



OPTIMA REFLEX

## EXPLANATIONS OF ADJACENT ILLUSTRATION

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- ③ DIN/ASA scale for setting the film speed
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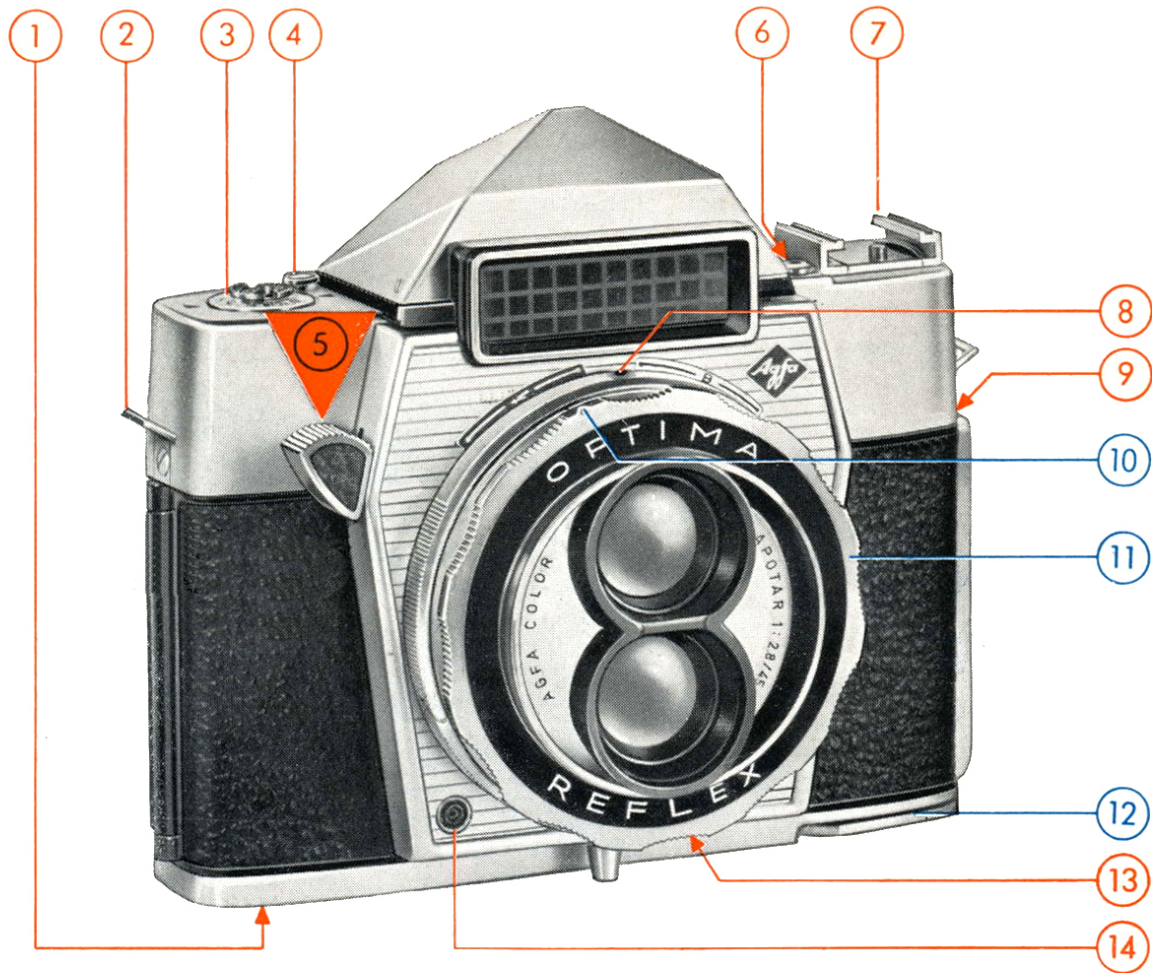
*The lens fitted to your camera is a product of the Agfa Camera Werk and has been computed and manufactured in conformity with the most up-to-date scientific methods.*

