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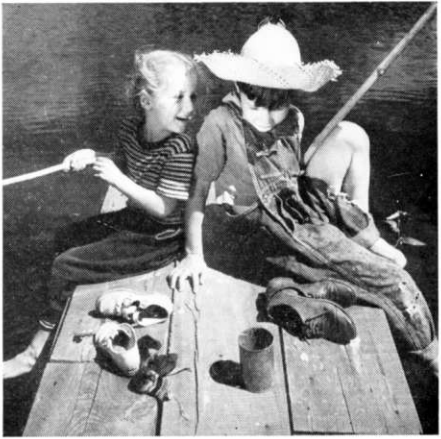
INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE USE OF THE

AGFA COMMANDER FOLDING CAMERA



B2 MODEL WITH F4.5 LENS · JN-166





ACTUAL SIZE OF PICTURES TAKEN WITH THE B2 COMMANDER CAMERA

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE USE OF THE COMMANDER CAMERA

THE AGFA COMMANDER has been scientifically designed for simplicity of operation so that excellent pictures can be obtained without a wealth of photographic knowledge. Before making any exposures, read the instructions through carefully. Additional information may be obtained, if desired, by writing Agfa Ansco, Binghamton, New York, where a special department is maintained to give your inquiries prompt, courteous attention. For more complete details on camera operation and picture-making, the reader is referred to "Better Photography Made Easy," a particularly helpful, 60-page booklet published by Agfa Ansco and sold by most photographic dealers at $.25 per copy.

The Commander Camera takes twelve pictures 2 1/4 x 2 1/4 inches on "center-numbered" B2 roll film. Film which is numbered only on the side cannot be used inasmuch as with this type of film the numerals indicating the exposures will not show in the red window on the back of the camera. Center-numbered Agfa films are easily identified by the marking "3X" directly below the expiration date on the carton, or by the figure "3" directly in front of the emulsion number on the carton.

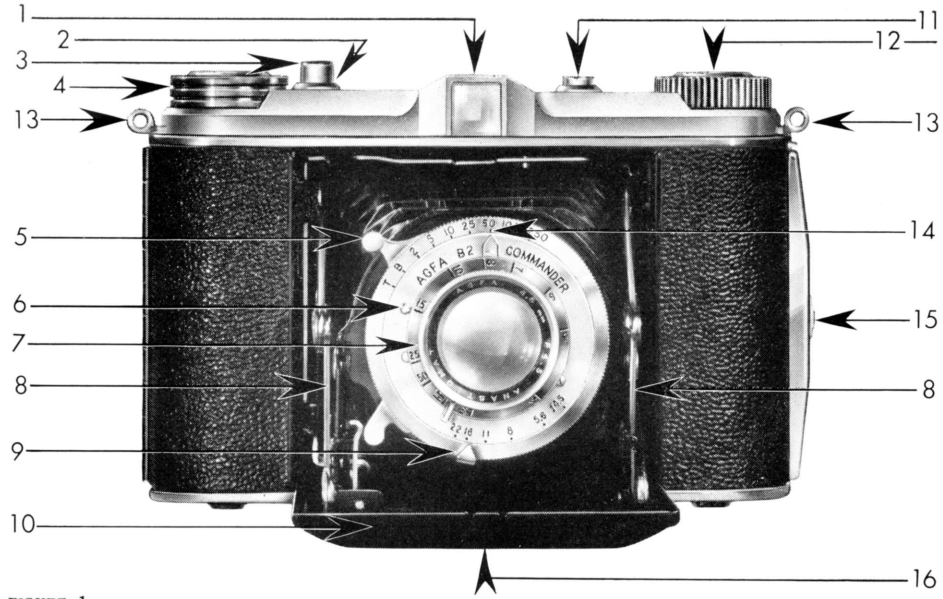


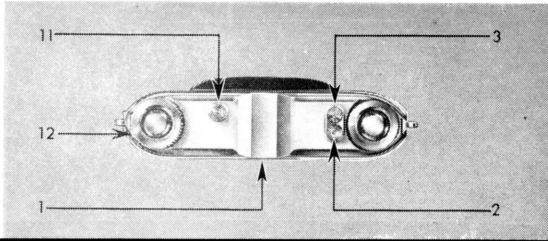
FIGURE 1

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OPERATIONS OF THE CAMERA

1. Direct optical view finder.
2. Socket for addition of cable release for operating shutter. A cable release for this camera is available if desired.
3. Shutter release. Operates after "cocking" by pressing down.
4. Supply spindle knob.
5. Shutter "cocking" lever, which must be set before the shutter release can function.
6. Focusing index post.
7. Focusing ring.
8. Side arm braces. By pressing both of these braces down and pushing the platform of the camera upward, the lens and bellows recede and the camera is completely closed when the "click" of the opening release is heard.
9. Diaphragm adjustment lever for controlling amount of light entering lens; i.e., selecting lens "stop."
10. Camera platform.
11. Opening release button. Press in to open camera.
12. Winding knob for advancing film.
13. Eyes for neckcord.
14. Shutter speed setting ring.
15. Sliding release for opening back.
16. Tripod socket (not visible in picture, but is located beneath camera body).

