KIEV – 15

OPERATING MANUAL

Translated by Google, via OCR scan. Can translate to other languages

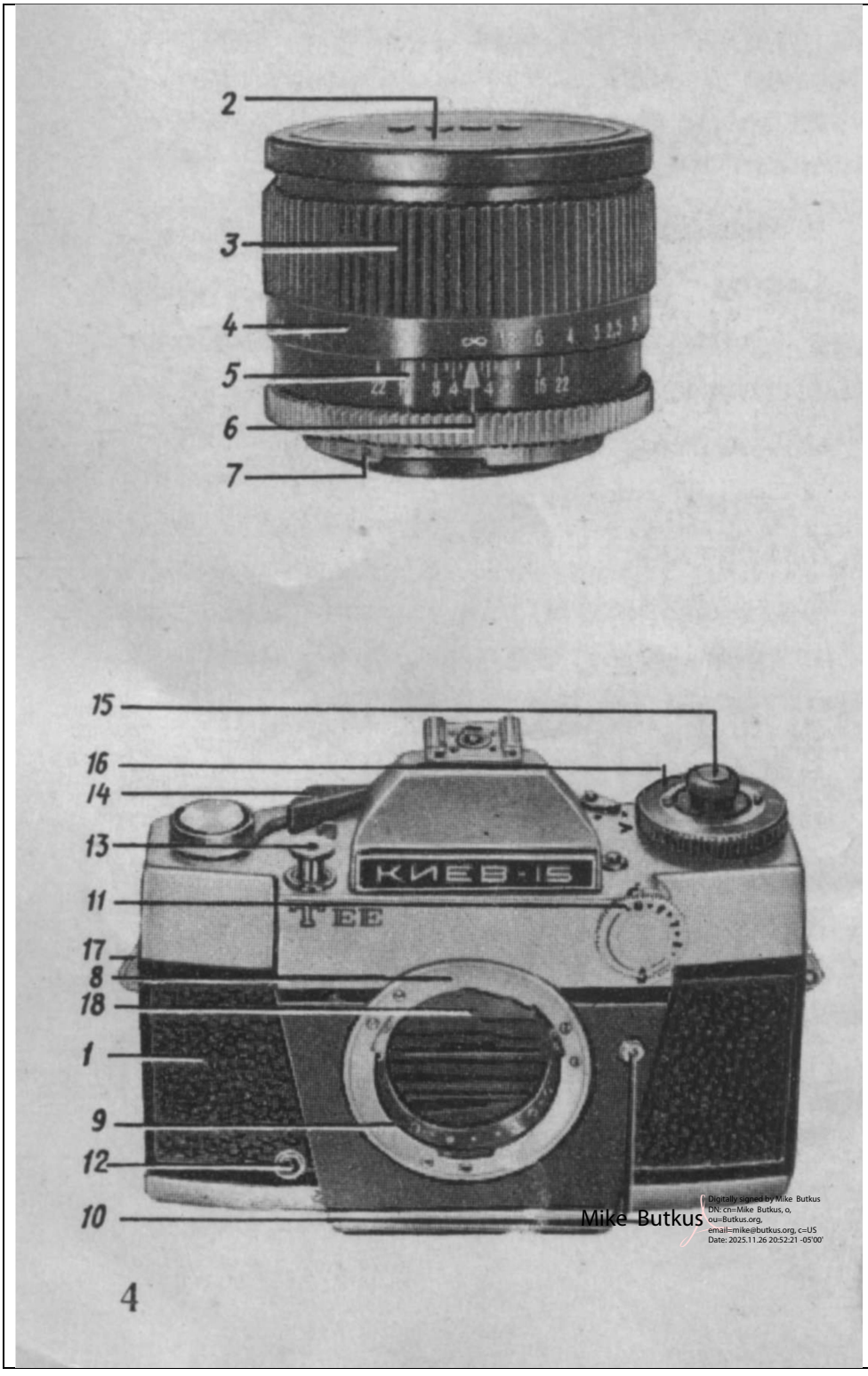
The Kyiv-15 (Uev-15) is a high-end, small-format TEE-based SLR camera with automatic exposure control (TEE is the international designation for an automatic camera with light metering behind the lens). The camera is designed for a variety of amateur and professional photography, and can also be used in scientific and technical photography. With proper use and careful maintenance, it will produce high-quality black-and-white and color photographs and transparencies. The camera is designed to use 35 mm film in standard cassettes (36 frames of 24x36 mm format). It is equipped with a high-quality, high-aperture Helios-81 lens with a focal length of 50 mm and an aperture ratio of 1:2. The design allows for the use of interchangeable lenses. The lens mount is bayonet-type.

The fan-type shutter with metal blades provides high-precision shutter speeds in the range of 1/1000 to 1/2 second, and can be manually adjusted to "B." The shutter cocking mechanism is a lever-type device, interlocked with the film transport mechanism and frame counter. Automatic exposure control is achieved by an automatic aperture control mechanism using an exposure meter, whose light detector is located behind the lens (the shutter speed and film sensitivity are preset). The exposure meter operates at object brightness from 25 to 13,000 cd/m². At lower illumination levels (3.2-25 cd/m²), an additional range of the exposure meter is activated. The design provides the ability to disable the automatic aperture setting mechanism: in this case, the aperture value is set manually, without disabling the exposure meter. The viewfinder is a reflex, continuous-viewfinder (mirror retracts)

(Only for the duration of the shutter release). Focus is achieved using a micro-raster and ground glass viewfinder with the aperture fully open. The viewfinder's design allows for viewing without removing glasses. The camera comes with a removable eyecup, into which a diopter lens can be inserted if necessary. The viewfinder's field of view measures 22 x 34 mm. The rear panel of the camera is hinged and hinged. The frame counter is automatically set to "H" (start) when the rear panel is opened. The camera is equipped with a synchronizing device for working with flash lamps at shutter speeds of 1/60 sec and longer. The design of the photographic apparatus is protected by copyrights. Before you begin taking photographs, please read this Manual thoroughly.

