

Agfa

OPTIMA II S

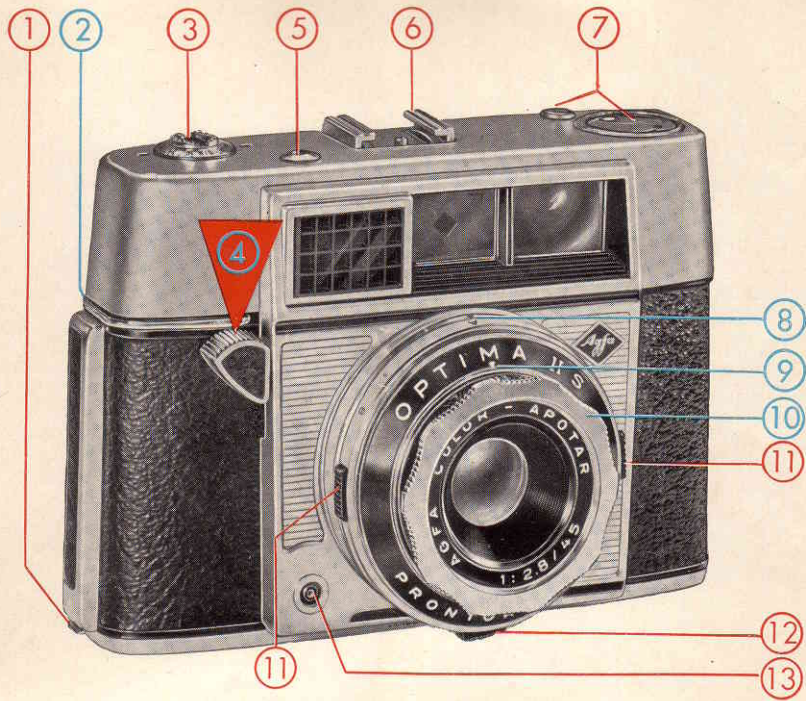
The lens fitted to your camera is a product of the Agfa Camera Werk and has been computed and manufactured in conformity with the most up-to-date scientific methods.

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 colour or black and white 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 AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT
Camera-Werk Muenchen



EXPLANATIONS
OF ADJACENT
ILLUSTRATION

Operation, pages 2-6

- ② Rapid transport lever
- ④ Magic release lever
- ⑧ Setting mark
for automatic mechanism
- ⑨ Setting mark
for focusing symbols
- ⑩ Setting ring for symbols

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- ① Catch for camera back
- ③ DIN/ASA scale for setting
the film speed
- ⑤ Cable release socket
- ⑥ Accessory shoe
- ⑦ Rewind knob
- ⑪ Finger grips for automatic,
flash- or B-setting
- ⑫ Finger grip to set aperture
for flash- and time exposures
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You are now the proud owner of a technically perfect camera—the fully automatic Agfa Optima II S which does not require any complicated manual operations and so leaves you free to concentrate on the subject. What a source of boundless joy that is!

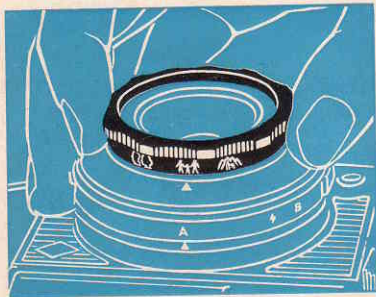
From your photographic dealer you will have learned how simple the Agfa Optima II S is to handle. Shutter speeds and apertures which once had to be worked out, measured or set are now at your beck and call.

The fully automatic mechanism is something of a miracle, your invisible slave to calculate, think and act for you—just a touch of the “magic release lever” suffices. The symbol settings cover three focusing ranges; exact focusing can also be quickly done with the built-in rangefinder.

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.

Estimate the distance . . .

With your Agfa Optima you can photograph at all distances between 3¼ ft. (1 m.) and infinity.



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 symbols against the white mark.



Close-ups

Subject distance
5 ft. 11 in.



Groups

11 ft. 6 in.

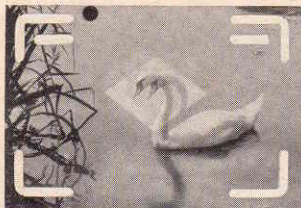


Distant views abt. 16 ft. 5 in. to ∞
(landscape)

For your guidance exact distances are also indicated on the lower part of the focusing ring.

