

# Praktica MTL3

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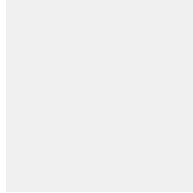
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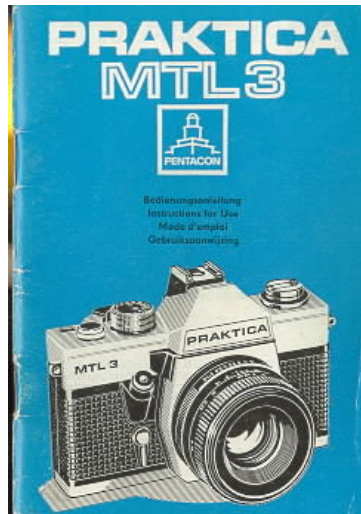


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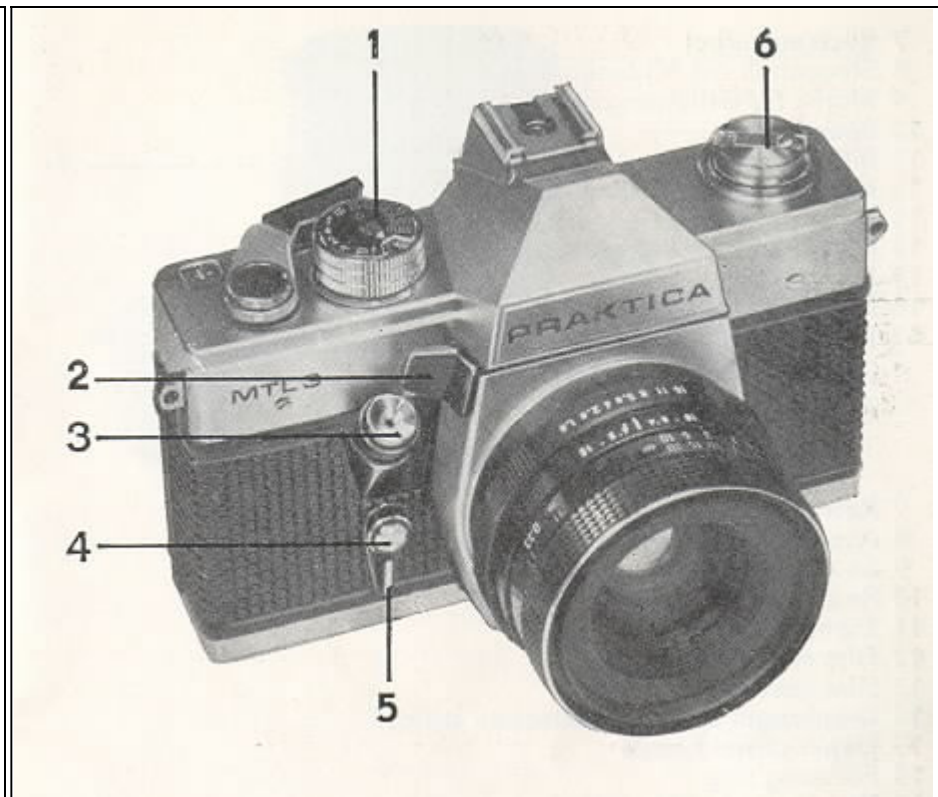