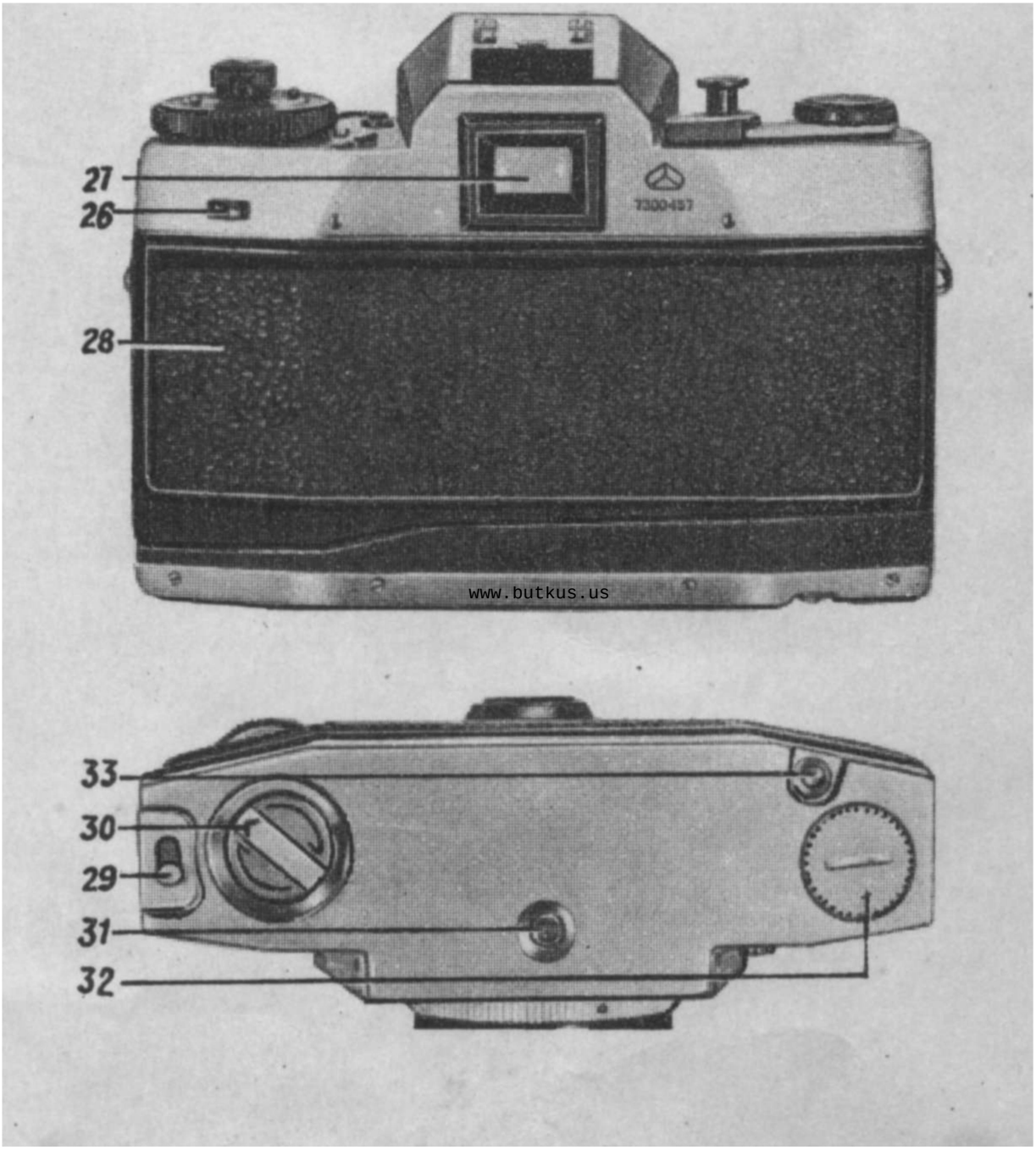
DELIVERY KIT

Photo camera with Helios-81 lens ("Helios-81")
Front lens cap
Rear lens cap
Filters: U F-1 x (U V-1 x)
YG-1.4X (YG-1.4")
Eyecup Adapter ring
Sling cable
Insert Case
Instruction manual
Packing box