*This lens reaches a standard of performance never previously attained in lenses of equal speed having the same number of elements. Its chief advantages lie in its great depth of field, extremely high resolving power, excellent definition and outstanding reproduction of detail.*

*The total of these characteristics makes this the ideal lens for miniature photography with black and white or colour film.*

*In addition, every lens is thoroughly tested before leaving our factory by the most up-to-date methods and is guaranteed by us for its quality and performance.*

AGFA AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT  
Camera-Werk Muenchen



You are now the proud owner of a technically perfect camera—the fully automatic Agfa Optima Reflex which does not require any complicated manual operations and so leaves you free to concentrate on the subject. You are to be congratulated on your choice.

The two lenses are arranged close together, one above the other, to give a parallax-free viewfinder image. In fact that is the great advantage of the twin-lens reflex system, that you can view the subject before, during and after the exposure.

Fine photos are easily obtained with the pentaprism viewfinder because the image is ideal in size—the same as the final picture format.

Focusing is done exactly and in a trice with the built-in split-image rangefinder; for snapshots you also have a choice of symbol settings.

You will probably wish to get familiarized with this masterpiece of precision. On pages 2 to 6 you will find brief operating instructions; technical advice and useful photographic hints are given on pages 7 to 16.

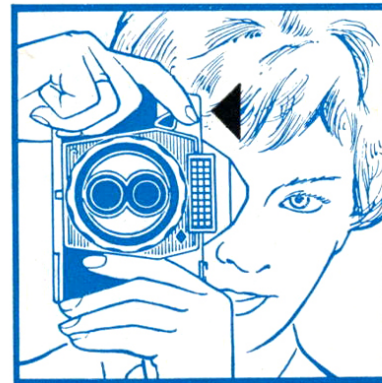
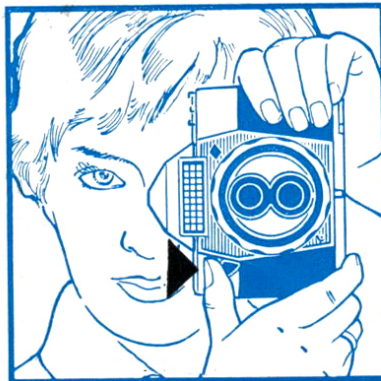
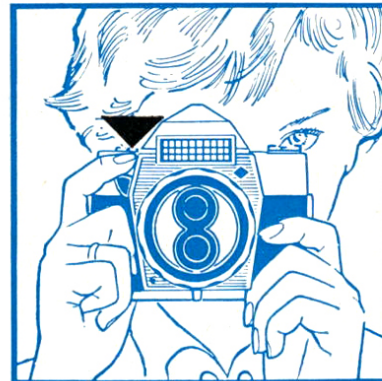
## View your subject

When photographing it is important to hold the camera steady. You should therefore take your Optima Reflex in both hands and brace your arms against your body. Place the index finger of your right hand on the magic release lever.

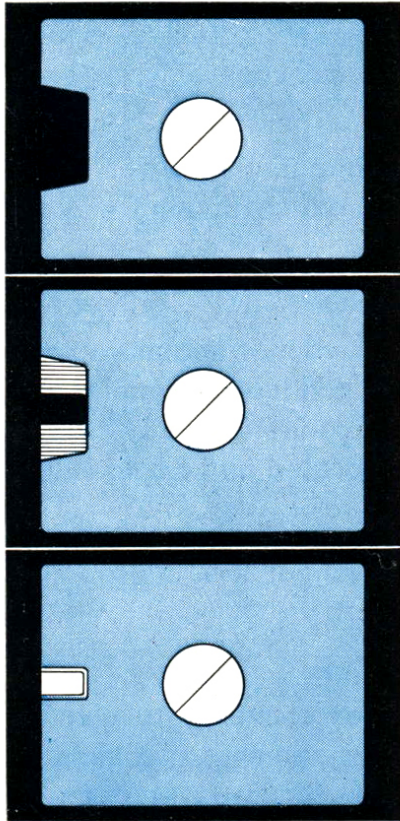
To take upright photos, operate the release lever with your thumb or index finger, as illustrated.

