

# EXAKTA 66, MODEL 2

**FOCUSING:** Manual.

**LENSES:** Interchangeable Schneider lenses in Exakta/Pentacon bayonet mount.

**SHUTTER:** Mechanical, horizontal-travel, cloth focal plane with speeds from 1 to 1/1000 sec plus B; X synch at 1/30 sec.

**FILM ADVANCE:** Single-stroke

film-wind lever. Accepts 120 and 220 rollfilms.

**EXPOSURE SYSTEM:** Manual, no built-in meter.

**VIEWFINDER:** Eye-level prism is interchangeable with waist-level finder. Standard screen has split-image rangefinder, micro-prism collar, full-area etched

horizontal and vertical alignment lines, full-focusing outer area. Optional screens installed by service depot.

**FLASH:** PC socket. No built-in flash shoe.

**OTHER FEATURES:** Depth-of-field preview (on lens), multiple-exposure provision, cable-re-

lease socket, film-memo holder, self-timer.

**BATTERY:** None.

**SIZE:** 6¼ in. wide, 6¼ in. high, 5¼ in. deep.

**WEIGHT:** 4 lb.

**PRICE:** Body with prism finder and 80mm f/2.8 Schneider Xenotar lens (as shown), \$2,209.

There are still a few 35mm cameras with manual controls for do-it-yourself aficionados, but the Exakta 66, with historic roots dating back over 50 years, is the only all-manual 2¼ × 2¼ SLR. While it appears modern outside, with rubberized grips and Schneider lenses, the insides are devoid of any electronics (including a meter). That's because the Exakta's manual controls operate using a higher power—your brain.

The Exakta 66, the only 2¼ × 2¼ SLR equally comfortable and convenient to use at eye and waist level, has origins far older than any other medium-format camera. Over 50 years ago it began as the Reflex Korelle, a famous camera in its own time. Since then, as the Master Korelle, Master Reflex, Praktisix, and Pentacon, the basic camera has appeared again and again. Apparently, you can't keep a good design down. And dead batteries can't prevent the camera from operating. This breed doesn't need them.

The Exakta 66 has more than an ancestral relationship to the Pentacon, made until recently in Dresden, Germany. Peel off (and we don't recommend that you do) the excellent, very grippable, heavily rubberized covering of the Exakta 66 and you will find many Pentacon 6 parts, including much the same lensmount (yes, Pentacon and Exakta 66 lenses are usually fully interchangeable). Just how this came to pass and why the Exakta 66 is called the Exakta 66—although the present Exakta company has little relationship to the Ihagee factory in Dresden that made both 35mm and 2¼ × 2¼ Exakta SLR cameras before and after World War II—are complicated stories for another day.

The Exakta 66 is a very basic 2¼ × 2¼ SLR without rapid-return mirror, interchangeable backs, roll-film inserts, or electronics. The camera has a mechanical shutter and autodiaphragm mechanism, which should please many a conservative photographer, although the

1/30-sec top synch speed is a bit archaic even by today's standards. (The interchangeable TTL metering prism finder available for the Exakta 66, Model 1 does not fit the present Model 2, and there still is no sign at present that there will be a model for the new camera. We urge Exakta to make it available.)

What are the basic improvements of the Model 2 compared with the Model 1? A brighter viewing screen, improved back catch, redesigned wind lever, and an en-

larged viewfinder area said now to be 85 percent of the picture area.

With its large, easy-to-read-and-use controls, the Exakta 66 handles extremely well, much like a big 35mm SLR, and it's less noisy than most other 2¼ × 2¼ SLRs. The new wind lever is still unratcheted and requires a rather uncomfortably long push to advance film.

The view through the finder has been much improved, thanks to the addition of a Bright Rollei Screen (which can also be installed in

Model 1 cameras for \$85 by the Exakta Corp.).

Certainly one of the prime reasons for purchasing an Exakta 66 is to make use of the Schneider lenses, which range from a 60mm f/4 Curtagon to a 250mm f/5.6 Tele-Xenar. There are also two zoom lenses available: 75–150mm f/4.5 and 140–280mm f/5.6 Variogons.

If you yearn for the simpler days before automania 2¼ × 2¼ cameras took over, the Exakta 66 has been waiting patiently for you.



1. Rapid-wind lever
2. Frame counter
3. Interchangeable prism finder
4. Shutter-speed dial
5. Self-timer lever
6. Shutter-release button with cable-release socket