POSTED 6-27-'04

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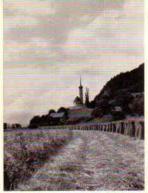
INSTRUCTION BOOKLE

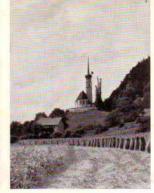


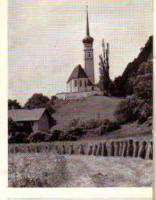


Contarex











Comparison of Focal Lengths

ZEISS BIOGON 21 mm
ZEISS DISTAGON 35 mm
ZEISS TESSAR or
ZEISS PLANAR 50 mm
ZEISS SONNAR 85 mm
ZEISS SONNAR 135 mm
ZEISS SONNAR 250 mm











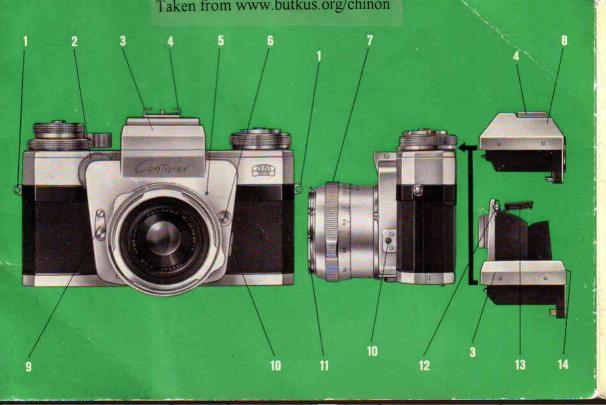
ZEISS TESSAR 50 mm subject distance 2' 31/2"

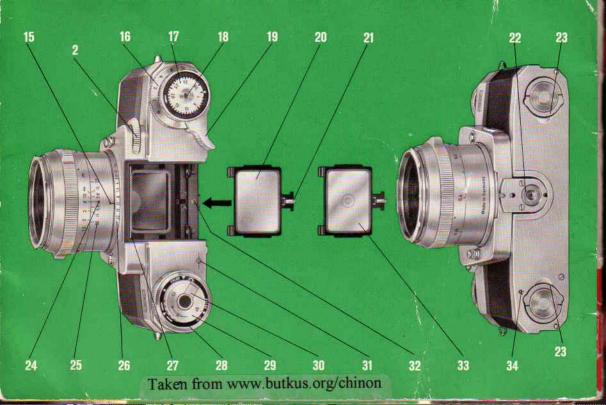
ZEISS TESSAR 50 mm subject distance 1' 2"

ZEISS TESSAR 50 mm Bellows focusing unit retracted

ZEISS TESSAR 50 mm Bellows focusing unit extended

Comparison of Near-Focusing Ranges





- 1 Eyelets for carrying strap
- 2 Aperture setting wheel
- 3 Focusing hood unit
- 4 Accessory shoe
- 5 Red dot marking for lens changing
- 6 Press button for lens changing
- 7 Focusing ring on lens mount
- 8 Prism unit
- 9 Lever for delayed action mechanism
- 10 Flash contact
- 11 Bayonet for filter or lens hood
- 12 Knob for operating magnifier
- 13 Magnifier
- 14 Knob for opening focusing hood
- 15 Aperture setting mark
- 16 Shutter speed setting ring
- 17 Frame counter disc

- 18 Release knob with thread for cable release
- **9** Rapid wind lever
- 20 Ground-glass screen attachment
- **21** Lock for finder attachments
- 22 Tripod bush
- 23 Locking keys for camera back
- 24 Distance setting mark
- 25 Depth-of-field scale
- 26 Aperture ring
- 27 Retaining spindle for finder attachments
- 28 Film type indicator
- 29 Rewind disc
- **30** Collapsible rewind crank
- 31 Circle marking focal plane
- **32** Catch for exchanging finder units
- 33 Split-image rangefinder attachment
- 34 Rewinding mark "R"