FIGURE 1A



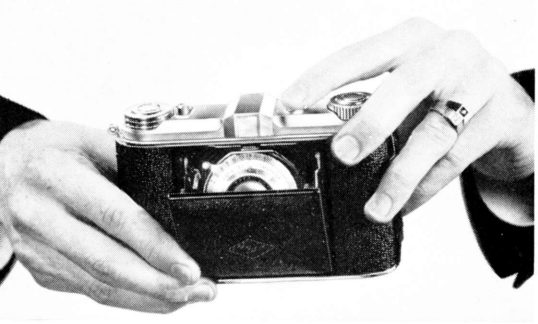


FIGURE 2

TO OPEN THE CAMERA

To open the camera, hold it firmly as shown in Fig. 2 with fingers clear of platform space and simply press the button. The camera lens will spring forward and the platform will lock into position.

TO CLOSE THE CAMERA

To close the camera, press down on the two side arm braces (Figure 3) and press the platform up until it is completely closed and a "click" of the opening release is heard.

Repeat the opening and closing operations until they can be easily and deftly accomplished. Never force the camera at any time.

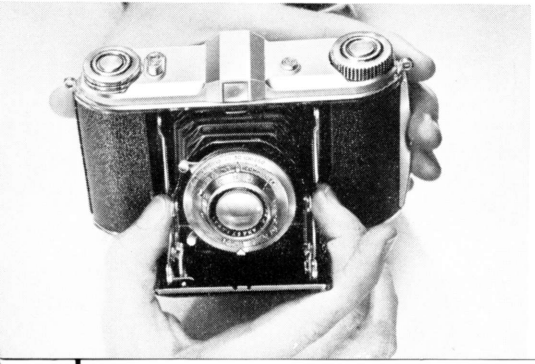
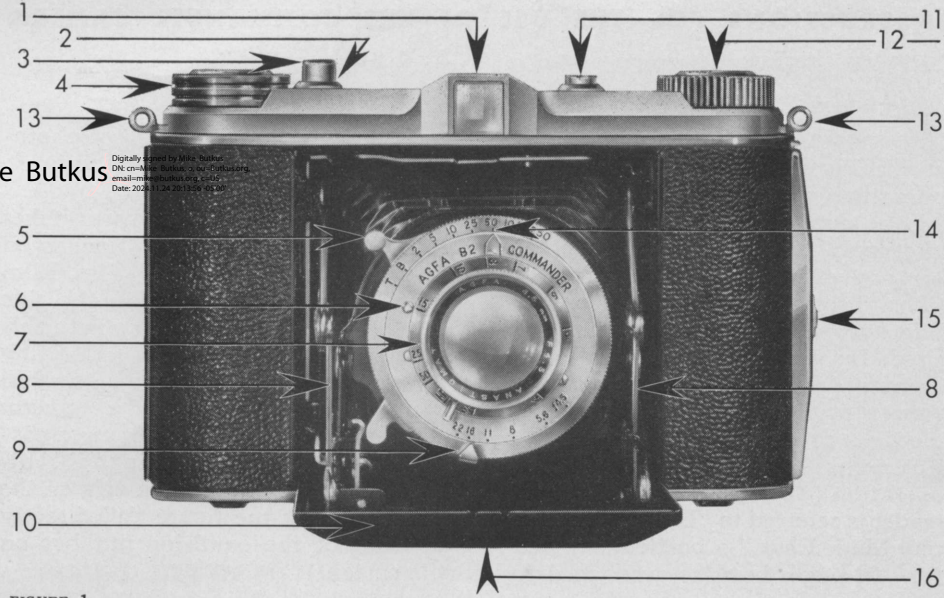