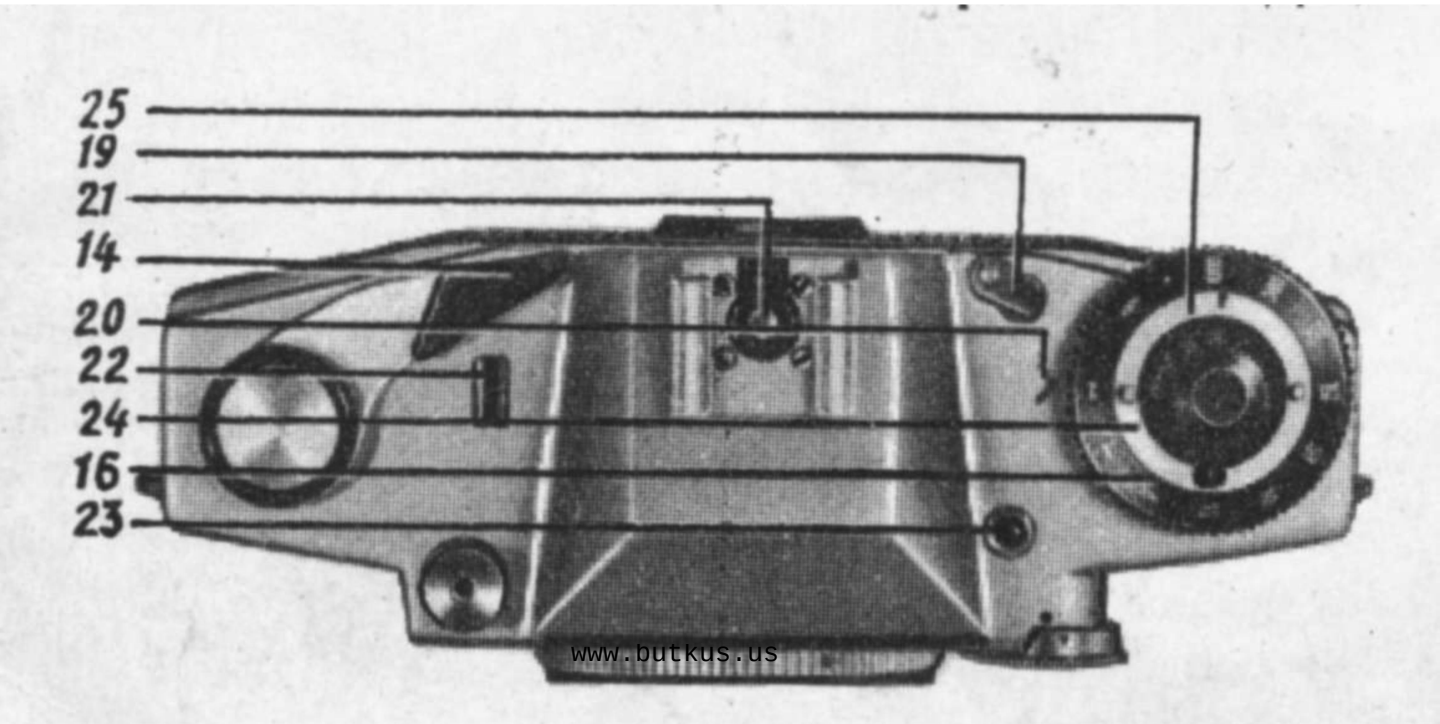


MAIN PARTS

1 - Camera;
2 - Lens;
3 - Lens focusing ring;
4 - Distance scale;
5 - Depth-of-field scale;
6 - Distance scale index;
7 - Lens red dot;
8 - Camera red dot;
9 - Camera bayonet;
10 - Lens release button;
11 - Aperture setting dial;
12 - Sync contact socket;
13 - Trigger button;
14 - Shutter cocking lever;
15 - Film sensitivity and sub-range adjustment knob;
16 - Shutter speed setting ring;
17 - Belt loop;
18 - Mirrors;



19 - Exposure meter on/off lever; 20 - Shutter speed scale index; 21 - Cordless FLASH holder with contact; 22 - Frame counter window; 23 - Power supply check button; 24 - Lens aperture setting dial;	25 - Film sensitivity scale index; 26 - Film advance control window; 27 - Viewfinder eyepiece; 28 - Folding back cover; 29 - Back panel lock button; 30 - Film rewind handle; 31 - Tripod socket with ¼” thread;



19 – Exposure meter on/off lever; 20 – Shutter speed scale index; 21 – Cordless FLASH holder with contact; 22 – Frame counter window; 23 – Power supply check button; 24 – Lens aperture setting dial;	25 – Film sensitivity scale index; 26 – Film advance control window; 27 – Viewfinder eyepiece; 28 – Folding back cover; 29 – Back panel lock button; 30 – Film rewind handle; 31 – Tripod socket with LJ/’ thread;