The Contarex 57 Ecial

is a single-lens miniature reflex camera for the 24 x 36 mm negative format, with focal plane shutter and rapid wind lever. Interchangeable ZEISS lenses and interchangeable finder units as well as optical and mechanical auxiliary equipment widen the scope and versatility of this camera in a fashion which can hardly be surpassed. No matter which interchangeable lens is used, whether for close-ups, macrophotography, photomicrography or other types of specialised work, the image depicted by the CONTAREX special will always be completely free from parallax. Highest precision in camera construction and the unsurpassed performance of the ZEISS lenses make the CONTAREX special the acme of photographic development and suitable for use by the most exacting professionals, scientists and ambitious amateurs.

These instructions should make you familiar with the operation of the CONTAREX special. When reading this manual, first unfold the cover page where references to the position of the individual components and controls will be found.

Kindly note the reference to the Contarex Passport on page 37.

Distinguishing features of the CONTAREX special

The all metal die-cast body, ensuring the highest possible precision and rigidity.

The parallax-free mirror-reflex viewfinder with its large, bright, uniformly-illuminated image field. Interchangeable finder-units suitable for the most varied photographic tasks. Rangefinder and lens focusing are coupled. Interchangeable ZEISS lenses, specially computed for the CONTAREX special, range from the 21 mm superwide-angle lens to the telephoto lens of 250 mm focal length; all lenses are fitted with rapid-change bayonet mounts. The CONTAREX lenses from 35 mm to 135 mm have iris diaphragms of the pre-selector pattern.

The shutter speeds from 1 sec. to 1/1000 sec. and "B" for time exposures can all be set on one ring.

The focal-plane shutter runs smoothly and is free from vibration. It is synchronised for both flashbulbs and electronic flash and automatically selects the correct moment of ignition if the shutter speed is set correctly for the type of flash in use. A delayed action device is built into the shutter.

All settings — distance, aperture, depth of field, shutter speed — can be read off from above at a single glance.

Standard 35 mm miniature film is used with the CONTAREX, in the form of either commercial cartridges or daylight-refills in CONTAX cassettes, as well as bulk film or darkroom refills.

The twin-cassette system makes it possible to remove the exposed film without rewinding. Black-and-white and coulour films can also be exchanged without rewinding, at any time.

The detachable back helps considerably when dusting and cleaning the spool chambers and makes loading and unloading an easy matter.

Only a few accessories are needed to simplify the mastering of difficult photographic tasks, such as close-ups, macrophotography, photomicrography, copying and telephoto shots.

Controls

We recommend you to practice operating the various controls of the CONTAREX special before loading the camera.

The viewfinder of the CONTAREX special has two different finder units which are interchangeable to suit the particular viewing requirements of the finder image. The following finder-combinations can be obtained:

Focusing hood unit with ground-glass screen attachment

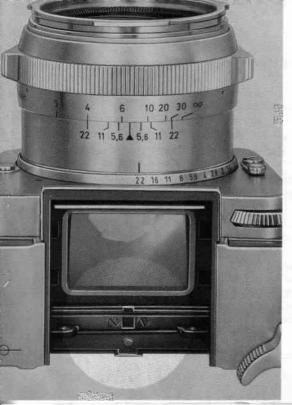
Focusing hood unit with split-image rangefinder attachment*

Prism unit with ground-glass screen attachment

Prism unit with split-image rangefinder attachment.

The focusing hood unit (3) and the prism unit (8) serve for viewing the finder image. The focusing hood must be opened for viewing by pressing knob (14). The magnifier (13), which is inside the cover flap,

^{*} Use only with swung-out magnifier. With some lenses blacked-out corners must be taken into account.



must be opened for viewing by pressing knob (14). The magnifier (13), which is inside the cover flap, permits critically exact focusing. By depressing knob (12), the magnifier will spring into the working position.

The viewfinder units can be interchanged by depressing the catch (32), when the entire unit can be lifted off towards the back (Fig. 1). When inserting the unit, the catch (32) should snap-in audibly.