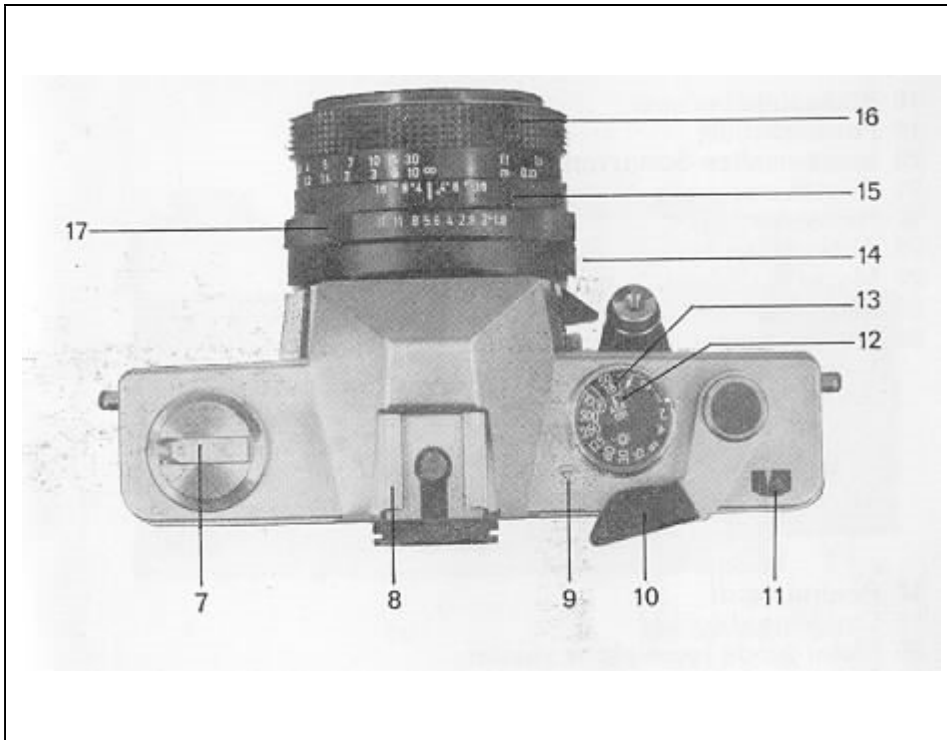
We wish you all success with this modern reflex camera. You own a camera with the novel metal-blade focal-plane shutter for maximum shutter speed stability and minimum synchronization for electronic flash photography. The camera is fitted with a through the-lens light metering system for a coupled determination of shutter speed, diaphragm numeral, and film speed. Metering is on the center-weighted method and gives pictures true to the subject.

Before you start snapping away happily will you please read these Instructions for Use carefully. You will avoid trouble with the camera and disappointments with the pictures.

## Control Parts of the PRAKTICA MTL 3

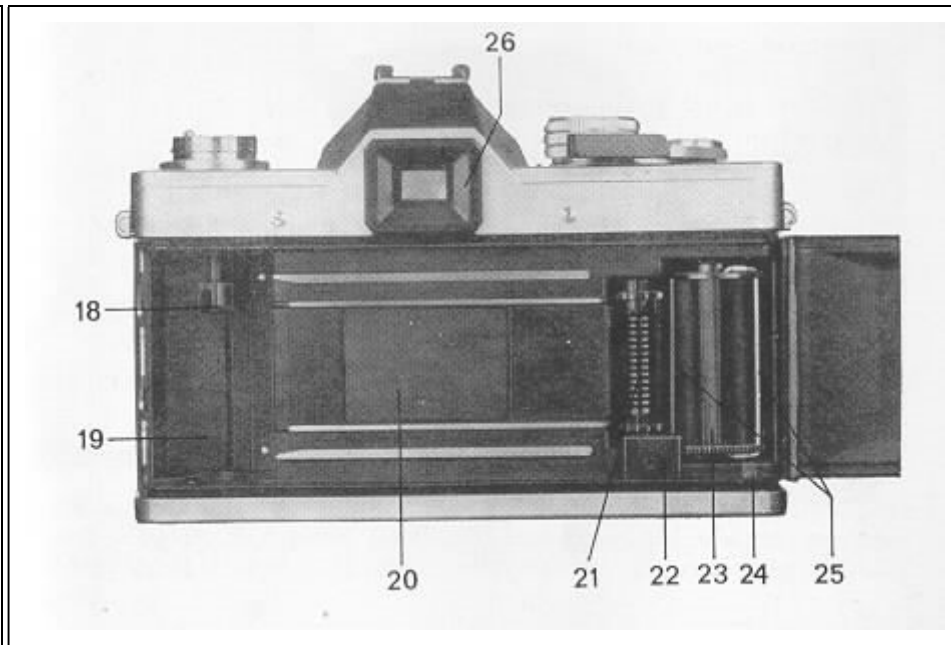
1. Shutter speed setting knob
2. Metering key
3. Shutter release with cable release
4. Self-timer release knob
5. Self-timer winding lever
6. Rewind button
7. Rewind release
8. Accessory shoe with center contact