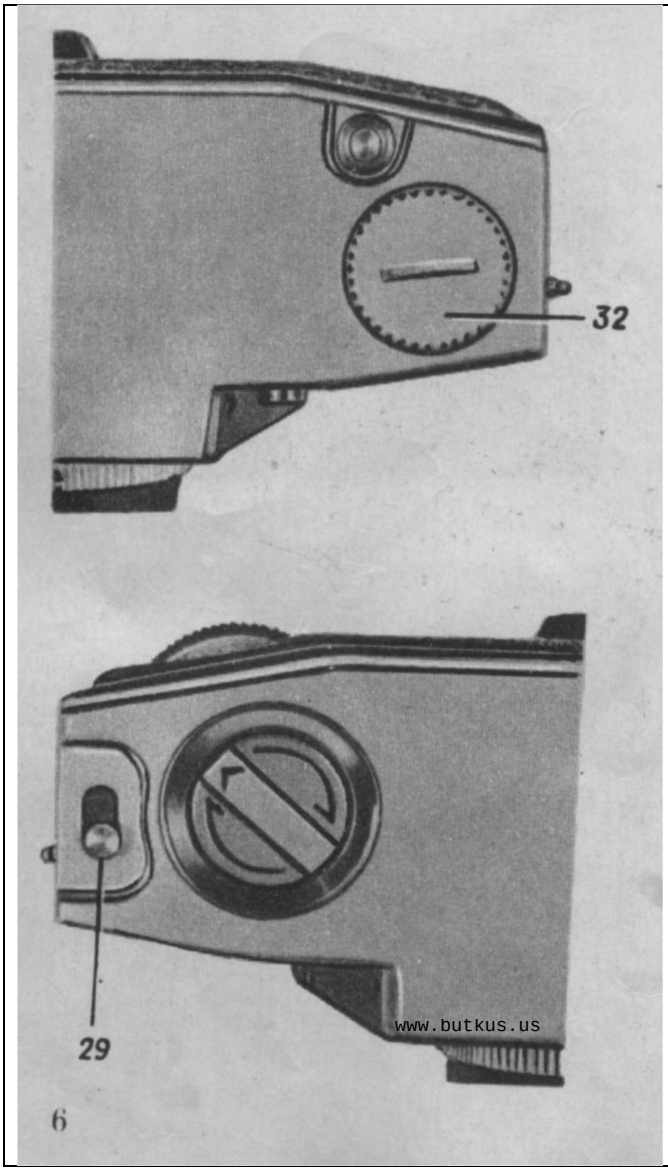
On-line camera manual library

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

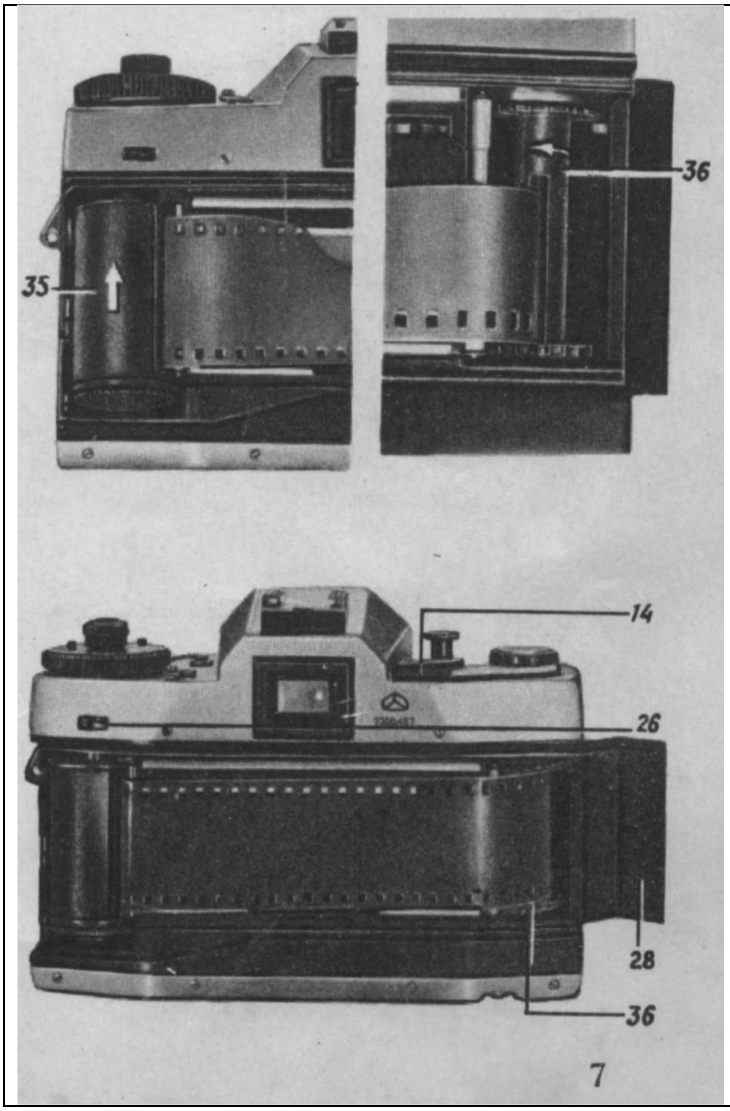


INSTALLING THE POWER SUPPLY

A 1.3 V battery with a diameter of 15.6 mm and a height of 6.3 mm must be installed in the camera. (Mercury battery - They are no longer available. There are adapters to take 1.5 v batteries that drop the voltage or hearing aid batteries or Wein Air batteries)

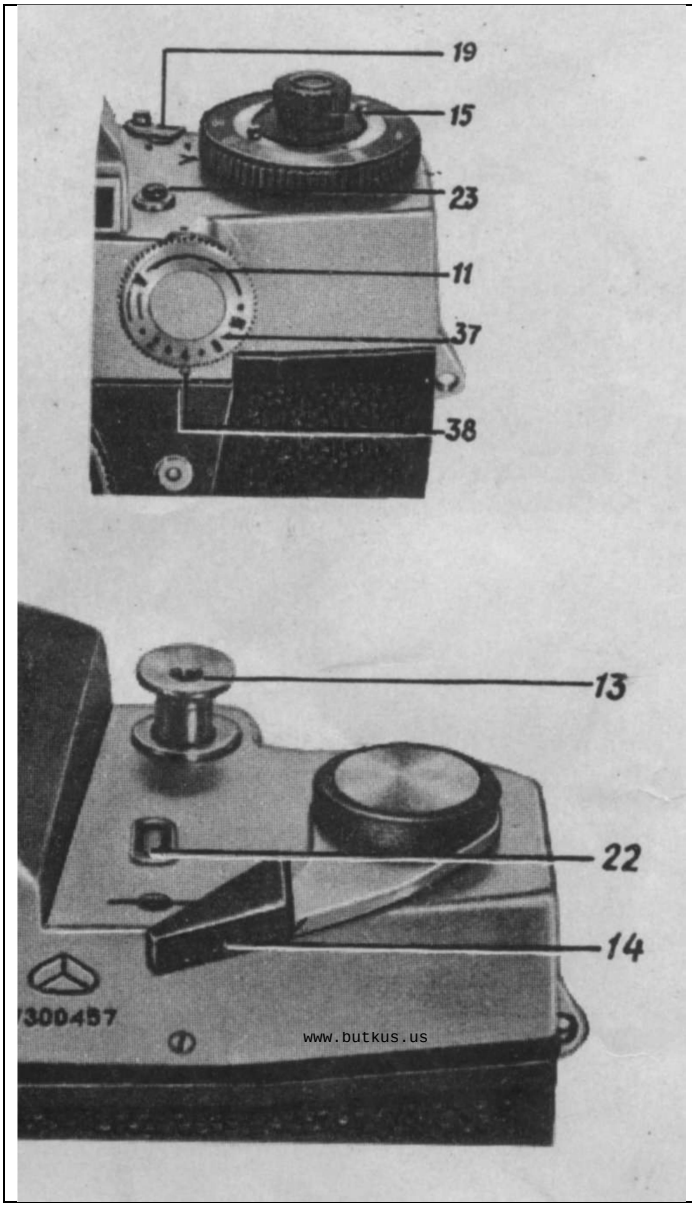
Unscrew cap (32) and install the battery so that the positive terminal is facing up. Screw the cap back on and check the battery's serviceability by: turning off the exposure meter by setting lever (19) against the red dot; check that the index of the head (15) is set to the large yellow dot; set the shutter speed to 1/60 sec, highlighted in red, film sensitivity to 17 DIN, and lens aperture to 2;
Press button (23) and, observing through the sighting device's eyepiece, check the position of the galvanometer's needle relative to the aperture scale: the needle should deflect at least to the point corresponding to aperture f/5.6. If the needle does not reach the indicated division, the voltage is below the permissible value. The element must be replaced.

Note: Check the element periodically while using the camera.



Installing Film

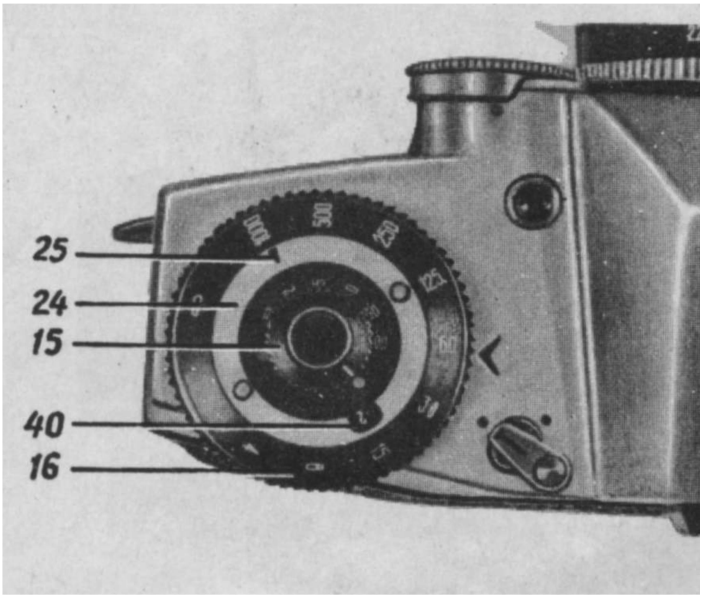
Open the back panel by sliding the lock button (29) in the direction of the arrow until it stops and then pressing it. Insert film cassette (35) into the slot until it stops. Thread the end of the film into the spool slot (36) and secure the film by inserting the spool tooth into the perforation. Before loading, set the spool slot to a comfortable position by turning the spool in the direction indicated by the arrow. Holding the film and pressing it against the teeth of the film transport drum with your left hand, turn the shutter cocking lever (14) and ensure that one of the teeth engages the perforation and the film is wound onto the take-up spool (36). Close the back panel (28) of the camera.



