into position for your first Kardon picture. Rewind knob turns if film is secured to take-up spool.

Set the aperture to the correct stop as indicated by your exposure meter or calculator....





Wind shutter which also advances film. (Always wind shutter before setting shutter speed.)

Set shutter to the speed desired by lifting the knob then turning dial to set speed opposite arrow. {Shutter speed dial stays at high level when set on 1/1000th.}





Look at your subject through  
the rangefinder and operate the  
focussing knob . . . or . . .

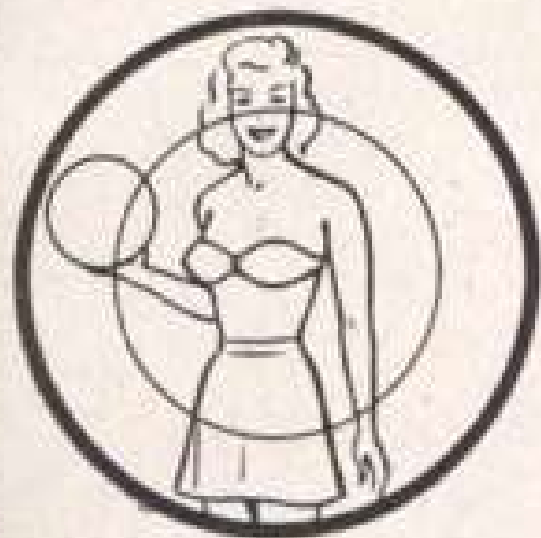
Focus by turning the lens with your finger resting on the knurled ring around the base of the lens mount.