The white mark above the word "Prontormator" indicates the actual distance setting.

... or focus exactly



The method of measuring the distance is superior to estimating it. Exact focusing is very easy with the aid of the built-in rangefinder of your Optima II S.

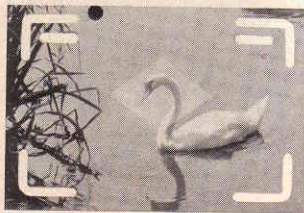
Upper illustration:

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.



Middle illustration:

If you move the focusing ring with the thumb or index finger 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.



Lower illustration:

As soon as the two outlines converge measurement is completed and the camera exactly focused.

Make a slight pressure . . .

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 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. ►

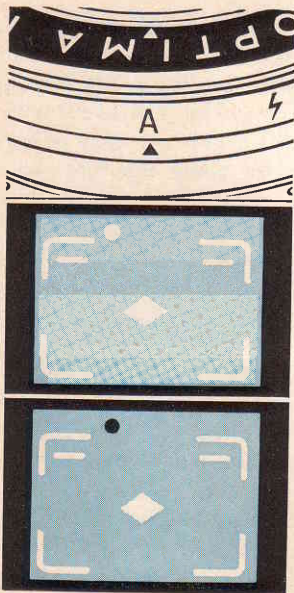
For close-ups ($3\frac{1}{4}$ ft. setting), the two lines below the top margin of this frame indicate the upper edge of the picture area.

To take upright photos, operate the release lever with your thumb or index finger, as illustrated.

To ensure correctly exposed photographs it is important to set the correct film speed on the camera (see page 11).



... then expose



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

Green signal:
"All clear" for
your photograph

Red signal:
Stop
do not photograph

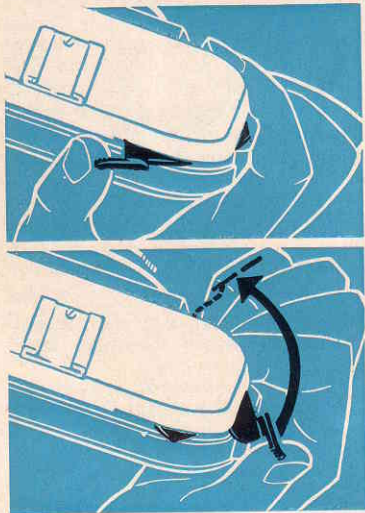
What you should know:

When you press down the release lever you will feel when the first pressure point has been reached. If there is sufficient light the green signal will now appear in the viewfinder. Then **keep the camera in the same position** and release. If the signal stays red there is too little light, the photograph cannot be taken and you should remove your finger from the lever.

Note! If release lever is blocked operate the rapid transport lever first.

If you change the direction of your camera before making your exposure, remove your finger from the magic lever, and start afresh. This can be done as often as you wish.

Instant readiness . . .



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 move the film 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.

In case you did not load the first film yourself, the necessary instructions on how to do this are given on pages 8 and 9.

TECHNICAL SECTION



when you have mastered the three points 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 sport 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 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.

For wonderful album colour prints:

Agfacolor Negative Film CN 17 or CN 14.

Loading the film . . .

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.

Push locking button of rewind knob in direction of arrow and

draw out rewind knob **firmly** with right hand as far as possible.

Now set the film type indicator by turning the milled edge protruding at the bottom of the rewind knob until the desired setting appears in the window:

Black and white checks
= Black and white film

CN = Colour negative film

CT = Colour reversal film
DAY daylight type

CK = Colour reversal film, artificial
A light type (incandescent
lamps of 3400° Kelvin)

CF = Colour reversal film, artificial
F flashlight type (3800° Kelvin)



A



B



C

... is so easy

Insert new film cassette with hole towards rewind knob.

Push back rewind knob, if necessary turning it slightly.

