

THE EXAMAT

A new comer on the market, the prism/TL exposure meter EXAMAT an accessory of the Exakta, is of a very close design to the one of the Schacht Travemat. It is a TTL exposure meter, not coupled to the camera which differs from the Travemat by the metering possible at full aperture and the use of the weighing principle.

The Examat fits on the cameras as all the viewing systems of the Exakta. It is delivered with a plastic focusing screen having 3 distinct zones; in the center, a 4 mm diameter patch of 4 sided microprisms, surrounded by a finely ground ring without Fresnel lens, the rest of the screen being frosted and backed with a Fresnel lens. The microprisms are usable up to about f/5.6 with a 50 mm lens. The magnification and brightness of the viewed image are the same as the standard prism. The Examat can receive all the Exakta focusing screens, and they are fitted in the standard way. The positioning springs are strong. One must be careful not to scratch the upper side of the screen when mounting it. The correction factors, for the various screens are not indicated.

The exposure calculator is located above the prism. The film sensitivity is dialed in front of the marks, from 6 to 1600 ASA or from 9 to 33 DIN (there is no stop between the two scales, but the figures cannot be mistaken as the scales are very different). The PX 13 Mallory

type battery is located in a recess on the left side of the prism. The + terminal is marked on the lid. If the battery is mounted inverted, a safety feature prevents it to energize the circuit when connected: the needle does not move. One only has to put it back right. There is no battery test capability (battery lifetime 12 to 18 months). A sliding switch (with very strong indexing) is on when its pin faces the green dot, and is off when it faces the red one. In order to improve the battery life, it is better to switch off after each metering.

The measurement is taken by weighing. The exposure meter has only one sensitive element on the output face of the pentaprism above the eyepiece. The largest part of the metering information (about 80%) is picked off the zone defined by the microprisms and the frosted ring. This set up seems to be, at present, the best compromise, and avoids the effect of vignetting, because of too short a mirror, on the measurement. The sensitivity of this system goes, at 100 ASA and with a lens opening up to f/2, from 1/8 at f/2 to 1/1000 at f/22 (the coupling is maximum at 9 ASA—1/1000 to 4 seconds, and minimum at 1600 ASA—1/1000 to 1/125; the coupling limits are indicated by a blocking of the exposure calculator). When taking a reading the needle moves fast and willingly, perhaps even too easily. When at rest, the circuit being off, the

needle goes in front, of the triangular mark on the viewing screen, which one may wrongly interpret as a proper setting of the exposure time. This mark appears in the middle of a black stripe seen through a vertically placed yellow window on the left of the viewed picture. The direction of over and under exposure are not given (over up and under down). The metering is rather independent of the exposure meter tilt angle. Depending on the type of metering used, the needle tracking of the mark is achieved by diaphragm closing or by the rotation of the knurled meter knob:

- preselection of the exposure time: one sets a speed on the knob of the camera and of the exposure meter, and one closes manually the diaphragm until tracking is achieved.

- preselection of a diaphragm: use the diaphragm manually, set the wanted aperture on the lens, achieve tracking by turning the exposure meter knob, read the corresponding speed and dial it on the camera knob (do not account for intermediate speeds or correct with the aperture setting, as intermediate speeds are not usable).

- if one wishes to retain the automatic lens mode, the metering is done as with a hand held exposure meter, but this one is a TTL. Dial on the prism, in front of the white dot, the maximum opening of the lens used, achieve tracking with the meter knob; then select on the meter by direct reading the combination one wishes to use among all the diaphragm/speed combinations available, and set the camera accordingly.

The exposure meter has speeds from 1/1000 to 8 seconds (as the 2-4-8 figures of the fractions and of the seconds values are engraved in the same way, avoid confusing them) and apertures from f/1.4 to f/22. The eyecup avoids stray light coming in (the accessory shoe cannot be used as the Examat is higher than the standard prism). The cap supplied with the Examat protects the focusing screen when the prism is not in use. The instructions manual is well done. This prism fits Exakta VX 1000, II b, II a, VX and V, and Exa I, I a and I b.

The Exakta VX 1000, fitted with the Examat prism and with the Pancolar lens, is 153 mm long, 88 mm thick, and 119 mm high, it weighs 955 grams.

The Schacht Travemat and the Examat only differ from each other by details and by the metering principle... every Exakta user will certainly purchase one or the other.