The viewfinder gives almost a full size image of the subject, showing it as it will appear on the negative, which helps greatly in selecting the picture.

Close arrangement of the finding and taking lenses one above the other eliminates parallax so that even with close-ups the whole of the viewfinder image is obtained on the film.



## Green signal . . . expose!



### Black signal

Transport film

### Red signal

Not enough light

### Green signal

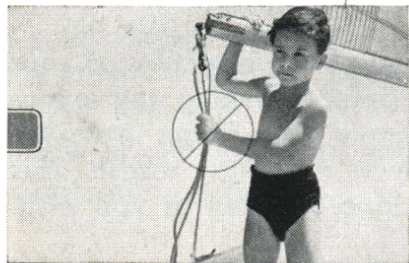
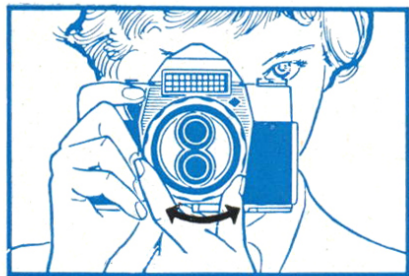
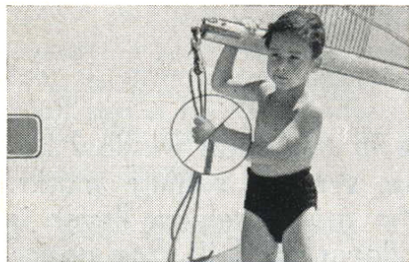
"All clear" for  
your photograph

Important points:

The automatic mechanism is set when the white "A" on a red field is visible in the small window behind the symbol setting marks. When the magic release lever is pressed down you will soon notice increased resistance (the pressure point); this is when the green signal appears, if there is enough light. **Then keep the camera in this position** and release. The red signal means that there is not enough light for the photograph. If no exposure is made remove your finger from the magic lever.

**If you change the direction of your camera before making the exposure, remove your finger from the magic lever and start afresh. This can be done as often as you wish.**

## Exact focusing . . .



With your Agfa Optima Reflex you can photograph at all distances between  $3\frac{1}{4}$  ft. (1 m.) and infinity.

The built-in coupled rangefinder is very easy to operate and allows exact focusing of your subject in split seconds.

### **Upper illustration:**

In the centre of the viewfinder image you will see a circular portion divided diagonally into two halves. At first this centre image in the two semi-circles will be separated and displaced.

### **Middle illustration:**

With thumb and index finger turn the focusing ring to the right and left.

### **Lower illustration:**

As soon as the outlines converge to give an unbroken image, measurement is completed and the camera exactly focused.

## ... or symbols for snapshot

There are three focusing symbols on the lens mount of your camera. According to the distance from the subject you set one of the three following symbols against the black mark.



Close-ups

Subject distance  
5 ft. 11 in.  
(1.80 m.)



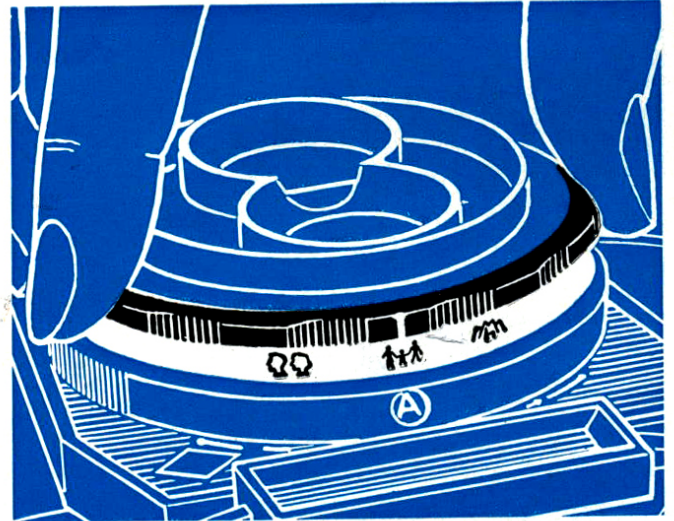
Groups

12 ft. 5½ in.  
(3.80 m.)