PREPARATION FOR SHOOTING

If the automatic aperture setting is enabled (the letter "A" on dial (11) is opposite index (38), the shutter release button may be locked in low light. Therefore, disable the automatic aperture setting mechanism by turning dial (11) counterclockwise until the first dot on the aperture scale (37) aligns with index (38).

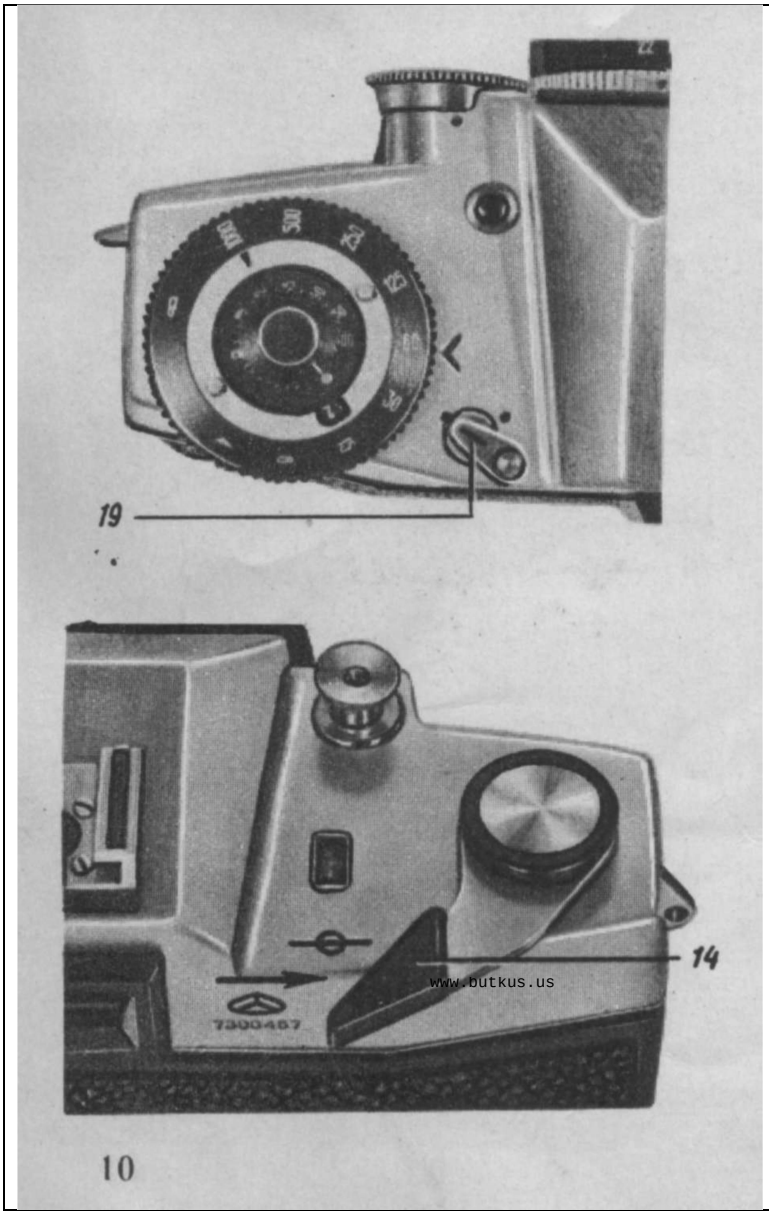
Note: For convenience, another aperture scale is marked on the cylindrical surface of the dial, allowing you to read the aperture without changing the camera's position. Turn dial (14) twice until it stops, pressing shutter release button (13) after each turn to wind the exposed end of the film. The next time the shutter is cocked, the number "1" in window (22) of the frame counter will be positioned opposite the index, corresponding to the first frame on the film. If the film is wound tightly in the cassette, a moving indicator will be visible in window (26) when the shutter is cocked.



If the film is not wound tightly, the indicator may remain motionless during the first few frames. Set the film sensitivity by: turn dial (24) until the aperture value of the lens installed on the camera appears in window (40); holding ring (16), turn knob (15) until the film sensitivity value of the loaded film aligns with index (25). Note: It is not recommended to set the film sensitivity value at shutter speeds of 1/4, 1/2, and 1/4 sec. Activate the automatic aperture setting mechanism by turning dial clockwise until the letter "A" aligns with index (38).

SHOOTING

Shooting consists of the following operations: turning on the power; cocking the shutter; setting the shutter speed; setting the aperture; focusing; aiming; releasing the shutter; turning the power off.



10

POWER TURNING ON

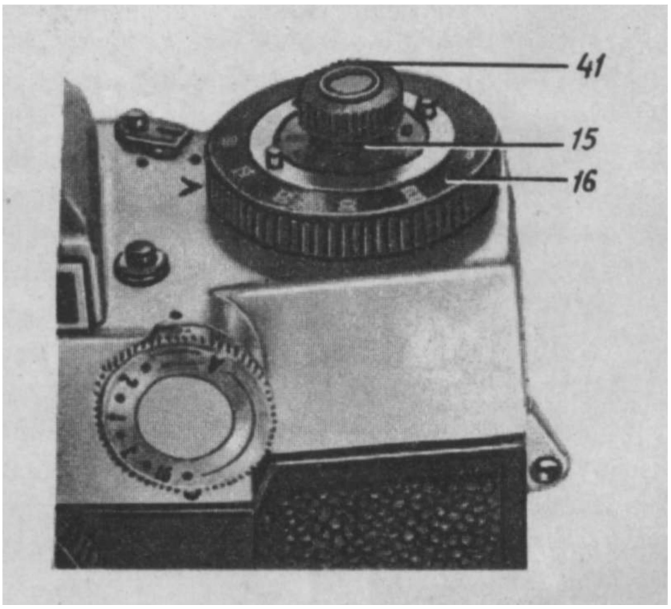
Turn on the exposure metering device by moving lever (19) from the red dot to the green dot. The exposure metering device should only be turned on during shooting.