The finder attachment (ground-glass screen or splitimage rangefinder attachment) will be accessible when the finder unit has been removed. By pressing the lock (21) upwards, it will be loosened and can then be lifted off (Fig. 2). For re-insertion, the claws of the finder attachment should be slipped over the spindle (27) and should then be firmly pressed back into its mounting.

The prism unit yields an upright and laterally correct image when viewed in the taking direction; looking from above into the focusing hood, the image appears upright and laterally reversed.

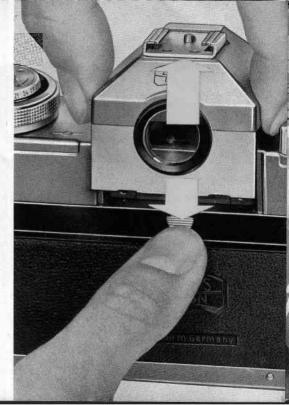
Fig. 1

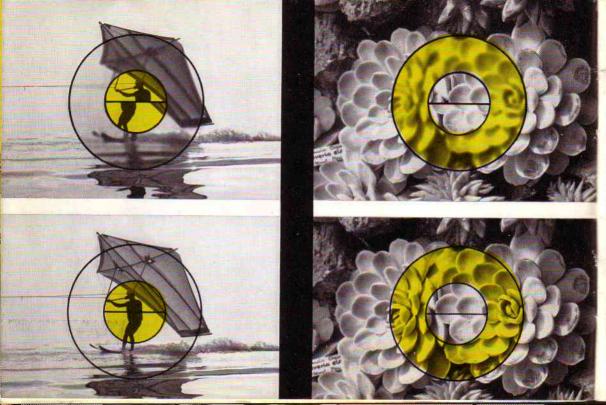
Focusing

When using the **ground-glass screen**, its entire image area is used for focusing. The focusing ring (7) of the lens mount should be rotated until the subject appears sharply focused.

When using the **split-image rangefinder**, you will see in the centre of the image field a circular area horizontally divided into two half-circles (definition indicator). When the lens is not sharply focused, a vertical line which passes through these two half-circles will appear broken and laterally displaced.

The focusing ring (7) of the lens mount should be rotated until the vertical line appears completely straight and unbroken. This operation focuses the lens to the required distance. For focusing on horizontal lines, the camera should be held as for taking upright photos.





The split-image rangefinder circle is surrounded by a micro raster ring, which serves the same function as a ground-glass screen. The outlines of a subject will appear unsharp in this ring until the lens is correctly focused (Fig. 3). This micro raster ring should be used for focusing on detailed structures and patterns or for copying, etc., and for subjects which have no distinct straight lines.

The remaining image area outside the central rings is always bright and sharp but cannot be used for focusing. Full image brightness, however, can only be ensured when the camera is tensioned.

The CONTAREX lenses from 35 mm to 250 mm focal length can be focused with either the split-image range-finder or the micro raster ring*, or with the ground-glass screen attachment.

After focusing, the actual distance and the depth of field can be read off from the lens mount. The focused distance is indicated by the setting mark (24). To the left and to the right of the setting mark, f/numbers are engraved. The sharp zone (the depth of field) reaches from the distance-figure which is opposite the set aperture-value on the left, to the distance which is opposite the same f/number on the right (Fig. 4). When working with the ground-glass screen attachment the range of the zone of sharp definition can be controlled on the ground-glass screen provided the camera has not been tensioned. Correct depth-of-field figures can be found in the depth-of-field tables. As the plane of reference from which distances are measured, the focal plane is marked by the circle (31) to the left of the viewfinder eyepiece of the CONTAREX special.

^{*} CONTAREX lenses of 35 mm - 135 mm should be used with the split-image rangefinder unit, Order No. 20.1564; the SONNAR 250 mm with the split-image rangefinder unit, Order No. 20.1565.