FIGURE 3

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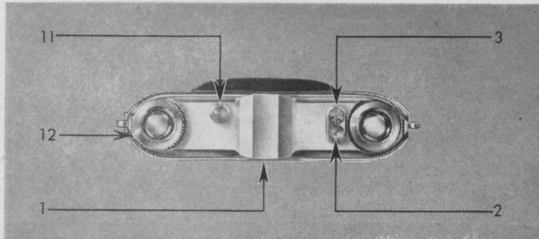
Mike Butkus
Digitally signed by Mike Butkus
DN: cn=Mike Butkus, o=, ou=Butkus.org, email=mike@butkus.org, c=US
Date: 2024.11.24 20:13:59 -05'00'

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FIGURE 1A



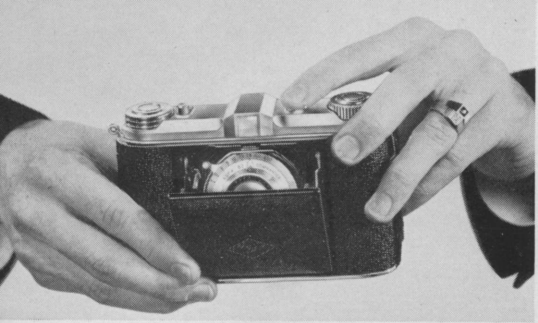


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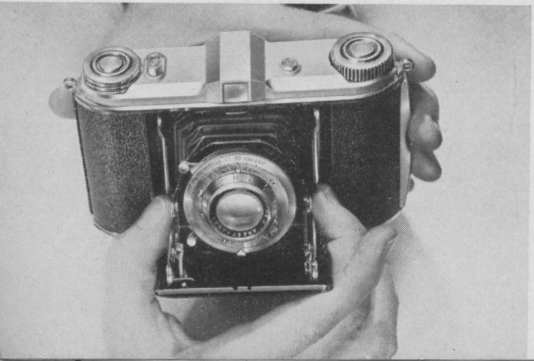


FIGURE 3

FOCUSING

The focusing scale will be found on the front face of the lens barrel and can be identified by the series of figures running from 3½ to infinity. See illustrations of lens mounting (Figure 4). The numbers in this series refer to distances in feet from camera to subject on which the focus is desired. For example, if the object to be photographed is fifteen feet away, revolve the focusing ring until the number 15 is opposite the index post (6, Figure 1). Distances from the lens to all objects from 3½ to 50 feet should be estimated as accurately as possible and set on the ring. For subjects at a distance of 100 feet or greater, the ring should be set at INF, meaning infinity.

To use as a fixed focus camera, set focusing scale at 15 feet, and the lens diaphragm (to be explained later) at an opening not greater than f16. Thus everything from 8 feet to infinity will be in focus. Sharper pictures of any particular subject will result, however, if the lens is focused according to the exact distance.

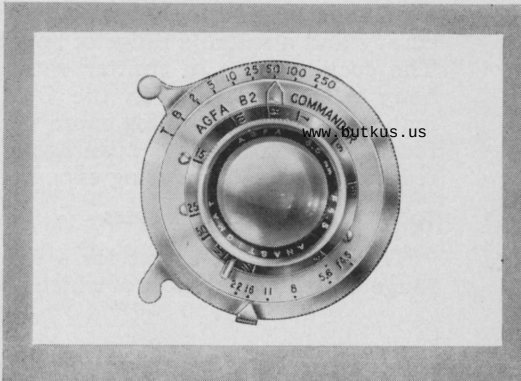


FIGURE 4

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THE SHUTTER

The shutter is the mechanism which actually makes the exposure when taking a picture. Simply expressed, it does nothing more than uncover the lens for a short period of time so that light from the object to be photographed may pass through the lens and project an image upon the film. However, the shutter allows exposures to be made with a high degree of accuracy and a suitable range of speed. The cocking type of shutter with a body release, as used on the Commander, besides providing more uniform speed has the advantage of reducing camera jar during exposure.

TO REGULATE THE SHUTTER SPEED

The shutter can be set for a wide range of exposures, most of which are mechanically determined. However, longer exposures than those for which the shutter is mechanically adjusted can be judged by experience or by a watch and for this purpose Time and Bulb provisions have been made. The shutter is set for the various exposures by turning the ring (14, Figure 1) to the desired exposure. The cocking lever (5, Figure 1) is then pulled upward shortly before the actual exposure is to be made. After this is done, the shutter is ready to be released and this is done by pressing down on the shutter release on the body of the camera (3, Figure 1), or by using a cable release if such has been added.

The shutter must be cocked before every exposure whether the camera is set for instantaneous exposure or for Time or Bulb. The exposure setting

should be selected *before* cocking the shutter.

