www.butkus.us



This is your Argus C4

K 135-20

You have just purchased America's most distinguished 35mm camera – the Argus C4.

It is a precision instrument, and with the care it deserves your C4 will provide you with a lifetime of service.

This little book is intended to help you to derive the fullest enjoyment from its use. If you plan to take a trip, expose a practice roll or two of film first. This will acquaint you with your new C-4 and prevent spoiling an important picture through lack of familiarity.

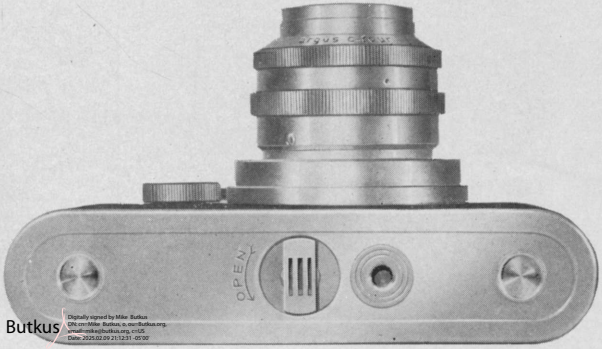
www.butkus.us

Table of Contents

Page

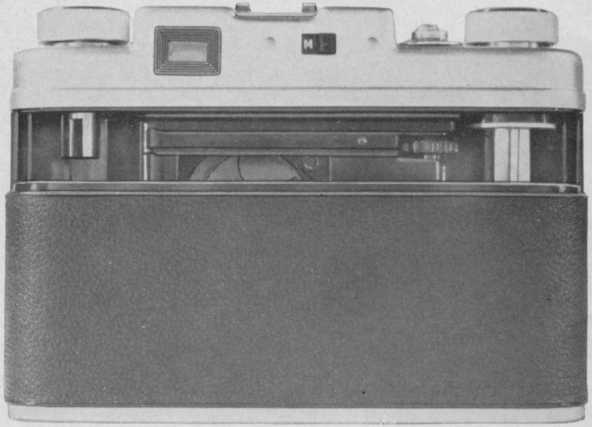
Important Components of your Argus C4....Cover gatefold
Loading.....2, 3, 4, 5
"SAFE" Way to Take Pictures.....6
Shutter Adjustment 7
Aperture Adjustment 8
Focusing 9
Exposure (taking the picture).....10
Getting Ready for More Pictures.....11
COLOR-MATIC Settings 12
Flash Photography.....13, 14, 15, 16
FLASH EXPOSURE GUIDE.....17
DEPTH OF FIELD 18
OUTDOOR EXPOSURE GUIDE.....19
Specifications 20
Guarantee .....Back Cover

Loading



Mike Butkus
Digitally signed by Mike Butkus
DN: cn=Mike Butkus, o, ou=Butkus.org, mail=mike@butkus.org, c=US
Date: 2025.02.09 21:12:31 -07'00'

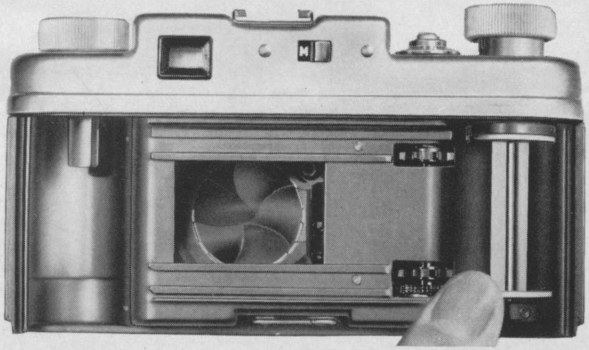
Unlock the camera back by turning the Locking Device in the "open" direction.



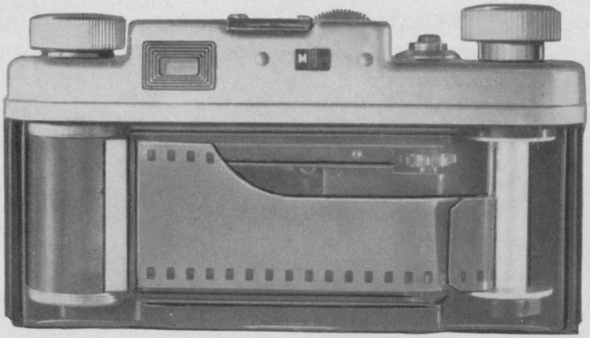
Remove camera back with downward movement. Turn the Wind Knob until it stops.

