

# EXAKTA RTL 1000

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

**LENS:** 50mm f/1.8 Meyer Optik with interchangeable bayonet mount, stops to f/16, focusing to 14 in.

**SHUTTER:** Metal focal-plane with speeds from 8 to 1/1000 sec. plus B, FPX sync, self-timer.

**VIEWING:** Interchangeable eye-level prism with interchangeable full focusing screen, central microprism, fine-focusing collar.

**OTHER FEATURES:** Mercury battery-powered CdS exposure meter (behind lens) measures entire picture area at full aper-

ture or stopped-down aperture, accessory left-hand release shaft for external Exakta lenses with internal automatic release for new lens system, depth-of-field preview. **PRICE:** \$249.50.

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

**IMPORTER:** Exakta Photographic Products Corp., 156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10010.

**PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS:** 5½ in. wide, 4¼ in. high, 3½ in. deep. **WEIGHT:** 2 lb. 3 oz.

For more than 30 years the unique trap-

ezoidal shape of the Exakta has been an interesting, though not always dominant, image on the SLR scene. With the advent of the 70's, a brand new, more conventional-looking Exakta made its appearance. Model RTL 1000 draws significantly on the past but also mixes a few modern features into the pot. From the original 1936 model the classic bayonet mount has been preserved, thus salvaging the vast number of interior automatic or manual diaphragm Exakta-type lenses around, which can function properly with the internal mechanism of the new camera. The wind lever (11) has been moved to the right, where it is on every other SLR, and the shutter release (7) to the body front. New, and almost exclusive, is a second shutter release (4) on the left—for convenience and nostalgia's sake. Last of the major new features is an interchangeable behind-lens meter prism (3), semi-coupled to the shutter-speed dial (1).