TIME AND BULB EXPOSURES

When the shutter is set for B or Bulb (a term surviving from the days when the shutter was operated by a rubber bulb) it stays open as long as the lever remains depressed, and closes as soon as the pressure is released allowing the lever to return. Bulb is used for comparatively short time exposures, as for example when light conditions do not permit instantaneous exposures. Since it is impossible to hold the camera perfectly still in the hands for any length of time, the camera must be used on a tripod or some other firm support when Bulb exposures are made. Actually, all exposures longer than 1/25 second must be made using a tripod or firm support; on the Commander shutter these would include 1/2, 1/5, and 1/10 second, besides exposures which are made by Time or Bulb.

When the shutter is set for T or Time, and after cocking, one downward press on the release opens the shutter, following which a second press is required to close it. In other words, the lens remains open for complete time, however long, between the two operations of the shutter release. Time is used for interior work or under any conditions for which very long exposures are necessary. Bulb and Times exposures should not be made of moving objects. Neither should the release button be jerked when the shutter is opened, for any motion of the camera will cause an unsharp image.

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THE DIAPHRAGM

The diaphragm is an adjustable circular opening between the components of the lens, which controls the amount of light passing through the lens. When the diaphragm is adjusted so that full aperture of the lens is utilized, it is said to be "wide open." The Commander lens is "wide open" when set at f4.5. When the diaphragm is adjusted to a smaller opening, it is said to be "stopped down."

The diaphragm on the camera is operated by means of a lever (9, Figure 1) which is connected with the iris leaves between the lens components. When the lever is moved in one direction, the leaves open; in another direction, the leaves close; and so it is very easy to set the diaphragm for any lens opening. By setting the shutter on Time and moving the diaphragm lever back and forth the action of the iris leaves may be observed.

The stops or settings marked on the lens face are standard openings in the "F" system, the **F** taken from the word focal. Any one of the openings—f4.5, f5.6, f8, f11, f16 and f22—is of known exposure value regardless of the size or make of lens.

PROPER EXPOSURE

The proper exposure to be given for best results varies considerably according to the conditions of exposure and the speed of the film. Light conditions vary with the seasons, time of day and even geographic conditions. However, the camera has sufficient adjustments on it to allow pictures to

be made under almost any type of condition, especially since there is a wide assortment of center-numbered Agfa films available in the B2 size.

Average exposures for favorable conditions outdoors are given below, assuming that Agfa Plenachrome film is used.

EXPOSURE TABLE

Stop	F4.5	F5.6	F8	F11	F16	F22
Intense Sunshine	—	—	—	1/200*	1/100	1/50
Bright Sunshine	—	—	1/200*	1/100	1/50	1/25
Cloudy Bright	—	1/200*	1/100	1/50	1/25	1/10
Dull Cloudy	1/200	1/100	1/50	1/25	1/10	1/5

* The faster shutter speed of 1/250th sec. provided by the Commander Camera may be used with approximately ¼ stop larger lens opening than for 1/200th.

In general, close-ups require a greater exposure than distance scenes; winter day exposures must usually be longer than summer day exposures.

Greater detail will result in your negatives when a smaller diaphragm opening is used. With the camera focused at Infinity and the diaphragm set at f4.5, everything from 62 feet to infinity will be sharp and in focus. When the camera is focused at Infinity and the diaphragm set at f16, everything from 17 feet to infinity will be in focus. Thus it is seen that the depth of field, or the range of distance over which the picture is sharp and in focus has been increased by reducing the opening of the diaphragm.

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DEPTH OF FIELD TABLE FOR COMMANDER CAMERA

Distance in Feet	F4.5	F5.6	F8	F11	F16	F22
Inf.	62-Inf.	50-Inf	35-Inf.	25-Inf.	17-Inf.	13-Inf.
50	27½-Inf.	25-Inf	20½-Inf.	17-Inf.	13-Inf.	10-Inf.
25	17½-42	16½-50	14½-88	12½-Inf.	10½-Inf.	8½-Inf.
15	12-20	11½-21½	10½-26½	9½-37	8-Inf.	6½-Inf.
10	8½-12	8½-12½	7½-14	7½-16½	6½-23½	5½-47
8	7-9½	6¾-9½	6½-10½	6-11¾	5½-14¾	5-22
7	6½-8	6½-8½	5½-8¾	5½-9¾	5-11¾	4½-16
6	5¾-6¾	5½-7	5-7¾	4¾-8	4½-9½	4-11½
5	4¾-5½	4½-5½	4½-6	4½-6½	3¾-7	3½-8½
4	3¾-4½	3¾-4½	3½-4½	3½-4¾	3½-5½	3-6
3·5	3½-3¾	3½-3¾	3¼-4	3-4	3-4½	2¾-5

THE OPTICAL FINDER

The Commander Camera is equipped with an optical type finder (1, Figure 1). By holding the camera to the eye, as shown in Figure 5, the area included in the picture is easily determined. The eye-level view finder is advantageous since it gives an image in the same perspective as when the subject is normally viewed. In other words, the eye and the view finder are in the same position.