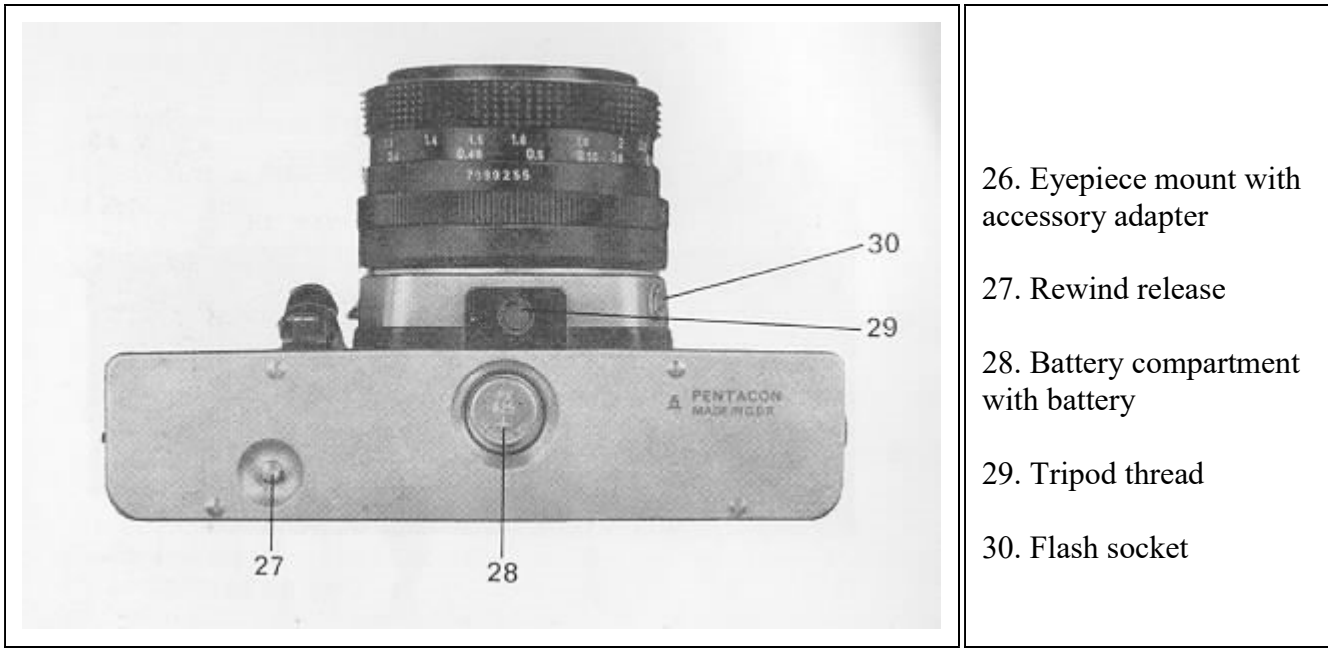




- 9. Shutter speed mark
- 10. Rapid wind lever
- 11. Exposure counter
- 12. Film speed mark
- 13. Film speed dials
- 14. Diaphragm operation selection switch
- 15. Depth-of-field scale
- 16. Focusing ring
- 17. Diaphragm setting ring

- 18. Rewind catch
- 19. Cartridge chamber
- 20. Metal-blade focal-plane shutter
- 21. Film sprocket
- 22. Support
- 23. Take-up spool
- 24. Film loading mark
- 25. Wire brackets