Use standard 35mm film

www.butkus.us

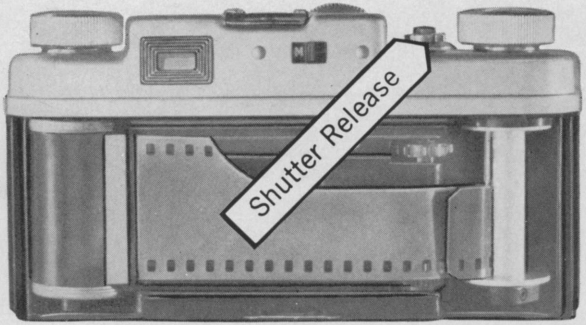


Pull the Wind Knob completely up and rotate ¼ turn backwards to release take-up spool tension. Rotate take-up spindle with thumb to position shown.

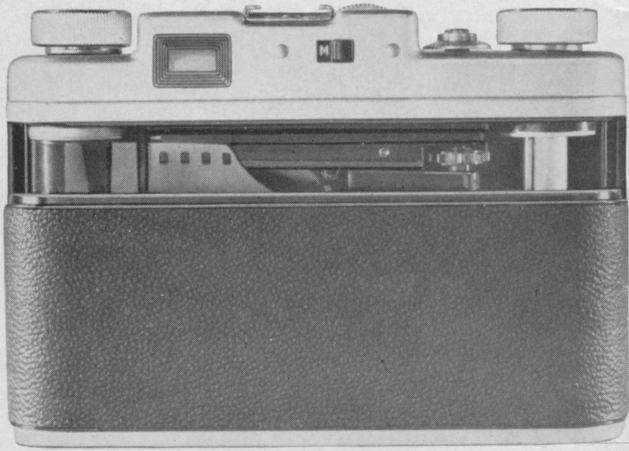


Place 35mm film cartridge in film compartment and thread 3 notches of film under friction roller. Be sure film notches are engaged with sprocket, as in illustration.

Loading



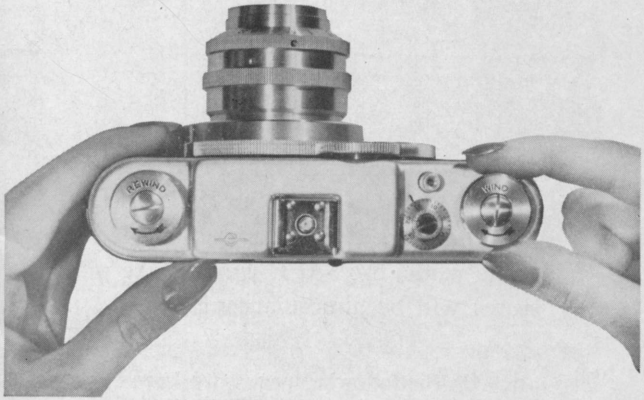
Turn Wind Knob until it snaps down to engage winding shaft. When knob stops turning, press Shutter Release and turn Wind Knob until end of film lies back against the sprocket.



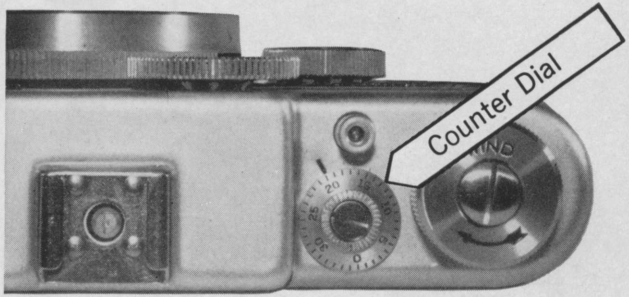
Replace camera back: First, turn Locking Device to "open" position. Then place back on camera in position shown above. Slide back into position to secure. Turn Locking Device in opposite direction to arrow.

www.butkus.us

continued



Turn Winding Knob until it stops, press Shutter Release, and again turn Winding Knob until it stops.



Exposure Counter shows number of pictures remaining on your film. To set, push down with thumb and turn clockwise until 20 is opposite stationary index line, if using a 20-picture roll; or 0 if using a 36-picture roll.

The SAFE way to take pictures

S = **SHUTTER ADJUSTMENT**—controls the amount of time and is set according to type of subject.

A = **APERTURE (lens) ADJUSTMENT**—controls the amount of light and is set according to the light condition.

F = **FOCUSING ADJUSTMENT**—controls the sharpness and is set according to the distance you are from your subject.

E = **EXPOSURE**—the actual taking of the picture.

The first letter of each of the four steps of picture-taking spell out SAFE: After you have used your Argus C4 for a little while, the SAFE way to take pictures will be almost automatic to you.