Distant views

infinity  
(landscape)



For your guidance exact distances are also indicated on the lower part of the focusing ring. The black mark on the focusing ring indicates the actual distance setting.

## Instant readiness . . .



... can be obtained with the rapid transport lever of your Agfa Optima Reflex. Therefore, advance your film immediately after each exposure. Just swing the lever forward to the stop to move the film one frame. The film counter ⑥ (see main illustration) shows you how many exposures you still have left.

If the rapid transport lever will not move, the camera is already set for the next exposure. The shutter release and film transport are fitted with a lock to prevent blank or double exposures.

If inadvertently you release the rapid transport lever before completing the full forward stroke it will return to its starting position. In this event you should swing the lever forward again as far as it will go; do not then try to force it through, even if the lever stops half way.

# TECHNICAL SECTION



when you have mastered the three points mentioned and are thoroughly familiar with your camera too.

First of all, something about films and how to choose them: First use Agfa Isopan F, 17 DIN (40 ASA). It is a fine-grain black-and-white film of good contour sharpness and consistent quality.

For sport photography the rapid Agfa Isopan ISS film, 21 DIN (100 ASA), is just right.

With Agfacolor films you can explore the world of colour. These films have been firm favourites for more than twenty-five years, because of their natural reproduction of both pastel and brilliant colours. In addition, their high speed has made the living snapshot in colour a practical reality.

For sharp, brilliant colour transparencies:

Agfacolor Reversal Film CT 18.

For wonderful album colour prints:

Agfacolor Negative Film CN 17 or CN 14.

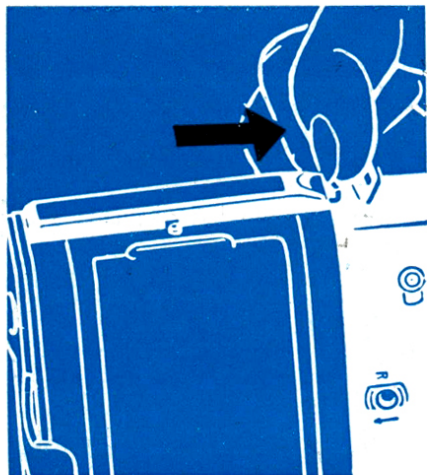
## Loading the camera . . .

The film can be loaded in daylight, but always in the shade—making use of body shadow.

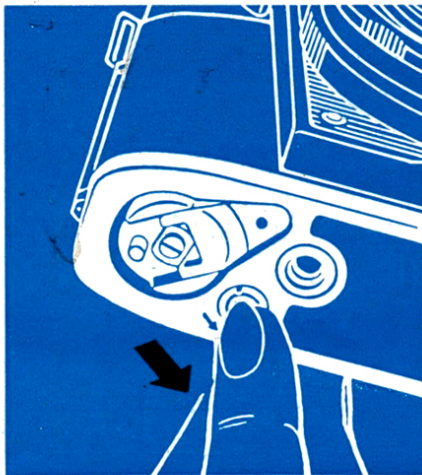
Push locking button of rewind crank in direction of arrow and draw out rewind crank **firmly** as far as possible.

Insert new film cassette with hole towards rewind crank.

First open the camera back by sliding catch in direction of arrow.