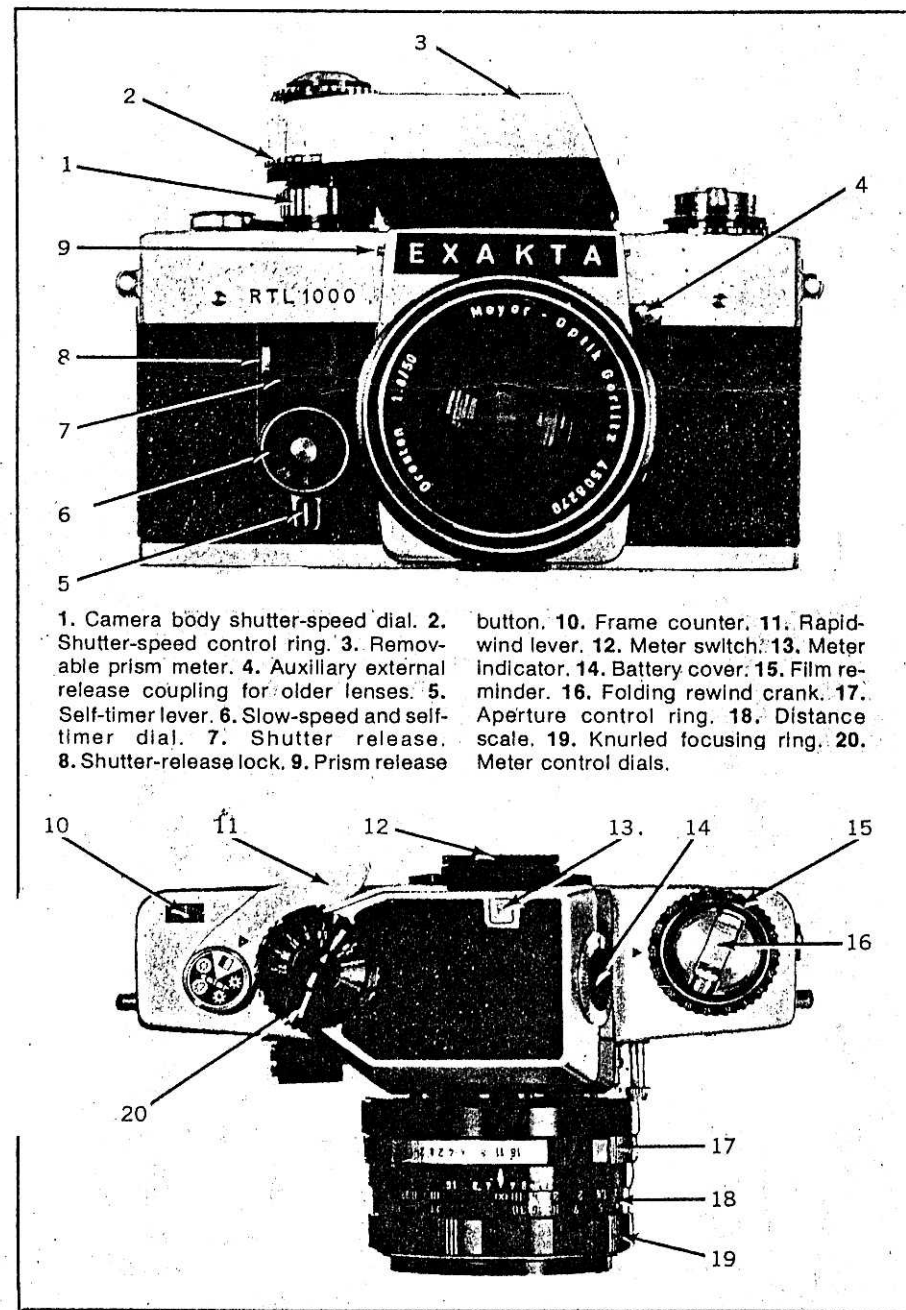
By twirling, aligning, and pressing tiny odd controls on the prism housing, you can set the shutter speed yourself, line up the meter needle in the finder at full aperture, determine the right opening from the meter dial and then set the aperture on the camera lens itself. If this seems awkward, you can twist a few more odd controls and make readings at actual shooting aperture, but unlike all other SLR's using such a system, there is no convenient lever which stays in place and no large button to press. You have to set the camera lens on manual control with a little turn lever on the lens mount, or push in on a small integral depth-of-field preview lever shutter, for which you must fumble when shooting with the camera at eye level.

While this Dresden-made SLR doesn't use a Copal, its new metal shutter *sounds* like a Copal shutter, syncs electronic flash at 1/125 sec. and has the Copal's excellent accuracy, according to our test equipment.

While there are no 26 speeds to 12 sec. as per the old Exaktas, there are the usual 1 to 1/1000 sec. set conveniently by a dial (2) atop the camera and additional speeds of 2, 4 and 8 sec. built into a separate self-timer (6). One traditional Exakta feature missing is the film-cutting knife.

Although the metering system is awkward and clumsy (but there!), all isn't tears and wringing of hands. The camera is nicely shaped with a slightly bowed front, a very excellent large front shutter-release lever (7) and a good quick-loading system. The central microprism is a very good one, the surrounding fine-focusing collar is excellent and the whole finder is reasonably bright. The meter reads down to ⅓ sec. at maximum aperture with an ASA 400 film.

Luckily the Meyer Gortlitz lenses have been considerably upgraded over the past 10 years and the 50mm f/1.8 Oreston is a very good one. It's nicely mounted, well finished, with very good, clear controls and it focuses down to 14 in.



1. Camera body shutter-speed dial. 2. Shutter-speed control ring. 3. Removable prism meter. 4. Auxiliary external release coupling for older lenses. 5. Self-timer lever. 6. Slow-speed and self-timer dial. 7. Shutter release. 8. Shutter-release lock. 9. Prism release

button. 10. Frame counter. 11. Rapid-wind lever. 12. Meter switch. 13. Meter indicator. 14. Battery cover. 15. Film reminder. 16. Folding rewind crank. 17. Aperture control ring. 18. Distance scale. 19. Knurled focusing ring. 20. Meter control dials.