On the following pages, we have enlarged on the four steps in SAFE picture-taking.

www.butkus.us

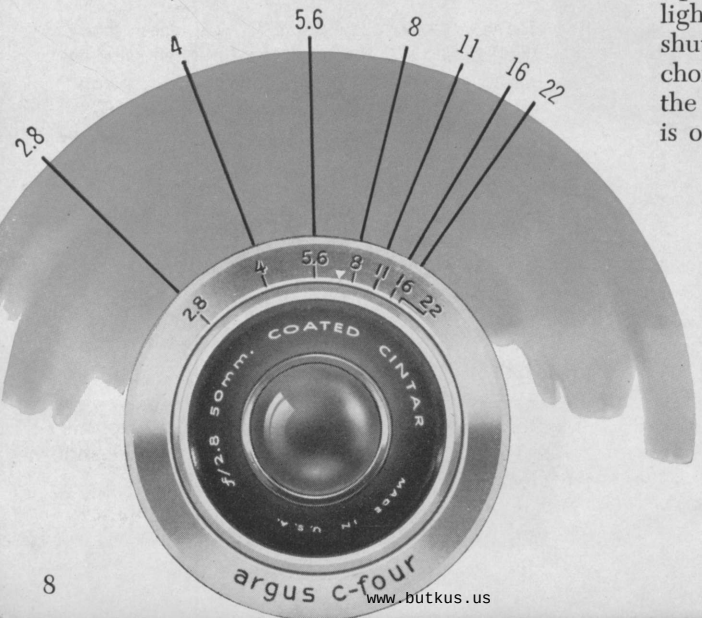


The C4 Shutter Speed Dial controls the length of time the shutter will be open to admit light when you press the Shutter Release. The numbers indicate fractions of a second. You may select any one of five accurately measured speeds. Just rotate the dial to bring that number directly over the index dot above the letter "G" in the Argus trade mark. (In the illustration, the dial is set at 1/100 second.)

When the dial is set at "B", the shutter will remain open as long as the shutter release is held down, permitting time exposures when light is limited. When making exposures at "B" or at 1/10 second, the C4 should be on a tripod or other steady support to avoid movement. The C4 may be held in the hands for all other shutter speeds.

Caution: Always set Shutter Speed Dial ON numbers, never in-between. Intermediate areas are merely for transition from one point to the next and do not provide accurate intermediate speeds.

A = APERTURE (lens) ADJUSTMENT



Aperture Ring settings control the amount of light that will pass through the lens while shutter is open. Your Argus C4 gives you a choice of 7 settings. Make settings by rotating the Aperture Ring until the desired opening is opposite the index mark.

To re-adjust Aperture Ring setting without changing focus, hold the Rangefinder Dial with thumb while making new setting.

Smallest opening—f:22.
Largest opening—f:2.8.

Each setting admits twice as much light as the preceding one. Thus, f:2.8 admits twice as much light as f:4.

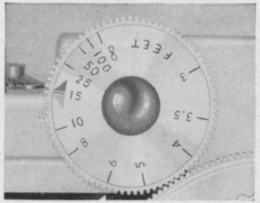
For proper settings, consult exposure guides on pages 17 and 19.

www.butkus.us

www.butkus.us

F = FOCUSING







Out of focus



In focus

The above illustrations show the view as it appears through the View and Rangefinder. Illustration at left shows the subject as it appears when the camera is "out of focus"; illustration at right shows the subject as it appears when the camera is "in focus". It is also possible to pre-set the distance by means of the Rangefinder Dial and to approach the subject until the two images are superimposed.

To focus, look through Rangefinder-Viewfinder Eyepiece and turn the Rangefinder Dial until the double image becomes a single image. Through the Eyepiece, you will see your subject just as it will appear in the finished picture.

The Rangefinder Dial is coupled to the focusing lens mount, so that when you have superimposed the double image into a single image, your Argus C4 is in focus and will assure you a sharp, clear picture.

For pictures that are longer than they are wide, turn your camera into a vertical position and do the same as above.

CAUTION: When sighting through the Rangefinder-Viewfinder Eyepiece, be sure your eye is centered to insure accurate picture composition. Keep sight of all four sides of Viewfinder Window for correct framing.

E = EXPOSURE *(taking the picture)*





Hold the camera in either of the two positions shown at left, depending on whether you are taking a tall or a wide subject.

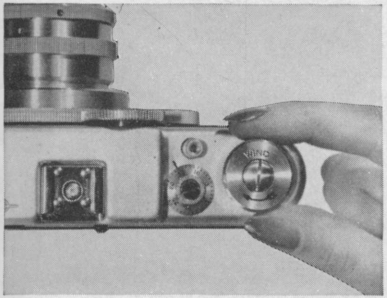
Hold camera firmly and compose the picture to your own liking.