A



B



C

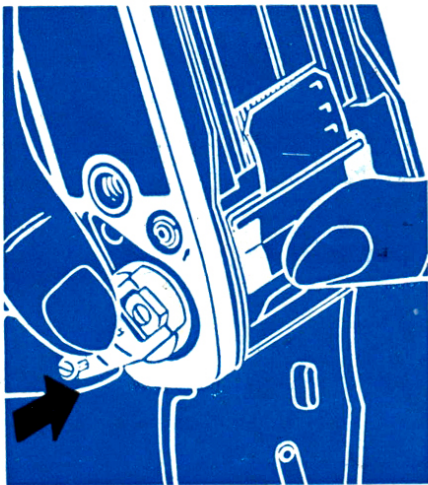
Position crank so that recessed portion fits over the centre core, turn slightly and press until the inner core slips into the cassette.

Return crank to starting position.

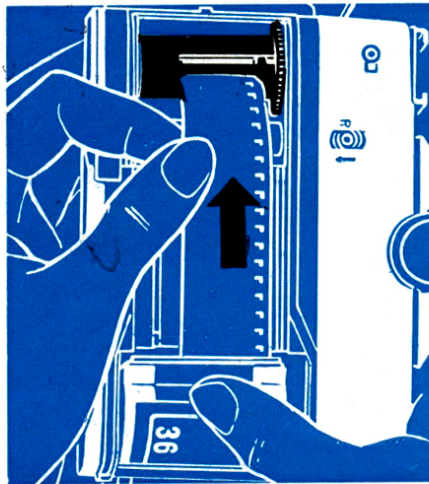
Turn take-up spool by its milled disk until the broad slit and film perforation lug are uppermost.

Draw out the film from the cassette towards the take-up spool.

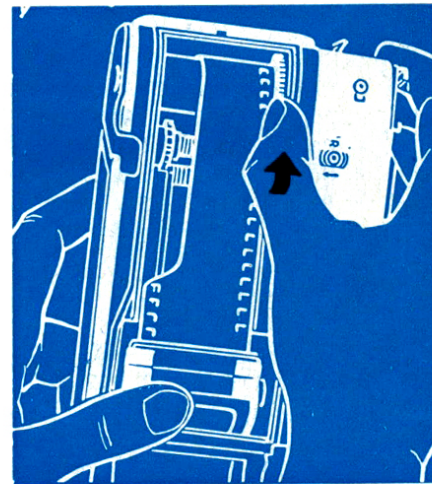
Insert the end of the film in the slit, holding the take-up spool firmly, so that the lug engages in the **second** film perforation. Now turn the take-up spool on slightly in the direction of the arrow, as shown in figure F, until just under half an inch of the full film width projects from the cassette.



D



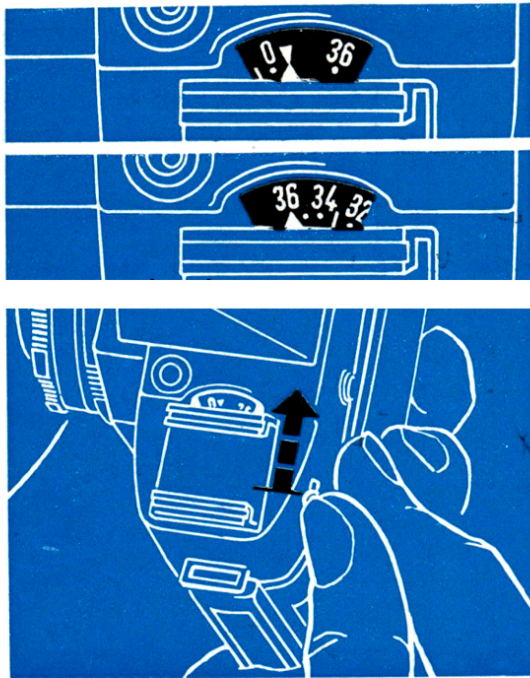
E



F

## Film counter / Film transport

### for the first exposure



After inserting the film, the camera should be closed and the film counter set.

With your thumb, push the small knob at the back of the camera so often in the direction of the arrow, as shown in the illustration, until the appropriate triangle (red for 36 exposures, green for 20 and yellow for 12) is in line with the fixed red mark. Then operate the rapid transport lever as far as it will go and press down the magic lever until release takes place. Repeat this process until the red mark is in line with the number 36, 20 or 12, as the case may be. Your camera is then ready for the first exposure. The film counter indicates the number of exposures still left on the film.

