

THE EXAKTA 500 is just a handful of camera: 4¹⁵/₁₆-in. long, 3³/₄-in. high, and 3³/₄-in. deep to the tip of the 50-mm Tessar *f*/2.8 lens, adding up to a mere 1³/₄ lbs. It also costs a mere handful: with the automatic Tessar, \$79.50, including case. Yet it can tackle almost as much as its big brothers, the Exaktas 1000, IIA, IIB, etc.

The 500 takes all Exakta lenses from 20- to 1000-mm, the Vivitar 85- to 205-mm zoom, and other optics in Exakta mount, extension tubes, bellows, etc.

This latest model has a return mirror, with red flag indicator in finder if you haven't cocked the shutter; focusing screen with microprism center, ground-glass doughnut, and groundglass/fresnel balance; shutter speeds from 1/2 to 1/500, including 1/15 sec plus B; 1/60 sec electronic flash synch; rapid rewind crank; and an extremely short, rapid throw on its film transport lever.

I found I could see the entire ground-glass with my glasses on. I tried the microprism with lenses from a 20-mm *f*/4 to a 300-mm *f*/5.6, and found it worked well with all.

I like external diaphragm automation, such as is found on Exakta lenses. To check depth-of-field, gently depress the release button on the lens to stop it down; then a little extra pressure will release the shutter.

I like to be able to make double exposures, and this is very easy to do with the 500. Advance the film, turn the rewind crank to take up the slack; then take your first exposure. Next flip the rapid wind lever, while both restraining the rewind crank and depressing the rewind button, and you are ready for superimposing your second shot. Since the rewind button is right next to the transport lever, and not on the bottom of the camera, and since the body of the 500 is short, you don't have to be a contortionist to do all this.

The Exakta 500 is distributed by Ponder & Best Inc., 11201 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90064.

—Norman Rothschild