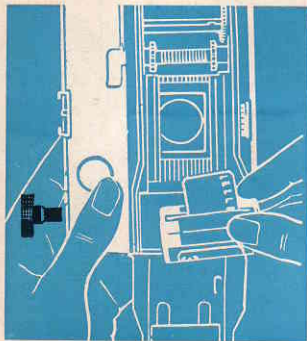
Turn take-up spool by its milled disk until the broad slit and film perforation lug are uppermost.

Draw out the film from the cassette towards the take-up spool.

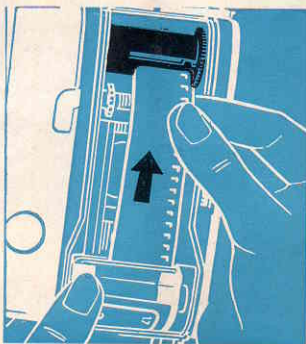
Insert the end of the film in the slit, holding the take-up spool

firmly, so that the lug engages in the second film perforation.

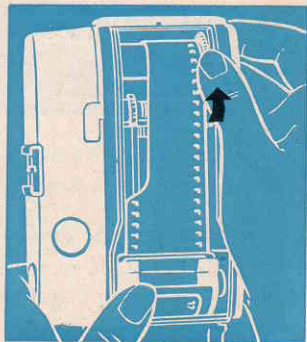
Now turn the take-up spool on slightly in the direction of the arrow, as shown in figure F, until just under half an inch of the full film width projects from the cassette.



D



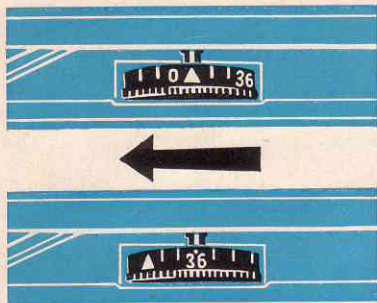
E



F

Film transport

for the first exposure



After loading the film, the camera should be closed and the film counter at the lower edge of the camera back set. Turn the disk of the film counter until the tip of the green triangle just before the number 36 or 20 (depending on the length of the film) is in line with the fixed mark. Then operate the rapid transport lever as far as it will go and press down the magic lever until release takes place. Repeat this process until the mark is in line with the number 36 (or 20). Your camera is then ready for the first exposure. The film counter indicates the number of exposures still left on the film.

Every time the film is advanced the rewind knob rotates in the opposite direction to that shown by the arrow, a sure sign that the film is properly loaded and transported.

Double exposures impossible

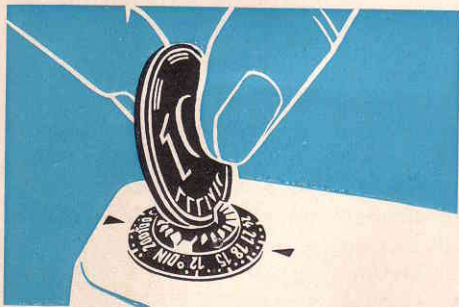
An ingenious double exposure prevention mechanism ensures that you do not take two photographs on one negative. In addition the film cannot be transported until an exposure has been made.

Fully automatic operation

Important:

Remember to set the speed of the film loaded on the camera **to be sure of correctly exposed photographs.**

To do this, turn the milled disk with the aid of a coin until the required DIN or ASA speed is opposite the setting mark.



for all films

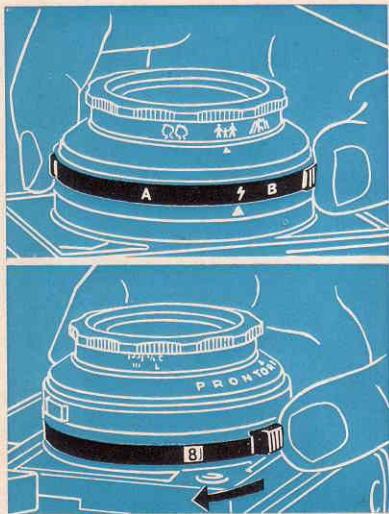
from 11–25 DIN (10–250 ASA)

When you press the magic release lever, the exposure reading is automatically and invisibly fixed for you. During the exposure it then automatically arranges a shutter speed and aperture combination which always ensures the correct exposure.