Press the Shutter Release, with firm, smooth motion of forefinger. It's a good idea to hold your breath as you press the Shutter Release – this will help to hold the camera still while you're taking the picture.

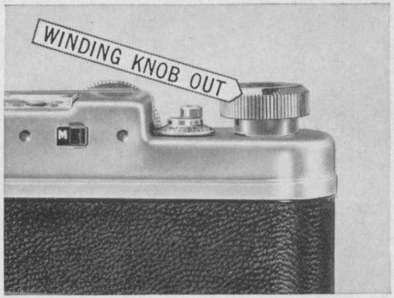
FOR COMPLETE EXPOSURE GUIDES, SEE PAGES 17 AND 19

www.butkus.us

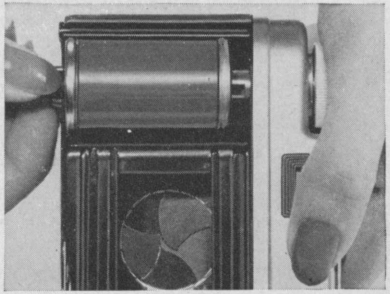
GETTING READY FOR MORE PICTURES



Wind: Most C4 owners make it a practice not to wind the film until just before taking the next picture. This prevents tripping the shutter accidentally. When ready for a picture, turn the winding knob until it stops. Do not touch exposure counter or shutter release when winding.

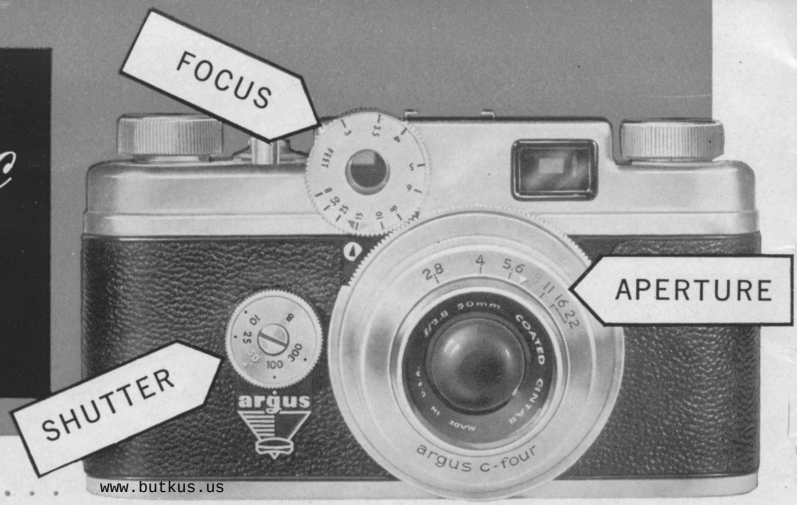


Rewind: When all pictures have been taken, pull winding knob completely up and rotate ¼ turn backwards to release take-up spool tension, and rewind film (using knob marked "Rewind") until counter dial has stopped rotating. Continue to turn knob three to four extra revolutions to be sure film is entirely in the cartridge.



Unload & Reload: Open back of the camera, as in loading, and remove the film cartridge. Have the film developed as soon as possible for best results. Keep your Argus C4 loaded with film so you will be ready for any picture opportunity. Argus C4 uses standard 35mm film cartridges, black-and-white or color.

Color-matic Settings



FOR SNAPSHOT SIMPLICITY . . .

While your C4 is completely adjustable for precise variations when you need them, it can also be used like the simplest camera. Just "set it on Color-matic", then wind the film and snap the shutter for each picture.

Color-matic markings on Aperture Ring, Rangefinder Dial, and Shutter Speed Dial provide universal settings for *average* subjects in *bright sunlight*, with sharp focus from 9 to 50 feet.

YELLOW MARKINGS are used with Kodachrome Daylight (ASA 10).

RED MARKINGS are used with Ektachrome or Anscochrome Daylight color films and with Plus-X, Supreme and similar black-and-white films (ASA 32-80).

Individual adjustments are necessary for (1) other than "average" subjects, (2) when subject is not in sunlight, (3) when using films with higher exposure indexes.

www.butkus.us

Flash Photography

The C4 Flash Unit locks on the top of your camera in the Flash Mounting Bracket, permitting you to take pictures anywhere without regard to existing light conditions. A Flash Exposure Guide is provided on page 17.

The side-to-side movement of the Flash Lamp Adjustment on your C4 automatically synchronizes the shutter at either "M" (20 millisecond delay) or "X" (no delay). The adjustment permits the use of several types of flash equipment at a choice of shutter speeds.