**Every time the film is moved on the core of the rewind crank turns, a sure sign that the film is properly transported.**

## important:

Remember to set the speed of the film loaded on the camera **to be sure of correctly exposed photographs.**

To do this, turn the milled disk with the aid of a coin until the required DIN or ASA speed is opposite the setting mark.



## for all films

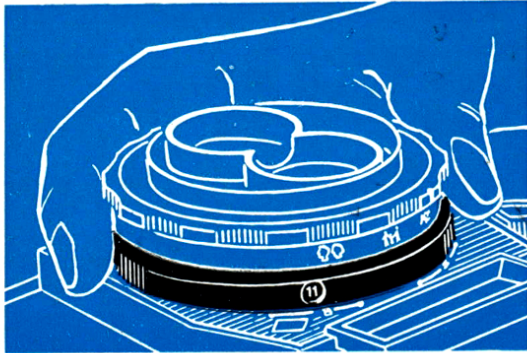
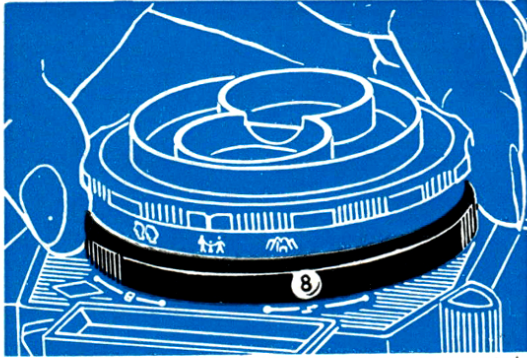
from 11–25 DIN (10–250 ASA)

When you press the magic release lever, the exposure reading is automatically and invisibly fixed for you. During the exposure it then automatically arranges a shutter speed and aperture combination which always ensures the correct exposure.

**ASA Scale:** The ASA values indicated by dots on the film speed scale of the camera represent the following figures:

10 . . . 25 . . 50 . . 100 . . 200 .  
12 16 20 32 40 64 80 125 160 250

## Without the automatic mechanism—time exposures



**You probably recall** what was said about the **red** signal in the viewfinder. When it appears you cannot photograph with the Optima Reflex using the automatic mechanism, but if it is disconnected you can still obtain good results with time or flash exposures.

### Time exposures

For this purpose set the automatic mechanism ring at the **black "B" scale**; the apertures then become visible in the window. When on this setting the shutter stays open as long as the magic release lever is depressed. The use of a tripod and cable release is advisable in such cases. The latter is screwed into a thread on the top of the camera.



## No flashlight problems

For flash work turn the automatic mechanism ring to the **yellow flash scale**, as shown on page 12; the apertures become visible in the small window.

A constant shutter speed of  $1/30$  sec. is used for flash work. The adjacent table shows the apertures needed for a number of flash bulbs at present on the market. The plug of the flash cable is connected to the flash contact ⑭ (see main illustration).

## APERTURE TABLE FOR FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY

With lightning symbol set, shutter speed will automatically be  $1/30$  sec.

Symbol	Distance feet	Clear bulbs Black and white film Colour negative film (CN 17) 17° DIN = 40 ASA	Blue bulbs Daylight colour Reversal film (CT 18) 18° DIN = 50 ASA
		XM 1 - PF 1	XM 1 B - PF 1 BB
	5	f. 22	f. 16
	7	f. 16	f. 11
	9½	f. 11	f. 8
	15	f. 8	f. 5.6

**Electronic flashguns** can also be used, in which case the aperture is calculated from the guide number of the flashgun. For example: Guide number of electronic flashgun 96 divided by a distance of 12 feet = aperture f/8.