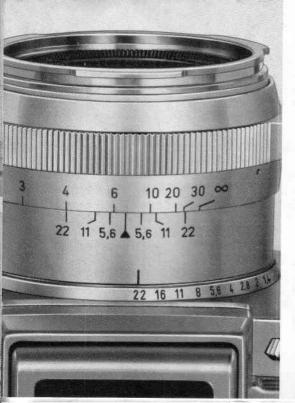


Fig. 4

The distance can also be set by using the depth-offield scale (25). Turn the lens so as to ensure the depthof-field required at any given aperture setting and then set this aperture by means of the aperture setting wheel (2). Further distance setting is then unnecessary.

The aperture is set by rotating the wheel (2) (Fig. 5). The required value should be set to the aperture setting mark (15). The aperture to be set depends on the required depth-of-field. The smaller the aperture figure the larger is the lens opening and the smaller the depth-of-field range. With the BIOGON f/4.5, 21 mm and the SONNAR f/4, 250 mm the aperture should not be set on the wheel (2) but on the lens setting ring.

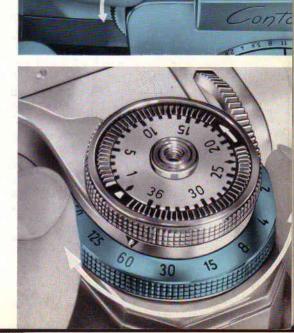
The most suitable **shutter speed** depends on the movement of the subject; the more rapid the movement the faster must be the shutter speed. The shutter-speed setting ring (16) shows simplified figures, for instance

Fig. 5

"60" for 1/60th second etc.; the shutter speed ring is provided with click-stops, and will snap in when the marked values are set to the triangular mark above the ring (Fig. 6); the ring should not be set to intermediate values. When set to "B" the shutter remains open as long as the release knob is depressed. The significance of the coloured figures is explained on page 17.

Exposures from 1/1000 sec. to 1/20 sec. may be taken by hand without fear of camera shake when the standard lens is used. The use of a tripod is advisable when making longer exposures. With lenses of longer focal length faster shutter speeds should be used for handheld exposures.

Shutter speed and aperture are interdependent, i. e. the faster the shutter speed the larger should be the aperture and vice versa. Which of the shutter speed aperture couplings is required depends on the speed of the film, the general brightness of the available



Miller

Fig. 6



light and, when using colour filters, on the filter factor. Correct shutter speed and aperture settings can be ascertained from the tables, or, more reliably, with the ZEISS IKON IKOPHOT photo-electric exposure meter (Fig. 7). The exposure meter is indispensible for colour photography since colour film must be exposed with a hight degree of accuracy.

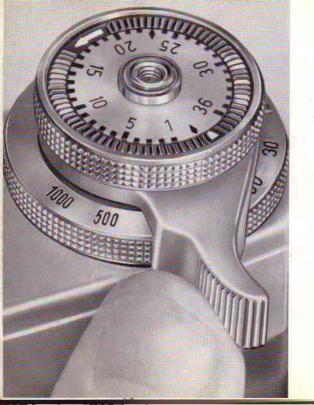


Exposure (Fig. 8)

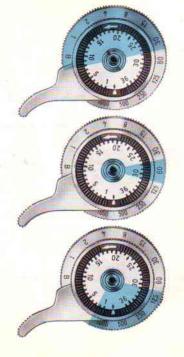
When shutter speed and aperture are correctly set, the shutter can be released. The righthand index finger should depress the release knob gently. Do not jerk, but squeeze the knob, taking up the slack in the release mechanism slowly. This will cause the mirror to flip upwards, the diaphragm to close down to the pre-set position and the shutter to run off at the pre-set speed. Then the mirror returns to the finder position whilst the diaphragm remains at the pre-set value in order to remind you that the next exposure can be made only after the rapid wind lever (19) has been tensioned (Fig. 9). With the operation of the lever, the film is advanced by one frame, the shutter is tensioned once again and the diaphragm opened to its full aperture. After exposure-setting and focusing the next exposure can be made.