COCKING THE SHUTTER

Cock the shutter by turning lever (14) until it stops. For ease of cocking, the lever is first rotated 15° without transferring the movement to the mechanism. If the shutter is fully cocked, the lever automatically returns to its original position; if not, it remains in an intermediate position. In this case, the shutter should be cocked further.

SETTING THE SHUTTER SPEED

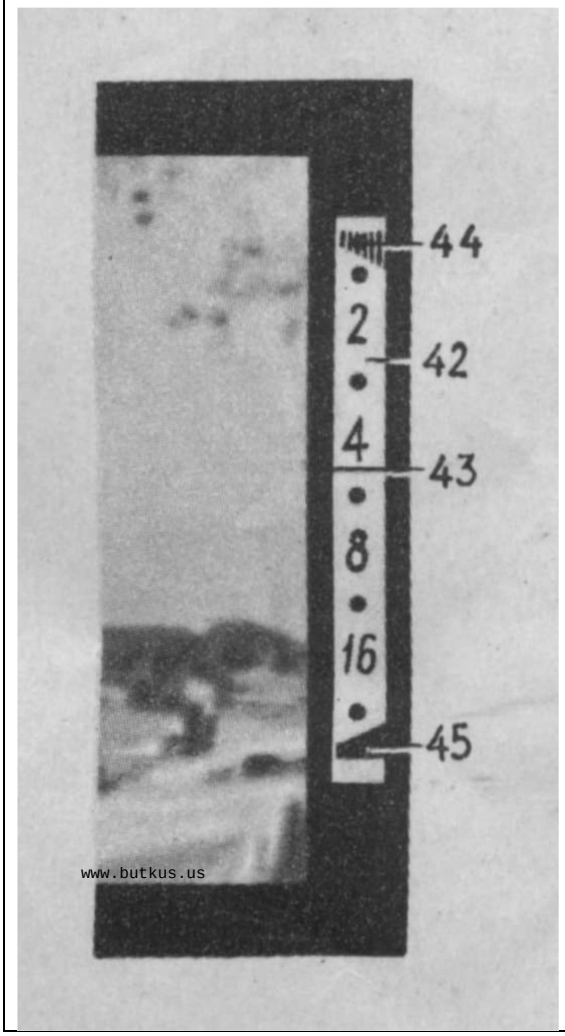
Set the shutter speed with the shutter cocked or uncocked by turning ring (16) until the desired value aligns with the index on the top cover.



Set the shutter speed to "B" by rotating ring 16 counterclockwise only (the ring is locked between shutter speeds of 1/1000 sec and "B"). The scale is fixed at all shutter speeds. When shooting at shutter speed "B," the automatic exposure control mechanism should be turned off.

AUTOMATIC AND MANUAL APERTURE SETTINGS

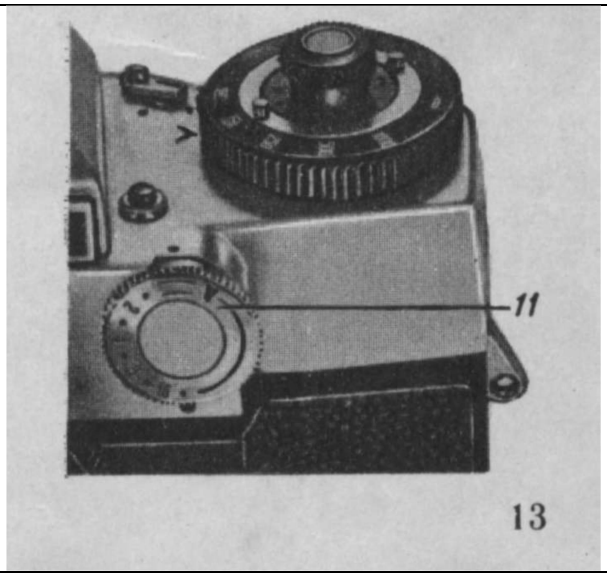
Automatic exposure is achieved using an exposure meter. The exposure meter, the main component of the automatic exposure mechanism, determines the aperture value for a preset shutter speed and film sensitivity. The device consists of a light detector, a galvanometer, and a power source. The light detector of the exposure meter consists of two photo resistors, which are located inside the camera behind the lens. They detect light passed through the lens, from the entire area of the ground glass.



The additional exposure metering range is designed for shooting in low-light conditions with shutter speeds from 1/60 to 1/2 sec. The additional range is activated only at a shutter speed of 1 s with head (15). Set to the large yellow dot, head (15) must be raised and turned until index (41) aligns with the small yellow dot on the film sensitivity scale.

Aperture scale (42) and galvanometer needle (43) are visible in the viewfinder eyepiece. The galvanometer needle indicates the aperture that will be set automatically when the shutter release button is pressed. The dots marked on the aperture scale correspond to the values of t 1.4; t 2.8; t 5.6; t 1; 22. The automatic aperture range is limited by the red indicators [44] ("too little light") and [45] ("too much light").