26. Eyepiece mount with accessory adapter

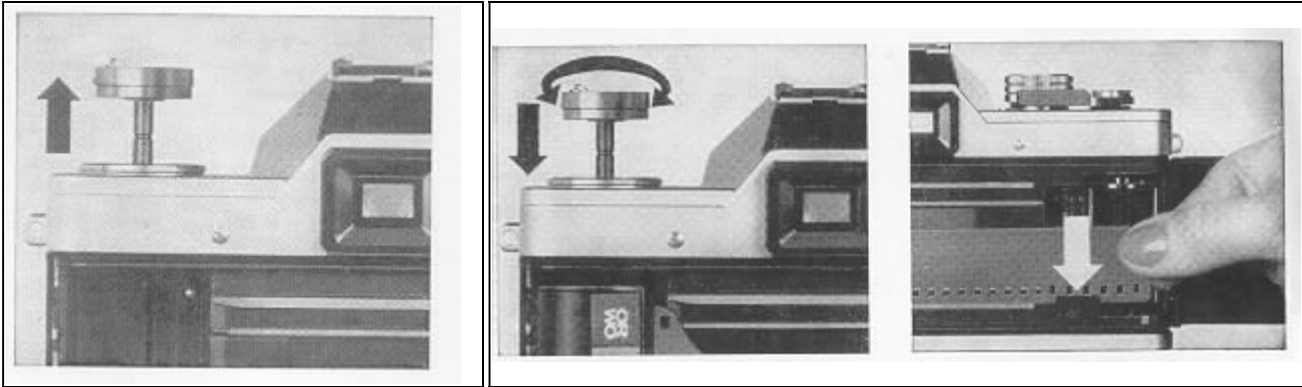
27. Rewind release

28. Battery compartment with battery

29. Tripod thread

30. Flash socket

In the following instructions the numbers of the above elements are put in parentheses ( ).



**Opening the camera back**

Pull rewind button (6) upwards to its hard stop, thus the camera back is unlocked and can be hinged open. Simultaneously, exposure counter (11) automatically returns into its initial position.

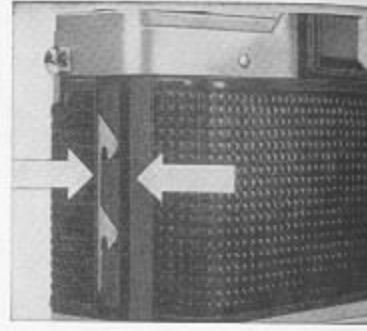
**Film loading**

Insert the cartridge and observe that wire- brackets (25) do not stand upwards. Turn at the knurled spool disk, if required. Pull the film leader to the green mark (24) and pass it under support (22) so that the teeth of film sprocket (21) engage in the film perforation.

Should the film be heavily warped, put a wire bracket on it by rotating the spool disk. Push rewind button (6) in again by rotating it a little, if necessary.

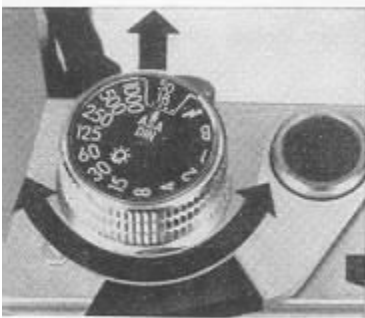
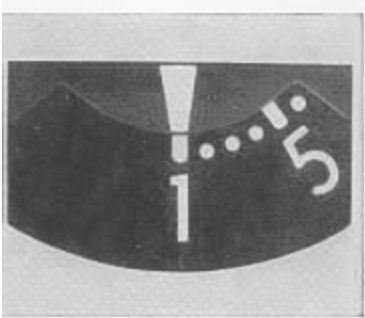
### Closing the back.

The back locks automatically when you press it to the camera body at the latch side.



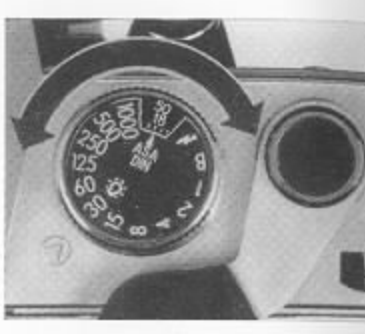
### Setting and winding the shutter

Rapid wind lever (10) has a dead stroke of about 15 deg. till the mechanism engages. This makes for safety at series exposures. Swivel lever (10) to its stop, move it back and depress shutter release (3). Repeat the process and finish up by winding the camera again. The automatic exposure counter (11) will now read exposure 1.



### Film speed setting

Automatic exposure control demands setting of the film speed. Pull the knurled ring of the shutter-speed dial (1) up and turn it till the DIN or ASA film index on dial (13) will meet the white mark (12). The rim locks when released.



## Shutter speed setting

Symbol <i>f</i>	for electronic flash photography (about 1/125sec)
Setting B	for time exposures; the shutter remains open as long as the shutter release is depressed
1 sec. to 1/15 sec.	(orange) for low light photography; a tripod is needed
1/30 to 1/1000	(white) for satisfactory light photography

Rotate shutter speed dial (1) till the desired speed matches the orange triangle.

## Diaphragm setting



Set the desired diaphragm number on diaphragm setting ring (17) of the lens opposite to the mark on the lens mount. When lenses with automatic pressure diaphragm (ADB)-are used, the diaphragm remains fully open and closes to the set value only when the shutter release is pressed. The diaphragm opens in the same instant the shutter has run down. By changing the diaphragm operation selection switch (14) from A (automatic operation) to M (manual operation) or by actuating the metering key (2) it becomes possible to check the depth of field already on the viewfinder image.