FIGURE 5



THE TRIPOD SOCKET

The tripod socket (16, Figure 1) is used for attaching the camera to the tripod. For any exposure of greater duration than 1/25th second, a tripod should be used.

LOADING THE CAMERA

To load the camera, it is first necessary to open the back which is held by a catch (15, Figure 1). In order to release the catch, the knob should be moved downward. When this is done, the back will open outward with ease, and is kept attached to the body of the camera by a hinge at the opposite end. This operation should be repeated several times until it can be accomplished with no difficulty.

With the back open, you are now ready to load the camera with film. The fresh roll of film goes into the chamber at the opposite end of the camera from the winding knob (12, Figure 1). In the chamber at the winding knob end, you will find an empty spool. It is onto this spool that the film is wound as used, so that when all exposures are taken it is this spool which is removed from the camera for finishing.

To load the film into the camera, first pull out the supply spindle knob (4, Figure 1) and drop the fresh spool into the empty chamber, taking care that it is inserted right end around. In other words, be certain that the pointed end of the paper will come from the top and not the bottom of the roll, and that only the red or green side of the paper will show, the black side being toward the lens. The

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CAUTIONS

Before loading the camera, make certain that the shutter is closed.

In starting the red or green paper at the time of loading a fresh roll, always see that it is even, fitting the spool neatly. Otherwise, it is likely to climb up one end of the spool, causing the protective paper to tear and possibly fogging the film.

Also, always make it a practice to wind to the next number immediately after taking a picture. In this way, when you start to use it, the camera is always ready for the next picture with no possibility that another exposure will be made on top of one already taken, thus spoiling both exposures.

In making exposures, always hold the camera level. Otherwise, your finished prints will show an undesirable slanting of the subject and background. Hold the camera perfectly still when making the exposure.

Keep the lens of your Commander Camera clean. A dirty lens or rain or mist on the front lens will cause fogged or cloudy pictures. To clean the lens, use a soft linen or cotton cloth. With the bellows closed, back opened, and the camera unloaded, it is also well to occasionally clean the rear element of the lens.

Do not let the sun shine directly on

the lens when taking a picture. This produces a "flare" of light on the film which shows in the finished picture. If photographing towards the source of light, hold your hand or hat above the lens as a shade, but sufficiently high to prevent its being included in the picture.

Select your background carefully. A good subject can be spoiled by such backgrounds as telephone poles, clapboard houses, etc. Keep your backgrounds simple. A background of foliage is usually unobtrusive and pleasing.

* * *

The foregoing instructions explain the mechanical operation of your Commander Camera. These should be thoroughly understood before attempting to take pictures.

Do not be content, however, with the mastery of these simple details. Photography offers marvelous possibilities to the camera user who really attempts to obtain the maximum results possible with his equipment. Your Commander Camera is a fine instrument. Learn to use it most effectively.

ACCESSORIES: The following accessories are available for the B2 Commander Camera.

Eveready Leather Carrying Case	$4.95
Agfa No. 1 Filter—Size 24 (Light yellow)	1.75
Agfa Cable Release	.35

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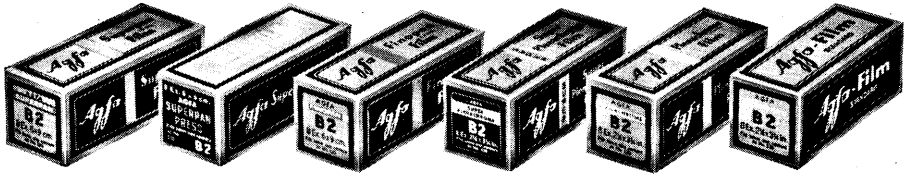
FOR BEST RESULTS WITH YOUR COMMANDER CAMERA USE

AGFA FILM

All of the following AGFA FILMS are available in B2 size:

STANDARD - PLENACHROME - SUPER PLENACHROME
FINOPAN - SUPERPAN SUPREME - SUPERPAN PRESS - INFRA-RED

ALL AGFA ROLL FILMS ARE GUARANTEED
"PICTURES THAT SATISFY OR A NEW ROLL FREE"



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