## Against the light

Where clear detail is required in photographs taken against the light or in deep shadows, the automatic mechanism of the camera can still be used with the setting on the DIN/ASA scale reduced. It is advisable to set a film speed of about  $3^\circ$  DIN or its ASA equivalent less than that marked on the film package. If, for example, the film in the camera has a speed of  $17^\circ$  DIN = 40 ASA, the setting should be reduced to  $14^\circ$  DIN = 20 ASA.

When a very contrasty subject has to be photographed and it is wished to obtain the correct exposure for an object which is small in comparison with its surroundings, it is advisable to take a **close-up measurement**. If this is not done, a person in a light dress in front of a dark wood (to give an example) could easily produce an incorrect reading (over-exposure).

In such cases approach with the camera to a short distance from the subject and press down the release lever gently to the first pressure point. Hold the lever in this position and return to your original position to take the photograph.

You can also photograph the wonders of the miniature world with your Optima Reflex.

All you need do is use the Agfa close-up attachment which covers both lenses of the camera.

You can then still make full use of the split-image rangefinder by turning the focusing ring, as described on page 4, until the outlines converge.

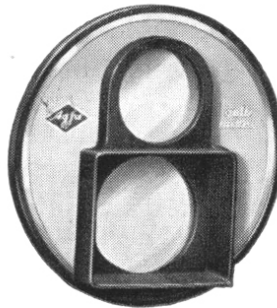
This close-up attachment is used for photographs at distances of 15–32 inches (38–80 cm.) from the camera.

There are two filters for **black and white film** available for use with your Agfa Optima Reflex:

Medium yellow (filter factor 1.5)  
and UV filter (no factor).

For special photos with **colour reversal film** an R 1.5 Color Filter can be used. It suppresses the high proportion of blue light (e. g., at midday) and does not require a change of the DIN/ASA setting. The only filter for which it is necessary to reduce the setting on the film speed scale (page 11) is therefore the medium yellow filter, the reduction being 1° or its ASA equivalent.

If, for example, you have a film of 17° DIN = 40 ASA in the camera, the setting would have to be reduced to 16° DIN = 32 ASA.



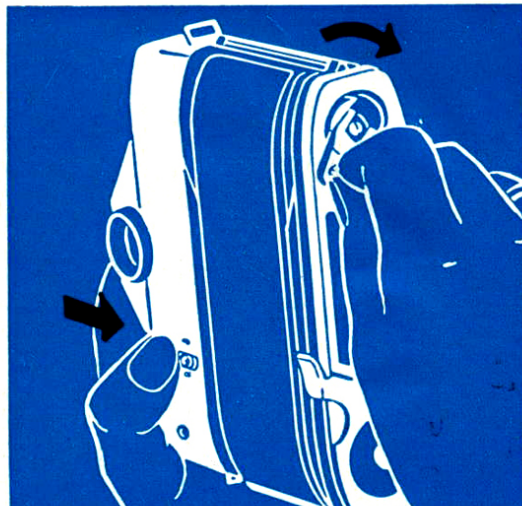
## Accessories

	Type No.
Medium yellow filter	6345/051
UV filter (ultra-violet)	6346/051
R 1.5 Color filter	6347/051
Close-up attachment	6348/051
Lens hood	6349/051

All filters and close-up attachments are combined with a lens hood.

**When removing the medium yellow filter do not forget to reset the original DIN/ASA figure for the film in question.**

## Rewinding the film



### The film is now finished . . .

After 36, 20 or 12 exposures, according to the length of the film, the rapid transport lever will not move. The film is now finished and must be rewound into its cassette.

To do this, first release the lock of the rewind crank (see illustration B, page 8) and position the crank so that its recessed portion fits over the centre core. Now press down the locking button on the camera back and turn the rewind crank in direction shown by the arrow. This rewinds the film into the empty cassette.