## Automatic exposure control system

There are two modes of light metering:

1. Metering by altering the diaphragm numeral at the lens with pre-selected shutter speed (being the preferred method for general objects in satisfactory light).
2. Metering by altering the shutter speed with pre-selected diaphragm numeral (being recommended for low light photography with a certain depth of field required).

### Metering at pre-selected shutter speed

Set the shutter speed, press metering key (2). Turn diaphragm setting ring (17) until the meter needle, visible in the viewfinder, will have centered to the circular mark. When the needle stands in the + range, an overexposure will be obtained while its position in the --range will result in an underexposure. The diaphragm opens and closes on rotating the diaphragm setting ring correspondingly thus compensation between subject brightness and the combined shutter speed, diaphragm, and ASA/DIN settings is performed.

### Metering at pre-selected diaphragm number

Set the diaphragm numeral, press metering key (2). Turn shutter speed dial (1) until the meter needle visible in the viewfinder will have centered to the circular mark. When the needle stands in the + range, an overexposure will be obtained while its position in the--range will result in an underexposure. Don't set any intermediate shutter speeds between the indexed positions. Should you not succeed in attaining a perfect balance, you can make a precise correction by the diaphragm setting ring which may, of course, be set to intermediate values, too.

### Metering with lenses without automatic diaphragm system

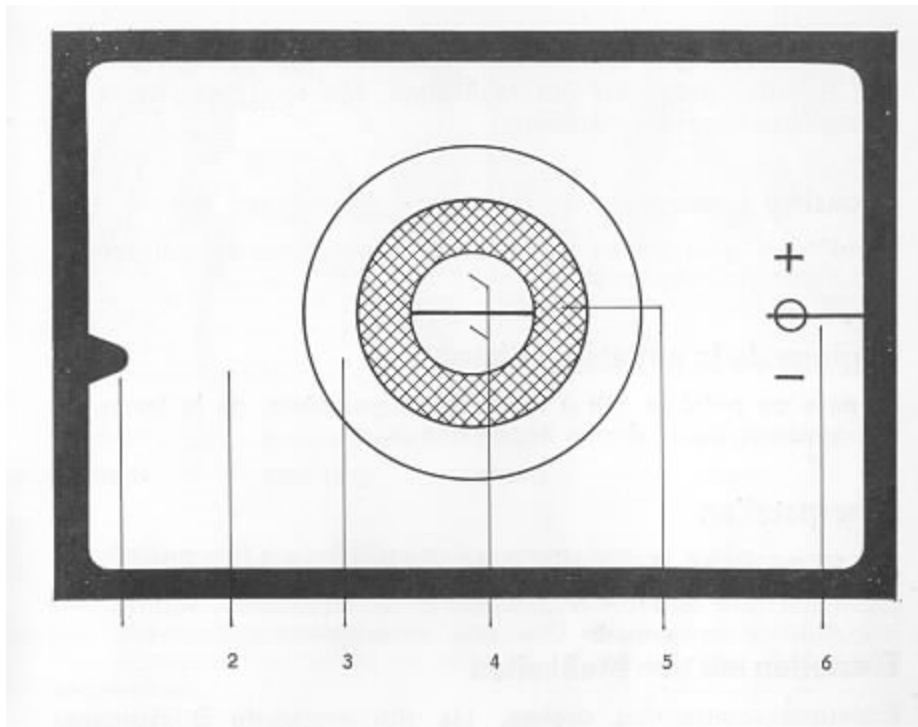
How to control:

Set the diaphragm to its smallest diaphragm number - focus the lens--balance the system by stopping down.

### Functional range of the automatic exposure control system

Outside of the range of the Table below the metering system is switched off. The meter needle is in rest position below the circular mark in the minus range. Metering cannot be made with the "B" or symbol  $f$ .

ASA	min. and max speeds		ASA	min. and max times
12 to 16	1 to 1 1/25		200 - 330	1/4 to 1/1000
20 - 32	1 to 1/250		400 to 660	1/8 to 1/1000
40 - 65	1 to 1/500		800 to 1300	1/15 to 1/1000
80	1 to 1/1000		1600	1/30 to 1/1000
100 - 165	1/2 to 1/1000			



1. Signal

2. Image brightening Fresnel lens

3. Circular ground glass area

4. Pair of metering wedges

5. Microprism screen

6. Meter needle with circular mark

## Focusing

Focusing is possible as to metering wedges, microprism screen, or circular ground glass area.



unscharf  
unsharp



scharf  
sharp

image floue  
onscherp

image nette  
scherp

### Focusing on the metering wedges

Turn the distance setting ring until defined outlines of the picture parts will stand opposite to one another.