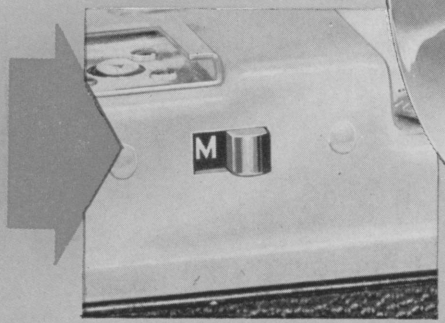
FLASH LAMP ADJUSTMENT

Use the "M" setting for Medium peak flash lamps (wire filled, No. 5, Press 25, Bantam 8, etc.) at any shutter speed.

Use the "X" setting for Fast peak flash lamps (gas filled, SM-SF) but only at shutter speeds up to 1/100 second to allow for 5 millisecond delay in these lamps.

Use the "X" setting for "zero" or "X-delay" electronic equipment at any shutter speed.

Refer to the chart on page 17 for shutter and aperture settings.





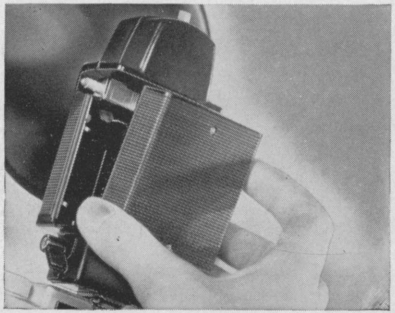
Flash Photography continued

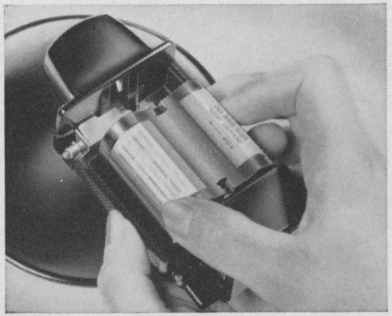
The C4 Flash Unit is designed to accommodate two size "C" photoflash batteries. (B-C power units which will fit the C4 battery case are also available.)

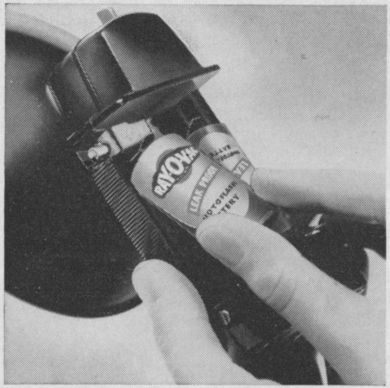
To install batteries, first remove the back of the battery case by grasping it at the sides and pulling directly outward as shown in the illustration below. Inside the battery case, you will find diagrams indicating correct battery positions.

Fresh batteries are necessary for positive flash synchronization. Size "C" batteries should be replaced after about four months' use or after 50 to 60 flash exposures.

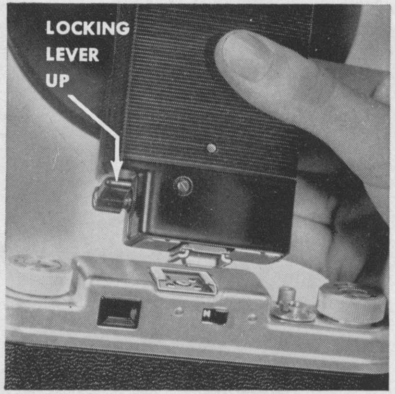
When inserting size "C" batteries, be sure to position the left-hand cell top-up and the right-hand cell top-down as indicated inside the battery case.



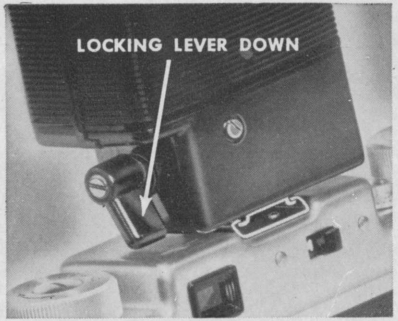




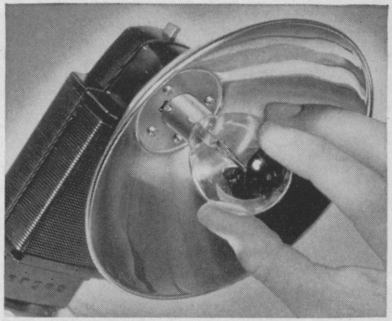
www.butkus.us



To attach the Flash Unit to the camera, first make sure the locking lever is turned up toward the back, then slide the flanges on the bottom of the Flash Unit forward into the Flash Mounting Bracket on the top of the camera until fully seated.