Fig. 8







Flash exposures

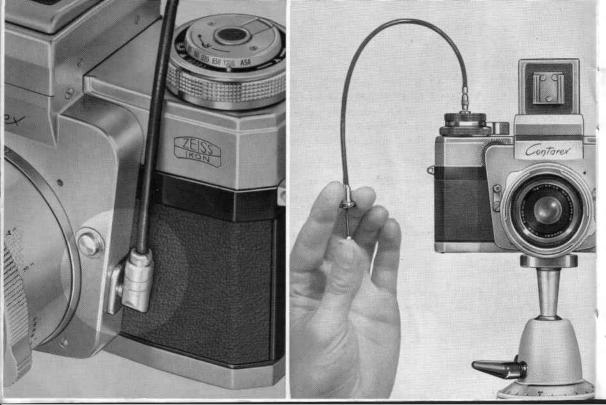
The focal-plane shutter oft the CONTAREX special can be coupled to all types of flash equipment. Setting the shutter speed will automatically adjust the corresponding flash contact so that the various flashbulbs or electronic flash units will be fired at the appropriate instant, always provided, however, that the shutter is set to the correct speed. The shutter speeds are marked by coloured figures. They are:

- 1 Black $(1-\frac{1}{30}$ sec. and "B") for firing normal flashbulbs (Class M) or electronic flash tubes.
- 2 Yellow (1/60 sec.) for firing electronic flash tubes.
- 3 Red (1/125-1/1000 sec. for firing slow-burning flashbulbs (FP Class), which are specially made for use with focal-plane shutters.

The apertures to be employed with the various types of flash are indicated in the tables provided with the flash lamps. The appropriate aperture should be set by means of the aperture wheel (2).

The delayed action device (self-timer) can also be used for flash exposures with all shutter speeds from $1-\frac{1}{1000}$ sec.

The flash lead should be connected to the flash contact (10) beside the lens (Fig. 10). The flashholder itself can either be slipped into the accessory shoe (4) or screwed to a bracket which is fitted to the tripod bush of the camera.



Delayed Action

The delayed action device (self-timer) should be tensioned by depressing the lever (9). This lever should be operated only after the shutter has been tensioned. When the release knob (18) is depressed, the mechanism starts running and will operate the shutter automatically. When the lever (9) is depressed right down to its stop position the delay will be approximately 12 seconds. Between the stop and the initial position are notches into which the lever can be set for intermediate delay periods. The self-timer can be used with all shutter speeds from 1-1/1000 sec.

Time exposures from a tripod (Fig. 11)

The CONTAREX is provided with a tripod bush (22) and can be screwed to a tripod or a copying unit. This is necessary when making time exposures and when long-focus lenses are employed.

The shutter should be released by means of a cable release which can be screwed into the thread of the release knob (18). The tripod bush (22) of the CONTAREX is countersunk into the camera body, which ensures perfect rigidity.

Exchanging the lens

The press-button (6) beside the lens should be depressed and the lens turned in an anti-clockwise direction until it stops: the red dot on the lens will then be opposite the red dot (5) on the CONTAREX. In this position the lens will spring automatically from the bayonet mount of the camera (Fig. 12).

Figs. 10, 11



Fig. 12

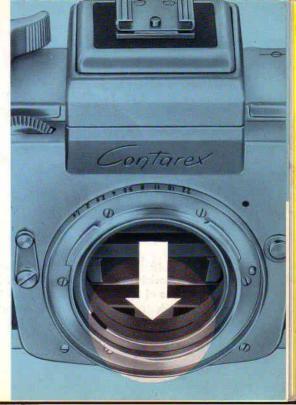
To insert a lens, place the lens in the bayonet mount so that the red dot on the lens coincides with the red dot (5) on the CONTAREX. Turn the lens to the right until it snaps in. This will cause the press-button (6) to spring out. The lens is then coupled automatically to the rangefinder. It does not matter whether the lens itself is set to "infinity" or any other distance, or to which aperture the diaphragm is set.

The CONTAREX lenses can be interchanged in full daylight without fogging the film, but it is obvious that the opening in the camera body should be protected from direct sunlight.