### Focusing on the microprism screen

Maximum sharpness is attained when the image in the microprism screen is clear and does not flicker. Don't use the ground glass Fresnel for focusing.

### Depth-of-field scale



The depth of field attained with a certain diaphragm setting can be read on scale (15).

Example: Distance 3 meter, diaphragm numeral 8, depth of field extends from 2 meters to 5 meters.

For checking the depth of field on the viewfinder image, too, depress metering key (2), set selection switch (14) to M and the switching lever (of PANCOLAR 50 mm f1.8) to its lower position, resp,

Infrared photos require a slight correction in focusing; let the determined distance meet the infrared mark on the lens.

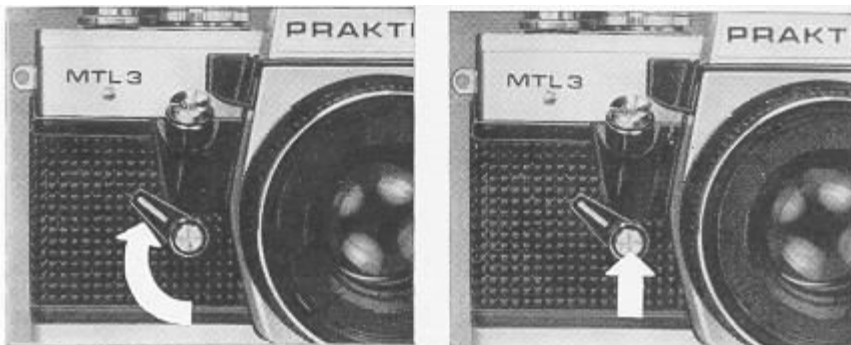
### Releasing and winding



Please note before pressing the shutter release:

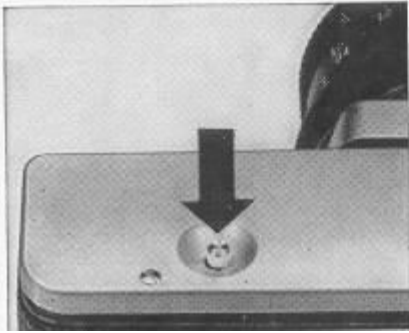
1. The signal (must be a red triangle visible when the shutter is wound) is visible in the viewfinder on the left: camera not ready for snapping - swivel the rapid rewind lever (10) to the stop.
2. For shutter speeds of  $\frac{1}{s}$  seconds and slower use a tripod and cable release. Press shutter release (3) smoothly right across the easy going section. Don't depress suddenly! Prepare for another snapping by winding again.

### Self-timer



Wind the shutter. Turn lever (5) upwards to its stop. Press release (4)--the self-timer will now run for about 8 seconds. Do not wind the shutter while the self-timer runs.

## Film changing



Observe the exposure counter for the number of pictures you can take with the film in your camera (12, 20 or 36 exposures). After the last exposure press rewind release (27) (it locks). Tilt the folding rewind crank (7) out of rewind button (6) and turn it not too fast in the direction of the arrow (indicated on crank (7)). You will feel the end of rewinding by a somewhat increased resistance with subsequent easy running. Pull the rewind button up to the stop, the camera back being thus released, and take the cartridge out.

Note. Should you have exposed a few more frames than specified on your film packing it might be possible that the rapid wind lever can only be turned partially. Do not use force in this case but rewind the film.

## Lens changing



Any lenses having the international M 42 x 1 PRAKTICA thread can be applied. Grip the lens body and unscrew it in counterclockwise direction; screw in the other lens in clockwise direction to the stop.