**NOT IN  
FOCUS**

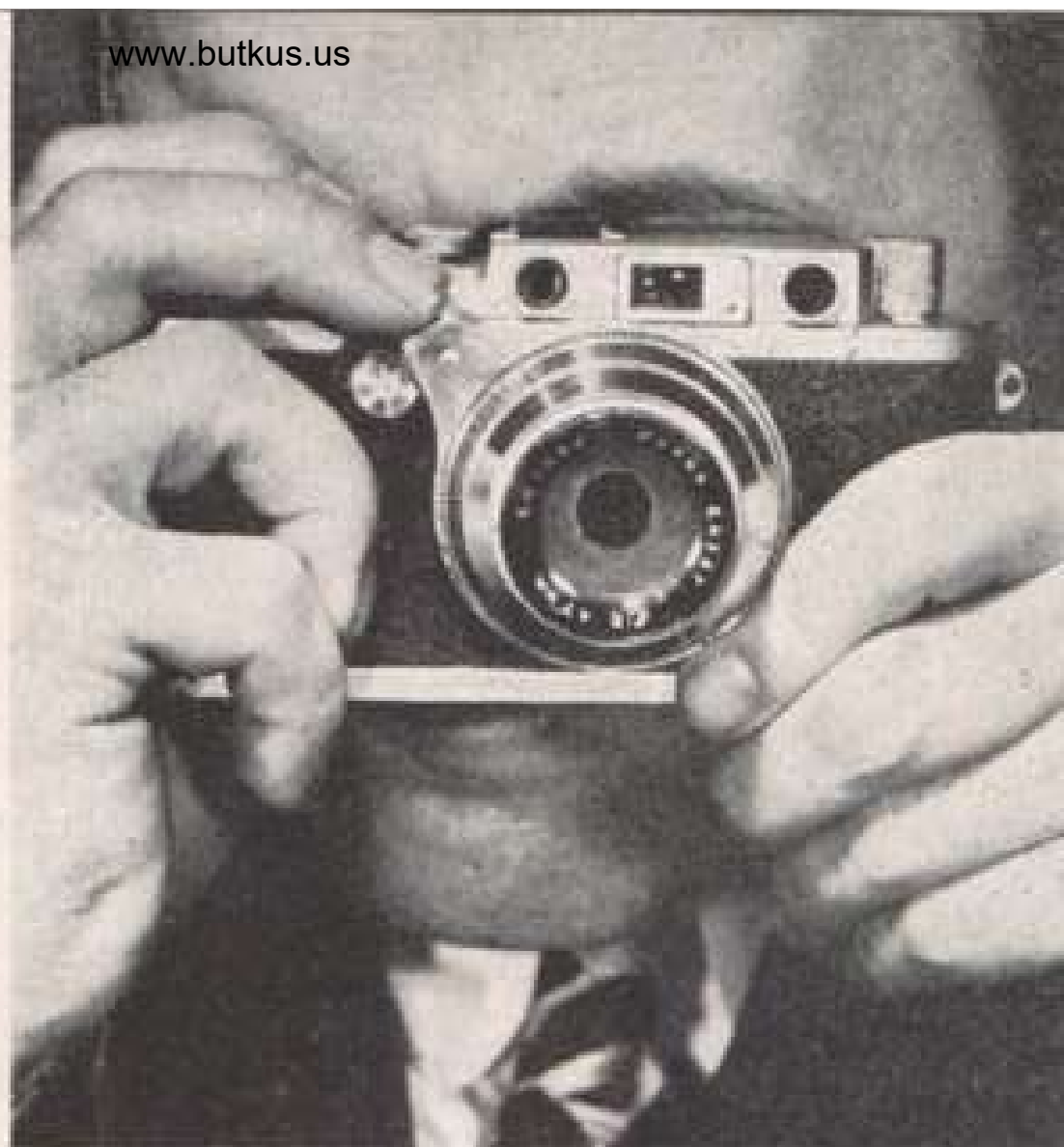


**CORRECT  
FOCUS**



In the range finder you will see double at first. As you turn the lens one image will slide across the other. When you see a *single* image of the object your lens is in focus. Background and foreground objects may still show double, but the object is in exact optical focus.