If the arrow is blocked by the (44) pointer at the beginning of the aperture scale (the "low light" position), there is not enough light to take a picture. In this case, the shutter release button is locked (the shutter does not fire). The shutter release button may also be locked if the arrow is near the pointer. To take a picture, increase the shutter speed until the arrow moves to the next aperture stop. If the arrow is blocked by the (45) pointer at the end of the aperture scale (the "high light" position), the shutter release button is not locked. To obtain normal (non-overexposed) negatives, decrease the shutter release. If the arrow is above one of the aperture stops between the pointers, you can take a picture. If the indicators are set close to each other, you need to switch the exposure meter to an additional range. The exposure meter determines the exposure using the integral (total) brightness of all objects in the frame. (This would be called “Average”metering, so it could include exposure of the sky – so watch what is in the viewfinder)



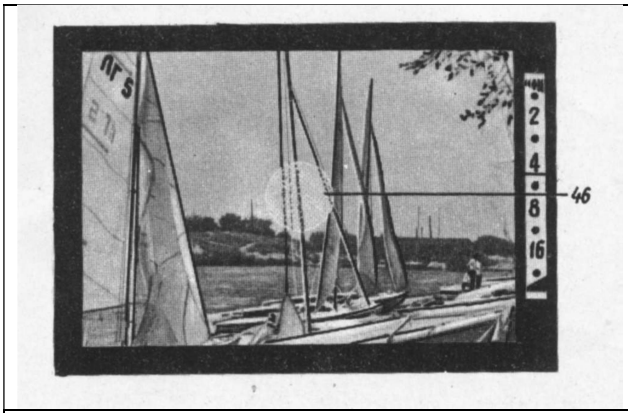
Therefore, when photographing objects with sharply different brightnesses within the frame (for example, a person against a snowy background), the exposure metering device may not provide the correct exposure for the main subject. In these shooting conditions, it is advisable to set the aperture manually or adjust the exposure value determined by the exposure metering device. Manually, the aperture is set by turning dial (11) until the desired value aligns with the index.

FOCUSING

Focus and set the distance on the distance scale by turning the (3)-ring on the lens. Turn the ring until the image on the (46) micro-raster and on the ground glass is sharp. You can control the depth of field by observing the details of the subject in the viewfinder's field of view. To do this, press the (13)-ring shutter release button to stop down the lens. If the shutter is cocked, press the (3)-ring shutter release button gently (not all the way) to prevent it from firing.

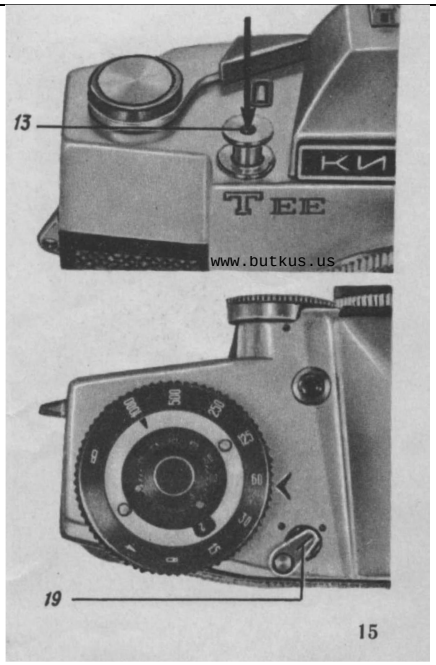
SIGHTING

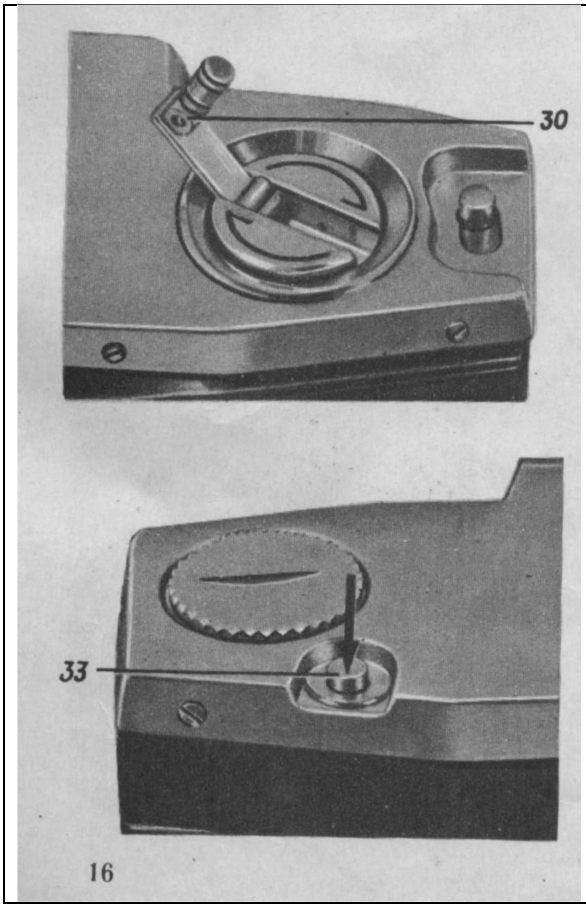
Sighting and framing of the subject is performed by looking through the viewfinder's eyepiece (27) at its image on the ground glass.



SHUTTER RELEASE

The shutter is released by gently pressing the trigger button (13) until it stops. This stops down the lens, automatically raises the mirror, and releases the shutter, after which the mirror closes. When the trigger button returns to its original position, the lens aperture automatically opens.





Note: When shooting with a camera in automatic exposure mode, it is necessary to: release the shutter after the arrow has settled in the reticle field; in bright light, try, if possible, to avoid letting light into the eyepiece, as the location of the photo resistors in the eyepiece area may introduce an error in aperture determination. In this case, it is necessary to use a removable eyecup.

TURNING OFF THE POWER

After shooting, turn off the power by positioning lever (19) against the red dot.

DISCHARGE (removing exposed film)

Remove film rewind knob (30) from its socket. Press and release film transport release button (33). Rotate the film rewind knob clockwise to rewind the exposed film into the cassette. After rewinding is complete, open the camera back, remove the cassette, and release the end of the film from the take-up spool.

CHANGING THE LENS

To remove the lens, press the (10) lens release button and, by turning the lens counterclockwise, remove it from the camera. To attach the lens, align the red dot on the lens base with the same dot on the camera body, press the release button, insert the lens into the camera bayonet mount, turn it clockwise until it stops, and release the release button. Then, by turning the lens slightly counterclockwise, check that it is securely locked. The lens release is kinematically linked to the "low light" indicator in the viewfinder eyepiece, and its position depends on the aperture ratio of the lens. When installing an interchangeable lens, the indicator stop moves so that the indicator covers the previous aperture value. For example, when installing a lens with an aperture ratio of 1:2, the "low light" indicator will cover an aperture value of 1.4. This will prevent the camera from thinking it has a faster lens then the one installed.

