

Exa IIA

TYPE: 35mm eye-level single-lens reflex.
LENS: 50mm f/2 Exaktar with interchangeable bayonet mount, stops to f/22, focusing to 21 in.

SHUTTER: Cloth focal-plane with speeds from 1/2 to 1/250 sec. plus B, X sync.
VIEWING: Non-interchangeable eye-level prism with full focusing screen, central split-image rangefinder, and fine focusing collar.

OTHER FEATURES: External automatic diaphragm, and depth of field scale.

PRICE: with 50mm f/2 Exaktar, \$109.50.

MANUFACTURER: Ihagee Camera Works AG, Dresden, Germany. **IMPORTER:**

Exakta Camera Co., 705 Bronx River Rd., Bronxville, N.Y.

PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS: 5 in. long, 3 3/4 in. high, 3 1/2 in. deep. **WEIGHT:** 1 lb. 14 oz.

The average focal-plane shutter single-lens reflex camera leaves something to be desired in the way of a quiet shutter mechanism. Even the quietest of the reflexes remains louder than the gentle Contax and Leica rangefinder cameras—except for the Exa.

The old Exa I reflex, a flat, squat beast with shutter speeds from 1/10 to 1/150 sec., sported a peculiar guil-

tine shutter arrangement in which the mirror itself acted as the shutter. Everyone took it for granted that the shutter was the secret of Exa silence. When the Exa II was announced to have a regular cloth focal-plane shutter, the Exa brigade prepared to bid a fond farewell to silence.

Well, the Exa II gives the other focal-plane shutter manufacturers something to think about. It's as quiet as the Exa I. The shutter, unlike other cloth focal-plane shutters, does not travel horizontally along the length of the focal plane. It operates vertically, like the Contax Ila, IIIa metal shutter, and therefore has less distance to cover. Presumably, it stops at the end of its travel with less fuss, feathers, and thus less noise.

By eliminating the odd guillotine shutter, another advantage has been gained. The old Exa accepted Exakta lenses up to only 105mm; vignetting occurred with lenses of long focal length. This put a real limitation on the Exa as an inexpensive spare Exakta body. The Exa II, we can report, may be used with any lens which can be fitted to the Exakta.