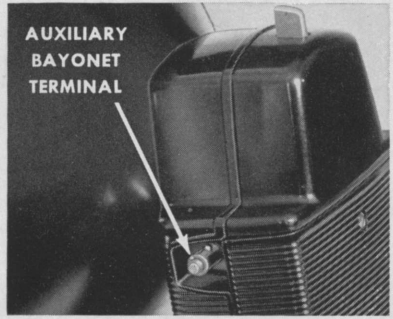
Be sure to LOCK your Flash Unit on the camera. Pressing down firmly on Locking Lever will secure the Flash Unit in mounted position. Perfect electrical contact is made through elements in the mounting device; no other wires or adjustments are needed. Automatic flash synchronization is built-in.



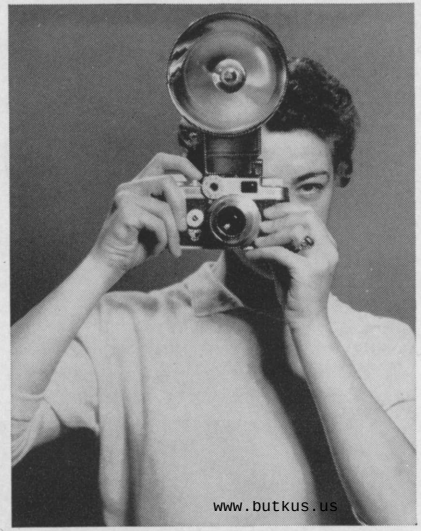
Any midget base flash lamp may be inserted. Align the studs on the base of the lamp with the two slots at either side of the reflector socket and push the lamp in as far as it will go. It is not necessary to turn the lamp after inserting it.

Caution: To avoid premature flash, be sure Flash Unit does not have a lamp in it when attaching it to the camera. For best results, rub the lamp contact points bright and clean before insertion.

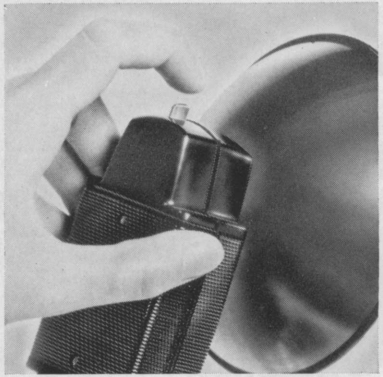
Flash Photography continued



A bayonet terminal is provided for multiple flash extensions. Several extension lights may be fired when using a B-C unit. (Ordinary flash batteries, however, are not powerful enough for this "in-series" connection.)


www.butkus.us

Hold camera as shown above. Position of the flash unit provides maximum illumination on subject. Such strong front lighting is perfect for color photography.



Eject hot lamps without touching them by pressing down the red button at top of battery case.

www.butkus.us

FLASH *exposure* GUIDE

Guide numbers are given in the chart below for combinations of popular films and flash lamps. By dividing the appropriate guide number by the number of feet between your camera and subject, you obtain the correct aperture setting (f:stop).

EXAMPLE: For Kodachrome Daylight and No.5B flashlamp at 1/50 shutter speed, the chart shows 45 as the guide number. With a subject 10 ft. from the camera, divide 45 by 10, which equals 4.5. Set aperture between f:4 and f:5.6.

ELECTRONIC FLASH UNITS require exposure adjustments according to manufacturer's recommendations. Consult instructions supplied with your electronic unit.

	FLASHBULB ▶	SM-SF (Use **X** setting)		BANTAM 8 (Use **M** setting)			5 or 25 (Use **M** setting)		
	SHUTTER SPEED ▶	Up to 1/50	1/100*	Up to 1/50	1/100	1/300	Up to 1/50	1/100	1/300
COLOR	Ektachrome Daylight Anscochrome Daylight	Blue lamps (No. 5B or 25B) required for Daylight Color Film used indoors. →					80	70	50
COLOR	Ektachrome Type F Anscochrome Flash Type	50	45	80	70	55	115	95	70
COLOR	Kodachrome Daylight	Blue lamps (No. 5B or 25B) required for Daylight Color Film used indoors. →					45	40	26
COLOR	Kodachrome Type F	40*	35*	60	55	50	85	75	60
BLACK AND WHITE	Kodak Panatomic-X	60	55	65	60	50	100	85	65
BLACK AND WHITE	Ansco Supreme	80	80	80	75	70	155	120	90
BLACK AND WHITE	Kodak Plus-X	110	95	110	100	90	170	150	120
BLACK AND WHITE	Kodak Tri-X	160	150	190	180	160	280	240	180

*82B-type filter required.