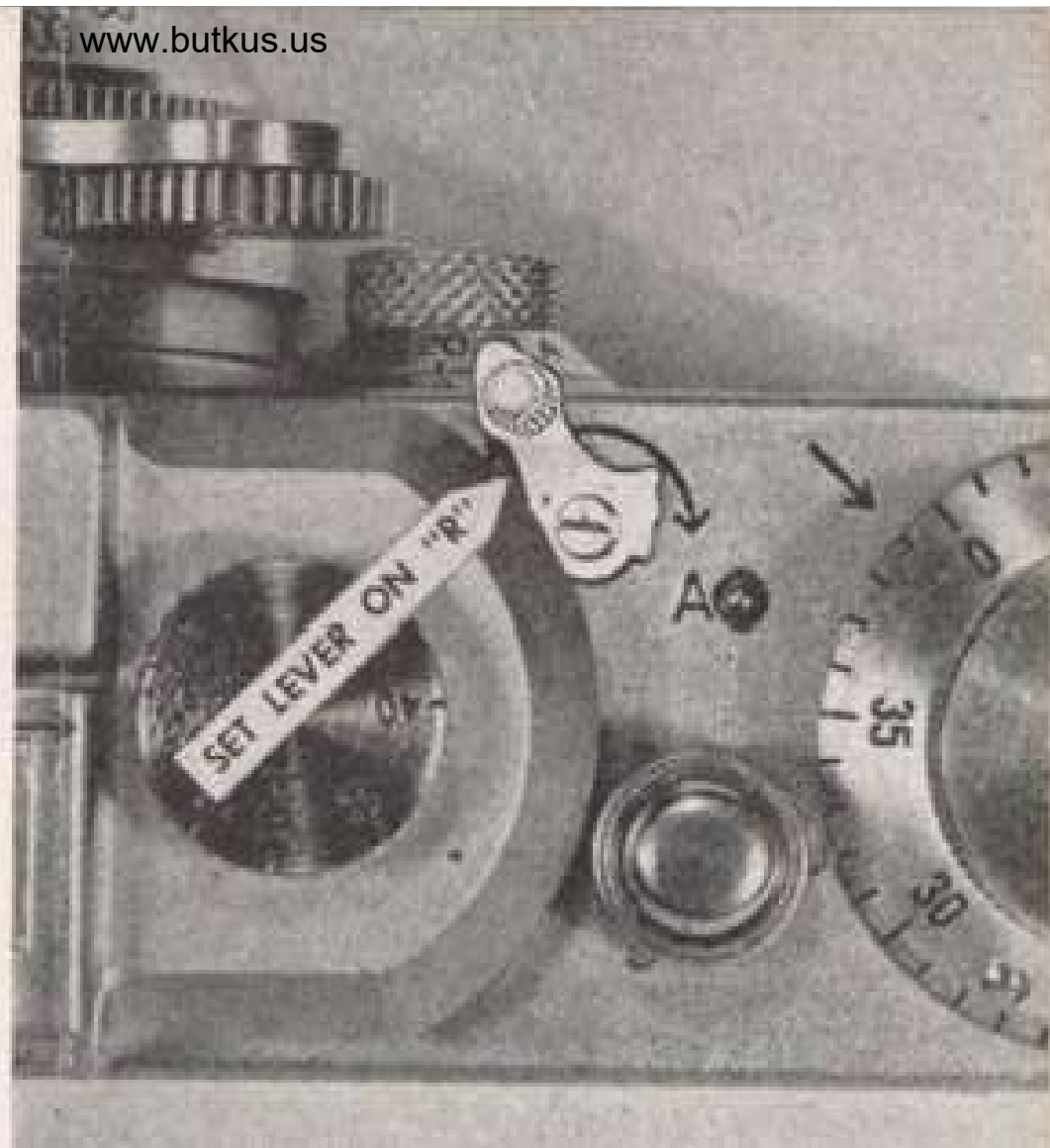
Now move your eye to the right window and see the scene as you will photograph it. You will see a tiny bit more on all sides than the lens covers but you can disregard this. It helps you make sure there will be no unwanted objects intruding slightly into the edges of your picture.





For vertical pictures simply turn the camera vertically. There are several ways to hold it in vertical position, one is suggested here. In any case support the camera against your nose or forehead for steady pictures. And when you press the button, s-q-u-e-e-z-e it as if you were shooting a rifle. Then there will be no chance of moving the camera.

When your dial shows you have finished the roll, (36 exposures with black-and-white film, 18 exposures with color film), move the rewind lever to the "R" or Rewind position. This permits the film to be rewound. Remember to set it back to the "A" or Advance position when finished rewinding.





Pull the rewind knob all the way out. Wind the film back into the cartridge by turning in the direction of the arrow. The release button will revolve while film is being wound back. When it stops turning you can stop winding since all your pictures are inside the cartridge.

Your Kardon camera is THE All-American Miniature. Its superb Kodak f:2 Ektar lens has been lumenized to assure you crisp sharp pictures. It is fully corrected for color photography, and accepts Kodak Series VI lens attachments and filters. The Kardon camera and its accessories, including Ektar wide angle and telephoto lenses, are interchangeable with the German Leica camera and its accessories.

### **CARE OF THE KARDON CAMERA**

Keep dust out of camera and lens mount. Clean the lens with lens tissue; use only approved lens cleaning fluids. Lens can be removed but care should be used in replacing it.

Turn lens backwards until you feel the threads drop into place, then turn it gently in a clockwise direction until it seats firmly against the camera. Never force your lens, or any other part of the camera. Never oil the camera, either inside or outside. It is lubricated at the factory with specially selected lubricants. If it needs further lubrication it also needs cleaning. An Authorized Service Station can do this for you or you can return it to our Service Department. Repairs, though seldom needed should be entrusted only to an Authorized Kardon Service Station or to our Service Department.

*Complete and Mail your Registration Card.*