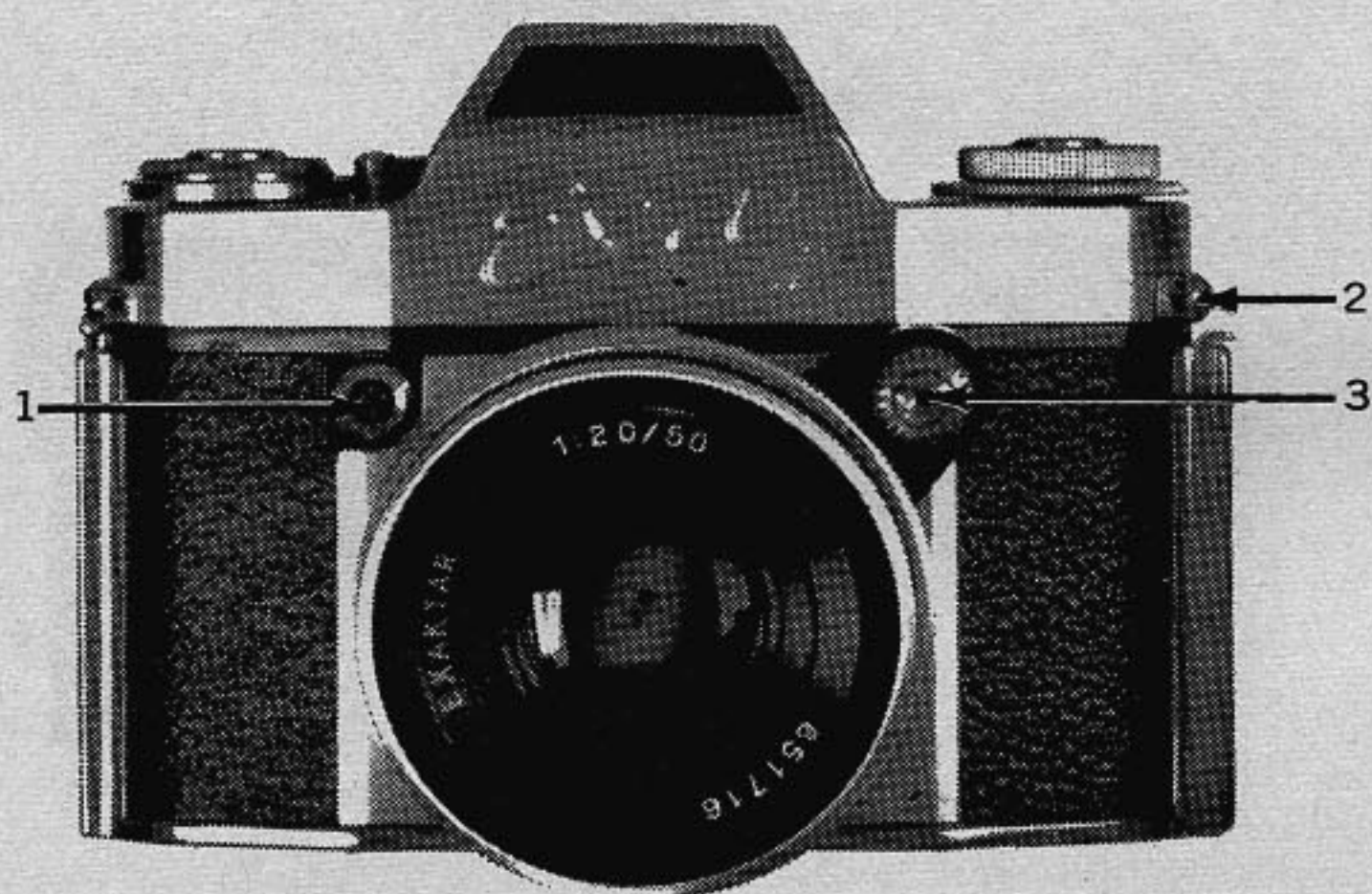
Other features have also been changed radically, although the basic shape, feel and left front shutter release (3) have been retained.

The external automatic diaphragm mechanism of the Exa IIA lenses have a convenient built-in depth of field preview system. As you push in the shutter release button (3) on the lens, the diaphragm blades close down to the preselected aperture before the shutter is released. If you push the button part way the blades close down without the shutter being tripped. With practice you can use this technique to check depth of field of your subject without taking a picture.

Another worthwhile feature of the automatic diaphragm Exakta/Exa lenses is that you can adjust the shutter release plunger to get in effect a hair-trigger release if you want it.

The Exa II has a right-hand operating geared rapid-wind lever (5). We stress right-hand since its big Exakta brother has had a left-hand lever since 1936, and the Exa I had none at all. You can advance the film and wind the shutter with one 180° stroke or a number of small strokes.

The shutter speeds have been increased considerably over the old Exa and an easily set ring around the rewind knob replaces the odd joy-stick setting lever of the Exa I. The only loss we regret is the interchangeable prism finder of the Exa I. The full ground glass of the Exa II has acceptable brightness with slight corner fall-off. The Exa II has knob rewind, a non-return mirror, manual zero resetting frame counter (4) and a shutter release lock to prevent accidental exposures.



1. Flash sync terminal. 2. Shoulder strap lug. 3. Shutter release button. 4. Manual resetting frame counter. 5. Film advance lever. 6. Rewind button. 7. Viewfinder eyepiece. 8. Flash sync settings. 9. Shutter speed

dial. 10. ASA film speed reminder dial. 11. Depth of field preview collar. 12. Footage scale and focusing ring. 13. Depth of field scale. 14. Aperture control ring.