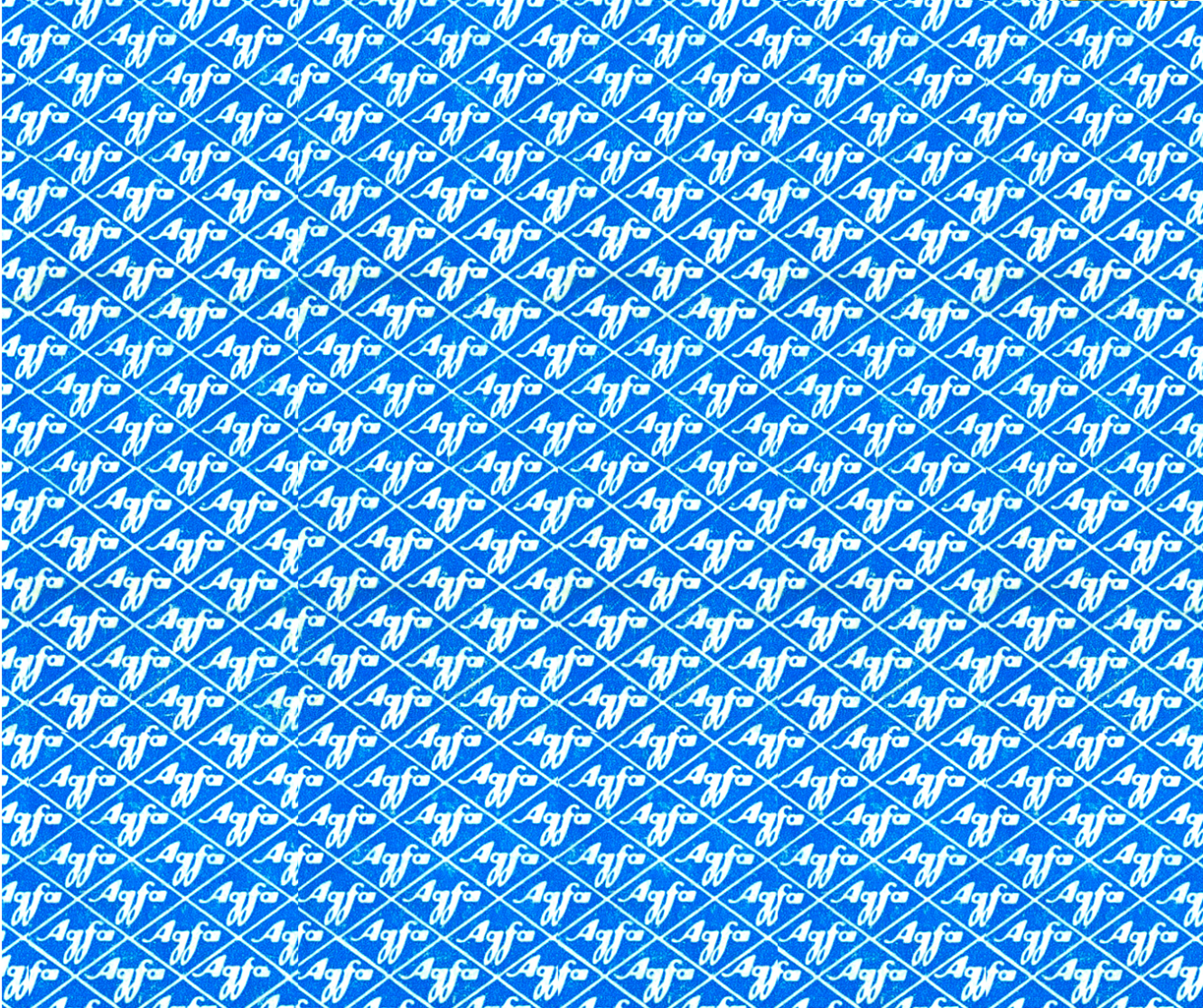
Rewinding is complete when the rewind crank turns freely after releasing the locking button. You can now open the back of the camera by pushing the catch in the direction shown by the arrow (see fig. A, page 8). Pull out the rewind crank firmly as far as it will go and remove the cassette. Put the cassette in its light-tight packing and mark it as exposed.

We reserve the right to make alterations to the Agfa Optima arising from further development.

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