A special case

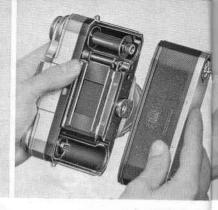
The BIOGON f/4.5, 21 mm, which extends deep into the body of the CONTAREX, can be inserted only when the mirror is in its raised position.

The CONTAREX should be tensioned and the mirror swung upwards by depressing the small lug beneath the mirror (Fig. 13). Then the BIOGON f/4.5, 21 mm can be inserted according to the "red dot to red dot" rule. For sighting, the 21 mm viewfinder should be used, which must be slipped into the accessory shoe (4). The depth of field of the BIOGON f/4.5, 21 mm is so great that it is sufficient to guess at the distance. The depth of field at f/5.6, when focused to approx. 6 ft., extends from approx. 34 in. to infinity. Inserting the BIOGON does not involve the loss of a frame When the BIOGON is removed the mirror will return to the viewing position automatically. (For technical reasons it is impossible to use the delayed action mechanism for the first exposure after the BIOGON has been inserted.









Loading and Unloading

Figs. 14, 15, 16

Opening (Figs. 14, 15, 16)

The CONTAREX special should be held in the left hand, with the lens pointing downwards. The locking keys (23) in the base of the camera should be folded outwards with the right hand and turned to the right and the left respectively. This unlocks the back. With your left thumb push the back of the camera downwards and lift it off with the right hand.





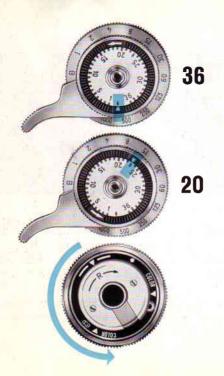


Loading (Figs. 17, 18, 19)

Figs. 17, 18, 19

Place a standard commercial 20- or 36-exposure cassette into the film chamber so that the prongs of the rewinding shaft engage in the lower opening of the cassette. Pull the beginning of the film across the film gate and insert it into the slot of the take-up spool. Hook the third or fourth perforation hole over the lug in the slot and turn the take-up spool so that the teeth of the transport sprocket engage the perforations of the film on both sides.

Whilst holding the film with the thumb of the left hand so that the teeth remain engaged in the perforations, the camera back should be replaced by lowering it into the grooves of the camera from



above with the right hand and then sliding it back home. Turn the locking keys on the base in the opposite direction and fold them down. The keys can be folded only when the back is correctly in position.

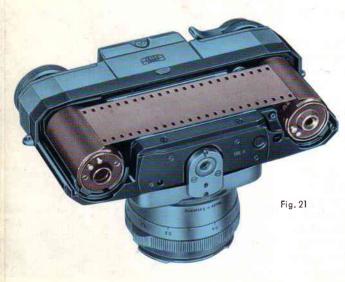
After loading, the frame counter disc (17) should be set. When using a 36-exposure cassette, set the white mark to the red mark to the left of the figure 36; when using a 20-exposure cassette the white mark should be set to the red mark to the left of the figure 20. Now swing the rapid wind lever (19) around with your right thumb until it butts up hard against the stop, and then release the shutter. Repeat this operation to transport unexposed film into the film gate. After releasing the shutter twice, the frame counter mark will point to 36 or 20, and will then indicate how many frames are left for exposure.

If the film is wound on properly, the rewind disc (29) should rotate in the direction opposite to the engraved arrow. When using bulk film (see "Reloadable Cassettes") or 20-exposure cassettes it may happen that the film is not wound taut; in this case the rewind disc (29) will not rotate when the first frames are advanced, and should therefore be rotated in the direction of the arrow until a distinct resistance is felt. (This is also a reliable indication as to whether the CONTAREX is loaded at all.)

The film-type indicator (28) can be set to the type of film used in the CONTAREX, by setting the appropriate symbol for black-and-white, daylight colour or artificial light colour film, to the speed figure of the film (Fig. 20). The film type indicator has no influence on the functioning of the CONTAREX, but it may prove a useful reminder for you.