ASA Scale: The ASA values indicated by dots on the film speed scale of the camera represent the following figures:

10	.	.	.	25	.	.	50	.	.	100	.	.	200	.
	12	16	20		32	40		64	80		125	160		250

Without the automatic mechanism



You probably recall what was said about the **red** stop signal in the viewfinder. When it appears you cannot photograph with the Optima using the automatic mechanism, but if it is disconnected you can still obtain good results. To do this set the automatic mechanism ring at the time- (B) or flash symbol (see upper ill.).

Time exposures

Turn the rear ring until "B" is in line with the mark. When on this setting the shutter stays open as long as the release lever is depressed. The use of a tripod and a cable release is advisable in such cases. The latter is screwed into the thread on the camera top (5, see main ill.). By turning the rear ring with the aid of its lower key the apertures become visible in the small window (see lower illustration).

No flashlight problems

For flash work turn the automatic mechanism ring until the flash symbol is opposite the mark. A constant shutter speed of $\frac{1}{30}$ sec. is used for flash work. Please see the column for "X" synchronization on each packet of flash bulbs for the required aperture which is set by turning the rear ring. The plug of the flash cable is connected to the flash contact 13, main illustration.

Electronic flashguns can also be used, in which case the aperture is calculated from the guide number of the flashgun.

E. g. guide number of electronic flashgun 96 divided by a distance of 12 feet = aperture f/8.



Against the light

Where clear detail is required in photographs taken against the light or in deep shadows, it is advisable to use the automatic mechanism of the camera with the setting on the DIN/ASA scale reduced. It will be sufficient to set a film speed of about 3 DIN or its ASA equivalent less than that marked on the film package. If, for example, the film in the camera has a speed of 17 DIN = 40 ASA, the setting should be reduced to 14 DIN = 20 ASA.

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 what is known as a **close-up measurement** with the built-in exposure meter of the camera. 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 position to take the photograph.



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

Filters for your Optima II S for black and white photography

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

for special photographs with colour reversal film

Agfa Color Filter	
R 1.5	no change

Filters

There is a variety of filters for **black-and-white film** available for use with the Agfa Optima II S in screw mounts of 35.5 mm. diam. As soon as a filter is used on the camera you will have to reduce the setting on the film speed scale accordingly.

A filter having a factor of 2 will require a reduction in the speed setting of 3 DIN or its ASA equivalent. If you have a film of 17 DIN = 40 ASA this means that you will have to reduce the figure to 14 DIN = 20 ASA. A factor of 1.5 would require a reduction of 1-2 DIN.

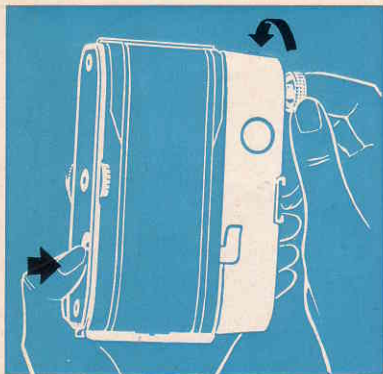
When removing the filter from the camera do not forget to reset the original DIN/ASA figure for the film in question.

CLOSE-UP ATTACHMENT FOR OPTIMA II S

For the Optima II S, a practical close-up attachment is available, the Agfa Proximeter. It is supplied in two ranges: Proximeter I for a range of 40-20 inches and Proximeter II for a range of 20-14 inches. Both Proximeters may be used together to give a range of focus of 14-10 inches. The Proximeter enables close-up subjects to be seen free from parallax in the viewfinder and focused accurately with the rangefinder.

Your photographic dealer will be glad to demonstrate this optical attachment to you.

Rewinding the film



The film is now finished . . .

After 36 or 20 exposures, according to the length of the film, the rapid transport lever will not move. The film is now finished and must be rewound into its cassette.

First release the lock of the rewind knob (see illustration B, page 8) to allow this to spring out, and draw it out only a fraction to its first stop.

Then press in the locking button in the base of the camera and turn the rewind knob in the direction shown by the arrow. Rewinding is complete when the rewind knob turns freely after releasing the locking button. You can now open the back of the camera in a shaded area

by moving the catch in the direction shown by the arrow (see fig. A, page 8). Pull out the rewind knob firmly as far as it will go and remove the cassette. Put the cassette in its light-tight packing and mark it as exposed.