*The five millisecond delay, characteristic of gas-filled bulbs, prevents proper exposure at shutter speeds faster than 1/100 second.

DEPTH OF FIELD

When your camera is focused on 10 feet, subjects in front of and beyond this distance, are also recorded sharply. This range of sharpness is called depth of field.

The table here indicates the depth of field at the different distance and lens settings. For example: With the Argus C4 focused on 15 feet, and the lens set at f:11, all subjects between 7′5″ and infinity will appear sharp. By referring to the table, you can readily determine the range of sharpness for any lens and focus setting.

Distance Focused On	f:2.8 Sharply Focused		f:4 Sharply Focused		f:5.6 Sharply Focused		f:8 Sharply Focused		f:11 Sharply Focused		f:16 Sharply Focused		f:22 Sharply Focused	
	From	To	From	To	From	To	From	To	From	To	From	To	From	To
3	2′10″	3′2″	2′10″	3′3″	2′9″	3′4″	2′8″	3′6″	2′6″	3′9″	2′4″	4′2″	2′2″	4′11″
3.5	3′4″	3′8″	3′3″	3′10″	3′2″	3′11″	3′	4′2″	2′10″	4′6″	2′8″	5′3″	2′5″	6′5″
4	3′9″	4′3″	3′8″	4′5″	3′6″	4′7″	3′4″	4′11″	3′2″	5′5″	2′11″	6′5″	2′8″	8′4″
5	4′7″	5′5″	4′6″	5′8″	4′3″	6′	4′	6′7″	3′9″	7′5″	3′5″	9′7″	3′	14′8″
6	5′5″	6′8″	5′3″	7′	5′	7′6″	4′8″	8′5″	4′3″	10′	3′10″	14′3″	3′4″	29′4″
8	7′	9′3″	6′8″	9′11″	6′3″	11′	5′9″	13′1″	5′2″	17′2″	4′6″	35′10″	3′10″	∞
10	8′6″	12′1″	8′	13′3″	7′5″	15′2″	6′9″	19′6″	6′	30′4″	5′1″	∞	4′3″	∞
15	11′11″	20′2″	11′	23′9″	9′11″	30′11″	8′8″	56′7″	7′5″	∞	6′1″	∞	5′	∞
25	17′6″	43′11″	15′6″	65′	13′5″	∞	11′2″	∞	9′3″	∞	7′3″	∞	5′8″	∞
50	26′10″	∞	22′4″	∞	18′4″	∞	14′5″	∞	11′5″	∞	8′5″	∞	6′5″	∞
100	36′7″	∞	28′9″	∞	22′5″	∞	16′10″	∞	12′10″	∞	9′2″	∞	6′10″	∞
∞	57′8″	∞	40′4″	∞	28′10″	∞	20′2″	∞	14′8″	∞	10′1″	∞	7′4″	∞

Above table based on circle of confusion .002″ (1/500″) ∞—infinity. Focal length 50mm (1.9685″)

www.butkus.us

OUTDOOR *exposure* GUIDE

In the chart below are recommended aperture settings (f-stops) for popular types of film under four conditions of daylight. In each case the correct f-stop is given for **average** subjects facing toward the sun when using the shutter speed listed in the first column. Open the lens one half stop more for very darkly colored subjects; close the lens one half stop for very light subjects.

CAUTION : When using filters with black-and-white films, or if your subject is shaded from sun (with any film) wider apertures must be used. Always consult instructions packed with your film or filter.

	(FOR AVERAGE SUBJECTS)	SHUTTER SPEED	BRIGHT SUN	HAZY SUN	CLOUDY BRIGHT	CLOUDY DULL
COLOR	Ektachrome Daylight Anscochrome Daylight	100	f:8	f:5.6	f:4	f:2.8
	Ektachrome Type F Anscochrome Flash Type (with filter*)	100	BETWEEN 5.6 & 8	BETWEEN 4 & 5.6	BETWEEN 2.8 & 4	**
	Kodachrome Daylight (or Indoor type with filter*)	50	BETWEEN 5.6 & 8	BETWEEN 4 & 5.6	BETWEEN 2.8 & 4	**
BLACK AND WHITE	Kodak Tri-X	100	f:22	f:16	f:11	f:8
	Kodak Plus-X	100	f:16	f:11	f:8	f:5.6
	Ansco Supreme	100	f:11	f:8	f:5.6	f:4
	Kodak Panatomic-X	50	f:11	f:8	f:5.6	f:4

Cloudy-dull light conditions generally do not provide satisfactory color slides. However, exposures can be made using the "CLOUDY-BRIGHT" settings and the next **slower shutter speed setting.

*Correction filters must be used with tungsten-type color films exposed in daylight. Consult manufacturers instructions.