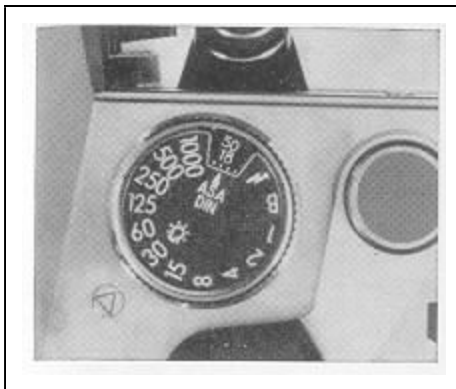
## Flash photography



This camera has been designed for synchronization of flash bulbs and electronic flash units. Flash units provided with a center contact are pushed into accessory shoe (8). Connect flash units fitted with synchro cable and flash contact with flash socket (30). Set the symbol (*f* or **0**) of the relevant type of flash unit on the shutter speed dial. The firing circuit is only closed as long as the shutter is running down.

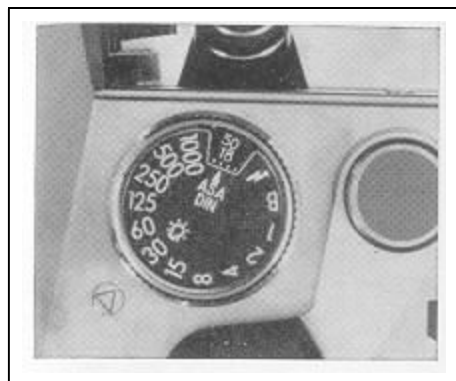
Note the guide number of your flash unit and make the aperture or distance calculation (use the calculating disk on the flash unit).

## The use of flash bulbs



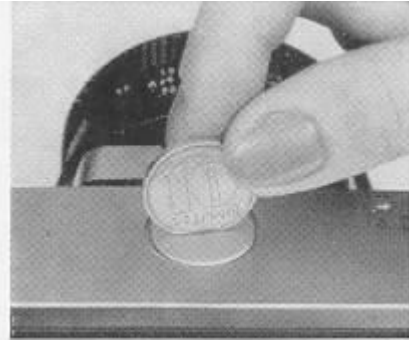
For fast burning flash bulbs the speed dial is set to the symbol or **0** to a shutter speed longer than 1/30 sec.

## The use of electronic flash units



These will be synchronized at setting to the symbol *t* which corresponds to a shutter speed of about 1/125 sec. Longer shutter speeds can be set.

## Battery replacement

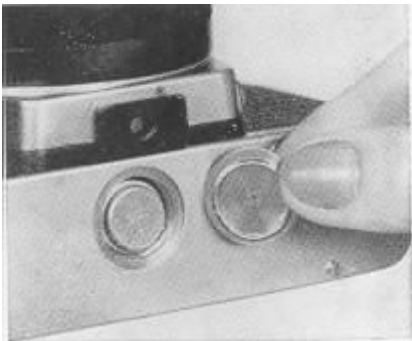


The automatic exposure control system is powered by a PX 625 mercury oxide element or a corresponding type of 1.35 Volt rated voltage.

Open the battery compartment (28) with the aid of a coin. Pay attention for + and -- symbols when loading the battery. Insert the power source accordingly and then screw in the lid again.

Life of the power source will be about 2 years.

Don't recharge old batteries, don't put them into the fire!  
There is danger of explosion!



## Care of the camera

Operation according to instructions and proper care are essential preconditions for trouble free function of this high-precision instrument. Protect it from shocks, blows, dust, and moisture, clean cartridge and spool compartments, film track and camera back with a soft brush in suitable intervals. Do not exert any pressure onto the shutter blades and do not touch them with your fingers. Dust the mirror with a soft brush only if absolutely necessary. Don't clean the camera with organic solvents, such as spirit, varnish thinner or the like. The camera will work unobjectionably within the temperature range of +40 °C to -10 °C. Above and below this range for some reasons the mechanical and electrical and electronically functions may fail. If the camera e.g. undergoes sudden changes in temperature, condensate will form which will cause damages by corrosion.

Special attention should be paid to the battery and its contact points. Check them in short intervals and clean, if necessary. Since the battery is susceptible to low temperatures, protect it against cold and remove it from the camera when not being used for some time.

The PRAKTICA MTL 3 is selectively delivered with or without self-timer.

Please observe the recommendations contained in this booklet and remember, as far as reading is concerned, that repetition is the mother of wisdom. Handling the camera carelessly or contrary to instructions may lead to damages which, we regret to say, are not covered by our guarantee.

Our consistent efforts to improve our products may lead to some slight deviations of the PRAKTICA MTL 3 from the present details.