

# Exakta VX IIb

**TYPE:** 35mm eye level single lens reflex camera.

**LENS:** 50mm f/2 Carl Zeiss Jena Pancolar with interchangeable bayonet mount, stops to f/22, focusing to 20 in.

**SHUTTER:** Cloth focal-plane with speeds from 12 to 1/1000 sec. plus B & T, FPX sync.

**VIEWING:** Interchangeable eye-level prism with full focusing screen, central split-image rangefinder with fine focusing collar.

**OTHER FEATURES:** Depth-of-field preview collar, depth of field indicators, built-in film knife, film wind signal, and shutter lock.

**PRICE:** with 50mm f/2 Pancolar, \$249.50.

**MANUFACTURER:** Ihagee-Exakta Camera Works AG, Dresden, East Germany.

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

**PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS:** 6 in. long, 3 $\frac{3}{4}$  in. high, 3 $\frac{3}{4}$  in. deep (front of lens to camera back). **WEIGHT:** 2 lb. 1 oz.

A quick visual comparison between the Model I Exakta (1936 version) and today's VX-IIb would reveal a striking resemblance, outwardly at least. It certainly is a credit to the original camera that the design has been able to accommodate so many of today's necessary SLR features, such as interchangeable pentaprism and waist-level finders and automatic diaphragm, while retaining special Exakta features not duplicated on other SLR's, such as the fantastic number of shutter speeds and the built-in film knife.

A careful examination of the Exakta VX-IIb indicates that the basic mechanics of the 11a and its quality of construction have been retained—the fast shutter speed dial (10) revolves during exposure: slow speeds are set on a separate dial (9) which must be wound separately before each exposure: both the 300° single-stroke, non-gear rapid-wind lever (12) and front shutter release (3) are located on the left side of the trapezoidal camera body. It does not have an instant-return mirror.

The IIb, however, differs from previous Exaktas in having a folding rewind crank (7) on the bottom of the camera, shutter speed markings in modern mathematical sequence (1/8, 1/15, 1/30, 1/125 instead of 1/25, 1/50, 1/100, etc.) and interchangeable prism which can be lifted off without depressing a catch. The faceplate, shape of the prism housing and markings of the slow speed dial have also been modernized and all control knobs are now heavily knurled for better handling. The view through the finder, now aided by a Fresnel lens, is bright with a large positive split-image rangefinder plus a fine ground-glass collar as a welcome additional focusing aid. Old-

