

## FLEXARET Va



The Flexaret twin lens reflex cameras are a product of the Czechoslovakian company Meopta (manufacturers of enlarging equipment). The Flexaret Va was in production from 1958-1961. This camera is a multiformat camera, 6x6 and 35 mm.



The picture shows the 35 mm insert, 35mm film cartridge adapters and take up spool (the take up spool is metal with a spring loaded release so that the film wind knob release button when pushed will cause the spool to rotate) required to accommodate 35mm film. The insert goes into the film chamber.

The 35mm film goes under the shiny small rollers and over the small brown rollers on the frame spacing control roller. This is how the camera knows that the spacing needs to be for 35mm film vs. 120 film. If the camera shutter is cocked without film in the camera, the film counter reset lever needs



to be held down while rotating the frame spacing control roller until a number 1 – 12 shows in the frame counter window, then the shutter button can be pressed. When the end of the 35mm cartridge is reached, the center button of the film wind knob is depressed (and held) while the film spool knob on the lower left of the camera is turned clockwise to rewind the film back into the 35mm cartridge.

When installing film, the film wind knob is pulled away from the camera and the 6x6 or 24x36 film reminder can be set. Also, behind the film wind knob is a film speed reminder that can only be set when the film wind knob is pulled away from the camera body (only possible when the camera back is open).



When the camera is loaded with 35mm film, you need to rotate the frame counter reset knob behind the frame counter  $\frac{1}{4}$  turn after every 10<sup>th</sup> picture. Rotating the reset knob causes the frame counter to return to 1. Otherwise, the counter will go to frame 11, 12 and then red dots with no frame spacing control. In other words, you will not get all of the pictures on your roll of 35mm film, the film will wind all of the way to the end without stopping. The reset knob has an indexing window with the numbers 0, 1, 2 and 3. This allows you to keep track of the number of pictures that you have taken. For example, on a 36 exposure roll of 35mm film, if you remember to turn the index lever to the next number after every 10<sup>th</sup> exposure, you would have a 3 index and a 6 film counter number for the 36<sup>th</sup> exposure.



The button above the shutter release is a shutter release-locking switch, red indicates the shutter is not locked.

On the upper left side of the camera is the camera back release button. The button unscrews several turns and then pushes in to release the camera back. To prevent accidental door opening, it is recommended that the button be turned all of the way in.



Shutter is a Prontor-SVS, B, and 1-300 speed with self-timer and M, X flash synch. The camera shutter has markings for EVS (Exposure Value System, also known as the Light Value System). The EVS is strictly markings on the shutter speed dial and is not a cross coupled system between shutter speed and aperture.



The focus lever (which operates similar to the Minolta Autocords) has a depth of field indicator built into it.

The lens is a Meopta Belar 80/3.5f, single coated, four element, three group tessar design. The lens coating is very soft and can be easily removed with ammonia based lens cleaners. F stops are from 3.5f to 22f, film wind is by knob with automatic setting of the shutter. Filters are a 30mm slip type. The camera can be loaded with film while mounted on a tripod, similar to the Minolta Autocord TLRs.

The backside of the camera has a filter compensation guide.

FILTR MEOPTA						
Filtr	Ortho		Ortho-Pan		Pan	
UV	1,5x	-0,5	1x	0	1x	0
G1	2x	-1	1,5x	-0,5	1,5x	-0,5
G2	3x	-1,5	2x	-1	2x	-1
G3	4x	-2	3x	-1,5	3x	-1,5
GGR1	3x	-1,5	2x	-1	2x	-1
GR1	4x	-2	3x	-1,5	2x	-1
B1	-	-	-	-	2x	-1
R1	-	-	10x	-3,5	6x	-2,5

Right side view of the camera.



Left side view of the camera.



View of the backside of the camera.



The ground glass is marked with superslide (4x4) and 35mm picture sizes. The ground glass does not have a fresnel screen, so the view is not as bright as the Yashicas and Autocords, but the view is brighter than the early Rolleis. Waist level finder has an action finder for 120 and 35mm formats.