Fig. 20



Reloadable Cassettes

The CONTAREX special will take the same reloadable cassettes as used in the Contax, loaded with either darkroom or daylight refills or bulk film, or to advance the film from cassette to cassette without rewinding. The two-cassette system permits film to be exchanged at any time, after any number of exposures. To do this, you should fire off two blank frames and only then open the camera. When unlocking the back, the cassettes are automatically closed light-tight (Fig. 21). By loading the camera with a film of different type and feeding it into a spare cassette, it is again possible to change the type of film at any desired time.

Fig. 22

Further particulars can be found in the instructions for the use of Contax cassettes.

Unloading

Exposed films in standard commercial cassettes have to be rewound into their cassettes before being taken out. For this purpose the locking key (23) on the camera back (marked "R") must be lifted and turned so that it points to the "R" (34) (Fig. 22). Fold out the countersunk crank (30) from the rewind disc (29) and turn it in the direction of the arrow (Fig. 23) until the film is completely rewound; this will be indicated by a resistance as the film leaves the takeup spool. After removing the back, the cassette can be removed. Particles of film inside the camera should be always removed at once.



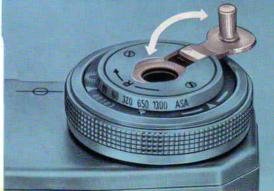


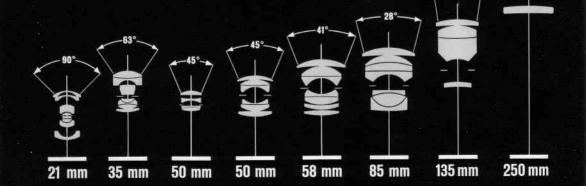
Fig. 23

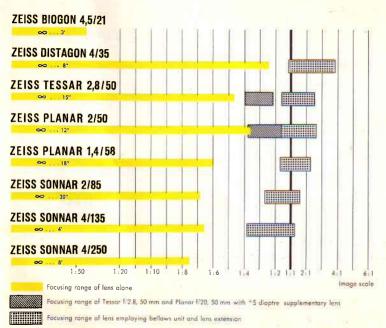
The CONTAREX System (Fig. 24)

To widen the scope of the CONTAREX special, various interchangeable lenses and accessories are available. Being a single-lens reflex camera the CONTAREX can be used to solve a wide range of photographic problems with relatively few accessories.









Diagrammatic illustration of focusing ranges of CONTAREX lenses, alone and in combination with bellows unit.

Accessories

Ever-ready case with carrying strap and shoulder pad Extension strap

Lenses and viewfinders

ZEISS BIOGON f/4.5, 21 mm with container
ZEISS DISTAGON f/4, 35 mm with container 1) 2)
ZEISS TESSAR f/2.8, 50 mm with container 1) 2)
ZEISS PLANAR f/2, 50 mm with container 1) 2)
ZEISS PLANAR f/1.4, 58 mm with container 1) 2) 4)
ZEISS SONNAR f/2, 85 mm with container 1)
ZEISS SONNAR f/4, 135 mm with container 1)
ZEISS SONNAR f/4, 250 mm with lenshood 3)

1) with automatic spring-loaded pre-selector iris diaphragm

Order No.

20.7520 20.7695

11.2402 11.2403 11.2501 11.2401

11.2404 11.2405 11.2406

²⁾ with automatic exposure-corrector for exposures at ultra-close distances

³⁾ with pre-set diaphragm

⁴⁾ available in summer 1961

Accessories (Conta)	
Focusing hood unit with leather case	20.1561
Prism viewing unit with leather case	20.1560
Ground-glass screen attachment with leather case	20.1563
Focusing screen with prism inset for lenses from 35 to 135 mm with leather case	20.1564
Focusing screen with prism inset for SONNAR f/4, 250 mm with leather case	20.1565
Wide-angle viewfinder for Biogon 21	20.1500
Leather case for Biogon	20.7755
Leather case for Distagon 35 and Tessar 50 or Planar 50	20.7756
Leather case for Sonnar 85	20.7757
Leather case for Sonnar 135	20.7758
Leather case for Sonnar 250	20.7759

Filters, Lenshoods, etc.

