

# 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 aperture 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 button.

**PRICE:** \$249.50.

**MANUFACTURER:** Ihagee-Exakta Camera Works AG, Dresden, East Germany.  
**IMPORTER:** Exakta Camera Co., 705 Bronx River Road, Bronxville, N.Y. 10708.

**PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS:** 5 $\frac{5}{8}$  in. long, 4 $\frac{3}{8}$  in. high, 3 $\frac{5}{8}$  in. deep (front of lens to camera back). **WEIGHT:** 2 lb. 3 oz.

The 1000RTL is a brand-new camera design which uses the Exakta bayonet mount and accepts all old interior bayonet, automatic diaphragm or manual Exakta lenses. Aside from the mount, no part of it has any resemblance to the old trapezoidal 1936 design. The automatic diaphragm mechanism for the new lenses is internal, it has a right-hand operating rapid-wind lever, right-hand shutter release (with additional left-hand release), an interchangeable behind-lens meter prism which is semicoupled to the shutter-speed dial, measuring the entire focusing screen.

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 for which you must fumble while camera is at eye level.

The new metal shutter sounds like a Copal, syncs electronic flash like a Copal at 1/125 sec. and has the excellent accuracy of the Copal, 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 atop the camera and additional speeds of 2, 4 and 8 sec. built into a separate self-timer.

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, a good quick loading system which seems to be the one all East German cameras will adopt. The central microprism is a very good one, the surrounding fine-focusing collar excellent and the whole finder reasonably bright. The meter reads down

to 1/8 sec. at maximum aperture with an ASA 400 film.

All the new internal automatic lenses for the Exakta RTL 1000 will be by Meyer Gorlitz, for the present, at least, but Jena lenses will be ready later.

Luckily the Meyer Gorlitz 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. All the other Exakta lenses are available and if you can stand that external automatic diaphragm arm, you can get by O.K.