The camera is designed to take into account the aperture ratio of installed special lenses (from 1.4 to 4) using the (24) dial. After installing an interchangeable lens, its aperture ratio and the sensitivity of the film used are entered into the exposure metering device using disk (24) and head (15). The camera's design is designed for the use of interchangeable lenses with a bayonet mount. (This is a specific mount to this and a the Kiev-10.

Lens name	Focal distance, mm	Relative aperture	Purpose
Jupiter-9 Automatic	85mm	F2	Portrait
Jupiter-11 Automatic	135mm	F4	Long focal length
"Mir-1" automatic	37mm	F2.8	Wide-angle

Lenses with an M39 x 1 thread can also be used as interchangeable lenses. The included adapter ring is used to mount them on the camera. In this case, the aperture is set manually using the lens scale. The required aperture value for shooting can be determined using the scale in the viewfinder's field of view with the lens fully open, after first turning on the exposure meter and setting the lens aperture.

SHOOTING WITH A KOA FLASH LAMP

The camera is equipped with a 12 mm socket and a 21 mm contact in a clip for connecting various lamp flashes.

Flash photography should only be performed with the automatic shutter speed disabled at any shutter speed from 1/100 to 1/2 sec. When connecting the flash lamp through the 12-pin socket to the 21-pin socket, insert a plastic insert to insulate the contact. (Typical hot shoe) (FYI: Faster shutter speeds will only expose part of the film. Slow speeds will create motion blur as the shutter will still collect ambient light after the flash fires. This is sometimes used to “express” motion or speed in the image.)

NOT USED WITH LIGHT FILTERS

The "KIEV-15" camera is equipped with UV-1x and YG-t, 4x filters. These filters are used as attachments that screw into the front of the lens mount (M49x0.75 thread). The UV-tx (UV-1") filter is colorless and is used to reduce the effects of ultraviolet rays, for example, for shooting in high-altitude conditions. note: The UV-JX (UV-1") filter is also used when shooting with color film to eliminate the interfering effects of ultraviolet rays. Light Filter YG-1.4 (YZ-1.4) - yellow-green, light, improves the tonal rendition of multi-colored objects on high-sensitivity photographic materials with a slight loss of their light sensitivity. In terms of its photographic effect, it occupies an intermediate position between the YG-2x (YG-2x) and YZ-2x (YG-2x) filters. On photographic materials at medium light sensitivity levels, practically correct tone rendering of multi-colored objects is achieved.

PRACTICAL TIPS

When shooting, release the shutter smoothly, without jerking. For long exposures (over 1/30 sec), it is recommended to shoot from a tripod. Release the shutter button only after the shutter has closed.

For moving objects, it is recommended to use the following shutters:
Motorsports - 1/1000
Winter sports, tennis - 1/1000 - 1/500
horse racing, sports running 1/500
children running – 1/250 or 1/125
pedestrians and standing people – 1/125 – 1/60

If you are taking photos in sunny weather in automatic mode, to avoid draining the power source, we recommend: removing the lens cap only immediately before and during shooting; Do not point the camera lens toward the sun; Do not leave the camera in the sun for long periods between shots.

CARE

Store the camera in its case in a dry place and protect it from dirt, dust, moisture, sudden impacts, and shock. When shooting in freezing weather (below -10°C), do not leave the camera outdoors; wear it under your outer clothing, removing it only when shooting. Carefully protect the lens from dirt to avoid frequent cleaning of the lenses, as this may damage the anti-reflective coating. Do not expose the light detector of the exposure meter to very bright light between shots. When carrying the camera without a case or with the case open, close the lens cap.

Make sure the exposure meter is turned off between shots. This will prolong the life of the element. When bringing the camera from a cold outdoor location, do not open it immediately, but leave it in its case for a while to allow it to warm up. Do not apply excessive force when handling the camera. If you discover any

defects or damage, do not attempt repairs yourself. Repairs and adjustments to the camera should only be performed by qualified personnel. When loading the camera, be careful not to damage or deform the shutter blades. If minor abrasions appear on the shutter during use, do not lubricate them with oil or other materials.

From Serialforeign.photo website: (this states it has a spot-average switch. Maybe later models ? It also has it's own bayonet mount, specific to that camera.)

The Kiev 15 was the third and last iteration of the automatic SLR that began with the Kiev 10. Mine was made in 1980 (the only year that the model was marked with TTL, in other production years it was marked as a TEE model). Mechanically it's very close to the Kiev 10 with the same metal fan shutter and the same bayonet lens mount that was unique to the Kiev 10, 11 and 15 models. (So this is not a Pentax K nor seemingly the special The main differences are that the big selenium cell is gone in favour of a battery-powered lightmeter, the cold-shoe is now a hot-shoe and the aperture selector wheel has migrated to the other side of the lens mount.

Like the Kiev 10 it's a big and heavy camera. Even without the 10's huge selenium cell on the front, there's still a lot of camera here. It's also slightly less space-age in detailing than the 10. The 10 has a hidden rewind lever that folds out of the baseplate and hides the door catch, the 15 has them separately and simply recessed into the base. The advance lever on the 10 moves through a slot between the top plate and the door and an internal dustguard swings aside as it moves, the 15 just puts the lever on top. The shutter release on the 15 is also a bit more utilitarian. There are some improvements however, there's now a switch to select spot or average metering and there's a system built into the speed selector dial that allows you to calibrate the lightmeter for lenses with different max apertures. There's also a button to activate the lightmeter (in the photo above, it's the silver button on the top plate behind the aperture selector wheel), the 10 didn't need that because it didn't have a battery.

Mine came with the standard Helios-81 53mm f/2 lens which is identical to the lens that shipped with the Kiev 10. It's a good lens optically although it's soft at wider apertures and only gets sharp all the way to the edges at about f/8 or so. Other Kiev automat lenses are also compatible and an adapter lets you use m42 lenses but without the shutter priority automation or TTL metering. Unlike later Kiev SLRs, the automatic lens bayonet mount is not compatible with Nikon F mount lenses. There is only a very limited range of Automat lenses and they don't cover niche uses such as macro or very long telephoto (the longest available is the Jupiter-11 135mm f/4). I have the Jupiter-11 as well as a Mir-1 37mm f/2.8 and the Mir-20 20mm f/3.5 which is (as far as I know), the full set.

Also check out mikeeckman. com/2020/06/kiev-15-ttl-1980/
As usual a long look at this camera and it's use.