Colour filters G – GR – O – R – UV, IKOLOR A, B, C and F, ϕ B 56, for lenses from 21* to 135 mm

20.1012

Accessories (Contd)

The CONTAREX filters are supplied in a bayonet mount which makes it possible to use the same filters with all lenses from 21 mm* to 135 mm. The front bayonet of the filters can be used to accommodate the lens hood, which is also provided with a bayonet mount.

* For the BIOGON f/4.5, 21 mm in conjunction with the lens hood, the screw-in filters S 49 should be used.

Colour filters G – GR – O – R – UV, IKOLOR A, B and F, ϕ S 49 Colour filters G – UV – IKOLOR C, ϕ S 67 for 250 mm lens CONTAPOL, Polarising Filter, ϕ B 56, for lenses from 21 to 135 mm ZEISS PROXAR lens, ϕ B 56, 20 cm Lenshood ϕ B 56, for Biogon 21 and Distagon 35 Lenshood ϕ B 56, for Tessar 50, Planar 50, Sonnar 85 and 135 Leather case for lenshood 20.0710 Leather case for lenshood 20.0712

Close-up attachment

Bellows focusing unit

Order No.

20.1007
20.1017
20.1206
20.0840
20.0710
20.0712
20.7838
20.7837

20.1617

Accessories (Contd)

Order No.

Copying and micro equipment

Table reproduction stand, consisting of:

1 Table clamp	20.182
1 Pillar 32 Ø x 600	20.181
1 Connecting arm	20.182
1 Camera adapter	20.182

Lighting equipment for above consisting of:

1 l-clamp 32/22	20.1810
1 Transverse tube 22 x 600	20.1820
2 Clamps 22 x 15	20.1811
2 Tubes for carrying reflector 15 x 400	20.1808
4 Clamps 15 x 15	20.1812
4 Reflectors with articulated tubes	20.1813
Angle finder attachment with adapter	20.1634
Micro adapter	20.1628
Connecting ring for micro adapter	20.1616

Accessories (Contd)

Order No.

20,0001 20.0300 20.0301 20.0504 20.0505 20.0281 20.2402 20.2202 20.2214 35.1910

Sundries

Take-up spool for camera
Cassette with core and container
Core only for cassette
Vision-correction lens* ± 0.5 to ± 5 dioptres
Vision-correction lens, abnormal
Cable release with lock
IKOPHOT photo-electric exposure meter in leather case
IKOBLITZ 4 capacitor flashgun for capless bulbs
_do., for bayonet-cap bulbs
MOVILUM Universal lighting unit with 2 reflectors (without lamps)
MOVILUM Universal lighting unit with 2 reflectors (without

^{*} Please quote optician's prescription for distance glasses when ordering.

Care of the CONTAREX

Care of the CONTAREX

From time to time, the film track and the film transport sprocket bearings of the CONTAREX special, the spool chambers and the inner side of the back should be carefully cleaned with a soft brush.

(Note: Do not scratch the shutter blind. Dust or fluff on lens flange or the mirror can be cleaned with a soft brush when the lens is removed. The lens surface and the finder eyepiece should be cleaned carefully with a soft linen rag and all finger prints removed. Dust should be removed beforehand with a soft brush. Polish the external chromium-plated fittings with a soft linen rag from time to time).

Serial Numbers

Every CONTAREX special has its serial number (a figure preceded by a letter) engraved on the narrow side of the back and also on the inside of the body. Every lens also has its serial number. You are advised to make a note of the number in the CONTAREX "Passport" which accompanies every camera. (This "Passport" also contains a guarantee). Knowledge of the serial number will help to establish your ownership in case of loss or theft. Moreover, the CONTAREX "Passport" contains a postcard which will enable you to join the INTERNATIONAL CONTAREX CORRESPONDENCE (I.C.C.).

Subject to alterations in the interests of technical progress.