Specifications

PICTURE SIZE: 1″ x 1 1/16″ transparencies in 2″ x 2″ mounts; or 3¼″ x 4½″ standard photo-finishers' prints.

FILM SIZE: 35mm, roll cartridge.

LENS: 50mm (2″) Argus Cintar f:2.8 color corrected, coated anastigmat; diaphragm openings from f:22; rangefinder—coupled automatic focusing, 3 ft. to infinity; hyperfocal distance: 57′8″ at f:2.8; field covered: 27° x 40° angular at infinity; resolving power: 120 lines per millimeter at center of field.

SHUTTER: Behind lens type; gear-controlled speeds at 1/10, 1/25, 1/50, 1/100, 1/300 and bulb (B); body release threaded for ASA cable; automatically cocked with film wind action; synchronized at M for 20 millisecond delay wire-filled flashbulbs, at X (zero delay) for electronic flash at all shutter speeds, and at X for gas-filled bulbs at speeds up to 1/100 second.

FLASH: Lock-on type, fits standard mounting bracket on camera; automatically fired through mounting contacts; auxiliary bayonet terminal provided for firing secondary flash unit when using B-C power unit; may be fired through bayonet terminal when mounted on other cameras with external firing cables, provided normally open circuit at mounting connection is closed; 5″ polished reflector with bayonet type socket for all midget base lamps; pushbutton lamp ejection.

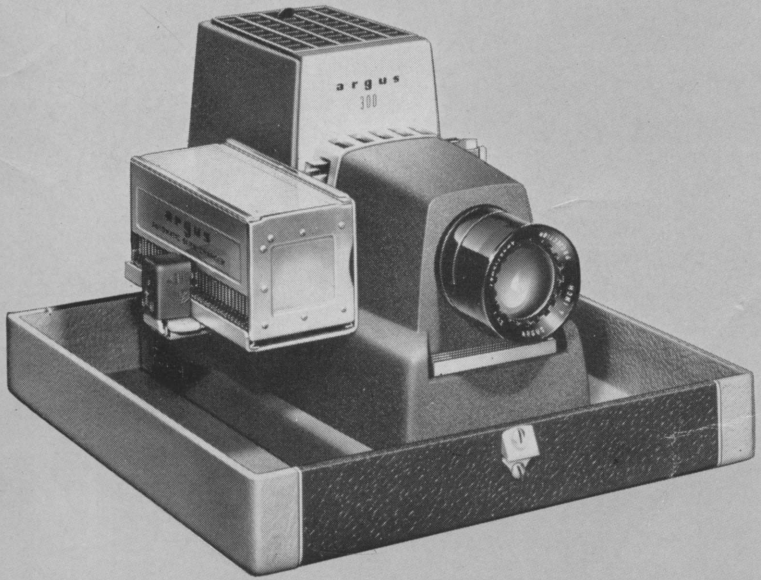
LENS ACCESSORIES: 1.300″ outside diameter of lens mount takes 33mm slip-on adapter ring and 41mm or Series VI filters and supplementary lenses; threaded inside diameter will take E.K. No. 26 Series VI screw-in adapter ring.

OTHER FEATURES: Die-cast metal body with leather-grain and satin metal trim, 5½″ x 3⅛″ x 3¼″; weight 25 oz.; automatic exposure counter; Color-matic settings for aperture, shutter speed and distance for average subjects in bright sunlight; double exposure prevention; tripod socket; genuine saddle leather, eveready-type carrying case with shoulder strap.

www.butkus.us

Perfect companion for any 35mm camera

Argus Automatic 300 Blower-Cooled Projector



The finest optical system yet devised for slide projection, combined with a complete, convenient system for viewing, indexing and storing your highly prized color slides — automatically. The wide angle f:3.3 lens projects big pictures, even in a small room. Silent, powerful blower and special heat absorbing lens protect your valuable slides. Projector, blower, changer, and space for extra slide magazines all designed into a handsome, luggage-style carrying case. It's America's favorite way to view color slides.

Lifetime Guarantee

Your Argus C4 camera was manufactured, inspected and tested by skilled camera craftsmen. It is automatically guaranteed when purchased to be free of defects in workmanship or material during its lifetime. If any servicing is necessary because of imperfections in materials or workmanship, your camera will be factory serviced without charge.

Argus equipment which has been damaged, mishandled or worn from extended use will be factory serviced at established rates. Used or rebuilt equipment is not covered by this guarantee.

ARGUS CAMERAS INC., ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

ARGUS CAMERAS OF CANADA, LTD., TORONTO, ONTARIO

PART NO. 23287-566

PRINTED IN U.S.A.