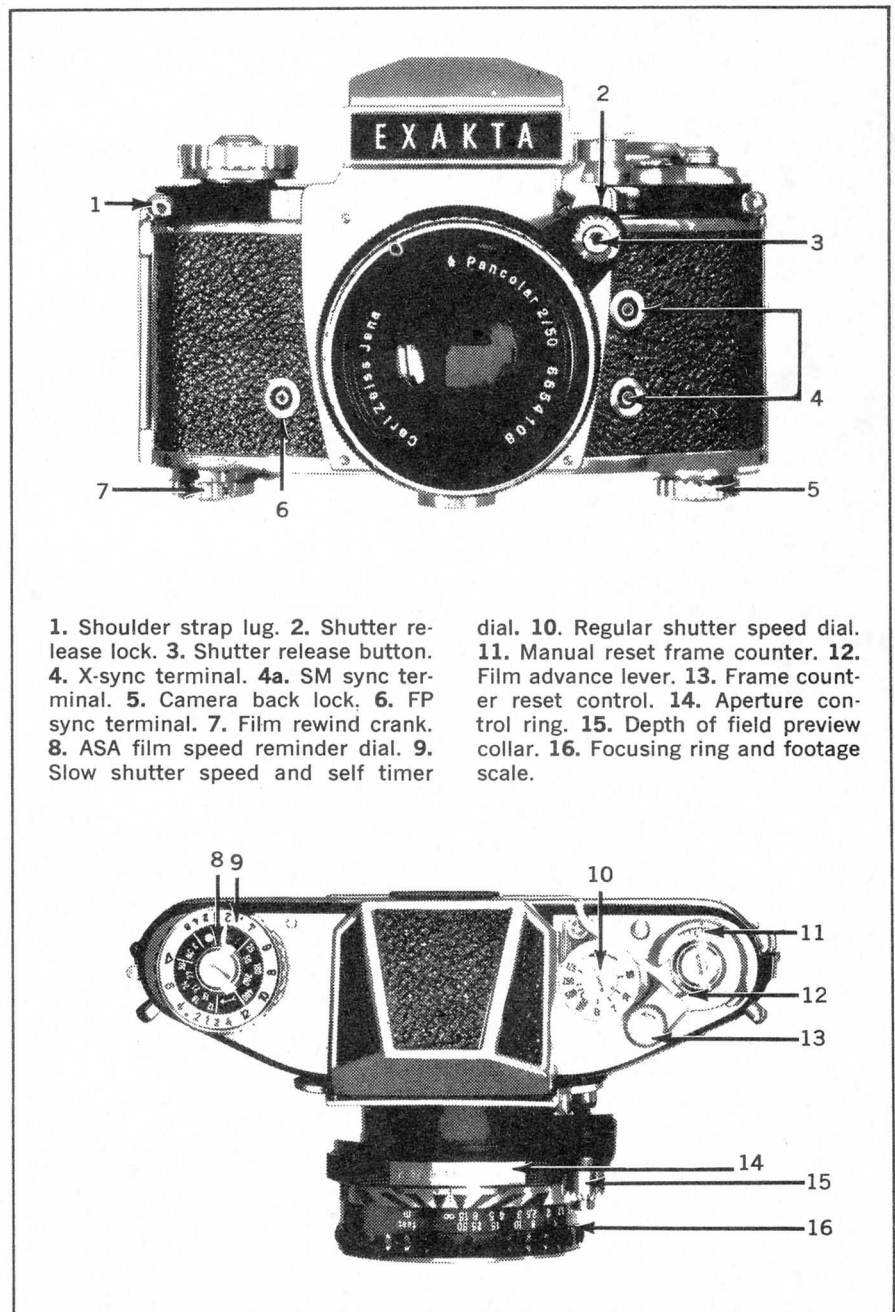
time Exakta users who were annoyed that focus in the center area didn't agree with focus at the edges will be happy to learn that the focus is now equal over the entire finder area.

The Zeiss Pancolar lens, with its built-into-the-lens-mount automatic diaphragm mechanism, has been put in a redesigned mount. The enlarged aperture control ring (14) is easier to set and has unmarked half-stop settings. Aperture and distance scales are heavily marked in black on a chrome surface. All lenses, finished in the usual Carl Zeiss Jena black with chrome, focused smoothly. The 35mm f/2.8 Flektogon

wide-angle lens focuses as close as 7 in. and is only 2 in. long.

Perhaps the most impressive piece of glass ever devised is the giant 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. long, 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. diameter 180mm f/2.8 Sonnar. This is its first appearance with an automatic diaphragm.

While the 50 mm f/2.8 lenses are handy to use and hold, and take the same size filters and accessories, the 180mm is in another class. It weighs in at 3 lb. 2 oz. and works best on a tripod. The monster focuses down to less than 7 ft. and is another splendid portrait lens.



1. Shoulder strap lug. 2. Shutter release lock. 3. Shutter release button. 4. X-sync terminal. 4a. SM sync terminal. 5. Camera back lock. 6. FP sync terminal. 7. Film rewind crank. 8. ASA film speed reminder dial. 9. Slow shutter speed and self timer

dial. 10. Regular shutter speed dial. 11. Manual reset frame counter. 12. Film advance lever. 13. Frame counter reset control. 14. Aperture control ring. 15. Depth of field preview collar. 16. Focusing ring and footage scale.